

REQUEST FOR BID #B-2024-01
Bidding Opens October 7th, 2024 at 7AM
Village of Merrilan Comprehensive Energy Plan
and Electric Infrastructure Upgrades

Project Overview:
The Village of Merrilan is seeking a qualified consultant to conduct a Comprehensive Energy Plan at its existing facilities to identify the feasibility of converting its energy delivery system from 2400 volts to 7200 volts. The goal of this project is to reduce energy losses, increase resiliency, and reliability, such as undergrounding, while also identifying opportunities for electric infrastructure efficiency upgrades and transitioning generating facilities from diesel to natural gas and/or solar generation.

Scope of Work:
The successful bidder will be responsible for conducting the following tasks:

1. Review and analyze the Village's current energy delivery system, including existing infrastructure, load data, and energy usage patterns.
2. Develop a Comprehensive Energy Plan that evaluates the feasibility of converting the energy delivery system from 2400 volts to 7200 volts, including:

- a. Assessing the technical and economic viability of the conversion
 - b. Identifying potential challenges and risks associated with the conversion
 - c. Developing a phased implementation plan for the conversion
3. Conduct a detailed analysis of electric infrastructure efficiency upgrades, including:
 - a. Identifying opportunities for reducing energy losses through system optimization and modernization
 - b. Evaluating the feasibility of installing smart grid technologies
 - c. Developing a plan for implementing these upgrades
 4. Identify facilities that can be transitioned from diesel to natural gas and/or solar generation, including:
 - a. Conducting a feasibility study for each facility
 - b. Evaluating the costs and benefits of each option (natural gas vs. solar)
 - c. Developing a plan for implementing these transitions
 5. Provide a comprehensive report outlining the findings and recommendations of the Comprehensive Energy Plan, including:
 - a. A detailed analysis of the benefits and costs associated with the proposed upgrades and conversions
 - b. A phased implementation plan, including timelines and budget estimates
 - c. Recommendations for future energy efficiency measures and initiatives
- Requirements:**
The successful bidder must possess the following qualifications:
1. A bachelor's degree in engineering or a related field (Master's degree preferred)
 2. At least 5 years of experience in electrical engineering or a related field, with expertise in energy transmission and distribution systems
 3. Experience in conducting Comprehensive Energy Plans or similar energy-related projects
 4. Familiarity with Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) regulations and guidelines
- Submittal Requirements:**
Bidders must submit the following documents:
1. A letter of interest, including a brief overview of their qualifications and experience
 2. A detailed proposal outlining their approach to completing the project, including:
 - a. A work plan with milestones and timelines
 - b. A budget estimate for the project with clearly defined costs and their breakdown
 - c. A list of personnel who will be assigned to the project
 - d. Proof of Insurance – General Liability and Workers' Compensation
 3. A sample report outline detailing how they would structure their Comprehensive Energy Plan report
- Evaluation Criteria:**
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Qualifications and experience (30%)
 2. Approach to completing the project (25%)
 3. Budget estimate (20%)
 4. Sample report outline (15%)
 5. Letter of interest (10%)
- Important Bidding Details:**
1. Transportation charges and shipping costs will be the responsibility of the bidder.
 2. Guarantees - bidder will guarantee that their proposal matches the requirements set forth and the desired plan will be relevant for at least a period of seven (7) years from the delivery date listed below.
 3. Payment Terms - payments will be made based on milestones; generally at the end of a quarter, or post-delivery.
 4. Rejection - The Village reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
 5. Alternative Proposals - should you believe you have updates, amendments, or other changes that would enhance the goals of this project, you may provide said innovative solutions or cost-savings within your proposal.
 6. Taxes - the Village of Merrilan is tax-exempt. Please provide any information, if applicable, in your proposal that may affect this plan/project from a tax-perspective.
 7. Compliance
 - a. Bidders must comply with Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) requirements:
 - i. Build America/Buy American (BABA)
 - ii. Davis Bacon Act (DBA)
 - b. Bidders must comply with the State of Wisconsin Affirmative Action Requirements
- Contact Information:**
For questions or additional information, please contact:
Christopher Wruck
President, Village of Merrilan
cwruck@merrillanwi.gov
608-487-3505
- Bid Due Date:**
Proposals must be received by **December 2nd 2024, at 3:30 PM CST** either in person or by mail: Village Hall, 101 S Main St, PO Box 70, Merrilan, WI 54754 - or - via email hi@merrillanwi.gov.
The formal delivery date for this planning project is **June 1st, 2025.**
Published in the Banner Journal Oct. 2 and 9, 2024.
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INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE FOR A PROPOSED ACTIVITY WITHIN FLOODPLAIN OR WETLAND

Jackson County Land Conservation Department, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, has applied for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Dry Run Road Streambank Protection Project along the Black River. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its intent to carry out an action affecting a floodplain and wetland.

615 feet of excessive soil erosion is occurring on the banks of the Black River and is currently impacting two private residential properties and Xcel Energy electrical supply lines. The excessive erosion resulted in the displacement of one of Xcel Energy's power poles, and this required the relocation near the existing power pole location. Residents in the area have been affected by power outages related to this issue. The continuation of excessive erosion will impact Xcel Energy power supply lines, and power lines may need to be relocated from their current location if erosion continues. For the private residential properties, the riverbanks continue to erode at an excessive rate, impacting their homes and septic system and resulting in the loss of property.

The project area is in the regulatory floodway as depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Number 55053C0751C, effective date September 28, 2012. The FIRM also shows that a portion of the project area lies within Special Flood Hazard Area Zone AE, an area that has a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established. Implementation of the project is expected to decrease erosion along the bank and ensure no significant impacts to the waterway or flood heights. A map of the area and additional information regarding the project is available upon request.

The public is invited to participate in the process of identifying alternatives and analyzing their impacts through this notification. Comments should be sent within 15 days to fema-r5-environmental@fema.dhs.gov or by mail to: Duane Castaldi, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region 5, 536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60605 with Section 324 of P.L. 99-499.

Published in the Banner Journal Sept. 11, 18, and 25 and Oct. 2 and 9, 2024.

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Public Notice

Sealed bids will be received by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the Black River State Forest Headquarters (Castle Mound), W10325 Hwy 12, Black River Falls, Wisconsin 54615; up to 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2024. A timber sale prospectus, map, bid forms and detailed information on each timber tract can be obtained online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TimberSales/salesBlackRiver.html> or by contacting Forester Ian Remus 715-928-2462.

There are thirteen tracts of timber for sale on the Black River State Forest in T20N-R1W, T20N-R2W, T21N-R2W, T21N-R3W, T21N-R4W & T22N-R3W. The tracts comprise 722 acres and contain an estimated 31,995 tons of pulpwood and sawtimber. Additionally, there are two tracts of timber for sale on Monroe County State Lands located in T18N-R3W & T19N-R2W with an estimated 5,040 tons of pulp and sawtimber on 89 acres. These timber sales are third party certified.

Results from the bid opening and information on any un-sold tracts can be obtained by checking our website or calling the number listed above. Tracts not sold on Thursday, October 31, 2024 will be available for re-bid up to 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

The Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids will be opened at the Black River State Forest Headquarters (Castle Mound), Black River Falls, at 9:00 a.m. on October 31, 2024 and November 7, 2024. Interested parties may join the bid opening in person or via conference call at: 1-608-571-2209. Once connected, use pass-code 243002815#.

Proof of workers compensation, liability insurance, and logger certification will be required at contract signing.

Published in the Banner Journal Oct. 2 and 9, 2024.

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The Common Council met at City Hall in the City of Black River Falls on October 1, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. Alderpersons Gearing-Lancaster, Ammann, Peloquin, M. Rave, E. Rave, Dougherty, and Busse were present. Alderperson Wussow attended remotely via Zoom meetings. Mayor J. Eddy presided.

It was moved by Alderperson Dougherty, seconded by Alderperson E. Rave, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 18, 2024 Special Common Council meeting and approve as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE

There were 4 citizens in attendance for agenda items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

It was moved by Alderperson M. Rave, seconded by Alderperson Peloquin, to place on file the minutes of the September 19, 2024 BID Board meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Wussow, seconded by Alderperson Dougherty, to place on file the minutes

of the September 30, 2024 Utility Commission meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Ammann, seconded by Alderperson M. Rave, to approve the EMS Coordinator job description. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Busse, seconded by Alderperson Gearing-Lancaster, to approve the EMS Fleet Manager job description. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Dougherty, seconded by Alderperson Gearing-Lancaster, to approve the Emergency Medical Responder job description. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Ammann, seconded by Alderperson Busse, to approve the Emergency Medical Technician job description. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Wussow, seconded by Alderperson Peloquin, to approve the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician job description. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson M. Rave, seconded by Alderperson Dougherty, to approve the Paramedic job description. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Dougherty, seconded by Alderperson E. Rave, to approve the request to hire three (3) additional full-time staff. Motion carried.

There was discussion on the inquiry from the School District of Black River Falls as to whether or not the City would consider transferring the City's share of ownership in the parcel that includes the School Forest to the District. Dr. Shelly Severson advised the Town of Albion has expressed interest in transferring their ownership to the District and the School Board asked her to reach out to the other three municipalities that share ownership in the property. Since then, the Town of Adams has also expressed interest in transferring their ownership to the district. Jan Rousey spoke in opposition to the transfer of ownership to the school district. Council members wanted additional time to gather feedback from their constituents and for the District to work with the City and the Town of Brockway and see what we can do.

It was moved by Alderperson Ammann, seconded by Alderperson Dougherty, to table the discussion until the next Common Council meeting. Motion carried.

Jon Bingol and Ken Harwood from the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission presented a draft of the Public Transit Feasibility Study. Four pages with changes were distributed to the Council members. There was lengthy discussion on the options presented in the study.

It was moved by Alderperson M. Rave, seconded by Alderperson Dougherty, to authorize the City Administrator to set a date for a public hearing for the purpose of discussion on the shared ride taxi service at the earliest known opportunity based on conversations with WisDOT. Motion carried.

It was moved by Alderperson Ammann, seconded by Alderperson

Peloquin, to approve ORDINANCE 891 related to changing Section 4(4.) of Charter Ordinance 824 to change the requirement to maintain four (4) limited terms part-time police officers to no minimum number of limited term part-time police officers. Motion carried.

The City Administrator presented the 2025 proposed operating and capital budgets. As presented, general levy would be up \$58,249 from 2024 to 6.60%, capital projects down \$77,500 from 2024 or 14.09%, overall levy up \$84,299 from 2024 or 3.69%, ERP – CPI came in at 3.20% - no concerns – leaving \$54k on the table as presented, levy limit - \$55k over allowable increase as presented, Contributing Factors: EMS Ambulance Fee \$90,550 – new this year; Decrease in Revenues: Utilities PILOT payment down \$60,000, Local Transportation Aid down \$4,000, law/ordinance fines down \$4,000, cable TV franchise fees down \$5,000, vehicle registration revenue down \$4,000, Total \$77k down. Increase in some revenues: Shared Revenue and supplemental Shared Revenue up \$15k, Connecting Hwy Aid up \$8,000, interest income up \$15k, total up \$38k. Exempt PP Aid up \$58k – but reduces the allowable increase on the Levy Limit Worksheet so net \$0 effect. Department Heads did a great job submitting budgets near that 3% increase range. Other operating expenses up 5-10%. Capital Budget: Adjustments already made to compensate for new ambulance fee (\$90,550): Street Department to capital reserves reduced \$15k from \$92k to \$77k, Fire Department to capital reserves reduced \$61,806 to \$0, City Outlay for Library HVAC reduced \$12k from \$40k to \$28k. Additional adjustments needed to get within levy limit: Reduce Street Department to capital reserves another \$55k from \$77k to \$22k.

It was moved by Alderperson M. Rave, seconded by Alderperson Busse, to approve the application for Class A Beer Retailer License for Pilot Travel Centers, LLC for premises located at 780 State Highway 54 (Flying J Travel Center #756). Motion carried.

The 2023 Single Audit Report on federal and state awards was presented to Council members.

It was moved by Alderperson Wussow, seconded by Alderperson Dougherty, to adjourn. Motion carried at 7:56 pm.

A. Brad Chown
City Administrator

Published in the Banner Journal Oct. 9, 2024.

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CITY OF BLACK RIVER FALLS CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 891

A CHARTER ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4(4.) OF CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 824 REGARDING THE NUMBER OF LIMITED TERM PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF BLACK RIVER FALLS, JACKSON COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

Pursuant to Section 66.0101 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Common

Council of the City of Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 4(4.) of Charter Ordinance 824 currently reads as follows:

(4.) Four Limited Term part-time Police Officers

SECTION 2. Section 4(4.) of Charter Ordinance 824 shall be amended to read as follows:

(4.) No minimum staffing level for Limited Term part-time Police Officers

SECTION 3. Severability. The provisions of this Charter Ordinance shall be deemed severable and it is expressly declared that the Common Council would have passed the other provisions of this Charter Ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid and if any provisions of this Charter Ordinance of the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Charter Ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF MELROSE, JACKSON COUNTY
112 N Washington Street, Melrose WI

A Public Hearing shall be held on **October 16, 2024** at 6pm in the Melrose Village Hall regarding the **RESOLUTION OF VILLAGE OF MELROSE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO EXCEED LEVY LIMIT VIA REFERENDUM. This meeting will be an open forum to help answer any questions the Village of Melrose Residents may have.**

Resolution No. 2024-04

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on town, village, city, and county levies for 2023 and thereafter under Wis. Stat. § 66.0602; and

Whereas, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602 limits the allowable local levy for 2024 to a percentage increase of no more than the greater of (a) 0% of the 2023 payable 2024 adjusted actual levy as calculated under the state's levy limit law or (b) a percentage equal to the percent change in equalized value due to net new construction less improvements removed; which for the Village of Melrose is 0.439%; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Melrose, Jackson County, believes that for the 2024 tax levy (to be collected in 2025) it is in the Village's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than 0.439% for Village Operating Expenses, Ambulance Service, and Infrastructure; and

Whereas, the Village of Melrose's 2023 payable 2024 adjusted actual tax levy was \$43,858, and further whereas the state law would limit this year's increase to \$192, for a total allowable town tax levy after adjustments for 2024 (to be collected in 2025) of \$43,385, which includes the reduction in Personal Property Aid of \$665.42.

Now, Therefore, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Melrose, Jackson County does hereby resolve and order as follows:

1. The Village Board of Trustees supports an increase in the Village tax levy for 2024 of 195.922% over the amount allowed by the state levy limit for 2024. This would result in a dollar increase to the Village's allowable levy of \$85,000, for a total Village tax levy (after adjustments) of \$128,385. The Village Board of Trustees intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis by including it in the base used to calculate the limit for 2025 as well. The purpose for which the increased levy will be used is for Village Operating Expenses, Ambulance Service and Infrastructure.

2. The Village Board of Trustees directs that the question of increasing the allowable Village tax levy for 2024, to be collected in fiscal year 2025, be put to referendum at an election on November 5, 2024.

3. The question shall be submitted to the electors as follows; "Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Village of Melrose for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2025, is limited to 0.439%, which results in a levy of \$43,385." Shall the Village of Melrose be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for Village Operating Expenses, Ambulance Service, and Infrastructure, by a total of 195.922%, which results in a levy of \$128,385, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$85,000 for each fiscal year going forward?

Adopted the 26th day of August, 2024
Village President: Ben Boardman
Attested by Village Clerk: Jamie North
Published in the Banner Journal Oct. 2, and 9, 2024.

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SECTION 4. Conflict-ing ordinances. Ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the above Charter Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. This Charter Ordinance shall take effect sixty (60) days after its passage and publication unless within such sixty (60) day period a referendum petition as provided in Section 66.0101(5) of the Wisconsin Statutes shall be filed, in which event this Charter Ordinance shall not take effect until it shall have been submitted to a referendum vote of the electors and approved by a majority of electors voting thereon.

This Charter Ordinance was approved by at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Common Council on the 1st day of October, 2024.

Jay Eddy, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alex B. Chown, Clerk

Published in the Banner Journal Oct. 9, 2024.

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