

# Alabama A&M University



## **Passenger Bus Transportation Services**

Invitation to Bid (ITB) 2K22-03B

**Bid Submission Deadline: 2 P.M. CST, September 2nd, 2022**

# Alabama A&M University

## Passenger Bus Transportation

### Bid No. 2K22-03B

#### INTRODUCTION

Alabama A&M University (“University”) is seeking bids from qualified vendors to provide passenger bus transportation services for the University. At any time during the contract term, Alabama A&M University reserves the right to terminate a contract for convenience or cause with 30 days prior notice to the vendor or cancel any trip at any time. This is a multiple award solicitation.

Alabama A&M University will issue the awarded vendor an open purchase order. It is to be understood that due to force majeure schedule changes may occur and transportation needs may be canceled. The University reserves the right to cancel a trip at any time. For these reasons, the vendor will invoice actual fees incurred to be paid in reference to the open purchase order.

Vendors are to itemize the total cost associated with each scheduled trip. Alabama A&M University understands that fuel costs and mileage are associated costs with travel and may not be known until after a trip has been completed.

The term of the Agreement shall commence on the date that the Agreement is executed by all parties thereto. Thereafter, unless earlier terminated, the term of the Agreement shall continue for an initial term of three (3) years.

**Note:** *The Purchasing Department released a separate invitation to Bid in 2020 for Passenger Bus Transportation (Bid 2k20-1). The purpose for rebidding this solicitation is to allow vendors that did not participate on that bid opportunity, yet frequently provide services in transportation, to be under the umbrella of this bid. Also, direct transportation and limousine services for transportation from airports were not expressly included in the scope of that bid solicitation. The Purchasing department recognized the need to include this type transportation within the scope of the new solicitation.*

The awarded vendor(s) must follow Federal and State of Alabama laws and Alabama A&M University policies and procedures throughout the duration of the contract.

The University reserves the right to award a service contract to multiple service providers.



Purchasing Department  
P. O. Box 1627  
Normal, Alabama 35762  
(256) 372-5227 Office  
(256) 372-5223 Fax

## GENERAL CONDITIONS & GUIDELINES

1. **Requirements:** Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (“AAMU”, “the Awarding Authority”) must receive each vendor’s bid/proposal package by mail or hand delivered no later than September 2nd, 2022, by 2:00 pm Central Time on the bid/proposal submission deadline, which will also be the date and time of the bid/proposal opening. Unless otherwise noted, the bid/proposal opening will take place at:

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Purchasing Department  
4900 Meridian Street  
Patton Hall, Room 305  
Normal, AL 35762

All bids/proposals received must be provided in a sealed envelope. (Ala. Code § 41-16-54 (b)) A faxed or emailed bid/proposal does not meet the requirements of the statute because it is not sealed, and all such bids/proposals will be deemed ineligible for award. (Attorney General’s Opinion # 91-016)

Mailed sealed bids/proposals sent to the Purchasing Department by logistics carriers such as FedEx, UPS, DHL, Airborne Express, and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) must be sent to the following address:

Alabama A&M University  
Purchasing Department  
4900 Meridian Street  
Patton, Hall, Room 305  
Normal, AL 35762

For inquiries regarding this solicitation please contact:

Jeffrey Robinson, Purchasing Director by email: [jeffrey.robinson1@aamu.edu](mailto:jeffrey.robinson1@aamu.edu) or [purchasing@aamu.edu](mailto:purchasing@aamu.edu)

- Bid/Proposal Preparation:** Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University bid/proposal forms must be completed and returned as a part of the bid quote/proposal. Bids/proposals should be as thorough and detailed as possible so that AAMU may be able to properly evaluate a bidder's capabilities to provide the required products or services. All bidders must send descriptive literature and/or manufacturer's specifications along with any supplemental specifications necessary to compare the items bid/proposal with the requirements set forth in the bid/proposal form. **All bids/proposals must be submitted within a sealed package with the bid number, opening date and time, and bidder's name and address clearly indicated on the envelope.** Bidders are required to submit all items required in the bid/proposal package.

An authorized representative of the Bidding Agency shall sign ITB bid/proposal documents. All information requested must be submitted. Failure to submit all information requested may result in rejection of the bid/proposal. Mandatory requirements are those required by law or regulation or are such that they cannot be waived and are not subject to negotiation.

All supporting documentation submitted with the bid/proposal should be bound in that single volume.

Ownership of all data, materials, and documentation originated and prepared for the University pursuant to the ITB shall belong exclusively to AAMU and be subject to public review.

- Oral Presentation:** Bidders who submit a bid/proposal in response to this ITB/proposal may be required to give an oral presentation of their bid/proposal to the Awarding Authority. This will provide an opportunity for the Bidding Agency to clarify or elaborate on the bid/proposal but will in no way change the original bid/proposal. If an oral presentation is to be required, the Awarding Authority will schedule the time and location of these presentations. Oral presentations are an option of the Awarding Authority and may not be required to be conducted.
- Bid Bonds:** It is required for any contract exceeding \$10,000 that the bidder submit with his or her bid a bid bond payable to Alabama A&M University in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the base bid/proposal to not exceed \$10,000. Bid bonds must be submitted in a form of a cashier's check, certified check, postal money order, irrevocable letter of credit, or U.S. Treasury Notes in lieu of a bid bond. No personal checks or company checks will be accepted. *(Not required in this solicitation)*
- Award:** Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University ("AAMU", "the Awarding Authority") reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all bids/proposals and is not bound to accept the lowest bid if that bid is contrary to the best interests of the University. In making an award, intangible factors such as a bidder's service, integrity, conformity with specifications, transportation charges, terms of delivery, facilities, equipment, reputation, and past performance history will be weighed along with the quality displayed

in the samples submitted (Ala. Code § 41-16-57 (a)). Bids may be awarded either item by item, in product groups, or all or none, whichever appears to be in the best interests of the University. Selection shall be made of one bidder deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those Bidders that submitted bids/proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in this ITB. Financial criteria shall be considered, but will not be the sole determining factor. After reviews have been conducted, the Awarding Authority shall select the Bidding Agency which has made the best bid/proposal and shall award the bid/proposal to that Bidding Agency. The Awarding Authority may cancel this ITB or reject any and all bids/proposals at any time prior to an award.

6. **Applicable Law:** It is agreed that this quotation is valid to the extent that it does not violate the constitution or the laws of the State of Alabama.

Bidder represents and warrants that all article and services covered by this bid/proposal meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal, Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, No. 2006, and its regulations in effect or proposed as the date of this bid/proposal.

The furnishing of materials, supplies, equipment, or service to Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University under this purchase order, contract, solicitation for bids/proposals, or construction specification constitutes assurance by the vendor or contractor of his compliance with applicable provisions of an pertinent regulations promulgated under Executive Order 11246, date September 28, 1965 issued by the President of the United States of America, and Public Law 88-352, 88<sup>th</sup> Congress, the "Civil Rights Act of 1964."

7. **Bid/Proposal Terms:** Bidders must show unit prices, extensions, and total price, where applicable. In the event of a discrepancy between the unit price and the extension, the unit price shall govern. Bids/proposals shall remain firm for a minimum of thirty (30) days from the date of bid/proposal opening and any exceptions must be clearly stated.
8. **Bid/Proposal Opening:** Bidders may attend the bid/proposal opening, but no information or opinions concerning the ultimate award will be given at the bid/proposal opening or during the evaluation process. After the public opening of this bid/proposal, the results will not be available to Bidders not attending the opening until after an award is made.
9. **Bids/Proposals are Public Record:** All bids/proposals become a matter of public record at bid/proposal award. Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University accepts no responsibility for maintaining confidentiality of any information submitted with bid/proposal whether labeled confidential or not.
10. **Vendor Authorization:** Vendor must be an authorized distributor/agent to provide services proposed in this bid/proposal request. When it is deemed to be in the best interest of the University.
11. **Fiscal Funding Clause:** The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of the contract by the legislature. If the legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide the continuation of a contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated.
12. **Contract Cancellation:** The Purchasing Department has the right to cancel any contract, in accordance with Purchasing Rules and Regulations, for cause, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) failure to deliver within the agreed upon contract duration; (2) failure of the product or service to meet specifications, conform to sample quality, or to be delivered in good condition; (3) misrepresentation by the contractor; (4) fraud, collusion, conspiracy, or other unlawful means of obtaining any contract with the state; (5) conflict of contract provisions with constitutional or statutory provisions of state or federal law; and (6) any other breach of contract.
13. **Disclosure Statement:** The successful bidder will be required to file with the Purchasing Department a disclosure statement of relationship between contractors/grantees and employees/officials of the University. This form must be completed prior to issuance of the Purchase Order by Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University

**Alabama A&M University Passenger Bus Requirements**  
***Buses provided for the trips must meet the following requirements:***

**Required items:**

- Buses that are sent to us for use must be no older than the 2016 models in excellent running condition, (your latest models preferred). In the event that the bus/buses does not meet our requirements, we reserve the right to a reduction in price or the right to cancel services for the remainder of the bid term.
- 54-56 Passenger motor-coach, 32-40 Passenger motor-coach, 15-21 Passenger Mini-Bus, 8-11 Passenger Van
- The bus exterior physical appearance (color, graphics, etc.) should be identical for all total requested buses
- Roomy reclining seats
- Overhead racks for carry-on bags
- Working Audio/DVD video equipment
- Climate-controlled air conditioning and heating systems
- Large, weather-proof luggage compartments below bus
- Wi-Fi and/or Satellite Capability
- Bus driver must be knowledgeable regarding site-directions per itinerary
- Buses must be punctual and capable of arriving and departure time per itinerary
- Buses should be serviced and ready for travel prior to departure. Should a bus breakdown, another bus should be made available immediately.
- The bidder must be licensed for interstate and intrastate passenger transportation
- Each bus must be equipped with all safety devices and must meet all applicable state and federal requirements.
- Each bus must have affixed a current DOT inspection sticker
- The successful bidder will be required to provide a Certificate of Insurance to the University
- The University reserves the right to cancel a trip at any time due to inclement weather or schedule changes.
- Award will be made to the bidder(s) who is determined by the University who best meet its need and objectives.

**Requested by not required:**

- Cell phone charging ports
- Individual reading lights and above head air vent controls
- Kneeling coaches to shorten the distance between the ground the ground and the first step
- Successful bidder should be a member of either the United Bus Owner's Association, or the American Bus Association/United Motor Coaches of America