

# **Baldwin County Commission**

## **Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering/Environmental Services for the Scenic 98 Point Clear Creek Bridge Replacement**

### **Overview:**

The Baldwin County Commission, acting by and through the Highway Department, seeks qualifications from qualified engineering consultant firms for the design of the Scenic 98 Point Clear Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

Scenic 98 Bridge Replacement Project's principal purpose is to replace the structurally deficient bridge over Point Clear Creek. Other aspects will be to incorporate a pedestrian crossing over Point Clear Creek connecting the Eastern Shore Trail, adding lighting and other safety measures in the area.

The consultant chosen will assist in survey, environmental assessment, geotechnical analysis, environmental permitting, design, utility relocation coordination, plan production, contract preparing, and bidding assistance required to complete the project.

### **Requirements:**

The successful firm chosen will have experience with environmental studies, Bridge design, hydraulic and hydrologic analysis, data collection and analysis, preliminary engineering, preliminary cost analysis and other tasks associated with similar type projects. The chosen firm must have Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensure, and proper business licensure, both in the State of Alabama, at the time of submittal. Firms responding to this RFQ should provide Dun and Bradstreet number and be registered with the GSA database at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) to confirm debarment/suspension status.

Any contract awarded must comply with the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE) contracting requirements outlined in 2 CFR 200.321. MBE and/or WBE individuals/firms are encouraged to respond to this solicitation.

### **Scope of Services:**

The scope of services to be performed by the consultant firm shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Perform all work under the direction of the Baldwin County Highway Department.
- Attend any necessary meetings and make presentations at the request of the County.
- Provide a topographic survey to use in drainage analysis, design, right-of-way mapping, and plan preparation.
- Provide complete environmental findings and documentation for all permitting required for the project.
- Perform wetland delineations and impact information for County review and, subsequently, permit approval.
- Provide utility coordination of existing and proposed relocations during the design process.
- Provide a complete geotechnical analysis of existing and proposed requirements.
- Assist with bidding of the project.
- Prepare contracts for proposed contractors.

- Provide detailed and timely schedules throughout the approved contract time-period.
- Provide advice, counsel, and make recommendations on miscellaneous projects and information that could have an impact on the proposed project.
- Provide any additional information the County may need in relation to the project.
- Provide one contact person to coordinate project information.

**Period of Performance:**

The firm selected shall be able to complete the following services outlined below within the time periods shown:

1. Project design, permitting, and bidding ( +/- 12 months after notice to proceed)
2. Inspection Services (as needed)

**Submittal of Qualifications:**

Qualifications submitted in response to this RFQ must provide detailed information to show evidence of qualifications, experience, and expertise. Seven (7) hard copies of the RFQ are required. No emailed or faxed materials will be accepted. Please limit proposals to ten (10) pages, not including (1) a two-page maximum Letter of Transmittal, (2) Table of Contents and (3) up to fifteen (15) pages for Appendices. Cover page should include Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number and company point of contact information. The cover pages and RFQ Response Form do not count towards the page numbers.

Questions regarding this information shall be directed to Wanda Gautney, Baldwin County Purchasing Director at [wgautney@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto:wgautney@baldwincountyal.gov). Questions must be received no later than August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 pm CDT.

**Qualifications should be sent to the address below on or before 2:00 pm CDT August 14th, 2024.**

Baldwin County Purchasing Department  
Mrs. Wanda Gautney  
Purchasing Director

Mailing Address:  
312 Courthouse Square  
Bay Minette, AL. 36507

Physical Address:  
257 Hand Avenue  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

**Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria:**

A committee consisting of Baldwin County Commission staff members will evaluate and rank the most qualified firms' written qualifications based on demonstrated competence and professional qualifications for performance of the services required.

The County Selection Committee will select the most qualified firm from the submitted qualifications. Upon selection of a consulting firm, a scope of work meeting will be conducted and a proposal for work will be required. The County reserves all rights in the selection of the firm of its choosing regarding this RFQ.

The County Commission will approve the most highly qualified firm and a contract with that firm to be negotiated by the Highway Department with a budgeted firm-fixed price amount. Contracts will be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the County Commission. Upon completion of the contract and fee negotiations, the County Commission executes the contract. The contract award will be subject to the timely completion of contract negotiations between the County and the selected Respondent.

The County reserves the right to reject all Statements, negotiate further with any entity submitting Statements, seek additional Statements, or waive any irregularities or informalities in the RFQ process.

Qualifications should contain information sufficient to enable the Selection Committee to properly evaluate the competence and qualifications of the consultant for achieving the project objectives. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Understanding of project objectives
- Qualifications of the personnel to be used on the project including project availability
- Proposed project approach
- Previous experience of the firm on similar projects (include firm's role in the projects)
- Location of where work will actually be accomplished
- Estimated time to perform the work including a timeline with major tasks/benchmarks

Qualifications will be scored as follows:

Criteria	Possible Points
Understanding of Project Objectives	10
Qualifications of Personnel and Availability	20
Proposed Project Approach	30
Previous Experience	25
Location of Work	5
Estimated Timeline	10
Total	100

## **Project Funding**

This Engineering project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. (ARPA).

## **Warranties:**

By responding to this RFQ, firms/individuals submitting proposals warrant and represent the following:

1. The firm/individual does not have a judgment lien against the property for a debt to the United States.

## **Equal Opportunity Business Development:**

Non-Discrimination. The Baldwin County Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, pregnancy, national origin, genetic information, veteran status, or disability in its hiring or employment practices nor in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.

Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Businesses Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms. Minority and/or Women Businesses are encouraged to respond to this request. Baldwin County Commission takes all necessary affirmative steps, as set forth in 2 C.F.R. 200.321(b) to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. Should a contract be awarded, the prime contractor must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure the minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. Affirmative steps MUST include:

- (1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- (2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- (3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- (4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises; and,
- (5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.
- (6) Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section.

Equal Employment Opportunity is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority firms and women business enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

Open Trade. By submitting a Statement, the Respondent represents that he/she and the business entity he/she represents is not currently engaged in the boycott of a person or entity based in or

doing business with a jurisdiction with whom the State of Alabama can enjoy open trade, as defined in Act 2016-312.

### **Indemnification:**

The firm shall indemnify, defend and hold County and its affiliates, employees, agents, and representatives (collectively "County") harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, damages, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses including, without limitations, attorneys' fees, for any and all personal injury (including death) and property damage of any kind or nature whatsoever, incurred by, asserted against, or imposed upon County, as a result of or in any manner related to provision of services hereunder resulting from any negligent act or omission by the Engineer. The Engineer shall provide the County with proof of general liability coverage including the County as an additional insured. This indemnification shall survive the expiration of this agreement.

### **Insurance:**

The Engineer agrees to carrier at their own cost and expense for the length of the contract and with insurers satisfactory to the Baldwin County Commission, maintain in effect the following insurance coverage from an insurance company or companies authorized to do business in Alabama.

Comprehensive General Liability Policy  
Comprehensive Liability Insurance covering all owned and non-owned Automobiles  
Worker's Compensation Insurance as required by law.

### **Bidder Qualifications**

All vendors, contractors and the grantee are required to comply with the Alabama Immigration Law under Sections 31-13-9 (a) and (b) of the Code of Alabama. Forms and documents will be included with award documents. Information and forms can be found on the Baldwin County Commission's Purchasing website under E-Verify at [www.baldwincountyal.gov](http://www.baldwincountyal.gov)

All bidders must provide proof of proper certification of authority, and any required registration, to transact business in this State, in order to perform work for the Baldwin County Commission. Bidder's Registration Number shall be provided on the Bid Response Form. The phone number for the Alabama Secretary of State is (334) 242-5324, Corporate Division.

### **Termination of Services**

The COUNTY may terminate this Contract, with or without cause or reason by giving written notice of such to the other party. Upon receipt of such notices, PROVIDER shall discontinue its work to the extent specified in the notice. In the event of termination, the COUNTY shall pay PROVIDER for all services satisfactorily rendered, and for any expenses deemed by COUNTY to be a reimbursable expense incurred pursuant to this Contract and prior to the date of termination.

## **ATTACHMENT A: CONTRACTING WITH SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESSES, WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND LABOR SURPLUS AREA FIRMS**

**Documentation of compliance with the following requirements is a matter of contractor responsibility. When subcontracting, the contractor must submit documentation of good faith efforts to meet the project's MBE/WBE requirements before contracted work can commence. (MBE/WBE requirements are outlined below and can be found at 2 C. F. R. §200.321.) Failure on the part of the contractor to submit proper documentation may cause the Owner not to execute or to terminate the contract.**

(a) The prime contractor must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

(b) Affirmative steps must include:

- (1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- (2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- (3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- (4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises; and,
- (5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

The prime contractor should note that this requirement mandates two responsibilities. Separate solicitations must be made of minority **and** women's business enterprises.

### **SUBMITTAL OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MBE/WBE) DOCUMENTATION**

Prior to contract execution, the prime contractor must submit:

- A written certification that no subcontracts will be issued.
- OR -

- The Subcontractor Listing Form detailing all subcontractors from whom quotes were received including name, contact person, address, phone, and status (MBE, WBE or Non).

If subcontractors will be utilized, the prime contractor must submit the following for subcontracts proposed to be awarded to MBE/WBE enterprises:

- A certification from each MBE and/or WBE firm declaring its status as an MBE or WBE firm. A self-certification is acceptable, if the certification specifies the basis for MBE/WBE designation (e.g., the business is 51% owned and daily operation is controlled by one or more women or minority owners).

If subcontractors will be utilized, the prime contractor must submit the following for subcontracts proposed to be awarded to Non-MBE/WBE:

- For all subcontracts for which there are capable certified MBE/WBE firms existing to potentially perform the work, letters transmitted to MBE and WBE firms requesting quotes or proposals for specific subcontracting opportunities and encouraging inquiries for further details. Solicitations should have been sent in a timely manner, including allowed response time.
- A listing of certified MBE and WBE firms from whom quotes, or proposals were received, if any, who were not awarded subcontracts.
- Evidence that each Non-MBE/WBE subcontractor selected for the scope of work, was lower in price than each MBE/WBE proposal (or that there is some other acceptable reason to select the Non-MBE/WBE) and that the scope of work was the same for both the MBE/WBE and Non-MBE/WBE.

The contractor may utilize the following resources to assist in MBE/WBE affirmative outreach:

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Office of Minority Business Enterprise's Certified MWBE List and the Alabama Department of Transportation's Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise List.

Should the Prime Contractor intend to later issue a subcontract, the above affirmative steps must be followed and documentation of such submitted to the Owner for review as described under this section.

## **ARPA AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **I. Legal Terms and Conditions Applicable to Contract**

Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of section 603 of the American Rescue Plan Act, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (March 11, 2021) (the “Act”), regulations adopted by Treasury pursuant to section 603(f) of the Act, codified as 31 C.F.R. Part 35, and guidance issued by Treasury regarding the foregoing.

Contractor shall provide for such compliance by other parties in any agreements it enters into with other parties relating to this project.

Federal regulations which may applicable to this contract may include, without limitation, the following:

1. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, other than such provisions as Treasury may determine are inapplicable to this award and subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by Treasury.
2. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension Non-procurement, 2 C.F.R. Part 180, including the requirement to include a term or condition in all lower tier covered transactions (contracts and subcontracts described in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart B) that the award is subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 80 and Treasury’s implementing regulation at 31 C.F.R. Part 19.
3. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters, pursuant to which the award term set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII to Part 200 is hereby incorporated by reference.
4. Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace, 31 C.F.R. Part 20.
5. New Restrictions on Lobbying, 31 C.F.R. Part 21. PROVIDER must certify that it will not, and has not, used federal appropriated funds to any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C 1352.
6. Generally applicable federal environmental laws and regulations. PROVIDER must comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). All violations must be reported to the County, Treasury, and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination applicable to this award include, without limitation, the following:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC §§ 2000d, *et seq.*) and Treasury’s implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;



2. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 USC §§ 3601, *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance;
4. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 USC §§ 6101, *et seq.*), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
5. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 USC §§ 12101, *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

Contractor agrees to comply, as applicable, with requirements of the Hatch Act (5 USC §§ 1501-1508 and 7324-7328), which limit certain political activities of state or local government employees whose principal employment is in connection with an activity financed in whole or in part by this federal assistance.

Contractor understands that making false statements or claims in connection with the use of ARPA funds is a violation of federal law and may result in criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions, including fines, imprisonment, civil damages and penalties, debarment F.R. from participating in federal awards or contracts, and/or any other remedy available by law.

In accordance with 41 USC § 4712, Contractor may not discharge, demote, or otherwise discriminate against an employee in reprisal for disclosing to any of the list of persons or entities provided below, information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

The list of persons and entities referenced in the paragraph above includes the following:

1. A member of Congress or a representative of a committee of Congress.
2. An Inspector General.
3. The Government Accountability Office.
4. A Treasury employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management.
5. An authorized official of the Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency.
6. A court or grand jury; or
7. A management official or other employee of the County, contractor, or subcontractor who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct.

Contractors shall inform their employees in writing of the rights and remedies provided for whistleblowers in the predominant native language of the workforce.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 F.R. 19217 (Apr. 18, 1997), Contractor is encouraged to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13513, 74 F.R. 51225 (Oct. 6, 2009), is encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, and recipient should establish workplace safety policies to decrease accidents caused by distracted drivers.

Contractor must use strong labor standards, including payment of a competitive and prevailing wage in the County.

Contractor must adopt and follow high safety standards and provide training based upon the appropriate licensures, certifications, and industry standards.

Contractor should prioritize local hiring consistent with the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the County.

For contracts/subcontracts over \$100,000, work performed by mechanics and laborers are subject to the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 USC 3702 and 3704), as supplemented by 29 C.F.R. Part 5, including, specifically, safety standards, limitations on hours in a work week and overtime for any work spent over 40 hours, and proper documentation for all employees.

(1) A contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall not require or permit any laborer or mechanic, in any workweek in which the laborer or mechanic is employed on that work, to work more than 40 hours in that workweek, except as provided 40 USC Chapter 37; and

(2) when a violation of clause (1) occurs, the contractor and any subcontractor responsible for the violation are liable—

(A) to the affected employee for the employee's unpaid wages; and

(B) to the Government, the District of Columbia, or a territory for liquidated damages as provided in the contract.