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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STRATEGICS CONSULTING FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES

WHEREAS, in November 2021, the U.S. Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which provides for formulaic and competitive grants for a variety of infrastructure maintenance and development categories over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, to put the City in the best possible position in competing for grant funding, the attached resolution authorizes the City Manager to contract with Strategics Consulting to manage grant-writing services; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2022 Bridge Investment Program (BIP), which provides funding for bridge planning/design and construction projects. Strategics Consulting identified DH Leonard Consulting and Grant Writing Services (a WBE firm) as an organization with significant experience in Federal grant writing and specific experience with transportation infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, for a fee of \$15,000, Strategics will manage the grant-writing process and subcontract with the aforementioned firm for a bridge planning/design grant; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the contracted grant writing approach both to enlist specialized support for competitive grants processes and to augment City staff resources due to higher-than-normal levels of vacancy in many departments; and

WHEREAS, to be effective and efficient in the use of tax dollars, staff intends to identify only the highest priority projects for grant applications including criteria such as projects that are

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identified as infrastructure maintenance needs and projects already being planned and in a priority funding category; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council hereby authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Strategics Consulting, LLC for grant writing services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funding will be used until exhausted for future BIL grant opportunities with a regular report provided to the Mayor and City Council.