



**BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
115 NORTH MAIN STREET  
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30458**

**INVITATION FOR BID  
BULLOCH COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS  
MILL CREEK REGIONAL PARK**

The Bulloch County Board of Commissioners (herein after referred to as the “County”) is accepting **COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS** for:

**Material or Service:** A contract with a guaranteed bid price for a one-year period with a distributor to deliver approximately 6,500 bales of long leaf pine straw for the year in increments of no more than 2,000 bales per order. Bales must be tightly baled and measure 26-28 inches in length and 10-13 inches in height and width. This contract will be for a period of one year beginning November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025 with an option to renew the contract for two successive one year periods on the same terms and conditions as the initial one year term.

**Bid Submission Deadline:** The deadline for receipt of sealed bids is 3:00 PM, October 9, 2024. Late bids will not be considered. Prospective bidders shall file all documents necessary to support their bids. **FAXED OR E-MAILED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Time and Place for Submission and Opening of Bids:** Bidders are responsible for the actual delivery of sealed bids during normal business hours to the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners, 115 North Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia 30458. The original bid and one (1) copy along with supporting documents must be submitted in a sealed clearly marked envelope. At the time and date of the bid deadline, the bids will be publicly opened and cost components read aloud at the Bulloch County Commissioners North Main Annex, in Conference Room 102 at the above-referenced address. The bids will be reviewed to determine conformity with the specifications and other criteria. Upon closure of the review, the Parks Division Manager will recommend the selection of a bid or bids most advantageous to the County or the rejection of all bids, which final decision will be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

**Obtaining a Copy of Bid Package:** A bid package may be requested by contacting Faye Bragg, Purchasing Manager, at [fbragg@bullochcounty.net](mailto:fbragg@bullochcounty.net) or retrieved from the County’s website at <http://bullochcounty.net/bid-opprtunities/>. Any addenda to this solicitation will be issued through the purchasing office, and it will be the sole responsibility of the bidder to periodically check the County’s website for any addenda for this project. Failure to include a signed copy of any addenda issued for this project in the submitted bid package will result in the submitted bid not being

considered for this project.

**Bid Identification:** The outside of the sealed envelope shall include the wording: Long Leaf Pine Straw Bid; Bid Opening: October 9, 2024 @ 3:00 PM; Attn: Faye Bragg, Purchasing Manager.

**Check List:** There is a checklist on **page 11** that lists the forms that **must** be included in the sealed bid submission. All items requiring signatures must be signed and all items requiring a notary must be notarized. Failure to return any of the items or incorrectly completed items on the check list will be justification for non-acceptance of the submitted sealed bid.

**Local Buying Preference:** Departments are encouraged to use local vendors whenever possible. However, the County cannot pay a much higher price to do so because there is an obligation to the taxpayers to use our financial resources wisely.

For all purchases of \$15,000 or more, if the quality, service, price, and other factors are substantially equal, then a local vendor whose bid is within 5% of the lowest bid may be given an opportunity to match the lowest bid. This policy shall be stated in all applicable solicitations but does not apply to public works construction projects or road projects.

For purposes of this provision, a “local vendor” is one that 1) has a principal business location within the boundaries of Bulloch County; 2) has a valid occupational tax certificate issued by a jurisdiction located in Bulloch County; and 3) owns the property where the principal business location is located, or has a lease for a term of no less than one year for the principal business location which in effect requires the local vendor to pay the ad valorem taxes on the leased property.

A “principal business location” is further defined as a permanent facility with a physical location in Bulloch County where it can be demonstrated 1) that the goods or services are either made, stored, processed, sold or rendered at the facility; and 2) that substantial administrative or management activities are performed by one or more employees, principals, representatives or agents for the purpose of transacting business.

To request the local vendor preference, a vendor must include a completed local vendor form with its submitted bid. It is the vendor’s responsibility to provide clear and convincing evidence that it meets the requirements for being considered a local vendor pursuant to this provision. The determination of whether a vendor has submitted sufficient evidence to support being deemed a local vendor shall be solely within the discretion of the Board of Commissioners and shall not be subject to challenge.

**To request local vendor preference, you must contact the Purchasing Manager for the proper form to complete. The completed form must be included with the submitted package to be considered for the local vendor preference.**

**Award and Reservations:** It is understood and agreed that in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and No/100 (\$1.00) cash in hand paid, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the bidder agrees that this bid shall be an option, which is hereby given to the County to accept or reject this bid at any

time within sixty (60) calendar days from the date on which it is opened and read. It is expressly covenanted and agreed that this proposal is not subject to withdrawal by the bidder during the term of said option. The bidder is solely responsible for delivering its sealed bid to the exact location and by the time stated. The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive technicalities and informalities in bids, and to accept, in whole or in part, such bid or bids that may be deemed in the best interest of the County. The County reserves the right to use or not use any alternate bid associated with this solicitation.

**Exceptions to Specifications:** Any contract resulting from this invitation shall bind the bidder to all terms, conditions and specifications set forth in this invitation. Bidders whose bids do not conform shall so note on the “Exceptions to Specifications” sheet provided. While the County reserves the right to make an award to a nonconforming bidder when in the best interest of the County, such awards will not be readily made, and bidders are urged to conform to the greatest extent possible. No exceptions will be considered to have been taken by a bidder unless it is properly set out as provided above, and no exception will be deemed to have been taken by the County unless incorporated in a contract resulting from this invitation and so stated.

If awarded, an award will be made to that responsive and responsible bidder or bidders with the most advantageous bid or bids to the County, price and other factors considered. Time is of the essence.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Changes:** No change shall be made to this invitation except by written modification by the Purchasing Department.

**Fob Destination Point:** Bid prices shall include shipping to Mill Creek Regional Park 1388 Hwy. 24 East, Statesboro, GA 30461. Title to remain with vendor until fully accepted by County. Goods damaged or not meeting specifications will be rejected.

**Compliance:** The County's failure to insist on compliance with any of the terms or conditions of this Invitation to Bid shall not be deemed a waiver of the County's right to insist at any time on full compliance with any of the terms and conditions stated herein.

***Restrictions to Bidders:*** *No employee of Bulloch County shall have a financial interest either directly or indirectly in the purchase of or contract for any goods or services, nor in any firm, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or any other legal entity furnishing any goods or services to Bulloch County or any of its departments. For the purposes of this provision, an indirect financial interest includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the financial interest of an employee's spouse.*

**Disqualification:** Bids may be disqualified for: a) receipt of the bid by the County past the stated deadline; b) any irregularities; c) unbalanced unit price or extensions; d) unbalanced value of any items; e) failure to complete bid information correctly; or f) failure to follow the restrictions to bidders. If in the opinion of the County, the bidder is not in a position to perform the contract, the bid may be disqualified and rejected. The County reserves the right to waive any minor informalities or irregularities.

**Lawsuits/Bribery/Conflicts of Interest/Defaults:** Prospective bidders shall disclose any record of pending lawsuits, criminal violations and/or convictions, conflicts of interest, or contract defaults.

**Liability:** The County is not liable for any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid. Nor is the County bound by any information provided to bidders prior to the bid opening unless reduced to writing and distributed as a written addendum.

**Clarification of Submittals:** The County reserves the right to seek clarification of any point in a bidder's sealed bid submission, or to obtain additional information.

**Exceptions:** Conditional bids or those that take exception to the specifications will be considered only at the discretion of the Project Manager.

**Correction or Withdrawal of Bids, Cancellation of Awards:** Correction or withdrawal of bids after the deadline for submitting bids has passed, or cancellation of awards or contracts may be permitted only to the extent that the bidder can show by clear and convincing evidence that a clerical mistake of non-judgmental character was made, or where the withdrawal or cancellation is in the best interest of the County.

**County Obligations:** The County has a standing policy to disqualify or withhold compensation to vendors, contractors and professional consultants if there are existing obligations to the County for any liens, ad valorem taxes, licenses or other financial remittances due to the County.

**Award:** If awarded, the award will be made to that responsive and responsible bidder or bidders whose bid is most advantageous to the County, price and other factors considered. The County specifically reserves the right to make an award to more than one bidder if the County determines that it is in the County's best interest to do so, and to reject any and all bids. The bidder or bidders to whom the award is made will be notified at the earliest possible date.

**Project Schedule:** The bales of long leaf pine straw will be delivered on an as needed basis. The awarded supplier will be contacted by an employee of the Parks Division when pine straw needs to be ordered.

**Insurance Requirements:** The Contractor must submit with bidding documents, a Certificate of Liability Insurance indicating required insurance coverages. This insurance will be kept in force during the duration of the contract. Failure to provide and maintain insurance may cause cancellation of contract. Contractor shall purchase from and maintain with a company or companies authorized to do business in the state of Georgia the following types of insurance:

- A. Statutorily required workers' compensation insurance.
- B. Commercial general liability insurance, Commercial general liability insurance, **with an endorsement naming the County and its officials, officers, and employees as additional insureds**, and with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$2,000,000.00 aggregate.
- C. Motor vehicle liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.00

for bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident, and not less than \$2,000,000.00 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident; and not less than \$250,000.00 because of injury to or destruction of property.

**Bonds:** Not required.

**Payment:** Payments will be made upon completion of delivery and acceptance by the County on invoices submitted and approved by the proper County representative within (30) thirty days of receipt of invoice. Itemize all invoices in full. Be sure our order number is on your invoice. No cash, check, or credit card payments will be made on the day of delivery.

**Inquiries Regarding Payment:** All inquiries regarding payment of invoices are to be directed to Accounts Payable, (912) 764-6245.

**Regulatory Agencies:** Successful bidder will be responsible for all required permits or licenses required by any regulatory agency of the City, County, State or Federal Governments.

**Anti-Discrimination Clause:** Bulloch County does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, or handicap in employment or services provided.

**Commodity Status:** It is understood and agreed that materials delivered shall be new, of latest design, and in first quality condition, that all bags, containers, etc., shall be new and suitable for storage, unless otherwise stated by Bulloch County.

**Delivery:** Delivery shall be made to the Mill Creek Regional Park 1388 Hwy. 24 East, Statesboro, GA 30461.

**Bid Reservations:** The County reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to award in whole or in part and to waive minor immaterial defects in Bids. Negotiations may be necessary to complete the contract.

**Indemnification:** The Contractor agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the County, its officials, and employees (hereinafter collectively “the indemnitees”) from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, suits, proceedings, costs, and expenses of litigation (including, without limitation, reasonable attorney’s fees) related to or arising in any way out of the performance of this Agreement, unless such is attributable to the sole negligence of the indemnitees. The indemnity obligation of the Contractor will survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

The bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the following address:

Bulloch County Commissioners  
Attn: Purchasing Manager  
115 N Main St.  
Statesboro, GA 30458

Bidders will be fully responsible for the delivery of their bids in a timely manner. Reliance upon U.S. Mail or other carriers is at the bidder's risk. Late bids will not be considered.

For technical questions concerning this bid contact Tony Morgan, Parks Division Manager, 912-489-9076 or [tmorgan@bullochrec.com](mailto:tmorgan@bullochrec.com).

For procurement procedures concerning this bid contact Faye Bragg, Purchasing Manager, at [fbragg@bullochcounty.net](mailto:fbragg@bullochcounty.net).

### **Specifications for Long Leaf Pine Straw**

- Distributor must furnish approximately 6,500 bales of dry, fresh or sheltered long leaf pine straw that is free of leaves, vines, and small limbs.
- Bales must be tightly baled and measure 26-28 inches in length and 10-13 inches in height and width.
- Contractor is responsible for the delivery of all pine straw furnished under the contract. Time is of the essence. Lead time on delivery will be a factor in awarding the contract.
- All delivery and transportation costs shall be included in the set price and not billed separately.
- All pine straw shall be delivered to Mill Creek Regional Park, 1388 Hwy. 24 East, Statesboro, GA 30461.
- Upon delivery, staff of the Parks Division will unload and stack in a designated area.
- Due to limited shelter space the maximum amount delivered at once shall not exceed 2,000 bales.



## BID FORM

Purchase of 6,500 bales of long leaf pine straw on an as needed basis throughout the year with a maximum order of no more than 2,000 bales per order. Quantities shown are approximate only. The County makes no representation either express or implied, that it will purchase a minimum or maximum of any product.

1. Bid Price per Bale of Long Leaf Pine Straw Delivered: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Cost for 6,500 bales of Long Leaf Pine Straw  
Delivered: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Estimated lead time for delivery: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does your bid comply with our specifications? (If the answer is no, use exceptions to specifications form.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT**

The following affidavit is to accompany the bid:

STATE OF:

COUNTY OF:

Owner, Partner or Officer of Firm:

Company Name, Address, County and State:

The undersigned, being of lawful age, being first duly sworn on oath says that he/she is the agent authorized by the vendor to submit the attached proposal. In making such representation, affiant further states for himself/herself and on behalf of vendor, that they have not been a party to any collusion among vendors in restraint of competition by agreement to submit a bid or proposal at a fixed price or to refrain from proposing; or with any office of Bulloch County or any of their employees as to quantity, quality or price in the prospective contract; or any discussion between vendors and any official of Bulloch County or any of their employees concerning exchange of money or other things of value for special consideration in submitting a sealed bid for:

FIRM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

NOTARY PUBLIC \_\_\_\_\_

**BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BIDDER DECLARATION**

The bidder understands, agrees and warrants:

That the bidder has carefully read and fully understands the full scope of the specifications.

That the bidder has the capability to successfully undertake and complete the responsibilities and obligations in said specifications.

That this bid shall be valid for **60** days.

That this bid may be withdrawn by requesting such withdrawal in writing at any time prior to **October 9, 2024 @ 3:00pm**, but may not be withdrawn after such date and time for a period of **60** days.

That Bulloch County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept that bid or bids which will, in its opinion, best serve the public interest. Bulloch County reserves the right to waive any technicalities or informalities in the bidding.

That by submission of this bid the bidder acknowledges that Bulloch County has the right to make any inquiry or investigation it deems appropriate to substantiate or supplement information supplied by the bidder.

BIDDER:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Title

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Title

AFFIX CORPORATE SEAL (if applicable)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

NOTARY PUBLIC \_\_\_\_\_

## Check List

The items listed below must be completed and returned with the sealed bid. Failure to return any of the items listed will be justification for not accepting the submitted bid.

- 1. Page 4 – Certificate of Liability Insurance
- 2. Page 7 – Exceptions to Specifications Sheet
- 3. Page 8 – Bid Form
- 4. Page 9 – Non-Collusion Affidavit
- 5. Page 10 – Bidder Declaration

**TO BE COMPLETED BY AWARD WINNER ONLY**

**ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL**

Bulloch County hereby accepts the undersigned supplier's bid submitted in response to the attached Invitation for Bids for the following items: \_\_\_\_\_.

By executing this Acceptance of Proposal, Bulloch County and the undersigned supplier acknowledge and agree to be bound by all terms and conditions of the attached Invitation for Bids and all specifications and pricing stated therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Bulloch County and the undersigned supplier have caused their authorized representatives to set their hands and seals this \_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

[Name of Bidder]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas M. Couch, County Manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or type name of signatory

[FORM OF ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL]

The successful bidder(s) will be required to execute this Acceptance of Proposal.