

AVIATION BOARD BACKGROUND LETTER

Aviation Board Meeting Date: December 20, 2021

To: Chair Richmond and Aviation Board Members

Cc: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor

From: Ian Turner, Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport

Subject: 21-1730 – Resolution approving a service agreement between the La Crosse Regional Airport and Midwest Air Traffic Control

Summary:

This resolution approves an agreement between the La Crosse Regional Airport and Midwest Air Traffic Control to provide additional services at the La Crosse Regional Airport.

Previous Action:

None.

Background:

Weather observation equipment located at the La Crosse Regional Airport is automated. It is owned, operated, and maintained by the National Weather Service. This equipment is reliable but occasionally breaks down. If the equipment breaks down, commercial air carriers are unable to receive necessary weather information to fly into the La Crosse Regional Airport after normal air traffic control services end. This may result in canceled flights. As a redundancy measure, this agreement allows Midwest Air Traffic Control to extend the hours of its employees. These employees are qualified to provide weather observations to pilots, providing the necessary services to allow aircraft operations to continue.

Financial Implications:

No regular, recurring, expenses are contained within this agreement. Any need for extending Midwest Air Traffic Control services at the La Crosse Regional Airport would be billed to the airport. These costs would be paid through the applicable airport operating budget.



Stakeholder Process:

This item is presented to the Aviation Board and will go before Common Council for final approval.

Alternatives:

It is possible to train internal airport staff to be weather observers.

Staff Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of staff to approve the resolution.

Attachments:

Agreement with Midwest Air Traffic Control

