

Falls City Council approves contract to begin electrical upgrades

(KLZA)-- The Falls City Council approved a proposal from the Board of Public Works Monday night to begin the process of upgrades to 14 blocks in downtown Falls City from overhead 4.16 kv distribution to 13.8 kv underground distribution, including new underground feeders from the power production facility.

JEO will provide design service, grant administration, bidding assistance and construction administration services. The Council approved the expenditure of more than \$822-thousand for the services.

Matt Kalin, an Engineer with the JEO Consulting Group said the project would start at the power plant in Falls City and change over existing switch gear over to 13.8 kv switch gear and move the power lines in the alley's in downtown Falls City from overhead lines to underground.

This is part of a 10-year plan for infrastructure upgrades that carry a price tag of more than \$30-million.

Kalin said one of the first steps will be to apply for Nebraska Emergency Management Agency grant funding to be used toward the cost of the upgrades. There are also federal grant funds the city could qualify for.

If grant funds were to be received, this phase of the infrastructure upgrades could be completed by the fall of 2023.

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