



Request for Proposal

19MCO551-R Transport and Mortuary Services REBID

Date Required: Wednesday November 6, 2019

Time Required: 10:00am Local Time

INTRODUCTION:

Midland County, hereafter called County, invites sealed proposals from interested qualified Vendors, hereinafter called Vendors, to provide removal and transport services of human remains to and from pathologists performing autopsies for the County, including storage when required. The following pages provide general information about the requirements and specifications for the package.

This request for proposal ("RFP") is part of a competitive procurement process which provides qualified vendors with a fair opportunity for their commodities and services to be considered, and to provide information concerning their expertise and experience in providing similar services to other customers. The RFP process provides a competitive negotiation platform, wherein price or cost is not the sole determinative factor. This process, designed to best serve the interests of the County, allows the County the flexibility to negotiate with interested, qualified Vendors (following designation by the Commissioners Court, one at a time) to arrive at a mutually agreeable relationship.

QUESTIONS:

If further information is required, please contact the Midland County Purchasing Department. All requests for information must be submitted in writing. Responses to all questions received will be sent to each Vendor known to have copies of the Request for Proposal. Requests for information may be faxed to 432-688-4914 or e-mailed to pur103@co.midland.tx.us. All questions should be submitted on or before **5:00pm on Wednesday October 16, 2019**. Questions received after said date and time will not receive a response. Answers and clarifications which are considered to materially change the solicitation will be issued as written addenda to the original RFP and will be posted to the Midland County website at www.co.midland.tx.us. Solution providers are responsible for ensuring all answers to questions are reviewed prior to bid submittal and that all issued added are properly acknowledged with their submitted proposal response. Midland County will not be responsible for any verbal exchange between the vendor and an employee of Midland County.

COPIES AND RECEIPT:

Please submit one (1) original, three (3) copies, and an electronic copy on USB drive of the proposal. **An executed copy of the Proposal Affidavit SIGNED AND NOTARIZED (Page 8) MUST be included in each submission. A completed copy of the Bid Form (Page 11) MUST be included in each submission. A copy of the Funeral Director's license and a copy of the storage facility's license MUST be included in each submission.** Please note that if no Proposal Affidavit is included, the response will be rejected. Midland County is exempt from all state and federal taxes. Tax exempt certificates are available upon request.

All responses should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked on the outside,

19MCO551-R Transport and Mortuary Services REBID

Company Name

Responses must be received by **10:00am Local Time on Wednesday November 6, 2019**. Late proposals will be rejected and returned without being opened. The clock in the Purchasing Agent's office is the official time piece for this submission. If interested, Vendors may use mail or express systems to deliver their proposal to the Purchasing Department; they should insure that they are tendered to the carrier in plenty of time to reach the Purchasing Department by the time and date required. Facsimile transmitted proposals shall not be accepted.

SUBMISSION LOCATION: All bids which are mailed, shipped, delivered, etc. should be addressed as follows:

Midland County Purchasing Department
Midland County Courthouse
Attention: Kristy Engeldahl, Purchasing Agent
500 N. Loraine Street, Suite 1101
Midland, Texas 79701

DOCUMENTATION SUBMISSION:

The respondent must submit all required documentation. Failure to provide requested information may result in rejection of the proposal.

ALTERATION OF PROPOSAL:

A proposal may be altered, modified or amended by a Vendor at any time, prior to the time and date set forth above as the submission deadline. Alterations, modifications or amendments to a proposal must be made in the offices of the Purchasing Department. Any interlineations, alteration or erasure made on a proposal before the submission deadline must be initialed by the signer of the proposal, guaranteeing authenticity. A proposal may not be altered, modified or amended after the submission deadline.

WITHDRAWAL:

A proposal may not be withdrawn or canceled by the respondent for a period of sixty (60) days following the date designated for the receipt of proposals, and respondent so agrees upon submittal of their proposal.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

No public official shall have interest in this contract, in accordance with Vernon's Texas Codes annotated Local Government Code Title 5, Subtitle C, Chapter 171. Vendor is required to sign affidavit form included in Proposal documents.

SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS:

The apparent silence of these specifications as to any detail of 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. All interpretations of these specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Contents of the proposals will remain confidential until the contract is awarded. At that time the contents will be made public under the Texas Public Information Act; except for any portion of a proposal which has been clearly marked as a trade secret or proprietary data (the entire proposal may not be so marked). Proposals will be opened, and the name of the firm submitting the proposal read aloud, acknowledged, at **10:05am on Wednesday November 6, 2019**, in the Purchasing Department Conference Room located in the Midland County Courthouse, Suite 1101. All respondents or other interested parties are invited to attend the opening. Vendors are hereby notified that the Owner strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions, and opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATION, NEGOTIATIONS:

Prior to award, selected Vendors may be asked to provide further information concerning their proposal, up to and including presentations/demonstrations. The Midland County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or waive formalities as deemed in the best interests of Midland County. The County may also enter into discussions and revisions of proposals after submission and before award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer, and to accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to Midland County.

This request for proposal (RFP) is part of a competitive procurement process which is designed to best serve the interests of the County in obtaining complicated commodities and/or services. It also provides interested Vendors with a fair opportunity for their goods and services to be considered. The RFP process is designed to be a competitive negotiation platform, where price is not required to be the sole determinative factor. Also, the County has the flexibility to negotiate with interested vendors (one at a time) to arrive at a mutually agreeable relationship. Negotiations will be arranged with vendors in a hierarchal order, starting with the vendor selected as the primary. If a contract cannot be negotiated, negotiations will, formally and in

writing, end with that Vendor and proceed to move to the second vendor, and so forth until a contract is negotiated.

RIGHTS OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:

Midland County reserves the right to withdraw this RFP at any time and for any reason. Midland County also has the right to terminate its selection process at any time and to reject all responses, or all proposals. Receipt of the proposal materials by Midland County or submission of a proposal to Midland County confers no rights upon the vendor nor obligates Midland County in any manner.

All costs associated with the preparation or submittal of proposals shall be borne by the vendor, and no cost shall be sustained by Midland County.

ORAL COMMITMENT:

Vendors should clearly understand that any verbal representations made or assumed to be made during any discussions held between representatives of an vendor and any Midland County personnel or official are not binding on Midland County.

WAIVER OF CLAIMS:

Submission of a proposal indicates Vendor's acceptance of the evaluation technique and Vendor's recognition that some subjective judgments must be made by the County during the determination of qualification.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Price is a primary consideration, however, it is not the only consideration to be used in the selection. The product and/or service to be provided is also of major importance. Midland County will require that the successful vendor provide a representative for all County related business, service, billing, installation, activation and termination of said service.

ORDINANCES AND PERMITS:

The Vendor agrees, during the performance of the work, to comply with all applicable Federal, State, or local code and ordinances.

INVOICES:

Invoices are to be mailed to P.O. Box 421, Midland, Texas 79702 and should cite the applicable Purchase Order Number. Any and all notices or other communications required or permitted by any contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall be served on or given to Midland County, in writing, by personal delivery to the Purchasing Agent of Midland County, Texas, or by deposit with the United States Mail, postage prepaid, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the Midland County Purchasing Agent 500 N. Loraine Suite 1101 Midland, TX 79701, or at such other address as may have been specified by written notice to Vendor.

INSURANCE:

The awarded Vendor will maintain such insurance as will protect the Vendor and the County from claims under the Workers' Compensation Acts, and any amendments thereof, and from any other claims for damages from personal injury, including death, which may arise from operations under this agreement, whether such operations be by themselves or by any sub-contractor, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them. Current Certificate of such insurance shall be furnished to Midland County and shall show all applicable coverage(s).

Other insurance requirements are:

- General Liability (including completed operations) with a \$1,000,000 per occurrence limit and \$2,000,000 general aggregate.
- Commercial Automobile Liability with a limit of no less than \$1,000,000. The coverage will also extend liability to hired and non-owned autos.
- We also require a minimum umbrella (or follow form excess policy covering over general liability, auto liability and workers compensation) of no less than \$2,000,000.

Midland County will require the selected Vendor to name Midland County as an additional for both the general liability and auto liability. A waiver of subrogation in favor of the County is required for the workers compensation. If the additional insured status or waiver of subrogation is not blanket, please send a copy of the actual endorsements prior to commencement of any work.

Midland County will require the selected Vendor to name Midland County as an additional insured and provide a waiver of subrogation prior to making a contract.

INDEMNIFICATION:

The Vendor shall defend, indemnify and save whole and harmless the County and all its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all demands, claims, suits, or causes of action of any character, name, kind or description brought for, or on account of, arising out of or in connection with the Vendor's performance or non-performance of any obligation of Vendor or any negligent act, misconduct or omission of the Vendor in the performance of its contractual obligations. The Vendor shall defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless the County and its officers, agents, representatives and employees from and against any and all demands, claims, suits, or causes of action of any character, name, kind or description brought for, on account of, arising out of or in connection with Vendor's product or service.

STATUS OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:

Vendor shall be considered an independent contractor, for all purposes. Vendor will not at any time, directly or indirectly, act as an agent, servant, representative or employee of the County. Vendor will not take any action which is intended to create any commitments, duties, liabilities or obligations on behalf of the County, without prior written consent of the County.

SUBCONTRACTOR AND/OR SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION:

Vendor cannot subcontract this work.

PARTIAL INVALIDITY:

In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this RFP or any contract resulting therefore, 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 of this RFP or any contract resulting therefore and this RFP or the contract resulting therefore shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

CONTRACT TERMINATION:

Non-performance of the Vendor in terms of specifications or noncompliance with terms of this contract shall be basis for termination of the contract by the County. Termination in whole or in part, by the County may be made at its option and without prejudice to any other remedy to which it may be entitled at law or in equity, or elsewhere under this contract, by giving (60) sixty days written notice to the Vendor with the understanding that all work being performed under this contract shall cease upon the date specified in such notice. The County shall not pay for work, equipment, services or supplies which are unsatisfactory. Vendor 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. The right to terminate the notice thereof is controlled by these proposal specifications and is not subject to being altered by contract.

LAW GOVERNING:

The parties under contract shall be subject to all Federal laws and regulations, and all rules and regulations of the State of Texas. The laws of the State of Texas shall govern the interpretation and application of the contract; regardless of where any disagreement over its terms should arise or any case of action arise. Vendor agrees to follow all local, state and federal laws.

REMEDIES:

The successful vendor and Midland County agree that both parties have all rights, duties, and remedies available as stated in the Uniform Commercial Code.

VENUE:

It is hereby agreed that the contract will be made in Midland, Midland County, Texas, and any dispute arising as a result of it shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas for the purpose of any law suit, and the parties agree that such lawsuit shall be brought in Midland County, Texas.

FUNDING CONTINGENCY:

Any contract awarded pursuant to this RFP shall be contingent on sufficient funding and authority being made available in each fiscal period by the appropriate officials of Midland County. If sufficient funding or authority is not made available, the contract shall become null and void.

ASSIGNMENT:

The Vendor shall not sell, assign transfer or convey this contract in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the County.

BUSINESS CHANGE DISCLOSURE:

The Vendor shall immediately disclose any knowledge of a business change (i.e., name change, change in ownership, etc.) that will take place during the duration of this contract.

CERTIFICATIONS:

Vendor **MUST** submit a copy of their funeral director's license as well as the storage facility's license.

EVALUATION PROCESS:

The County will award to the bidder that submits a bid which represents the "best value" to the County. The best value shall not be based solely upon price but the bid which receives the highest cumulative score for each of the evaluation factors delineated herein. Midland County reserves the right to award to multiple vendors. Midland County will determine whether the contract will be paid on a per case basis or a monthly fee basis.

**REQUIRED FORM
COMPANY AFFIDAVIT**

The affiant, _____ states with respect to this submission to County:

I (we) hereby certify that if the contract is awarded to our firm that no member or members of the governing body, elected official or officials, employee or employees of said County, or any person representing or purporting to represent the County, or any family member including spouse, parents, or children of said group, has received or has been promised, directly or indirectly, any financial benefit, by way of fee, commission, finder's fee or any other financial benefit on account of the act of awarding and/or executing a contract.

I hereby certify that I have full authority to bind the company and that I have personally reviewed the information contained in the RFP and this submission, and all attachments and appendices, and do hereby attest to the accuracy of all information contained in this submission, including all attachments and exhibits.

I acknowledge that any misrepresentation will result in immediate disqualification from any consideration in the submission process.

I further recognize that County reserves the right to make its award for any reason considered advantageous to the County. The company selected may be without respect to price or other factors.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Title _____

Firm Name _____

Type of business organization (corporation, LLC, partnership, proprietorship)

Address _____

County, State, Zip _____

Notary Seal Below

SCOPE:

The term of this contract will be for one year, and may be extended at the pleasure of the Commissioners Court at a negotiated rate for additional one year periods. For use in this RFP, per the Texas penal code 107, an individual means a human being who is alive including an unborn child from fertilization until birth.

Services to be provided are removal of individual human remains from the death scene, transportation and/or storage of same as directed by the Justice of the Peace responsible. Response time will be within 30 minutes of notification by said Justice of The Peace. If unable to respond in a timely manner, vendor is responsible for making other arrangements.

Vendor is to respond to the Justice of the Peace responsible, only. Cannot charge the family with a first contact pick up charge.

Adequate storage facilities must be provided. The facility must be able to secure at least 6 sets of remains, have adequate climate control, and meet all licensing requirements for this type of facility. The facility must have a separate cooler to accommodate at least 3 sets of remains to prevent cross-contamination.

Adequate transportation must be provided. This transportation facility must maintain the dignity of the service, have adequate climate control, be mechanically sound, and be adequate to provide the service required within the time-frame necessary.

Vendor must cover hands and feet with bags and keep medical equipment attached, pursuant to request by the Justice of the Peace or Law Enforcement

Vendor shall arrange for the drawing of bodily fluids, i.e. blood or other appropriate fluids, from a deceased at the request of the Justice of the Peace for shipping of the bodily fluids to a lab designated by the Justice of the Peace. The Justice of the Peace will provide the vials to deposit the blood into, but the Vendor must provide the proper syringes, which should include needles of adequate length to draw blood.

When an autopsy is ordered, the vendor must provide services which meet the requirements of the facility performing the autopsies. These services include, but are not limited to, meeting the delivery times established by the facilities, deliveries are to be made at the locations specified and must include inside delivery specifications.

A chain of custody must be maintained. This requirement includes the necessity of testifying in court, when asked, to establish the chain of custody with regards to the pick-up and delivery of remains.

Vendor shall be able to provide the full range of services to include, overnight delivery to the selected facility, transportation within the destination city, and return delivery to a site selected by the County.

All bids are to be made on a roundtrip basis. Where the transportation is for multiple bodies, the County will pay for the mileage, not the mileage times the number of bodies transported.

No first contact services are to be provided.

Any and all remains and those transported for autopsy are to be picked up by the funeral home selected by the family upon return to Midland or placed in storage if family has not been located. Releases to private funeral homes can only be done after the approved release forms have been completed and approved by the Justice of the Peace.

Once Midland County accepts remains as indigent, vendor must release the remains to the funeral home that Midland County has authorized for pick up.

Vendor must operate under the direct supervision of a licensed funeral director, per Occupations Code 651.001. Per the Texas Funeral Services Commission, a mortuary facility must be licensed as well. A copy of both of these licenses must be submitted with response to this RFP.

Vendor must be able to provide the county with a number of times for the purposes of autopsy, any and all experience with laws regarding chain of custody, and certify a willingness to attend and obtain certification with regards to chain of custody.

Vendor will be required to keep a record of the deceased's name as well as date and time of pick-up and removal of remains. The first 48 hours of storage will be free of charge.

By submitting a bid to Midland County, vendor agrees to all of the terms outlined in this scope of work.

BID FORM:

The bid form on page 11 MUST be completed and turned in with Vendor's response to this RFP. Instructions: fill in any blanks with a monetary amount or a number where applicable; circle yes or no where applicable. Midland County is asking Vendors to provide a price on a per case basis as well as a monthly cost for transport and pick-up services. Midland County will decide whether to pay on a per case basis or a monthly basis after the RFP is awarded. If vendor would like to bid a flat rate after a certain number of free transports and/or pick-up and removals, you may enter that number on the blank line on the Bid Response form.

REQUIRED FORM - BID RESPONSE

Transport roundtrip for autopsy to Tarrant County (includes mileage, fuel, meals, hotel fees)

Flat rate, per case, \$ _____ after _____ cases.
(insert a number)

Monthly rate \$ _____ to include unlimited of cases per month.

Pick-up and removal of human remains in Midland County, includes the first 48 hours of storage

Flat rate, per case, \$ _____ after _____ cases.
(insert a number)

Monthly rate \$ _____ to include an unlimited number of cases per month.

Will the licensed Funeral Director(s) and staff be on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, including holidays? Yes / No

Does the vendor have 24 hours availability of vehicles, including a 4x4 vehicle, to navigate safely in inclement weather or through rough terrain? Yes / No

Will vendor charge any additional cost for assisting with blood draws, when instructed to do so by the Justice of the Peace? (Note: JP will provide the blood draw kits, Vendor MUST provide proper syringes) Yes / No if yes, how much \$ _____

Does the vendor have and will vendor agree to use the following equipment during the pick-up of remains?

Personal protection equipment required by OSHA (gloves, eye protection, gowns, masks, protective footwear)? Yes / No

Standard cots and oversized cots? Yes / No

Linens? Yes / No

Sanitizer? Yes / No

Bio-hazard boxes and containers to properly dispose of any bio-hazard material? Yes / No

Standard body bags? Yes / No

Oversized body bags? Yes / No

Double-lined body bags? Yes / No

Storage of remains after 48 hours from pick-up time

Flat rate, per day, \$ _____ per set of remains

Will law enforcement and Justices of the Peace have access to the licensed facility to conduct their investigation when requested, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, including holidays?
Yes / No

Number of refrigeration units _____

Are these refrigeration units separate to maintain chain of custody and preservation of evidence in high profile cases? Yes / No

How many sets of remain can each refrigeration unit hold? _____