



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Finance and Property Services

**Date:** October 27, 2014

**To:** Council Member John Quincy, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

**Referral to:** None

**Subject:** Contract with OpenGov to display City Financial Information on web

**Recommendation:** Authorize proper City officials to execute a contract with OpenGov for provision of web hosting and display of city financial data for a two year period for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 with certain modifications to the terms contained in the Standard Agreement for Professional Services

**Previous Directives:** This initiative responds generally to City goals related to transparency and also to the more recent OpenData policy.

### Department Information

Prepared by: Jeff Schneider, Enterprise Finance Specialist, 612-673-5124  
Approved by: Sandy Christenson, Deputy CFO  
Presenters in Committee: Jeff Schneider

### Financial Impact

Action is within current Finance & Property Services (FPS) budget

### Community Impact

City Goals: A City that works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves

### Supporting Information

Along with many cities across the country, the FPS Department has been actively exploring options to make City financial information available to the public in a web based platform that is user friendly, interactive, and accessible. This topic has been the subject of professional articles and workshops for the last few years. FPS staff has been actively reviewing the experience of other cities and learning about current provider options since early this year. In May, the two leading national providers of web-based display of municipal financial information were in Minneapolis at the national convention of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). FPS staff arranged private demonstrations with both vendors to thoroughly review their services and platform.

Based upon that review and subsequent conversations with cities using these vendors, FPS has chosen to work with OpenGov as the preferred vendor to display city financial information. Because the annual cost associated with this initiative is under \$50,000, no

formal RFP process was required. OpenGov is the current market leader in the field, with 170+ local governments using their open budget platform, far more than the next vendor considered, which has 4. Their open budget platform has superior data visualization displays, interactive capacity, and data accessibility. It includes expenditure display by department, by fund, and by line item, and includes both historical, current YTD, and future budget. This platform also includes various options for display of annual balance sheet information. The underlying data for all financial information will be easily accessible for downloading in multiple formats. In other cities, this platform is used not only by the public, but by operating department managers and elected officials to quickly access key financial information. OpenGov's platform received an award at the 2013 national GFOA conference for "Cutting-Edge Web-Based Data Visualization".

FPS anticipates entering into a two year agreement with OpenGov which will cost just under \$50,000. OpenGov has requested certain modifications to the city's standard agreement for professional services related to indemnity and ownership of intellectual property. Finance requests Council approval to work with the City Attorney's Office and Information Technology departments to modify the language in a manner that satisfies the needs of all parties.

Once the contract is signed, it is anticipated that it will take 4-6 weeks to develop a Minneapolis "open budget site", which will be hosted by OpenGov, with links from the City's forthcoming open data portal as well as the current Finance Department site where annual budget documents are posted.

For reference, the OpenGov home page is [www.opengov.com](http://www.opengov.com). Links to various cities' data are available from this site as well.