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# Milwaukee picks Pennsylvania-based Brookville to manufacture streetcars

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Milwaukee officials hired Pennsylvania manufacturer Brookville Equipment Corp. to manufacture at least five vehicles for the downtown streetcar system.

The contract will give the company 24 months to deliver the first vehicle for the initial loop of the downtown streetcar, said Michael White, Brookville sales manager.

That initial loop will have four vehicles that, including spare parts and warranties, will cost $18.6 million. That's the cheapest of the four proposals, said Milwaukee public works commissioner Ghassan Korban.

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Each streetcar vehicle will have three connected cars with a combined 32 seats. That maximum capacity is 150 people, White said. The vehicles will be eight feet, eight inches wide and 66 feet long, White said. By comparison, a typical transit bus is 40 feet long.

Streetcar features include bike racks in the cab. The city has not decided whether to offer public Wi-Fi for passengers.

The color of the cars has not been decided, but will be determined with public input, Korban said. He said weather will not affect their operation.

"We are very confident this vehicle will be able to run 365 days a year in Milwaukee," he said.

The bulk of the manufacturing will be done on Brookville's 18-acre plant located about two

hours north of Pittsburgh, but Wisconsin suppliers also will get work under the contract. Milwaukee Composites, based in Cudahy, will supply the floors for the vehicles for free, as a sign of support for the streetcar project, said president Jeffrey Kober. He declined to name the cash value of that donation.

"It isn't about the value; it's about the company itself making a long-term commitment to this project," he said.

Other Wisconsin companies involved in the vehicles are Mosinee-based Arow Global, which will make windows, and Franksville-based Fiber-Tech Inc, which will make the fiberglass shrouding, White said.

The three other competitors for the contract are Czech manufacturer Inekon Trams, and German companies Siemens and Vossloh, Korban said. Brookville also has done transit vehicle contracts for New Orleans, Philadelphia, Dallas, Detroit, El Paso, Texas and the Disney California Adventure Park.

The city can order up to 24 streetcar vehicles through the contract. The first four are for the initial downtown streetcar loop, which will start construction next year. Utility relocation work for that initial loop has already begun on North Jackson Street.

A fifth vehicle will be ordered for the track spur leading to the downtown lakefront.

A task force overseeing the streetcar project unanimously approved the manufacturing contract with Brookville Friday morning.

> Reporter Sean Ryan covers commercial and residential real estate for the Milwaukee Business Journal and through the Real Estate Roundup blog on the website. He also covers construction, highways and public transit.