



COUNTY OF KAUFMAN | PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
100 N. Washington St. | Kaufman, Texas 75142
469-376-4548 | purchasing@kaufmancounty.net

**RFP 21-14: CONSULTING SERVICES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING &
FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

Return deadline is no later than: 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2021

Vendor Name: _____

Table of Contents:

Legal Notice..... 3

I. Bid Instructions 4

 Project Timetable..... 4

II. Standard Terms & Conditions – 5

RESPONDENT’S ACCEPTANCE – MANDATORY SIGNATURE PAGE 13

III. Scope of Service 14

IV. Order of Proposals 14

V. Evaluation Process 16

VI. Evaluation 16

VII. Term of Contract..... 16

References 17

Compliance with Federal and State Laws – **MANDATORY SIGNATURE PAGE**..... 18

Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (FORM CIQ) – **MANDATORY SIGNATURE PAGE**..... 19

Respondent Signature Form – **MANDATORY SIGNATURE PAGE**..... 20

NO-BID Response 21

EXHIBIT A – Standard Insurance & Bonding Requirements 22



LEGAL NOTICE

Kaufman County, Texas
Advertisement for Submittals

Sealed responses will be received in the office of the Purchasing Agent located at 100 N. Washington, Kaufman, Texas 75142 until **Friday, April 30, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** for the following:

SOLICITATION 21-14: CONSULTING SERVICES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING & FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Specifications may be obtained online (<https://www.kaufmancounty.net/county-offices/purchasing-agent/>), through the online bidding site (<https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=fbdcaf8b-5a8c-49b1-9c7f-e2774c03dc3d>), in the office of the Purchasing Agent located at 100 N. Washington St., Kaufman, Texas, or requested by email (purchasing@kaufmancounty.net).

All submittals must be clearly addressed to the Purchasing Department and include the solicitation name and number on the outside of the package. The responses will be publicly opened, immediately following the closing date and time, in the Courthouse-Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room located at 100 N. Washington, Kaufman, Texas 75142.

Kaufman County cannot guarantee, due to internal mail delivery procedures, any submittals sent priority mail will be picked up from the post office by County mail employees and delivered to the Purchasing Department by the closing date and time. It is recommended that submittal deliveries be made either in person or via an alternate delivery method ensuring delivery to the physical address. ***Respondents shall bear full responsibility for ensuring that the submittal is delivered to the specified location by due date and time.*** Late submittals will be considered as non-responsive and returned un-opened.

SOLICITATION NAME: Consulting Services for American Rescue Plan Funding & FEMA Public Assistance

SOLICITATION NUMBER: RFP 21-14

DUE DATE/TIME: 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2021

MAIL OR DELIVER TO: Kaufman County Purchasing Department
Attn: Raylan Smith
Kaufman County Courthouse – Annex
100 N. Washington St.
Kaufman, Texas 75142

County reserves the right to reject all submittals and to waive any informality in submittals received, deemed to be in the best interest of the County. No officer or employee of Kaufman County shall have a financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract with Kaufman County.



I. Bid Instructions

1. Respondents are prohibited from contacting or communicating in any means with any consultant, employee, manager, or elected official of Kaufman County concerning this solicitation except for questions directed through the Kaufman County Purchasing Agent by email purchasing@kaufmancounty.net. Failure to comply with this guideline could result in disqualification from the solicitation process.
2. All submittals must be sealed when returned to Kaufman County and clearly addressed to the Purchasing Department, including the solicitation name and number on the outside of the package.

SOLICITATION NAME: Consulting Services for American Rescue Plan Funding & FEMA Public Assistance

SOLICITATION NUMBER: RFP 21-14

DUE DATE/TIME: 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2021

MAIL OR DELIVER TO: Kaufman County Purchasing Department
Attn: Raylan Smith
Kaufman County Courthouse – Annex
100 N. Washington St.
Kaufman, Texas 75142

3. All documents relating to this solicitation will be posted under the solicitation number on the Kaufman County Purchasing Department website and available for download by respondents and other interested parties. It is the respondent's sole responsibility to review this site and retrieve all related documents prior to the solicitation due date.
4. Accuracy for all mathematical and number entries is the sole responsibility of the respondent. Kaufman County will not be responsible for errors made by the respondent.
5. Project Timetable:

Release Solicitation	Tuesday, March 30, 2021
Pre-bid / Site Evaluation(s)	n/a
Deadline for written questions	5:00 p.m., Friday, April 23, 2021
Deadline for Solicitation Submittals	2:00 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2021

II. Standard Terms and Conditions

By returning this solicitation response for **21-14: Consulting Services for American Rescue Plan Funding & FEMA Public Assistance**, in its entirety, Respondent certifies and agrees to the following:

1. This solicitation embodies the complete agreement of the parties hereto, superseding all oral or written previous and contemporary agreements between the parties and relating to matters herein, and except as otherwise provided herein cannot be modified without written agreement of the parties. A contract will be executed after determination of the award.
2. Responses may be withdrawn prior to the official opening. Alterations made before the time of official opening must be initialed by Respondent guaranteeing authenticity. Submittals may not be amended, altered or withdrawn after the official opening, except upon the explicit recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and the formal approval of the Commissioners Court.
3. Alternate bids will not be considered unless authorized. If there is any question as to the specifications or any part thereof, Respondent may submit to the Purchasing Agent a request for clarification. Such requests must be received a minimum of five (5) business days prior to scheduled opening date. All questions and/or clarifications must be submitted by email to purchasing@kaufmancounty.net.
4. Non-performance or non-compliance of the Standard Terms & Conditions, or non-performance or non-compliance with the Specifications shall be basis for termination by Kaufman County of the bid or final executed contract. Termination in whole, or in part, by the County may be made solely at the County's option and without prejudice to any other remedy to which Kaufman County may be entitled by law or in equity, or elsewhere under this solicitation or the agreement, by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the Respondent with the understanding that all work being performed under this agreement shall cease upon the date specified in such notice. Kaufman County shall not pay for work, equipment, services, or supplies which are unsatisfactory. The Respondent may be given reasonable opportunity prior to termination to correct any deficiency. This however shall in no way be construed as negating the basis for termination for non-performance or non-compliance.
5. Respondent shall make all inquiries necessary to be thoroughly informed as to the specifications and all other requirements proposed in the solicitation. Any apparent omission or silence of detail in the description concerning any point in the specifications shall be interpreted based on best commercial practices, and best commercial practices shall prevail.
6. The Respondent shall affirmatively demonstrate qualifications by meeting or exceeding the following minimum requirements:
 - a) Have adequate financial resources, or the ability to obtain such resources as required.
 - b) Be able to comply with any required or proposed delivery schedule.
 - c) Have a satisfactory record of performance.
 - d) Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics.
 - e) Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive the award.
7. Only the Commissioners Court of Kaufman County, Texas, acting as a body may enter into any type of agreement or contract on behalf of Kaufman County. Department heads, other elected or appointed officials, are not authorized to enter into any type of agreement or contract on behalf of Kaufman County, or to agree to any type of supplemental agreements or contracts for goods or services. Contracts are subject to review by the County's attorney prior to signature by the authorized County official.

8. The Respondent shall be considered an independent contractor and not an agent, servant, employee, or representative of the County in the performance of the work. No term or provision, hereof, or act of the Respondent shall be construed as changing that status.
9. The Respondent shall defend, indemnify, and shall hold and harmless the County and all its officers, agents, employees, from and against all suits, actions, or claims of the character, name, and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages (including but not restricted to death) received or sustained by any person(s) or property on account of, arising out of, or in connection with the performance of the work, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any negligent act or omission of the Respondent on the execution or performance of the Contract.
10. The Respondent agrees, during the performance of the work, to comply with all applicable codes and ordinance of the appropriate city, Kaufman County, or State of Texas as they may apply, as these laws may now read or as they may hereafter be changed or amended.
11. The Respondent shall obtain from the appropriate City, Kaufman County, or State of Texas the necessary permit(s) required by the ordinances of the City, County, or State for performance of the work.
12. The Respondent shall not sell, assign, transfer, or convey the agreement in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the County.
13. The parties herein agree that the agreement shall be enforceable in Kaufman County, Texas, and if legal action is necessary to enforce it, exclusive venue shall lie in Kaufman County, Texas.
14. The agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the Laws of the State of Texas and all applicable Federal laws.
15. Funding Clause – Payments required to be made by Kaufman County under the terms of the agreement shall be contingent upon and subject to the initial and continuing appropriation of funding for the agreement by and through the Commissioners Court of Kaufman County, Texas. In the event appropriations for funding of the agreement are not approved by and through the Commissioners Court, the contract shall terminate. Kaufman County shall, submit written notice to Respondent thirty (30) days prior to such termination. Upon notice of termination, as provided in this paragraph, the Respondent may submit a final invoice to the County and coordinate with the Purchasing Agent to remove all property belonging to said Respondent as soon as possible. Payment for final invoice will be subject to verification and approval by the Purchasing Agent. Thereupon, Kaufman County will be released from its obligation and make further payments.
16. Kaufman County is exempt from federal excise and sales taxes, ad valorem taxes, and personal property taxes; therefore, tax must not be included in proposals tendered. Proposals offered must be complete and all inclusive. Kaufman County will not pay additional taxes, surcharges or other fees not included in bid prices.
17. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in the solicitation shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and the agreement shall be considered as if such had never been contained herein.
18. Certificate of Insurance / Additional or alternate bonds – Respondent must provide a certificate of insurance or a statement of Respondent's insurance carrier certifying that the required coverage shall be obtained by Respondent within ten (10) days of formal award of the Contract. In the case where a certification letter from an insurance carrier is attached to the bid in lieu of an insurance certificate, any formal award of a contract shall be contingent upon required coverage being put into force **prior** to any performance required by subject agreement. Additional or alternate bonds may be required in accordance with Texas statutes as outlined in the specifications. See EXHIBIT A – Standard Insurance & Bonding Requirements.

19. Kaufman County reserves the right to terminate an agreement / contract at any time, without cause, upon thirty (30) days written notice to Respondent. Upon termination, Kaufman County shall pay Respondent for those costs directly attributable to work done or supplies obtained in preparation for completion or compliance with the Contract, except no payment shall be made for costs recoverable by Respondent in the normal course of doing business or which can be mitigated through the sale of supplies or materials obtained for use under this Contract. It is further agreed by Respondent that Kaufman County shall not be liable for loss or reduction of any anticipated profit.
20. Respondents must agree to provide the following information as part of this response:
- Form of business (if corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company, indicate the state of creation)
 - Name of contact person (single point of contact with the Respondent)
 - List of all criminal charges, civil lawsuits, or dispute resolutions to which Respondent is a part in the past five (5) years and the nature of the issue. Indicate if and how it was resolved.
 - List of all criminal charges, civil lawsuits, or alternative dispute resolutions to which Respondent becomes a party for the period beginning with the submission of the proposal until the rejection of award of the bid / proposal.
 - Current fiscal year-end and year-to-date financial statements.
21. Kaufman County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses, with or without cause, to waive technicalities, or to accept the response which, in its sole judgment, best serves the interest of the County, or to award a contract to the next most qualified Respondent if a successful Respondent does not execute a contract within ten (10) business days after approval of the selection by the Kaufman County Commissioners Court. Kaufman County reserves the right to award multiple contracts as necessary and in the best interest of the County.
22. Kaufman County reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information of one or more Respondents.
23. Costs of preparation of a response to this solicitation are solely those of the Respondent. Kaufman County assumes no responsibility for any such costs incurred by the Respondent. The Respondent also agrees that Kaufman County assumes no responsibility for any costs associated with any administrative or judicial proceedings resulting from the solicitation process.
24. The awarding Respondent shall maintain adequate records to justify all charges, expenses, and costs incurred in estimating and performing the work for at least two (2) years after completion of the contract resulting from this solicitation. Kaufman County shall have access to all records, documents and information collected and/or maintained by others during the administration of this agreement.
25. Respondent understands and agrees that in returning a response that it is neither an “offer” nor an “acceptance” until such time a formal contract is authorized /awarded by the Kaufman County Commissioners Court; if any.
26. Responses must be submitted on the forms provided and will not be considered if submitted by facsimile, email, or any other means of rapid dispatch, nor if submitted to any other person or department other than specifically instructed.
27. Gratuities – Kaufman County may, by written notice to the Respondent, cancel this contract without liability if it is determined by Kaufman County that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered or given by the Respondent, or any agent or representative, to any officer or employee of Kaufman County with a view toward securing a contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending, or the making of any determinations with respect to the performing of such a contract. In the event this contract is

cancelled by Kaufman County pursuant to this provision, Kaufman County shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the cost incurred by Respondent in providing such gratuities.

28. Termination – The performance of work under this order may be terminated in whole or in part by the Buyer in accordance with this provision. Termination of work hereunder shall be affected by the delivery to the Respondent of a “Notice of Termination” specifying the extent to which performance of work under the order is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. Such right of termination is in addition to and not in lieu of rights of Buyer.
29. Force Majeure – If, by reason of Force Majeure; either party hereto shall be rendered unable to wholly or in part to carry out its obligations under this Agreement then such party shall give sixty (60) day notice and full particulars of such Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch. The term Force Majeure as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemies, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority, insurrections, riots, epidemics, landslides, lightning, earthquake, fires, hurricanes, storms, floods, washouts, droughts, arrests, restraint of government and people, civil disturbances, explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely within the discretion of the party have the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgment of the party having the difficulty.
30. Assignment Delegation – No right or interest in this contract shall be assigned or delegation of any obligation made by Respondent without the written permission of Kaufman County. Any attempted assignment or delegation shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph.
31. Waivers – No claim or right arising out of a breach of this contract can be discharged in whole or in part by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing signed by the aggrieved party.
32. Modification – Contract can be modified or rescinded only by a written and signed agreement by both of the parties duly authorized agents.
33. Applicable Laws – This agreement shall be governed by the Uniform Commercial Code. Wherever the term “Uniform Commercial Code” is used, it shall be construed as meaning the Uniform Commercial Code as adopted in the State of Texas as effective and in force on the date of this agreement.
34. Advertising – Respondent shall not advertise or publish, without Kaufman County’s prior consent, the fact that Buyer has entered into this contract, except to the extent necessary to comply with proper requests for information from an authorized representative of the federal, state, or local government.
35. Right to Assurance – Whenever one party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party’s intent to perform, he may demand that the other party give written assurance of his intent to perform. In the event a demand is made, and no assurance is given within five (5) days, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

36. Venue – Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall be in Kaufman, Kaufman County, Texas.
37. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by the Respondent as a result of any discussions with any public service official, employee, and/or consultant. Only those transactions provided in written form may be considered binding.
38. The contents of each response, including specifications shall remain valid for a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days form the Solicitation due date.
39. All documents submitted as part of the Respondent’s offering will be deemed confidential during the evaluation process.
40. Subcontracting – The Respondent must function as the single point of responsibility for the Agency. No response shall be comprised of separate pricing from multiple subcontractors. Work performed for the Contractor by a Subcontractor shall be pursuant to a written contract between the Contractor and Subcontractor. The Contractor shall be fully responsible to the County for all acts and omissions of the Subcontractors just as the Contractor is responsible for the Contractor’s own acts and omissions. Nothing in the Contract shall create for the benefit of any such Subcontractor any contractual relationship between the County and any such Subcontractor, nor shall it create any obligation on the part of the County to pay or to see to the payment of any moneys due any such Subcontractor except as may otherwise be required by law. The Contractor shall pay each Subcontractor its appropriate share of payments made to the Contractor not later than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of payment from the County. The terms of the subcontract may not conflict with the terms of the Contract, and shall contain provisions that:
 - a.) Require that all Deliverables to be provided by the Subcontractor be provided in strict accordance with the provisions, specifications and terms of the Contract;
 - b.) prohibit the Subcontractor from further subcontracting any portion of the Contract without the prior written consent of the County and the Contractor. The County may require, as a condition to such further subcontracting, that the Subcontractor post a payment bond in form, substance and amount acceptable to the County;
 - c.) require Subcontractors to submit all invoices and applications for payments, including any claims for additional payments, damages or otherwise, to the Contractor in sufficient time to enable the Contractor to include same with its invoice or application for payment to the County in accordance with the terms of the Contract;
 - d.) require that all Subcontractors obtain and maintain, throughout the term of their contract, insurance in the type and amounts specified for the Contractor, with the County being a named insured as its interest shall appear; and
require that the Subcontractor indemnify and hold the County harmless to the same extent as the Contractor is required to indemnify the County.
41. Investigation of Conditions – Before submitting a response, vendors should carefully examine the specifications and fully inform themselves to the conditions of the equipment and limitations.
42. Ethics – The Respondent and/or representatives shall not offer nor accept gifts or anything of value, nor enter any business arrangement with any employee, official or agent of Kaufman County.
43. Design, Strength, Quality of materials and workmanship must conform to the highest standards of manufacturing and engineering practice.
44. All hardware or any other item offered in this bid must be new and unused, unless otherwise specified, in first-class condition and of current manufacture.

COPY OF INVOICE(S) SHALL BE SENT TO: Requesting User Department name and address indicated on the Purchase Order

All invoices must reference a Kaufman County Purchase Order Number

Payment will be made upon receipt and acceptance by the County of completed services, goods and/or products ordered and receipt of a valid invoice, in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 2251. The County will incur no penalty for late payment if payment is made within thirty (30) or fewer days from the statement if there is an uncontested billing. Any payment not made within thirty (30) days of its due date shall bear interest in accordance with Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code. Invoices received without all the required supporting documentation and information will not be processed and will be returned to the Contractor unpaid for correction.

49. Packing slips or other suitable shipping documents shall accompany each special-order shipment and shall include:
 - a) Name and address of successful vendor;
 - b) Name and address of receiving department and/or location;
 - c) Kaufman County Purchase Order number; and
 - d) Description of material shipped, including item numbers, quantity, number of containers, and package number, if any.
50. Unless otherwise indicated, items will be new, unused, and in first class condition in containers suitable for damage-free shipment and storage.
51. Equipment / Good / Services supplied under this contract shall be subject to the County's approval. Item(s) found defective or not meeting specifications shall be picked up and replaced by the successful vendor within one (1) week after notification at no expense to the County. If item(s) is not picked up within one (1) week after notification, the item(s) will become a donation to the County for disposition.
52. Warranty – Respondent shall warrant that all equipment / goods / services shall conform to the proposed specifications and/or all warranties stated in the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship, and title.
53. Remedies – The Respondent and Kaufman County agree that both parties have all rights, duties, and remedies available as stated in the Uniform Commercial Code.
54. Silence of Specification – The apparent silence of these specifications as to any detail or to the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practices may prevail. All interpretations of these specifications shall be made based on this statement.
55. Evaluation Criteria, shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - a) Unit price
 - b) Delivery
 - c) Vendor's past performance record with Kaufman County
 - d) Evaluation of vendor's ability to perform
 - e) Kaufman County's experience with product(s) bid
 - f) Special needs and requirements of Kaufman County
 - g) Results of performance evaluation (if requested or needed)

Kaufman County reserves the right to select evaluation methods deemed most appropriate. Each bid will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, regarding of any previous evaluation method.

56. Contract Award – Kaufman County reserves the right to reject all responses and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in a vendor’s response if deemed in the best interest of the County. Award of contract (if any) resulting from this solicitation will be made only by written authorization from Kaufman County Commissioners Court, which will be followed by the issuing of a Purchase Order or a letter noting the award. The purchase order or letter of award, together with the signed solicitation documents may be construed as a contractual agreement.
57. **Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ) Form** – Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor or person considering doing business with a local government entity disclose in the Questionnaire Form (CIQ), the vendor or person’s affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with a local government entity. By law, this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of Kaufman County no later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor. By submitting a response to this request, the vendor represents that it is following the requirements of Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code. Original, completed forms should be included, if applicable, in your response.
58. **Certificate of Interested Parties Form 1295** – In 2015, the Texas Legislature adopted House Bill 1295, which added section 2252.908 of the Government Code. The law states that a government entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties form to the governmental entity or state agency at the time the business entity submits the signed contract to the government entity or state agency. The form discloses any interested parties who have a controlling interest (10% or more ownership) in the business entity and those who actively participate in facilitating the contract or negotiate the terms of the contract (broker, intermediary, advisor, and/or attorney), if any. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016.

The “Certificate of Interested Parties” form must be completed on the Texas Ethics Commission website, printed, signed, and submitted to the County by the authorized agent of the Business Entity with acknowledgment that disclosure is made under oath and under penalty of perjury prior to final contract execution. To obtain additional information on HB 1295, to learn more about Texas Ethics Commission process to create a new account or to complete an electronic version of Form 1295 for submission with a signed contract, please go to the following website: <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/tec/1295-Info.htm>. Instructional videos for business entities on how to file online can be found at https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm.

The identification number (section 3 of form 1295) is this solicitation number.

59. **Nondiscrimination Authorities** – The Respondent, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest agrees to comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), and 49 CFR Part 21. The respondent will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements or materials and leases of equipment. The Respondent will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices.
60. **TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT** – All responses submitted to Kaufman County become the property of Kaufman County and are subject to the Public Information Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 552). The interested firms/individuals should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Act. In no event shall Kaufman County, or any of its agents, representatives, consultants, directors, officers, or employees, be liable to a firm/individual for the disclosure of all or any portion of a response submitted pursuant to the solicitation. If a firm/individual has special concerns about information that it desires to make available to Kaufman County, but which it believes constitutes a trade secret, proprietary information, or other information excepted from disclosure, such

firm/individual should specifically and conspicuously designate (i.e., mark confidential) each page of that information, which the Respondent believes, should not be disclosed outside Kaufman County. Disclosure of requested information will be subject to the Texas Public Information Act.

61. **Purchasing Agent as Contract Administrator** – The Purchasing Agent will serve as sole liaison between the Kaufman County Commissioners Court, the affected Kaufman County Departments, and the successful vendor. Unless directly outlined in this specification the vendor shall consider only the Purchasing Agent authorized to communicate, by any means, information or suggestions throughout the solicitation process. The Purchasing Agent has been designated the responsibility to ensure compliance with contract requirements, such as but not limited to, acceptance, inspection, and delivery. The County will not pay for work, equipment or supplies, which it deems unsatisfactory. Vendors will be given a reasonable opportunity to correct deficiencies before termination. This, however, shall in no way be construed as negating the basis for termination for non-performance.

RESPONDENT’S ACCEPTANCE – By submitting a response to this solicitation, the respondent certifies that it has fully read and understands the terms, conditions, and statements and has knowledge of the scope and quality of the services to be furnished and intends to adhere to the provisions described herein. Respondent understands and agrees that this solicitation is issued predicated on anticipated requirements for Kaufman County and that Kaufman County has made no representation, written or oral, that any such requirements be furnished under a contract arising from this solicitation. Respondent acknowledges and understand that the Commissioners Court of Kaufman County reserves the right to refuse to award a contract for any or all services covered in this solicitation. Furthermore, Respondent recognizes and understands that any cost borne by the Respondent which arises from Respondent’s performance hereunder shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the Respondent.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

This original, along with original signature MUST be returned with solicitation response



III. SCOPE OF SERVICE

PURPOSE – Kaufman County is requesting competitive proposals from qualified firms to establish a pre-positioned contract for technical and professional services to assist or implement the Kaufman County responsibilities with respect to satisfying the requirements under the American Rescue Plan & FEMA Public Assistance program. These services will include assistance and support for grants management and associated project management services. This contract is issued with no guaranteed quantity of services and the usage of this contract is wholly dependent upon the needs of the County.

SCOPE – The scope of services described herein requires the Respondent to develop and implement a plan / program to maximize eligibility and reimbursement.

- Aid the County with regard to assistance and management of any type needed, including, but not limited to response, assessments; to include any State of Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), recovery and mitigation services.
- Provide broad-based support services for response and recovery activities, ensuring the County is able to accomplish and maximize (if available) federal grant funding.
- Collaborate with the County on project formulation of FEMA projects, including developing scope of work, cost estimates, detailed damage descriptions, and required backup documentation for submittal of project worksheets.
- Assist County in establishing pragmatic document control, establishing a file retention system and data management processes to ensure disaster records are complete and ready for audit.

IV. ORDER OF PROPOSALS – One hard-copy (“Original”) and one PDF (thumb-drive). Proposals must be completed on 8-1/2”x11” paper, bound using comb, spiral binding, or a binder clip (no binders / notebooks).

Submittals must be in the following order (label each section as follows):

- (1.) Corporate Background & Experience – description of similar projects
- (2.) Services
- (3.) Technical Approach & Methodologies
- (4.) Staffing
- (5.) Rate Schedule
- (6.) Qualifications & Experience – information and background of the business
- (7.) References – vendor may use the provided form within this RFP document or may use their own format

Proposals must be submitted as specified below and should include enough information to satisfy evaluators that the proposer has the appropriate experience and qualifications to perform the scope of services as described herein. Proposals should respond to all requested areas.

SECTION 1: Corporate Background & Experience – The proposer should give a brief description of the company, including a brief history, full legal name, corporate structure and organization, date of establishment, number of years in business, current firm ownership, and any recent and/or materially significant proposed change in ownership.

This section should provide a detailed discussion of the Proposer’s prior experience in working on projects similar in size, scope, and function to the proposed contract. Proposers should describe their experience in other states or in corporate / governmental entities of comparable size and diversity with references from three (3) previous clients services in the past five (5) years including names, telephone numbers, and email addresses.

The proposer should also provide any information uniquely relevant in evaluating the experience of the proposer’s to handle the proposed work and describe the proposer’s presence in and commitment to the County.

SECTION 2: Services – Proposal respondents must provide a response to each specification mentioned on under Scope of Work of this RFP. Any specifications within these pages that request the respondent to “assist”, “collaborate”, or “coordinate”, etc., must be responded to by the respondent thoroughly and completely. The response for each bulleted item should be no longer than one (1) page.

SECTION 3: Technical Approach & Methodologies – The proposal should include the proposer’s understanding of the processes and how its proposal will best meet the needs of the County; a description of the proposer’s approach to grant management and quality assurance; and methodologies for delivering the project, including proposed organizational structure and staffing strategies.

SECTION 4: Staffing – Provide a list of staff member(s) for each position required, providing their background, experience, and current resume. Provide an organizational chart, resumes, and summary of staff qualifications for the firm. Key staff should include, but are not limited to:

- Project Principal
- Project Manager
- Subject Matter Expert
- Senior Public Assistance Officer
- Junior Public Assistance Officer
- Mitigation Specialist
- Grants Manager – Financial Management & Administrative Oversight
- Appeals Specialist

SECTION 5: Rate Schedule – The proposer shall list an hourly rate that includes costs for travel and expenses for each proposed / available position. Costs proposed shall be hourly rates including travel and expenses. Only time properly invoiced and approved by the County will be paid. Expenses are to be calculated and included in the total hourly rate that is provided and not broken out separately.

SECTION 6: Qualifications & Experience – include description of your company’s general understanding of the project, scope of services, and tasks necessary to complete the service of providing Consulting Services for Kaufman County. Include: (i) Company Profile – brief discussion of the company, its history and services offered; (ii) Experience – brief descriptions of services; (iii) Proposer should submit any supporting documentation available and identify and list all special services offered.

SECTION 7: References – Proposer is to provide reference for similarly successful services from three (3) governmental agencies, including the name of the agency, contact name, telephone and email address.

V. Proposal Evaluation Process – All proposals will be scored by an evaluation committee. Proposers selected for a short list may be invited to attend an interview, at the proposers own expense. Any invitation for an oral presentation will be solely for the purpose of clarifying proposals received from each qualifying proposer, and will not represent any decision on the part of the evaluation committee as to the selection of a successful proposer.

VI. EVALUATION – the following evaluation criteria shall be followed in selection of those contractor(s) determined to be qualified for award of contract.

a) The following evaluation criteria shall be followed in selection of those firms determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award:

- i. Experience 40 pts.
- ii. Pricing / Staffing 30 pts.
- iii. Project Approach / Plan..... 15 pts.
- iv. References 15 pts.

VII. TERM OF CONTRACT – the County reserves the right to negotiate, and revise stated contract terms and conditions prior to the Firm and County executing an agreement. The firm shall serve at the pleasure of the County and be subject to removal, with or without cause, at any time during the term of the service agreement by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. Any contract resulting from this RFP shall be effective for sixteen (16) months (June 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022). The County will have the option to extend the contract for up to two (2) additional years; in one-year intervals.

References

Please list three (3) references, **other than Kaufman County**, who can verify your performance as a Vendor. Performance includes, but not limited to, sales and/or service, delivery, invoicing, and other items as may be required to Kaufman County to determine Vendor’s ability to provide the intended goods or service of the bid. Kaufman County **prefers** references to be from Government customers. References must be able to verify the quality-of-service Vendor’s company provides and that the Bidder has completed a project of similar size and scope of work in this response. Inaccurate, obsolete or negative responses from the listed references could result in rejection of your bid.

Failure to supply required references **will** deem the bid as non-responsive and it will not be considered for award.

Bidder involvement with reference checks is not permitted. Only Kaufman County or its designee will conduct reference checks. Any deviation to this will result in rejection of your response.

REFERENCE ONE

Government / Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Contact Person and Title: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Scope of Work: _____
Contract Period: _____

REFERENCE TWO

Government / Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Contact Person and Title: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Scope of Work: _____
Contract Period: _____

REFERENCE THREE

Government / Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Contact Person and Title: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Scope of Work: _____
Contract Period: _____



COUNTY OF KAUFMAN | PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
100 N. Washington St. | Kaufman, Texas 75142
469-376-4548 | purchasing@kaufmancounty.net

RFP 21-14: CONSULTING SERVICES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING & FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY: By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Respondent certifies that at the time of submission, they are not on the Federal Government’s list of suspended, ineligible, or debarred entities. In the event of placement on the list between the time of solicitation submission and time of award, the Respondent will notify the Kaufman County Purchasing Agent. Failure to do so may result in terminating the contract for default.

RELATING TO STATE CONTRACTS WITH AND INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES THAT BOYCOTT ISRAEL AND INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES THAT DO BUSINESS WITH IRAN, SUDAN, OR ANY KNOWN FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION: Effective September 1, 2017, Respondent verifies that they do not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract. The term “boycott Israel” is defined by Government Code Section 808.001, effective September 1, 2017. Respondent further verifies that they are not engaged in business with any foreign terrorist organization. The term “foreign terrorist organization” means an organization designed as a foreign terrorist organization by the United State Secretary of State as authorized by 8 U.S.C. Section 1189.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES: The law states that a governmental entity may not enter certain contracts with a non-exempt business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the government entity. By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Respondent agrees to comply with HB 1295, Government Code 2252.908. Respondent agrees to provide Kaufman County Purchasing Agent, and/or requesting department, the “Certificate of Interested Parties”, Form 1295 as required, within ten (10) business days from notification of pending award, renewal, amended, or extended contract.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

This original, along with original signature MUST be returned with solicitation response

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).

7

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

Date

Selected vendor will be required to complete 1295 form prior to contract award

RESPONDENT SIGNATURE FORM

The undersigned, on behalf of and as the authorized representative of Respondent, agrees this solicitation becomes the property of Kaufman County after the official opening.

The undersigned affirms the Respondent has familiarized itself with the local conditions under which the work is to be performed; satisfied itself of the conditions of delivery, handling and storage of equipment and all other matters that may be incidental to the work, before submitting a response.

The undersigned agrees, on behalf of Respondent, that if this response is accepted, to furnish all items/ services upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) and upon the terms and conditions contained in the Specifications. The period for acceptance of this response will be ninety (90) calendar days.

The undersigned affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this solicitation has not been prepared in collusion with any other Respondent, nor any employee of Kaufman County, and that the contents of this solicitation have not been communicated to any other Respondent or to any employee of Kaufman County prior to the official opening of this solicitation.

Respondent hereby assigns to purchase all claims for overcharges associated with this contract which arise under the antitrust laws of the United States, 15 USCA Section 1 et seq., and which arise under the antitrust laws of the United State, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code, Section 15.01, et seq.

The undersigned affirms that they have read and do understand the specifications and any attachments contained in this SOLICITATION package. ***Failure to sign and return this form will result in the rejection of the entire response.***

Signature: _____

Printed Name:		Title	
Company Name		Address City, State, Zip	
Email		Phone (office)	
Phone (cell)		COMPANY IS: Included in a Corporate Income Tax Return? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Email		Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of:	
Phone (Office)		Partnership consisting of:	
Phone (Cell)		Individual trading as:	
		Principal offices are in the City of:	

This original, along with original signature MUST be returned with solicitation response

NO-BID RESPONSE

In the event that your organization chooses not to submit a bid / proposal for this solicitation, the Kaufman County Purchasing Department is interested in the reasons why vendors have chosen not to submit bids / proposal in order to better serve the taxpayers of Kaufman County. Please indicate your reason(s) by checking all applicable items below and return this form to the address shown below.

- Could not meet specifications
- Items or materials requested not manufactured by us or not available to our company
- Insurance requirements too restricting
- Bond requirements too restricted
- Scope of services not clearly understood or applicable (too vague, too rigid, etc.)
- Project not suited to our organization
- Quantities too small
- Insufficient time allowed for preparation of bid / proposal
- Other – please specify:

Vendor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please send your response to:

**Kaufman County Purchasing Department
100 N. Washington Street | Kaufman, Texas 75142
Email: purchasing@kaufmancounty.net**

EXHIBIT A: Standard Insurance & Bonding Requirements

The Contractor shall procure and maintain at its sole cost and expense for the duration of this Agreement insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property that may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Contractor, its agents, representatives, volunteers, employees, or subcontractors. The Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance with respect to the County, its officials, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, its officials, employees, or volunteers shall be considered in excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute to it. Further, the Contractor shall include all subcontractors as additional insured under its policies or shall furnish separate certificates and endorsements for each subcontractor. All coverage for subcontractors shall be subject to all the requirements herein. **All Certificates of Insurance and endorsements shall be furnished to the County's Purchasing Agent and approved by the County before work commences.**

1. Standard Insurance Policies Required:
 - a) Commercial General Liability Policy
 - b) Automobile Liability Policy
 - c) Worker's Compensation Policy

General Requirements applicable to all policies:

- a) Only insurance carriers licensed and admitted doing business in the State of Texas will be accepted.
- b) Deductibles shall be listed on the Certificate of Insurance and are acceptable only on a per occurrence basis for property damage only.
- c) "Claims Made" policies will not be accepted.
- d) Each insurance policy shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled, reduced in coverage or in limits except after thirty (30) days prior written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, has been given to Kaufman County.
- e) All insurance policies shall be furnished to Kaufman County upon request.

Commercial General Liability

- a) General Liability insurance shall be written by carrier with an A: VIII or better rating in accordance with the current Best Key Rating guide.
- b) Minimum Combined Single Limit of \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage with Kaufman County named as an additional insured.
- c) No coverage shall be deleted from the standard policy without notification of individual exclusions being attached for review and acceptance.

Automobile Liability

- a) General Liability Insurance shall be written by a carrier with an A: VIII or better rating in accordance with the current Best Key Rating Guide.
- b) Minimum Combined Single Limit of \$600,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage.

2. Workers Compensation Insurance – Pursuant to the requirements set forth in Title 28, Section 110.110 of the Texas compensation insurance policy; either directly through their employer's policy (the Contractor's or subcontractor's policy) or through an executed coverage agreement on an approved TWCC form. Accordingly, if a subcontractor does not have his or her own policy and a coverage agreement is used, Contractors and subcontractors must use that portion of the form whereby the hiring contractor agrees to provide coverage to the employees of the subcontractor. The portion of the form that would otherwise allow them not to provide coverage for the employees of an independent contractor may not be used. The worker's compensation insurance shall include the following terms:
 - a) Employer's Liability limits of \$500,000 for each accident is required.
 - b) "Texas Waiver of Our Right to Recover from Others Endorsement" shall be included in this policy. (Waiver of Subrogation)

Pursuant to the explicit terms of Title 28, Section 110.1(c) (7) of the Texas Administrative Code, the Proposal / Bid specifications, this agreement, and all subcontracts on this Project must include the following terms and conditions in the following language, without any additional words or changes, except those required to accommodate the specific document in which they are contained or to impose stricter standards of documentation:

Definitions:

Certificate of coverage (“certificate”) – a copy of a certificate of insurance, a certificate of authority to self-insure issued by the Texas Worker’s Compensation Commission, or a coverage agreement (TWCC-81, TWCC-83, or TWCC-84) showing statutory worker’s compensation insurance coverage for the person’s or entity’s employees providing services on a project, for the duration of the project.

Duration of the project – includes the time from the beginning of the work on the project until the Contractor’s/ person’s work on the project has been completed and accepted by the governmental entity.

Persons providing services on the project (“subcontractors” in section 406.096 of the Texas Labor Code) – includes all persons or entities performing all or part of the services the Contractor has undertaken to perform on the project, regardless of whether that person has employees. This includes, without limitation, independent Contractors, subcontractors, leasing companies, motor carriers, owner-operators, employees of any such entity or employees of any entity which furnishes persons to provide services on the projects. “Services” include, without limitation, providing, hauling, or delivering equipment or materials, or providing labor, transportation, or other services related to a project. “Services” does NOT include activities unrelated to the project, such as food / beverage respondents, office supply deliveries, and delivery of portable toilets.

- The Contractor shall provide coverage, based on the proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts and filing of any coverage agreements, that meets the statutory requirements of Texas Labor Code, Section 401.011 (44) for all employees of the Contractor providing services on the project, for the duration of the project.
- The Contractor must provide a certificate of coverage to the governmental entity prior to being awarded the contract.
- If the coverage period shown on the Contractor’s current certificate of coverage ends during the duration of the project, the Contractor must, prior to the end of the coverage period, file a new certificate of coverage with the governmental entity showing that coverage has been extended.
- The Contractor shall obtain from each person providing services on a project, and provide to the governmental entity:
 1. A certificate of coverage, prior to that person beginning work on the project, so the governmental entity will have on file providing services on the project, and certificates of coverage showing coverage for all persons; and
 2. No later than seven (7) calendar days after receipt by the Contractor, a new certificate of coverage showing extension of coverage, if the coverage period shown on the current certificate of coverage ends during the duration of the project.
 3. The Contractor shall retain all required certificates of coverage for the duration of the project and for one year thereafter.

The Contractor shall notify the governmental entity in writing by certified mail or personal delivery, within ten (10) calendar days after the Contractor knew or should have known, of any change that materially affects the provision of coverage of any person providing services on the project.

The Contractor shall post on each project site a notice, in the text, form and manner prescribed by the Texas Worker’s Compensation Commission, informing all persons providing services on the project that they are required to be covered, and stating how a person may verify coverage and report lack of coverage.

The Contractor shall contractually require each person with whom it contracts to provide services on a project, to:

1. provide coverage, based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts and filing of any coverage agreement, that meets the statutory requirements of Texas Labor Code, Section 401.011 (44) for all of its employees providing services on the project, for the duration of the project;
2. provide to the Contractor, prior to that person beginning work on the project, a certificate of coverage showing that coverage is being provided for all employees of the person providing services on the project, for the duration of the project;
3. provide the Contractor, prior to the end of the coverage period, a new certificate of coverage showing extension of coverage, if the coverage period shown on the current certificate ends during the duration of the project;
4. obtain from each other person with whom it contracts, and provide to the Contractor:
 - a. a certificate of coverage, prior to the other person beginning work on the project; and
 - b. a new certificate of coverage showing extension of coverage, prior to the end of the coverage period, if the coverage period shown on the current certificate of coverage ends during the duration of the project;
5. retain all required certificates of coverage on file for the duration of the project and for one year thereafter;
6. notify the governmental entity in writing by certified mail or personal delivery, within ten (10) calendar days after the person knew or should have known, of any change that materially affects the provision of coverage of any person providing services on the project; and
7. contractually require each person with whom it contracts, to perform as required; with the certificates of coverage to be provided to the person for whom they are providing services.

By signing a contract with Kaufman County, or providing, or causing to be provided a certificate of coverage, the Contractor who will provide services on the project will be covered by workers' compensation coverage for the duration of the project, that the coverage will be based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts, and that all coverage agreements will be filed with the appropriate insurance carrier, or in the case of a self-insured, with the commission's Division of Self-Insurance regulation. Providing false or misleading information may subject the Contractor to administrative penalties, criminal penalties, civil penalties, or other civil actions.

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE shall be prepared and executed by the insurance company or its authorized agent, and shall contain the following provisions and warranties:

- a) The company is licensed and admitted doing business in the State of Texas.
 - b) The insurance policies provided by the insurance company are underwritten on forms that have been provided by the Texas State Board of Insurance or ISO.
 - c) All endorsements and insurance coverage according to requirements and instructions contained herein.
 - d) The form of the notice of cancellation, termination, or change in coverage provisions to Kaufman County.
 - e) Original endorsements affecting coverage required by the section shall be furnished with the certificates of insurance.
3. **Bonding Requirements.** If applicable, a Bid Bond shall be required. Pursuant to the provision of Section 262.032(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, if the contract contemplated by this request is a bid for the construction of public works, or will be under a contract exceeding \$100,000, Kaufman County may require the vendor to execute a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total contract price. Said bond shall be executed with a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

If applicable, a Performance Bond shall be required. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 262.032(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, within thirty (30) days of the date of the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a bid by Kaufman County Commissioners Court and prior to commencement of the actual work, the successful vendor shall furnish a performance bond to Kaufman County for the full amount

of the contract if the contract exceeds \$50,000. Said bond shall be for the purpose of insuring the faithful performance of the work in accordance with the plans, specifications, and contract documents associated with the contract.

If applicable, a Payment Bond shall be required. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2253.021, Texas Local Government Code, if the amount of the contract awarded to the successful vendor exceeds \$25,000 the successful vendor shall execute a payment bond in the amount of the contract. Said bond is solely for the protection and use of payment bond beneficiaries who have a direct contractual relationship with the prime contractor or a subcontractor to supply public work labor or material. This bond must be issued to the County within ten (10) days of the award of the contract and before vendor begins the work.