



TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE

William B. Emmons, III, Chairman
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

REGIONAL COMMISSION

TO: Selectboard
FROM: TRORC
DATE: July 2, 2009
RE: Bridge Resident Engineering Services procurement

On behalf of the Selectboard, I have conducted a procurement based on Small Purchase Procurement requirements outlined in the 2001 Local Transportation Facilities Guidebook (<\$15000). This work is to procure services related to the FEMA/VTrans sponsored Bridge Replacement.

I have solicited price quotations from three qualified resident engineering services. They were selected because of their qualifications with engineering and construction oversight, proximity to the job site, ability to work with towns on FEMA related projects, my direct experience with and/or known references of their quality work, and my direct knowledge working with the bridge contractor.

Engineer 1

Engineer 2

Engineer 3

All firms are equally qualified for quality construction oversight services.

Engineer 3 has the highest cost structure. They have an expectation that engineering oversight requires 10% of the total construction costs (i.e., 22k). They will employ multiple professionals qualified in the various construction specialties. They assumed a high number of hours are required for oversight, which is likely not necessary with the excavator – a highly qualified and respected contractor. Engineer 3 is not cost competitive.

Engineer 2 is one of the most qualified construction oversight specialists in the state. He does an excellent job on these smaller projects and knows how to work well with Towns (former Selectman and active community volunteer). However, Engineer 2 is recovering slowly from a winter surgery and has asked he be excused from consideration.

Engineer 1 is a structures-focused engineer (not a civil generalist) that is also doing FEMA work in Anytown. A father/daughter consulting team, this two person firm has low overhead/billing rates. This work can be combined with their Anytown project (e.g., same FEMA/VTrans contacts, paperwork). This project could also lead to a productive long-term relationship with the Town as Engineer 1 is building a home on Anytown Road.

All the engineering firms have good references, but noting a specific reference is important here. This firm is working with the Town of Anytown who has had NO EXPERIENCE working with

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engineers. These folks have been good to the Town and have walked them through the engineering, working with contractors, and doing the paperwork. It is this soup-to-nuts consulting service that is most needed for rural towns and it is usually not so easily accomplished by the larger engineering firms.

A fourth firm was briefly considered. Engineer 4 did an excellent job helping with the Design-Build solicitation. However, as seen in that work, the full cost billing for travel makes them an expensive alternative to the firms that have less travel and/or subsidize the cost. Engineer 4 exceeded its earlier budget in solicitation development. I would be reluctant to hire them for construction oversight services.

Recommendation

I recommend you meet with Engineer 1 and pending a positive Selectboard interview, work to contract them for construction oversight services.