



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**C-6**

333 West Ocean Boulevard 6<sup>th</sup> Floor • Long Beach, CA 90802 • (562) 570-6169 • Fax (562) 570-5836

January 17, 2012

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Simpler Systems, Inc., for licensing of the City's EZ FAMIS software system and software consulting services, for a one-year term in the annual amount not to exceed \$150,000 with two one-year options to renew the agreement, at the City Manager's discretion. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

The Department of Financial Management requests approval to contract with Simpler Systems, Inc., (Simpler Solutions) for annual user licenses for Simpler Reporting (known as EZ FAMIS at the City) in the amount of \$60,000 for a 12-month period, with the option to renew for two one-year periods. Additionally, the Department wishes to contract with Simpler Systems for anticipated development services for EZ FAMIS including software upgrades, new functionality and implementation of reporting for other datasets, in the amount of up to \$90,000 for a 12-month period, with the option to renew for two one-year periods.

In FY 08, the City first contracted with Simpler Systems, Inc., to implement a query and reporting tool for users of FAMIS, the City's accounting system. EZ FAMIS had an immediate positive impact on all users of financial data in the City. In FY 09, the City approved a three-year contract with Simpler Systems, for \$150,000 annually for software licensing and development. In the past three years, EZ FAMIS was enhanced to include new functionality such as detailed labor cost analysis, estimates to close (ETC) and budget development, and support of payment processing, such as linking to scanned voucher documentation.

The City's investment in EZ FAMIS has resulted in a burgeoning and robust reporting and querying environment, allowing more and more City staff to rely on EZ FAMIS to manage their organizations. Every department benefits from EZ FAMIS, and users across the City spend considerably less time accessing and analyzing their financial information. We plan to include new and expanded subject areas and processes in EZ FAMIS, such as enhanced budget development, fixed asset reporting, and procurement data from ADPICS. We are confident that with more enhanced functionality, staff time spent on the tedious aspects of data gathering, analysis and reporting will continue to be reduced. The contract with Simpler Systems would allow the City to meet these demands while continuing to leverage our investment.

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Simpler Systems is the only company that licenses EZ FAMIS and provides upgrades and corrections to their proprietary software, SimplerScript, and is the only corporation, firm or individual that could or would bid to provide such licensing and services. Therefore, no useful purpose would be served by advertising for bids, and to do so would constitute an unproductive use of time and an unnecessary expenditure of public funds.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Gary Anderson on December 6, 2011 and Acting Budget and Performance Management Bureau Manager Shari Metcalfe on December 9, 2011.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on January 17, 2012, to allow for implementation of a software upgrade and to better support the budget development process that will be initiated in January 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total contract request is \$150,000, of which \$60,000 is for annual licensing and up to \$90,000 for anticipated software development and new subject area licensing. Sufficient funding is available in the General Services Fund (IS 385) in the Department of Technology Services (TS) to support the requested contract. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN GROSS  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

JG:EH  
K:\EXEC\COUNCIL LETTERS\ACCOUNTING\01-17-12 ccl - 1 SIMPLER SYSTEMS-EZ FAMIS.DOC

APPROVED:



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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

1 RESOLUTION NO.  
2

3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
4 CITY OF LONG BEACH AUTHORIZING THE CITY  
5 MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH SIMPLER  
6 SYSTEMS, INC., WITHOUT ADVERTISING FOR BIDS,  
7 FOR FINANCIAL SOFTWARE LICENSING AND RELATED  
8 SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00  
9

10 WHEREAS, Simpler Solutions, Inc. is the sole provider of the EZ-FAMIS  
11 software utilized by the City for financial management operations; and

12 WHEREAS, the City has invested considerable resources with Simpler  
13 Solutions in developing the infrastructure for the City's EZ-FAMIS accounting software;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in the development and maintenance of said software, City  
16 occasionally requires the services of the vendor for updates, licensing, repairs and  
17 enhancements; and

18 WHEREAS, as a result, no useful purpose would be served by advertising  
19 for bids and to do so would constitute an idle and useless act and an unnecessary  
20 expenditure of public funds;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
22 follows:

23 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter a contract  
24 with Simpler Solutions, Inc. for annual maintenance and consulting services for the City's  
25 EZ-FAMIS system in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 without advertising for bids.

26 Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption  
27 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

28 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

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Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Noes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Absent: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk