



SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

Re: 15RFP98016C-DR, VALVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Dear **Proposer(s)**:

Attached is one (1) copy of Addendum 2, hereby made a part of the above-referenced Request for Proposal (RFP).

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions in the RFP referenced above remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Riley

**Donald R. Riley, CPPB
Assistant Purchasing Agent**

**15RFP98016C-DR, VALVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Addendum No. 2
Page Two**

This Addendum forms a part of the contract documents and **modifies** the original RFP documents as noted below:

The deadline for this project has been extended from Wednesday, September 16, 2015 until Wednesday, September 24, 2015 and Attached hereto are responses to questions submitted in reference to the above RFP.

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions in the bid referenced above remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Failure to return a signed copy of this addendum could render your bid non-responsive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDUM NO. 2

The undersigned proposer acknowledges receipt of this addendum by returning one (1) copy of this form with the proposal package to the Department of Purchasing, Fulton County Public Safety Building, 130 Peachtree Street, Suite 1168, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 by the RFP due date and time **SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 at 11:00 A.M.**

This is to acknowledge receipt of Addendum No. 2, _____ day of _____, 20__.

Legal Name of Bidder

Signature of Authorized Representative

Title

15RFP98016C-DR, VALVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Below are questions for Proposal#: **15RFP98016C-DR, VALVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

- Q1 Section 1.3 BACKGROUND, page 1-1,-- it states "This project is intended to locate and assess operability and needed maintenance of all valves and fire hydrants in the system over a four (4) calendar year period."

Section 3.3.1 SCOPE OF SERVICES, page 3-3,—it states "The County has over 20,000 valves of various sizes and over 11,000 Fire Hydrants. The County wishes to complete these services over a four year period and therefore anticipates performing these services on and average of twenty five percent of the valves each year."

Section 2.5 TERM OF CONTRACT, page 2-13—it states that "The contract will commence as of the date indicated in the Notice to Proceed. (NTP) and will terminate as indicated in the contract. The County anticipates entering into a one year (annual) agreement beginning after approval of the Board of Commissioners, Contract execution and upon notice to proceed. The County reserves the right to extend the contract for (4) four additional optional (1) one year period..."Is it the County's intention to award a one year contract with four (4) additional option years?

Response: Yes, it is the County's intention to award this contract for one year with four (4), one (1) year renewable option(s); which are subjected to available funding, BOC approval and Contractor's performance reports.

- Q2 Section 3.3.1 SCOPE OF SERVICES, page 3-3,—states "The County has over 20,000 valves of various sizes and over 11,000 Fire Hydrants. The County wishes to complete these services over a four year period and therefore anticipates performing these services on and average of twenty five percent of the valves each year." Given that the County has over 20,000 valves, and desires to complete these services over four years, at 25% a year, the annual quantity of valves would be estimated at 5,000 and the annual quantities of fire hydrants on the same schedule would be 2,750.

Should, therefore, the quantities of "servicing valves", in line items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, be multiplied by a factor of 2.55, so that the total quantity of valves to be serviced, on an annual basis, equals 5,000 (which achieves the County's objective of getting all of the valves serviced in four years?

Should, therefore, the quantities of "servicing fire hydrant", in line item 14, be multiplied by a factor of 2.2, so that the total quantity of hydrants to be serviced,

on an annual basis, equals 2,750 (which achieves the County's objective of getting all of the hydrants serviced in four years?)

Should, therefore, the quantities of "painting fire hydrants", in line item 15, be multiplied by a factor of 2.2, so that the total quantity of hydrants to be painted, on an annual basis, equals 2,750 (which achieves the County's objective of getting all of the hydrants painted in four years?)

Response: Yes, it is the County's intention to perform this assessment project for the entire system. However, budgetary constraints may limit the project to higher priority areas. The quantities listed for these items are for base line and evaluation purposes and therefore will not be adjusted.

Q3 Best practices suggest that servicing valves and servicing fire hydrants are best performed before conducting Main Capacity Fire Flow Test, AWWA M17 (as this insures that the system valves are open and that the fire hydrants are operable, before the M17 fire flow test is performed). Following this best practice would suggest that the County perform servicing valves and servicing fire hydrants, for a section of the system (perhaps 25% a year), and then conduct M17 fire flow testing on hydrants in the areas that have been previously serviced.

Should, therefore, the quantities in line item 16 "Main Capacity Fire Flow Test, AWWA M17" be 2,750 fire flow tests per year (25% of the system per year)?

Response: Change the quantity to 1000. This quantity is approximate and will be used for evaluation purposes only. Actual number of flow tests performed will be at the County's discretion.

Q4 Section 8 – Cost, page 3-27 Section 3.7, states "The respondent with the lowest total cost will receive the full ten points." In item 4.1 PROPOSAL EVALUATION – SELECTION CRITERIA, page 4-1, the table notes that "Cost Proposal" weight is 15%.

Is it correct to assume that the Cost, in the evaluation of proposals, is 15% percent of the evaluation criteria?

Response: Yes the cost evaluation figure is 15%. On page 3-27, in the referenced sentence "10" should be replaced with "15". Additionally replace the "The respondent with the lowest total cost will receive the full ten points" with "The respondent with the lowest total cost will receive the full fifteen points".

Q5 From industry experience, line items 6-13 as all fall under heavy construction and require excavation due to depth, shoring, extensive planning, heavy construction equipment and backfill materials. Industry experience in the Atlanta metro market would indicate that there will be very few of these heavy repairs. Gwinnett County, when they performed a similar servicing program, initially

included these types of heavy repairs, and then, in an effort to increase efficiency, focus and saving costs for the County, decided to separate these types of heavy repairs into a separate, construction effort. Additionally, they (and other utilities) have segregated these heavy repairs into a separate procurement because the number of these repairs are difficult to forecast (until the valve servicing work is completed) and including them in a line item procurement (without knowing accurate quantities) reduces the ability of the utility to get the best value and lowest total cost for these repairs.

Suggest, that in the best interest of the County, that line items, 6 – 13 are be removed from this procurement, so that the County can determine, from the results of this servicing contract, how many of these repairs will actually be necessary and be able to best prioritize these repairs using internal resources or a focused, specific construction contract. This action would delete section “M” on page 3-8, 3-9 and 3-10.

Response: This item will not be removed from the proposal. Failure to provide pricing will render a Proposer non-responsive. At the County’s discretion, portions of the project, including these items may not be performed. The County may elect to perform this function under a separate contract.

Q6 Industry experience in the Atlanta metro area would suggest that there will be approximately 20% of covered over valves (both in dirt and asphalt). Given this industry experience in the local area, to increase the efficiency of this procurement and to reduce the total costs to the County, we would suggest that the County add two line items.

5,000 valves times 7% = 350 valves... for an additional line item description of “Raising valves in dirt and grass”, units EA, estimated quantity 350.

5,000 valves times 13% = 650 valves... for an additional line item description of “Raising valves in asphalt”, units EA, estimated quantity 650.

In order to insure that the County receives efficient and specific pricing for these two additional line items, a suggestion is: add a new section “M” on page 3-8, that states

The Consultant will complete minor repairs as they are encountered throughout this program. Minor repairs are defined as repairs which can return a valve to full operability and do not require backhoe excavation or breaking the pressure barrier of the water system. While many different repairs may be necessary in order to restore valves to full operability the Consultant will only complete the following repairs:

Raising valve boxes in asphalt or unpaved areas that do not exceed 4” in depth.

Locate the paved over valve, cut asphalt (small cut) 18 X 18, jackhammer down to the cover, apply risers to raise to existing street level, backfill with compacted material and patch with cold patch material supplied by WWS

Raising valves in dirt, grass or gravel

Locate the buried valve, dig down to the cover, apply risers to raise to existing ground level, backfill with compacted soil

Response: The County is not willing to change these items; therefore, these items shall all remain the same.

Q7 The RFP requires a 30" X 30" cut around the valve box for raises or adjustments. This large of a cut also requires rebar. It has been our experience in over 75,000 valves in the Atlanta Metro Area that an 18" X 18" cut is acceptable and cost effective. The cut creates a smaller footprint, uses less material, return to service is faster, failure after repair is negligible and cost to the County is much lower.

Would the County consider an 18" X 18" cut, flowable fill, depth to 6"?

Response: Cuts in Georgia Department of Transportation roads must conform to their standards. Similarly cuts in city streets must conform to the municipality requirements. It shall be the Contractor's responsibility to conform and obtain any necessary permits. The County standard is intended as a minimum standard and is not changed at this time. The County standard detail for street cuts is attached as a reference.

Add Item 3.3,1.,R., – Street Surface Milling and Paving. Where required by local authorities or municipalities the street will be milled and repaved to the standard of such authority or municipality. It will be the Contractors responsibility to obtain any necessary permits and conform. Total quantity – 25,000 square feet. This will be Item number 21. In the Cost Proposal.

Q10 Will the County supply the paint for the hydrants?

Response: No, it will be the Contractor's responsibility to supply all materials for this project.

Q11 In the Atlanta Metro Area the 90,000 valves that have been assessed over the last 5 years would indicate the average bury depth to be approximately 43'. What is the average bury depth for valve sizes ranging from 6" to 16"?

Response: This is largely unknown. The estimated typical main cover is from 36" – 52".

Q12 Section "F" item "10" on page 3-4 states, "During valve exercising, use the fire hydrants nearest to the valve being exercised to flush water. Flushing shall continue until water is clear or County representative authorizes discontinuation of flushing." Industry experience, across the country and in the metro Atlanta area, suggests that flowing a fire hydrant while operating a valve increases dirty water complaints rather than reduces dirty water complaints. All of the utilities in the metro Atlanta area decided NOT to flow fire hydrants during valve servicing.

Would the County delete item "10" in section "F" on page 3-4?

Response: This item applies only to hydrant valves and others at the discretion of the County. Not all valves will involve flushing.

Q13 Pg 3-9, Section 3.M-5. States as part of the valve box adjustment,the operating nut be cleaned with a wire brush and painted with a reflective yellow paint..... The valve repairs will be a small overall percentage of the assessments. This being stated, brushing & painting the Operating Nut (which would only be possible in vaults where the operating nut is clearly visible) would not be in the County's best interest. It is an added cost and only a small percentage of the valves would result in brushed and painted operating nuts. This should be considered for all valves or none. Would the County delete Section 3. M – 5?

Response: The County has removed Section 3. M-5 in its entirety from the RFP solicitation document.