



Solicitation Name: Landscaping Services

Solicitation Number: 24-05-10

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of Procurement

Pursuant to State of Alabama Code this solicitation request is being issued to establish a contract with one or more qualified suppliers who will provide Landscaping Services to the Birmingham Water Works (hereinafter, "the BWW") as further described in this solicitation.

The BWW reserves the right to purchase from the any State of Alabama contract or an approved cooperative purchasing agreement if it is more economical and/or in the BWW's best interest.

1.2. Overview of the Solicitation Process

The objective of the solicitation is to select one or more qualified suppliers (as defined by Section 1.1 "Purpose of the Procurement") to provide the goods and/or services outlined in this solicitation to the BWW. This solicitation process is being conducted to gather and evaluate responses from supplier(s) for potential award(s). All qualified suppliers are invited to participate by submitting responses, as further defined below.

NOTE TO SUPPLIERS: The general instructions and provisions of this document have been drafted with the expectation that the BWW may desire to make one award or multiple awards. For example, this document contains phrases such as "contract(s)" and "award(s)". Please refer to Section 1.1 "Purpose of the Procurement" and Section 6.6 "Selection and Award" for information concerning the number of contract awards expected.

1.3. Schedule of Events

The schedule of events set out herein represents the BWW's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. However, delays to the procurement process may occur which may necessitate adjustments to the proposed schedule. If a component of this schedule, such as the close date, is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted as appropriate. Any changes to the dates up to the closing date of the solicitation will be publicly posted prior to the closing date of this solicitation. After the close of the solicitation, the BWW reserves the right to adjust the remainder of the proposed dates, including the dates for evaluation, award, and the contract term on an as needed basis with or without notice.

Description	Date	Time
Release of Solicitation	As published per per state law.	N/A
Deadline for written questions sent via email to the Issuing Officer referenced in Section 1.4.	03/13/10/2024	4:00 p.m. CST
Bidders/Offerors' Conference Location: N/A	N/A	N/A
Responses to Written Questions	03/15/2024	4:00 p.m. CST
Bids Due/Close Date and Time	As published by per state law.	N/A
Bid Evaluation Completed (on or about)	One to Two Weeks after Close Date	N/A
Finalize Contract Terms	Two to Three Weeks after Close Date	N/A



1.4. Official Issuing Officer (Procuring Agent)

Matt Shiver

Matthew.Shiver@bwwb.org (email address)

1.5. Definition of Terms

Please review the following terms:

- Awarded Supplier- The supplier with whom the BWW will source products and/or services from as a result of the awarded contract and/or BWW issued PO
- Birmingham Water Works Board – the governmental entity identified in Section 1.1 “Purpose of Procurement” of this solicitation
- Birmingham Water Works Nine Member Voting Board of Directors- The awarding authority for BWW.
- Board- Birmingham Water Works Nine Member Voting Board of Directors
- Contract Amendment Form- a BWW issued document that adds, deletes, corrects, and/or modifies items such as contract extensions, terms revisions, increase or decrease of commodities, assignments, delegations of approval bodies, etc...
- Historically Underutilized Business- A business formed for the purpose of making a profit and is at least 51% owned, operated and/or controlled by one or more American citizens or permanent resident aliens who are: Minority Business Enterprise (MBE); Women's Business Enterprise (WBE); Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Disable Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE); (herein sometimes collectively referred to as HUB)
- HUB Forms- Any document that captures information to determine if a company has received the verifiable status of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), or Disable Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE). All HUB Forms are verified and approved by the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority
- Supplier(s) – companies desiring to do business with the BWW

1.6. Contract Term and Renewal

Award shall be made to the lowest responsive and responsible supplier(s) as described in [Section 6](#) of this document. The initial term of the contract shall be for a period of one (1) year from date of award and prices quoted shall remain effective for that period. The Board reserves the sole right to extend any applicable contract(s) for additional one (1) year periods or as allowable per State of Alabama law.

All contract renewals must be approved by the Board. Before the contract end date, the BWW shall submit a Contract Amendment Form to the awarded supplier(s). The Contract Amendment Form may include any mandatory or implicative contract changes from BWW.

2. Instructions to Suppliers

By submitting a response to the solicitation, the supplier is acknowledging that the supplier:

1. Has read the information and instructions,
2. Agrees to comply with the information and instructions contained herein.

2.1. General Information and Instructions

2.1.1. Restrictions on Communicating with BWW Personnel

From the issue date of this solicitation until the award is approved by the Birmingham Water Works Nine Member Voting Board of Directors, suppliers are not allowed to communicate for any reason with any BWW Personnel except through the Issuing Officer named herein, the Issuing Officer's designee, or during the Bidders/Offerors' conference (if any), or as defined in this solicitation or as



provided by existing contract(s). Prohibited communication includes all contact or interaction, including but not limited to telephonic communications, emails, faxes, letters, or personal meetings, such as lunch, entertainment, or otherwise. The BWW reserves the right to reject the response of any supplier violating this provision.

2.1.2. Attending Bidders/Offerors' Conference

The Bidders/Offerors' conference or any other information session (if indicated in the schedule of events) will be held at the offices referred to in Section 1.4 "Schedule of Events". Unless indicated otherwise, attendance is not mandatory, although suppliers are strongly encouraged to attend. However, in the event the conference has been identified as mandatory, then a representative of the supplier must attend the conference in its entirety to be considered eligible for contract award. The supplier is strongly encouraged to allow ample travel time to ensure arrival in the conference meeting room prior to the beginning of any mandatory conference. The BWW reserves the right to consider any representative arriving late to be "not in attendance." Therefore, all suppliers are strongly encouraged to arrive early to allow for unexpected travel contingencies.

2.1.3. BWW's Right to Request Additional Information - Supplier Responsibility

Prior to an award, the BWW must be assured that the selected supplier has all of the resources to successfully perform under the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, adequate number of personnel with required skills, availability of appropriate equipment in sufficient quantity to meet the on-going needs of the BWW, financial resources sufficient to complete performance under the contract, and experience in similar endeavors. If, during the evaluation process, the BWW is unable to assure itself of the supplier's ability to perform, before award, the BWW shall have the option of requesting from the supplier any information deemed necessary to determine the supplier's responsibility. If such information is required, the supplier will be so notified and will be permitted approximately seven (7) business days to submit the information requested.

2.1.4. Failing to Comply with Submission Instructions

Responses received after the identified due date and time or submitted by any other means than those expressly permitted by the solicitation will not be considered. Responses must be complete in all respects, as required in each section of this solicitation.

2.1.5. Rejection of Responses; BWW's Right to Waive Immaterial Deviation

The BWW reserves the right to reject any or all responses, to waive any irregularity or informality in a response, and to accept or reject any item or combination of items, when to do so would be to the advantage of the BWW. It is also within the right of the BWW to reject responses that do not contain all elements and information requested in this solicitation. A response will be rejected if the response contains any defect or irregularity and such defect or irregularity constitutes a material deviation from the solicitation requirements, which determination will be made by the BWW on a case-by-case basis.

2.1.6. BWW's Right to Amend and/or Cancel the Solicitation

The BWW reserves the right to amend this solicitation. Any revisions will be made in writing prior to the solicitation closing date and time. By submitting a response, the supplier shall be deemed to have accepted all terms and agreed to all requirements of the solicitation (including any revisions/additions made in writing through an addendum posted by BWW, prior to the close of the solicitation whether or not such revision occurred prior to the time the supplier submitted its response. THEREFORE, EACH SUPPLIER IS INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING



THE REVISED SOLICITATION AND MAKING ANY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE SUPPLIER'S RESPONSE PRIOR TO THE CLOSE OF THE SOLICITATION. The BWW reserves the right to cancel and if desired, re-advertise this solicitation at any time.

2.1.7. Costs for Preparing Responses

Each response should be prepared simply and economically, avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials beyond those sufficient to provide a complete presentation. The cost for developing the response and participating in the procurement process is the sole responsibility of the supplier. The BWW will not provide reimbursement for such costs.

2.1.8. Quantities or Estimates of Products and Services

The quantities specified herein are estimates based upon current consumption and projected demand for the next contract year and shall not be construed to represent an amount which the BWW shall be obligated to utilize or purchase. The exact amounts ordered may be more or less and subject to BWW's actual needs. The responding supplier acknowledges and agrees that the BWW will only be responsible for the commodities and/or services actually purchased and/or consumed.

2.1.9. Permits, Licensing

The awarded supplier shall be responsible for obtaining all permits, licenses, certifications, bonds, etc., required by federal, state, county, and municipal laws, regulations codes, and ordinances for the performance of the work required in these specifications and to conform to the requirements of said legislation. All fees must be included in the contract amount and paid by the awarded supplier. It is to be specifically understood that the successful contractor shall comply with all the conditions imposed by ordinances or rules and regulations of the governing political district. **All responding Suppliers must provide a valid copy of their business license.**

2.1.10. Use of Subcontractor(s)

Except as may be expressly agreed to in writing by the BWW, the awarded supplier shall not subcontract, assign, delegate, or otherwise permit anyone other than the supplier's personnel to perform any of supplier's obligations under the executed contract.

No subcontract which the awarded supplier enters into with respect to performance of obligations or work assigned under the BWW awarded contract shall in any way relieve the supplier of any responsibility, obligation, or liability under the contract which may be awarded from this solicitation.

All restrictions, obligations, and responsibilities of the supplier under the awarded contract shall also apply to any subcontractor(s) that may be sourced by the supplier. Any contract with a subcontractor must preserve the rights of the BWW. The BWW shall have the right to request the removal of a subcontractor from the awarded contract with or without cause.

2.1.11. Supplier Performance

In the event the BWW deems it expedient to perform service(s) or source alternate similar/like products(s) which have not been provided by the supplier as required by the awarded contract, or to correct work which has been inadequately performed by the supplier as required in the solicitation documents, BWW reserves the sole right to procure services and/or products from another source and may charge the difference between the contract and the substitute contract to the defaulting supplier.



The BWW reserves the right to inspect the manufacturing and/or service development process of any awarded supplier's products and/or services.

2.1.12. Supplier Warranties

The awarded supplier represents and warrants that the goods and services provided in accordance with this solicitation will appear and operate in conformance with the terms and conditions of the finalized contract.

All goods delivered by awarded supplier to the BWW shall be free from any defects in design, material, or workmanship. If any goods offered by the awarded contractor are found to be defective in material or workmanship, or do not conform to supplier's warranty, the BWW shall have the option of returning, repairing, or replacing the defective goods at awarded supplier's expense. Payment for goods shall not constitute acceptance. Acceptance by the BWW shall not relieve the awarded supplier of its warranty or any other obligation under the finalized contract.

The awarded supplier represents and warrants that title to any property assigned, conveyed or licensed to the BWW is good and that transfer of title or license to the BWW is rightful and that all property shall be delivered free of any security interest or other lien or encumbrance.

The awarded supplier represents and expressly warrants that all aspects of the goods and services provided or used by it shall at a minimum conform to the standards in the supplier's industry. This requirement shall be in addition to any express warranties, representations, and specifications included in the finalized contract, which shall take precedence.

2.1.13. Priority Customer Status

By submitting a Cost Worksheet response to this solicitation, supplier understands and acknowledges that the BWW provides water services that are essential to the health and welfare of the public. Failure of an awarded supplier to provide materials under any awarded contract issued pursuant to this solicitation may jeopardize the BWW's ability to provide timely services, which may affect the health and welfare of the public served by the BWW. In the event of product shortages at any level of the production to delivery chain, awarded supplier(s) agrees and affirms that the BWW will be given the earliest possible notice of supply chain issues and the highest priority for allocation of the item(s) listed herein. To the extent that awarded supplier(s) must prioritize and/or allocate delivery among its customers, the requirements of the BWW will be honored before contract items are provided to a customer with no obligations with regard to the public health and welfare.

2.1.14. Silence of Specifications

THE APPARENT SILENCE OF 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 ARE TO PREVAIL.

2.2. Submittal Instructions

2.2.1. Solicitation Review

Please carefully review all information contained in the Event, including all documents available as attachments or available through links. Any difficulty accessing the documents or opening provided links or documents should be reported immediately to the Issuing Officer (Section 1.4).



2.2.2. Preparing a Response to The Solicitation

1. The BWW will not be responsible for the supplier's misunderstanding of the scope of work or any terms and conditions of the solicitation. The BWW will not be responsible for oral interpretations of this solicitation. Supplier's questions and/or comments concerning lack of clarity, defects and questionable or objectionable material in the solicitation must be submitted in writing to and received by the Issuing Officer, or their designee, no later than the deadline for questions date noted on the Schedule of Events (Section 1.3). Questions must specify the Section(s), paragraph(s), and page number(s) to which the question refers.
2. Use the BWW provided worksheets to prepare your response. Unless otherwise directed, do not insert "see attached document" (or similar statements) in the worksheet to reference separate documents. Please review and confirm that the most competitive response has been provided.
3. Answer each question in sufficient detail for evaluation while using judgment with regards to the length of response.
4. Proofread your response and make sure it is accurate and readily understandable.
5. Label any and all documents using the corresponding section numbers of the solicitation or any other logical name so that the BWW can easily organize and navigate the supplier's response

3. Instructions to Suppliers

This section contains general business requirements. By submitting a response, the supplier is certifying its agreement to comply with all of the identified requirements of this section and that all costs for complying with these general business requirements are included in the supplier's submitted Cost Worksheet.

3.1. Standard Insurance Requirements and Bonding

Insurance

Suppliers shall not commence any work until all the insurance as provided herein is obtained nor until the BWW has approved such insurance. Certificates issued by the Supplier's Insurance Company must be filed with the BWW before any work is commenced as evidence of the insurance as provided herein. Such certificates must contain a clause stating that the Insurance Company will notify the BWW ten days prior to any change, cancellation, or renewal of the Supplier's insurance.

1. Workmen's Compensation Insurance: The Supplier shall carry Workmen's Compensation Insurance during the life of the Contract to insure statutory liability to their employees.
2. Comprehensive General Liability and Property Damage: The Supplier shall carry Comprehensive General Liability and Property Damage Insurance during the life of the contract covering all of the Supplier's own operations. The limits shall not be less than \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and \$500,000 for property damage.
3. Comprehensive Automobile Liability and Property Damage: The Supplier shall carry Comprehensive Automobile Liability and Property Damage Insurance during the life of the contract covering supplier's own automobile equipment and if any, supplier hired and non-supplier owned vehicles. The limits shall not be less than \$100,000 for each person, \$300,000 each accident for bodily injury, and \$100,000 for property damage.

Bonding

1. Bid Bond. An **original** bid bond is required in the amount of five (5) percent of the total price on the Cost Worksheet but the amount required shall not exceed \$10,000.00. Any bid submitted without an original bid bond will not be considered. Such Bid Bond shall be an original document in the



form of a firm commitment. The original Bid Bond must be either a cashier's check drawn on an Alabama bank or a bid bond executed by a surety company duly authorized and qualified to make such bonds in the State of Alabama. A company check is not an acceptable bid bond. Bid bonds shall be retained by the BWW until such time as a contract is executed and a purchase order is issued.

2. Performance Bond. The awarded supplier(s) will be required to furnish a performance bond to the BWW for the faithful performance of the contract in an amount equal to the total contract amount. The bond must be issued by a Corporate Surety authorized to do business with the State of Alabama. The performance bond must be submitted to BWW within ten (10) calendar days of the contract being signed by the BWW General Manager or their designated signatory. Work cannot be performed until appropriate documentation has been received and BWW issues a notice to proceed (NTP).
3. Payment Bond. The awarded supplier(s) will be required to furnish a bond to secure payment of all claims for materials furnished and/or labor performed by a subcontractor. The payment bond shall be an amount equal to 50% of the total contract amount. The bond must be issued by a Corporate Surety authorized to do business with the State of Alabama. The payment bond must be submitted to BWW within ten (10) calendar days of the contract being signed by the BWW General Manager or their designated signatory. Work cannot be performed until appropriate documentation has been received and BWW issues a notice to proceed (NTP).

3.2 Proposal Certification

By responding to this solicitation, the supplier understands and agrees to the following:

1. That the submitted Cost Worksheet constitutes an offer, which if accepted in writing by the BWW, and subject to the terms and conditions of such acceptance, will constitute a valid and binding contract between the supplier and the BWW; and
2. That the supplier guarantees and certifies that all items included in the supplier's response meet all of the solicitation's identified specifications and requirements except as expressly stated otherwise in the supplier's response; and
3. That the response submitted by the supplier shall be valid and held open for a period of **ninety (90) days** from the final solicitation closing date and that the supplier's offer may be held open for a lengthier period of time subject to the supplier's consent; and
4. That the supplier's response is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. Supplier understands and agrees that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards; and
5. That any provision of the State of Alabama Code has not been violated and will not be violated in any respect.

4. Solicitation Bid Factors

This section contains the detailed technical requirements and related services for this solicitation. The BWW has determined that it is best to define its own needs, desired operating objectives, and desired operating environment. The BWW will not tailor these needs to fit a particular solution a supplier may have available; rather, the suppliers shall propose to meet the BWW's needs as defined in this solicitation. All claims shall be subject to demonstration. Suppliers are cautioned that conditional responses/bids, based upon assumptions, may be deemed non-responsive.

Unless requested otherwise, all responses must be provided within the provided forms included with this solicitation.



4.1. Introduction

All of the items described in this section are service levels and/or terms and conditions that the BWW expects to be satisfied by any awarded supplier. Each supplier must indicate its willingness and ability to satisfy these requirements in the supplier's submitted response.

Unless otherwise specified, references to brand name or trade name/mark products are intended to be descriptive, but not restrictive, and are used to indicate the quality and characteristics of products that may be offered. Other products may be considered for award if such products are clearly identified and are determined by the BWW to meet its needs in all respects. Each supplier's response must indicate the brand name, model, and/or series number of the product offered and include such specifications, catalog pages, or other data that will provide an adequate basis for determining the quality and functional capabilities of the product offered.

4.2. Mandatory Requirements

As noted in the preceding section, this solicitation contains mandatory requirements (e.g., product specifications, service or quality levels, staff requirements, experience, or license requirements, etc.) which must be met by the supplier in order for the supplier to be considered "responsive" and, therefore, eligible for contract award. These mandatory requirements will be defined in one or more of the following ways:

1. Requirements in this solicitation document
2. Requirements contained in any attachment to this solicitation, such as HUB Documents, EEO Report, Certification of Non- Discrimination, Debarment Form, any BWW requested bonds, and the Cost Worksheet

5. Cost Worksheet

Each supplier is required to submit pricing as part of their response.

5.1. General Pricing Rules

By submitting a response, the supplier agrees that it has read, understood, and will abide by the following instructions/rules:

1. The submitted pricing must include all costs of performing pursuant to the resulting contract; and
2. Bids containing a minimum order/ship quantity or dollar value, unless otherwise called for in the solicitation, will be treated as non-responsive and may not be considered for award; and
3. The supplier is required to provide net prices. In the event there is discrepancy between a supplier's unit price and extended price, the unit price shall govern;
4. The prices quoted and listed in the response shall be firm throughout the term of the resulting contract, unless otherwise noted in the solicitation or contract; and
5. Unless otherwise specified in any terms and conditions issued by the BWW to the solicitation, all product deliveries will be F.O.B. destination and all shipping charges must be included in the quoted cost; and
6. Unless expressly permitted by the solicitation, responses containing provisions for late or interest charges will not be awarded a contract. Suppliers must "redact" any such provisions in their submitted forms; and
7. Responses containing prepayment and/or progress payment requirements may be determined non-responsive unless otherwise permitted by the solicitation; and
8. Unless permitted by the solicitation, responses requiring payment from the BWW in less than thirty (30) days will be considered non-responsive; and
9. The BWW is exempt from certain taxes and no provision for such taxes should be included in the supplier's response.



5.2 Cost Structure and Additional Instructions

BWW's intent is to structure the cost format in order to facilitate comparison among all suppliers and foster competition to obtain the best market pricing. Consequently, the BWW requires that each supplier's cost be structured as directed in the solicitation. Additional alternative cost structures will not be considered. Each supplier is hereby advised that failure to comply with the solicitation instructions, submission of an incomplete offer, or submission of an offer in a different format than the one requested may result in the rejection of the supplier's response.

Enter all information directly into the Cost Worksheet(s). Enter numbers on each cost sheet in "number" (two-place decimal), not "currency" or other format unless otherwise stated. That is, omit dollar signs, commas, and any other non-essential symbols. (e.g., \$7.90 should be entered as 7.90) Prices must be in US Dollars. Enter "n/a" to indicate not available or "0" if there is no charge. Cells left blank will be interpreted as "no offer".

6. Evaluation and Award

All timely responses will be evaluated in accordance with the following steps. The objective of the evaluation process is to identify the most competitive bid. Once the evaluation process has been completed, the apparent successful supplier(s) will be required to enter into discussions with the BWW to resolve any exceptions to BWW's contract.

6.1. Administrative/Preliminary Review

First, the responses will be reviewed by the Issuing Officer, or their designee, to determine compliance with the following requirements:

1. Response was submitted by deadline
2. Response is complete and contains all required documents

6.2. Evaluating Bid Factors

If the supplier's response passes the Administrative/Preliminary Review, the supplier's responses will be evaluated. Responses to mandatory requirements will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If a response fails to meet a mandatory requirement, the BWW will determine if the deviation is material. A material deviation will be cause for rejection of the response. An immaterial deviation will be processed as if no deviation had occurred.

6.3. Evaluating Cost

BWW may utilize lowest cost, lowest total cost, and total cost of ownership (TCO) or greatest savings to determine the most competitive pricing. Submitted pricing may be evaluated/scored on an overall basis or at the category/subcategory/line level (as applicable) relative to other responses/bids.

6.4. Local Preference

BWW may choose to utilize a local preference for the award of a contract for items of personal property or services as provided by and in accordance with State of Alabama Code §41-16-50 of the Code of Alabama (1975). A local preference is not applicable to the award of a contract funded by federal grant. Per State of Alabama Code § 41-16-50, the BWW considers Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, and Shelby Counties to be within its Core Based Statistical Area.



6.5. Alabama Based In-State Preference

In compliance with State of Alabama Code § 41-16-57(b), the purchase of or contract for goods or services, the BWW shall give preference, provided there is no sacrifice or loss in price or quality, to commodities produced in Alabama or sold by Alabama persons, firms, or corporations.

6.6. Selection and Award

Any contract award resulting from the solicitation will be made to the lowest, responsive and responsible supplier meeting all specifications and with whom BWW has reached agreement on all contract terms and conditions.

When selecting the lowest responsive and responsible supplier, the determination may involve all or some of the following factors: price, conformity to specifications, financial ability to meet the contract, previous performance, facilities and equipment, availability of repair parts, experience, delivery promise, terms of payments, compatibility as required, other costs, and other objective and accountable factors which are reasonable.

6.7. Site Visits and Oral Presentations

The BWW reserves the right to conduct site visits, request product/work samples, or to invite suppliers and/or awarded suppliers to present their product/service solution to the evaluation teams. The supplier(s) and/or awarded supplier(s) shall provide access to all manufacturer's production, testing, storage, operation, and other areas if, and when, requested by the BWW.

7. Solicitation Terms and Conditions

The contract that the BWW expects to award as a result of this solicitation will be based upon the solicitation, the successful supplier's final response as accepted by the BWW and the contract terms and conditions. The "successful supplier's final response as accepted by the BWW" shall mean: the response submitted by the awarded supplier, written clarifications, and any other terms deemed necessary by the BWW, except that no objection or amendment by a supplier to the solicitation requirements or the contract terms and conditions shall be incorporated by reference into the contract unless the BWW has explicitly accepted the supplier's objection or amendment in writing.

Exception to Terms and Conditions

By submitting a response, each supplier acknowledges its acceptance of the solicitation specifications without change except as otherwise expressly stated in their submitted responses. If a supplier takes exception to a solicitation provision, the supplier must state the reason for the exception and state the specific language it proposes to include in place of the provision. Any exceptions to any solicitation specification must be redlined with comments or countered as requested by other BWW supplied documentation, explaining the rationale for the proposed revision and submitted as an attachment to the supplier's response. Proposed exceptions must not conflict with or attempt to preempt mandatory requirements specified in the solicitation. Proposed exceptions must be in compliance with State of Alabama law. For further information regarding contracting with BWW, please go to the [State of Alabama Legislature Webpage](#), select [Legal Resources](#), and then [Code of Alabama](#).

In the event the supplier is selected for potential award, the supplier will be required to enter into discussions with the BWW to resolve any contractual differences before an award is made. These discussions are to be finalized and all exceptions resolved within the period of time identified in the schedule of events. Failure to resolve any contractual issues will lead to rejection of the supplier's response. The BWW reserves the right to proceed to discussions with the next best ranked supplier.



Exceptions that materially change the terms or the requirements of the solicitation may be deemed non-responsive by the BWW, in its sole discretion, and rejected. Contract exceptions which grant the supplier an impermissible competitive advantage, as determined by the BWW, in its sole discretion, will be rejected. If there is any question whether a particular contract exception would be permissible, the supplier is strongly encouraged to inquire via written question submitted to the Issuing Officer prior to the deadline for submitting written questions as defined by the Schedule of Events.

8. Delivery and Invoicing

Delivery of Products and/or Services

Unless otherwise stated in the solicitation and any resulting contract, items shall be shipped F.O.B. Destination. The supplier shall retain title for the risk of transportation, including the filing for loss or damages. The invoice covering the items is not payable until items are delivered and accepted by BWW. Unless the F.O.B. clause states otherwise, the seller assumes transportation and related charges either by payment or allowance.

All items shall be subject to inspection on delivery. Hidden damage will remain the responsibility of the awarded supplier to remedy without cost to the BWW, regardless of when the hidden damage is discovered.

**F.O.B. Birmingham Water Works
 3600 First Avenue North
 Birmingham, AL 35222**

The BWW reserves the right to have orders delivered to different locations that are BWW owned or leased, or contractor worksites at the awarded supplier's expense.

A packing list shall accompany every shipment. The absence of a packing slip or required shipping order information may cause refusal of the shipment. The packing list shall contain: Purchase Order number, Delivery release number, item description, quantity shipped, quantity ordered, and quantity backordered (if any).

If there is a delay in products manufacturing or shipping and/or the performance of services, the awarded supplier(s) must notify the BWW, in writing, as soon as possible. The awarded supplier(s) must provide weekly updates, in writing, to the BWW for any product and/or service delays.

Invoicing

The BWW will render payment to the awarded supplier(s) by check on a net 30-day basis after receipt of the products and/or services and an invoice that has been submitted as required in this solicitation, unless the BWW authorizes alternative terms in writing. All invoices must be submitted to accountspayable@bwwb.org. Any discrepancies noted by the BWW must be corrected by the awarded supplier within 48 hours. The payment amount due on invoices cannot be altered by the BWW personnel. Once disputed items are resolved, the awarded supplier must submit an amended invoice, or a credit memorandum for the disputed amount. The BWW will not make partial payments on an invoice where there is a dispute. The BWW will only make payments on authorized transactions.

Invoices submitted pursuant to this solicitation must include:

- Name and remittance address of supplier.
- Invoice date.
- Invoice number.
- Solicitation number.
- BWW Issued PO number.
- Must clearly show the description of products and/or services to include the number of each product or line item fulfilled.



- Contact information of the person to be notified in event of a discrepancy in the invoice.

9. Order of Preference

In the case of any inconsistency or conflict among the specific provisions of the executed contract (including any amendments accepted by both the BWB and the Awarded Supplier), the solicitation (including any subsequent addenda and written responses to supplier's questions), and the supplier's response, any inconsistency or conflict shall be resolved as follows:

- (i) First, by giving preference to the specific provisions of the executed contract.
- (ii) Second, by giving preference to the specific provisions of the solicitation.
- (iii) Third, by giving preference to the specific provisions of the supplier's response, except that objections or amendments by a supplier that have not been explicitly accepted by the BWB in writing shall not be included in the contract and shall be given no weight or consideration.

10. Indemnification

The successful bidder shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board and its present and future affiliates, and the representatives, agents, officers, and employees of each of them (The "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all loss, damage, or liability resulting from demands, claims, suits, or actions of any character presented or brought for any injuries (including death) to persons (including without limitation employees or agents of the successful bidder) and for damages to property caused by or arising out of any negligent (including strict liability), wanton, or intentional act or omission of the successful bidder, any of its subcontractors, anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them or anyone whose actions anyone of them may be liable or in any way associated or connected with the performance of the obligations under these specifications, in whatever manner the same may be caused, and whether or not the same be caused or arise out of the joint, concurrent or contributory negligence of any of the Indemnified Parties. The preceding indemnity shall include, but not be limited to, court costs, reasonable attorney's fees, investigation costs, defense costs, settlements, and judgments associated with such demands, claims, suits, or actions.

The Board shall not be liable for, and the successful bidder shall waive all claims against the Board and be responsible for, all loss or damage to persons or property sustained by the successful bidder, its officers, agents, or employees (except such as may arise because of the sole negligence of the Board) which may arise about the services to be performed by the successful bidder hereunder.

11. Dispute Resolutions, Governing Law, Venue, and Jurisdiction

11.1. Dispute Resolutions

The Parties hereby recognize and affirm that this Agreement is contractual in nature and that it does not involve any interest in real estate. Accordingly, all disputes, claims, controversies or litigation arising out of, or relating to, or in connection with, any provision of this Agreement or the Parties thereto, whether asserted as the basis for a claim, counterclaim or crossclaim, or a defense to a claim, counterclaim or crossclaim shall be resolved by a judge sitting without a jury. The Parties understand that they have a right to litigate disputes in court, and that they prefer to resolve their disputes through a trial before a judge sitting without a jury and that they knowingly waive any right they have to a jury trial. The Parties agree and understand that all disputes claims, controversies or litigation arising under case law, statutory law and all other laws including, but not limited to, all contract, tort and equitable relief will be subject to a trial before a judge sitting without a jury in accord with this contract

11.2. Governing Law

All contracts entered into as a result of this solicitation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of Alabama.



11.3. Venue

The Parties agree that venue for all such disputes, claims, controversies, or litigation arising from or relating to this contract or the parties thereto shall only be before the circuit court for Jefferson County, Alabama, the Birmingham division.

11.3. Jurisdiction

The Parties knowingly waive any right they have for subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction to be vested in any federal district court and that the parties hereby agree that the subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction to resolve any and all disputes, claims, controversies or litigation arising out of, or relating to, or in connection with any provision of this contract or the parties thereto, whether asserted as the basis for a claim, counterclaim or cross-claim, or a defense to a claim, counterclaim or cross-claim shall only be in the circuit court for Jefferson county, the Birmingham division.

12. List of solicitation Attachments

The following documents make up this solicitation. Any difficulty locating or accessing the following documents should be immediately reported to the Issuing Officer.

- A. BWW Main Solicitation Document (This Document)
- B. Mandatory Questions
- C. Cost Worksheet(s)
- D. Appendix One
- E. All HUB Related Documents (Each HUB Document is Labeled as a HUB Document)
- F. Non-Discrimination Policy
- G. Conflict of Interest Form
- H. EEO Report
- I. Supplier Information Form
- J. Supplier Diversity Questionnaire
- K. Debarment Form
- L. Alabama Supplier License Form
- M. Receipt of Bid Package Form