



MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Barwick, Purchasing

FROM: Jim Leu, Fleet Services

DATE: January 5, 2015

SUBJECT: Purchase of a Correlator Water Leak Detection System

Within the 2015 Water Department budget is \$34,100.00 designated for the purchase of a water leak correlator/listener system. The time has come where the traditional method of water leak detecting is no longer cost effective. With the severity of the previous winters that pushed our staff time and equipment to their limits, it's time to work more efficiently. Thanks to technology, there are now electronic water leak detection systems. These systems, in conjunction with an acoustic ground mic, will eliminate hours of water leak detection time. Making sure that the City of West Allis gets the best equipment for the best dollar value, the Water Department brought in three vendors to perform hands on demonstrations of their units: The Aquascan 610 by Gutermann priced at \$26,500; the Metrotech HL5004 by Ferguson Waterworks priced at \$22,000; and the Tricorr Touch System by FCS priced at \$32,100.

After discussing all three units with our Water Department, comparing the ease of use, screen clarity, functionality and hands on field testing, the Gutermann Aquascan 610 outperformed the others. Even though the Gutermann exceeded their expectations we verified this decision a step further. I contacted the City of Milwaukee. They have had two of the Gutermann units since 2009. I called and talked to Mark Singbeil who handles water leak locating. Mark could not say enough good comments about the Gutermann unit. Mark Singbeil stated the reliability, ease of use and accuracy was superb. This testimonial in conjunction with our own testing is why the Gutermann is the unit of choice.

The Gutermann system is \$26,500 which is a savings of \$7,600 below the budgeted number. Combine this savings with a reduction in labor hours and equipment use is why the Gutermann Aquascan 610 is recommended. With the onset of winter and water main break season in front of us it would be in the Department's and City's best interest to purchase the Gutermann Aquascan 610 correlator.

If there are any questions or concerns fell free to contact me directly.