

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
PURCHASING DIVISION**

DATE: January 26, 2024

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Kristin Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Jennifer Hyde, Purchasing Manager

SUBJECT: Rejection of Response to RFQ 2024028 for Asbestos Concrete Pipe Replacement Program, Area 3

BACKGROUND:

In compliance with Section 287.055, Florida Statute, and on behalf of the Department of Utility Services, Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) were solicited for the planning, engineering, and design, permitting, bidding and construction phase services for the Asbestos Concrete Pipe Replacement Program (ACP) for Area 3 within the water distribution system. The solicited work is an approximate six-mile portion of the total 20.62 miles of asbestos concrete pipe to be replaced in the entire program.

RFQ RESULTS:

Advertising Date: December 1, 2023
RFQ Opening Date: January 3, 2024
DemandStar Broadcast to: 579 Subscribers
RFQ Documents Requested by: 17 Firms
Replies: 1 Firm

Bidder	Location
Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd	Melbourne

DISCUSSION:

Section 287.055(4)(a), Florida Statutes states requires the county to “conduct discussions with... no fewer than three firms” as part of the solicitation process for engineering design work. Anticipating that low response could be attributed to the RFQ open period overlapping much of the holiday season, Purchasing Staff reached out to planholder firms to ask if they would submit an SOQ if an extended deadline to respond was provided. The only firm to respond indicated after review of the RFQ, the project was smaller in scope than they are targeting.

Staff anticipates the limited response to the RFQ to be both due to timing of the release and deadline for the RFQ, as well as to the project scope focusing on just one of seven geographical areas in the ten-year ACP replacement program.

Without additional SOQs to review with similar scope, staff cannot appropriately consider the number of firms required by statute. As such, staff would like to reject the single SOQ received, and readvertise the RFQ with a clarified and expanded scope, to include more of the ACP program project areas, in the expectation of making the project more attractive to consultants. A rejection of the RFQ will protect the received SOQ exempt from public records for a period of one year, therefore there is no harm to that firm.

FUNDING:

There is no direct cost to the County to reject the response received to the RFQ and re-solicit.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board reject the response to RFQ 2024028 and authorize staff to re-advertise the project.