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By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times Within the next two months, a new liner will likely be seen on one of the cells at the Seward County Landfill.

County commissioners gave the go-ahead to landfill supervisor Mike Tabor Monday to go with a proposal from the Louisiana-based Environmental Specialties International to install a flexible membrane liner in Cell 2.

Tabor said a request for proposals was put out recently for the FML, and that move came after commissioners approved the compacted soil liner phase of the project, which is ongoing now.

Tabor said when that portion of the project is done, the FML needs to be installed immediately.

“It’s imperative that we literally almost start on the plastic the day after we finish the soil because if we have a weather event on the soil, it becomes a problem, and we end up redoing it,” he said. “We tried to time these the best we can. It doesn’t always work out that way.”

Tabor said despite rains Monday, the dirt at the landfill is still dry, and this creates trouble for those installing the soil liner in the cell.

“Even an inch or two of rain wouldn’t hurt us a bit,” he said.

Tabor said the RFP was sent to several companies, and two bids were received – one from Environmental Specialties International and one from MidAmerica Liner of Springfield, Mo. He said the RFP is for install only. “Normally, we would do the entire project, but we bought our liner materials here two or three years ago when the price was good,” he said. “We paid 32 cents a square foot when we bought it back then. It’s about 55 cents now, and 400,000 square feet is a bunch. We saved a bunch of money doing that.” Tab or said neither bid is for a lump sum price.

“We’ve got to look at unit prices because we’re going to get charged for the number of square feet installed,” he said. “We estimated at 425,000 square feet, and they gave us a price. We may install 395,000 square feet. We may install more than 425,000 square feet. You can’t measure the are to the exact square inch.”

Tabor said other costs involved include mobilization and installation of leachate pipe, which he did say was a lump sum price which he said will vary.

“One company put in a price, and that was based on us helping them move gravel and rock. It’s a little bit misleading,” he said.

Tabor broke down the bid prices from both companies, starting with ESI.

“ESI, their price per square foot on the 60 mill FML was 11.5 cents per square foot installed, and their price on the geocomposite was 8.5 cents per square foot installed,” he said.

MidAmerica did, however, have a slightly cheaper price, according to Tabor.

“If we did install that exact amount of square foot, there’d be \$4,000 to \$5,000 in the price on that material,” he said. “There is a little bit of difference on the leachate pipe installation.”

Tabor said he recommended ESI because of the experience factor.

“I have not worked with MidAmerica Liner,” he said. “I’ve known the guy for a couple of years. They seem to be a reputable company. They did put some references in their bids. However, ESI has done every liner project that we’ve done. We have had excellent luck with them. Never had a glitch.”

Tabor emphasized the reliability of ESI’s service record.

“They guarantee us when they’ll get here,” he said. “They guarantee us how long it will take, and so far, they’ve never let us down.”

Commissioner Jim Rice made a motion to accept the bid from ESI with the unit price of the FML, geonet and leachate pipe installation. The prices of those products will be adjusted after installation. After commissioner Randy Malin seconded the motion, the board voted unanimously to accept the bid.

Tabor said the money for the project will come from the landfill and waste hauling budgets. He added clay will likely be installed in July with the FML to follow later that month.

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