

Memo

To: City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Director of Community Development
Date: January 8, 2016
Re: AWOS contract authorization

As City Council members may know, the City of Charlotte and the State of Michigan work together to operate and maintain a specialized weather monitoring and reporting system at the airport known as an AWOS. This is a common installation at many airports providing real-time weather information to pilots.

Accurate and available information about local weather conditions is obviously an important component to flight safety, and the AWOS system is the method used at Beach Airport to provide that information.

The City of Charlotte owns most of the components associated with the AWOS, but it is regularly calibrated and maintained by technicians who work for the State. The terms of this arrangement are spelled out in the agreement we are asking you to re-authorize – MDOT Contract No. 2016-0058.

I have reviewed this agreement and there are no significant changes in the terms or conditions from our previous AWOS contracts with MDOT. Payments on this contract are made quarterly, and budgeted for annually. These costs average approximately \$3,000 each year, however occasional equipment upgrades or replacement can sometimes increase the expense for any given year.

It is anticipated that one specific instrument, the ceilometer, will have to be replaced in the very near future. The ceilometer we have is old and no longer being supported by the manufacturer. This is an expensive

component and we have been told that MDOT is working to secure a source of funds to help with its replacement at our airport and the other airports using the same technology. Its replacement would be a separate item from this contract.

I am recommending approval of this contract.