



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

REQUESTOR: City of Georgetown
1134 North Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
Contact: Daniella Howard, Purchasing Agent
Email: dhoward@georgetownsc.gov
Phone: 843.545.4043

PROJECT: Tree Crew Services

DATE OF ISSUE: Thursday, June 17, 2021

DUE: **On or before 2:00 PM EST (local time), Thursday, July 1, 2021**

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the City's website, www.georgetownsc.gov.
The City will not accept Proposals by hard copy, fax, or email.

For instructions on how to submit your bid electronically, please refer to Exhibit A, "How to register as a vendor", and Exhibit B, "How to respond to an online bid".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	3
Purpose/Project Description.....	3
Scope of Services.....	3
Process.....	4
Evaluation Criteria.....	4
Protest Procedure.....	4
Questions.....	4
Schedule of Events.....	5
Submittal Instructions.....	6
Mandatory Local Vendor Submittal Form.....	9
General Contractual Requirements.....	10
Exhibits.....	12

Background

The City of Georgetown (City) is an incorporated municipality with a population of nearly 10,000 residents. The City is located 60 miles north of Charleston and 36 miles south of Myrtle Beach. It is the endpoint of the area commonly known as “The Grand Strand.” The City is bordered by the Winyah Bay to the east and the Sampit River to the south. Tourism is a major economic driver in the area, as well as local industries, such as Liberty Steel, International Paper and Tidelands Hospital. The City is the county seat and operates under the Mayor-Council form of government as outlined in the State of South Carolina Code Chapter II, Article I, Section 2-1. Additional information is available on our website at www.georgetownsc.gov.

Purpose/ Project Description

The City of Georgetown Electric Department is accepting proposals for contractor personnel and equipment for electric line tree clearance work.

Work will be issued on a project by project basis with no guarantees as to the amount of work that will be involved. However, it is estimated that approximately 4 months of work for one crew will be accomplished with budgeted funds during FY 2021/22. Bidders shall provide hourly personnel rates (base and overtime) for Supervisor/Climber (qualified for line clearance tree trimming and climbing), Trimmer/Climber (qualified for line clearance tree trimming and climbing), Trimmer (qualified for line clearance tree trimming but not for climbing), and Equipment Operator/Groundworker.

Hourly equipment rates (base only; City will not pay overtime rates for equipment) should be provided for chip/bucket trucks (65 ft bucket preferred), chippers, chainsaws, and other equipment needed for line clearance tree trimming. Crew MUST have at least one member qualified as a climber.

Scope of Services

All equipment shall be in good and safe operating condition and ratings shall be proper for working near 12.47 kv 3-phase distribution. Trucks shall be stocked with all tools needed for tree clearance work. All personnel shall be properly trained according to their classification and documentation must be provided upon request to verify that training qualifies personnel for electric line clearance tree work. All personnel shall possess CDL or driver’s license as appropriate for the equipment they operate.

Contractor shall have an active safety program and must be able to provide documentation if requested. A current City of Georgetown business license will be required before work can commence.

Process

The City will conduct the selection of a qualified contractor in the following manner:

1. The RFP and Bid Form documents will be available on our website. To access, go to the City's website at www.georgetownsc.gov, and click on "Bids" at the bottom of the home page.
2. Bids will be received and evaluated as described in this RFP.
3. Best qualified, lowest responsible and responsive bid will be presented to the Georgetown City Council or City Administrator for approval, as required.
4. After Council approval, the City will issue the Notice of Award.
5. The Submittal Listing of Bids received will be published on the City's website, www.georgetownsc.gov, under "Bids" within forty-eight (48) hours of opening.

Evaluation Criteria

Contract shall be awarded to the best qualified, and lowest responsive and responsible proposer. In determining the best qualified, responsive and responsible proposer, in addition to bid price, the City, shall consider:

- A. The ability, capacity, and skill of the proposer to perform the contract to provide the service required;
- B. Whether the proposer can perform or provide the service promptly, or within the time specified, without delay or interference;
- C. The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the proposer;
- D. The quality of performance of previous contracts or services similar to;
- E. The previous and existing compliance by the proposer with laws and ordinances relating to the contract or services;
- F. The sufficiency of the financial resources and ability of the proposer to perform the contract or provide the service;
- G. The quality, availability, and adaptability of the supplies or contractual services to the particular use required;
- H. The ability of the proposer to provide services for the nature of the requirements of an awarded contract as required in the RFP; and
- I. Whether the proposer has met the criteria of the RFP specifications, terms and conditions of the RFP.

Protest Procedure

In accordance with the City's Procurement Ordinance, any protest or objection to this RFB award process must be submitted in writing to the City of Georgetown, Attn: Daniella Howard, Purchasing Agent, PO Drawer 939, Georgetown, SC 29440, within ten (10) calendar days of the notification of award posted to the City's website. The City's Procurement Ordinance to include Section 2-194, Protest Procedure, can be found in its entirety on the City's website at:

<https://www.georgetownsc.gov/wpfb-file/procurement>

Questions

No answers will be given over the phone.

For questions regarding the City's Request for Proposals process, please contact purchasing@georgetownsc.gov, by no later than 4:00 pm EST (Local Time), Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Please note - if you do not receive confirmation from the City that your email was received before the deadline, it is the sole responsibility of the proposer to contact the purchasing agent at 843.545.4043.

No questions will be accepted after the aforementioned deadline. All submittals shall include the following in the subject line: **Tree Crew Services**

Answers to questions will be posted on the City’s website at www.georgetownsc.gov under “Bids” as an Addendum no later than 10:00 am EST (local time), Monday, June 28, 2021.

Schedule of Events

MILESTONE EVENT		TIME EST (LOCAL TIME)
1. Request for Proposal (RFP) issued	Thursday, June 17, 2021	
2. Deadline for questions - emailed to: purchasing@georgetownsc.gov	Tuesday, June 24, 2021	4:00 pm
3. Deadline for addenda to be posted to the City's website, www.georgetownsc.gov , under “Bids”	Monday, June 28, 2021	10:00 am
4. Proposal due date	Thursday, July 1, 2021	On or before 2:00 pm

The City reserves the right to change the project schedule as it deems necessary. In the event of a major date change, the City will post to the City’s website and notify known participants. The City reserves the right to issue addenda to this RFP up to three (3) days before the RFP due date as needed to clarify the City’s desires, or to make corrections or changes to the RFP document or submittal process.

The City reserves the right to request additional information at any time from any and all prospective contractors or individuals as deemed necessary by the City to evaluate the Proposals. This process may not be used, however, as an opportunity to submit missing documentation or to make substantive revisions to the original bid.

When the Purchasing Department is closed due to force majeure, bid openings will be postponed to the same time on the next official business day. It is the proposer’s responsibility to obtain the information directly from the City’s website regarding this project.

The City reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFP and/or revise the schedule at any time. The City also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals as deemed to be in its best interest, and to accept all or part of the scope of work herein as its project timeline and/or budget allows.

All information will be updated and posted on the City’s website www.georgetownsc.gov, under “Bids”. It is the proposer’s responsibility to obtain the information directly from the City’s website regarding this project.

The proposer will acknowledge receipt of all issued addenda in their submittals, if applicable.

No: _____ Dated: _____

No: _____ Dated: _____

No: _____ Dated: _____

Submittal Instructions

When the Procurement Division is closed due to force majeure, bid openings will be postponed to the same time on the next official business day. Vendor is responsible to obtain information regarding bid submittals directly from the City’s website, www.georgetownsc.gov.

All procurement procedures are subject to the City’s procurement policies as outlined in Section 2-187 of the City’s municipal code.

The City’s Purchasing Ordinance can be found in its entirety on the City’s website at: <http://www.georgetownsc.gov/find/find-ordinances/>.

To be considered responsive, interested parties **must** comply with the following:

1. Submit sealed bid electronically through the City’s website, www.georgetownsc.gov, to include the following items:
 1. Bid Form (Exhibit C)
 2. Complete initialed copy of this RFP document
 3. Complete Mandatory Local Vendor Submittal Form (Page 9)
 4. Proof of Insurance Coverage
 5. Background Information
 6. List of work references
 7. Detailed evidence of company’s safety program
 8. Evidence of company’s training program
 9. Statement of company’s overtime/standby policy and availability during and after major storm events.

Proposal must be received electronically through the City’s website, www.georgetownsc.gov, no later than the aforementioned deadline. No proposal will be accepted after such time. It is the sole responsibility of the proposer to have their proposals delivered to the City before the closing hour and date. The City assumes no responsibility for delivery of proposals that are mailed, or submitted electronically. Late proposals will not be accepted nor considered. The official clock shall be that of the City’s Purchasing Agent, or designee. The City reserves the

right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities and technicalities in the bid process. No additional fees, costs, or any other reimbursable expenses will be allowed.

2. The City reserves the right to waive any technicalities or informalities and to accept or reject any and/or all submissions as deemed by its sole judgment to be in its best interest. The City also reserves the right to terminate the selection process without notice, to waive any irregularities in any submittal, and to request additional information from any of the proposers submitting a bid.
3. Any proposer may withdraw their bid by written request, at any time prior to the scheduled opening of responses. No proposer may withdraw Proposals for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening date. All proposers shall be subject to the approval of the City Council.
4. Proposals must be submitted by proposer's own format and shall address all RFP requirements. Partial or incomplete Proposals may be rejected.
5. All costs incurred in preparing this proposal, or costs incurred in any other manner by the proposer in responding to this RFP, will be wholly the responsibility of the proposer. All materials and documents submitted by the proposer in response to this RFP become the property of the City and will not be returned.
6. Any proprietary information contained in the bid should be so indicated as follows:

Vendor Disclosure

Notice of SC Freedom of Information Act

“The parties acknowledge that all material submitted may be subject to release under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and will be released to the public unless exempt from disclosure under the FOIA.”

We discourage you from including any information you consider propriety or trade secret, as this material is subject to the FOIA once it's in the City's possession. If you must include any such information in your submission, please identify it by color, labeling, and/or bold font so that it can be readily recognized. In the event the City receives a request for this material, the City will notify those parties who have identified information they believe is proprietary or trade secret of the request. The City has a ten (10) day deadline to respond to the request. This is your window to file an action challenging the release. Please be on notice that if the City is not served with such an action, the information will be released.

7. Proposals must be made in the official name of the company or individual under which business is conducted (showing official business address) and must be signed in ink by a person duly authorized to legally bind the person, partnership, company or corporation submitting the bid. Proposals having any erasures or corrections must be initialed in ink by the vendor.
8. Letter of Interest - Must be no more than one (1) page (one page is one side of an 8.5" x 11" paper) in length and include contact information and signature of company owner/president/CEO.
9. Statement of Qualifications, Experience, and Availability - Must be no more than five (5) pages. It should summarize qualifications, relevant experience, and availability to participate in the RFP process to provide requested services to the City. Key staff members participating should be identified. Include photos of recent projects.
10. List of References - Must be no more than one (1) page listing most recent professional references for similar projects and their contact information.
11. Disqualification and Rejection of Bid – The City reserves the right to reject any bid from a proposer who has failed to perform satisfactorily, or complete on time, or in a manner consistent with the RFP documents, contract of similar nature, or to reject the bid from a

proposer who is not in a position to perform such a contract satisfactorily. The City expressly reserves the right to award the contract to the proposer that best meets the requirements as set forth herein.

12. Assignment of Contract – Assignment to the selected proposer of any contract to be entered into in accordance with this RFP will not be recognized by the City unless such assignment has prior written approval of the City.
13. Insurance Provisions - The selected proposer will be required to provide and maintain proof of insurance throughout the contract term in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 and as required at point of contract negotiation by the City’s Risk Manager as follows:
 - Comprehensive General Liability (per occurrence);
 - Comprehensive Auto Liability (per occurrence); and
 - Workers’ Compensation Liability
 - Automobile Liability

The City is to be named as “Additional Insured” on the above insurance coverage as respect to the City’s interest under the contract. Certificates showing proof of insurance shall be submitted to the City prior to commencement of services under the Agreement. Further, it shall be an affirmative obligation upon the proposer to advise the City’s Risk Management Department within two (2) days of the cancellation herein at one of the following options below:

- Email - cmcdaniel@georgetownsc.gov
- Fax - 843.527.6173
- Mailing address - PO Box 939, Georgetown, SC 29442 or
- Physical address - 1134 N. Fraser Street, Georgetown, SC, 29440

Failure to do so shall be construed to be a breach of the agreement:

14. Indemnification - The selected proposer agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City and their authorized officers, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all claims, actions, losses damages, and/or liabilities arising from their acts, errors, or omissions and for any costs or expenses incurred by the City therefore under an agreement.
15. Compliance With Law – The selected proposer and its agents and employees shall be bound and comply with all federal, state and local laws, ordinance rules and regulations, as well as all other governing bodies having legal jurisdiction with respect to the area where such work is performed.
16. City Business License and Permits - The selected proposer shall be required to obtain all applicable City permits and business licenses prior to work commencing. Contact Jestin Gilliard, Revenues Manager, jgiiliard@georgetownsc.gov or 843.545.4041, for business license information. Contact the Planning & Community Development Department at 843.545.4017 for permitting information. These expenses shall be included in the total bid cost.



MANDATORY VENDOR SUBMITTAL FORM

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION - ARTICLE IV
PROCUREMENT – JANUARY 19, 2017

SECTION 2-185 COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS LOCAL VENDOR PREFERENCE

ARTICLE IV.
PROCUREMENT
DIVISION 2. ETHICS IN CITY CONTRACTING

I certify that [Company Name] _____ is a **Resident Proposer** of Georgetown City/County as defined in the City of Georgetown Ordinance Chapter 2 Administration, Article IV Procurement, Section 2-185, and our principal place of business is _____ [City and State].

I certify that [Company Name] _____ is a **Non-Resident Proposer** of Georgetown City/County as defined in the City of Georgetown Ordinance Chapter 2 Administration, Article IV Procurement, Section 2-185, and our principal place of business is _____ [City and State].

(X) _____

Signature of Company Officer

(X) _____

Date

General Contractual Requirements

1. Force Majeure - The proposer shall not be liable for any excess costs if the failure to perform the contract arises out of causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the proposer. Such causes may include, but are not limited to acts of God or of the public enemy, acts of Governments in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restriction, strikes, freight embargoes, and unusually severe weather; but in every case the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the proposer.
2. Governing Law - Except to the extent that this agreement may be governed by any federal law, including federal bankruptcy law, this Agreement shall be governed by, constructed and interpreted under, and enforced exclusively in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina, and the courts in the State of South Carolina shall have jurisdiction with respect to any dispute arising hereunder.
3. Proposer Qualifications - Proposer must, upon request of the City, furnish satisfactory evidence of its ability to furnish products and/or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP. The City reserves the right to make the final determination as to the proposer's ability to provide the services herein.
4. Proposer Responsibility – Each proposer shall fully acquaint him/herself with conditions relating to the scope and restrictions attending the execution of the work under the conditions of this RFP. It is expected that this will sometimes require on-site observation. The failure or omission of the proposer to acquaint him/herself with existing conditions shall in no way relieve him/her of any obligation with respect to this RFP or to a contract.
5. Affirmative Action - The proposer will take affirmative action in complying with all federal and state requirements concerning fair employment and employment of the handicapped, and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard or discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or physical handicap.
6. Women and Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE) Statement - It is the policy of the City to provide minorities, and women equal opportunity for participating in all aspects of the City's contracting and procurement programs, including but not limited to employment, construction projects, and lease agreements consistent with the laws of the State of South Carolina. It is the policy of the City to prohibit discrimination against any person or business in pursuit of these opportunities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicap, or veteran status. It is further the policy of the City to conduct its contracting and procurement programs so as to prevent such discrimination and to resolve any and all claims of such discrimination.
7. Termination - Subject to the following provisions, any contract resulting from this request for Proposals may be terminated by the City provided a thirty (30) day advance notice in writing by the City Administrator, or his designee, is given to the proposer:
 - 7.1 Non-Appropriations - Funds for this contract are payable from local appropriations. If the sufficient appropriations are not made to pay the charges under the contract it shall terminate without any obligation to the City.
 - 7.2. Convenience - In the event that a contract is terminated or canceled upon request and for the convenience of the City without the required thirty (30) day advance written notice, then the City shall negotiate reasonable termination costs, if applicable.
 - 7.3 Cause - Termination by the City for the cause, default or negligence on part of the proposer, shall be excluded from the foregoing provisions; termination costs, if any shall not apply. The thirty (30) day advance notice requirement is waived and the default provision herein shall apply.

7.4 Default – In case of default by the proposer, the City reserves the right to purchase any and all items/services in default in open market, charging proposer with any excessive costs. SHOULD SUCH CHARGE BE ASSESSED, NO SUBSEQUENT PROPOSALS OF THE DEFAULTING PROPOSER WILL BE CONSIDERED UNTIL THE ASSESSED CHARGE HAS BEEN SATISFIED.

8. Prime Proposer Responsibilities - The proposer will be required to assume sole responsibility for the complete effort as required by this RFP. The City will consider the proposer to be the sole point of contact with regard to all contractual matters.
9. Subcontracting - If any part of the work covered by this RFP is to be subcontracted, the proposer shall identify the subcontracting organization and the contractual arrangements made therewith at the time of the offer. All subcontractors must be approved by the City. The successful proposer will also furnish the corporate or company name and the names of the officers of any subcontractors engaged by the proposer.
10. Ownership of Material – All materials and documents submitted by the proposer in response to this specification become the property of the City and will not be returned to the proposer.
11. Compliance with State and Federal Requirements – State and Federal requirements that are more restrictive than these set forth herein shall be followed by the proposer.
12. Contract Amendments - Amendments to any agreement between the City and the proposer must be reviewed and approved in writing by the City Administrator or his designee.
13. Assignment - No contract or its provisions may be assigned, sublet, or transferred without the written consent of the City Finance Department.
14. Records Retention and Right to Audit – The City shall have the right to audit the books and records of the proposer as they pertain to this contract. Such books and records shall be maintained for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment under contract.
15. The City may conduct performance audits of the proposer, as determined necessary by the City. Pertaining to all audits, the proposer shall make available to the City, access to its computer files containing the history of the contract performance and all other documents related to the audit. Additionally, any software used by the proposer shall be made available for auditing purposes at no cost to the City.
16. Independent Contractor Status - The parties hereby agree that the contractor is an independent contractor of the City and that nothing in an agreement with the City shall be deemed to place the parties in a relationship of employer/employee, partners, or joint ventures. Neither party shall have the right to obligate or bind the other in any manner. Each party agrees and acknowledges that it will not hold itself out as an authorized agent with the power to bind the other party in any manner. Each party shall only be responsible for any withholding taxes, payroll taxes, disability insurance payments, unemployment taxes, or other similar taxes or charges with respect to its activities in relation to the performance of its obligations of an agreement.
17. Representations of Proposer - Proposer represents, warrants, and covenants that:
 - (a) In providing the services proposer shall utilize the care and skill used by members of proposer’s profession practicing under similar circumstances at the same time and in the same locality.
 - (b) All employees provided by the proposer to the City shall have the qualifications, skills, and experience necessary to perform his/her job in accordance with the requirements of the agreement. The City may request removal of any employee for good cause.
 - (c) Proposer is a business, validly existing and in good standing under the Laws of the State of South Carolina.

18. Indemnity Provisions - Proposer agrees to and shall indemnify and hold the City harmless from and against all liability, loss, damages or injury, and all costs and expenses (Including attorney fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the City, arising from or related to the terms of this project, or proposer's performance thereunder.
19. City Business License and permits - The selected proposer shall be required to obtain all applicable City permits and business licenses **prior to work commencing**. Contact Jestin Gilliard, Revenues Manager, jgiiliard@georgetownsc.gov, or 843.545.4041, for business license information. Contact the Planning & Community Development Department at 843.545.4017 for permitting information. These expenses shall be included in the total bid cost.

Exhibits Available

- A) How to register as a vendor
- B) How to respond to an online bid
- C) Bid Form