

BID INSTRUCTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

Bids must be received in the Williamson County Purchasing Department **prior to PM on, 2007**. At which time the Bids will be opened in the Williamson County Purchasing Department. Bids received after that time will not be opened and will be considered void and unacceptable. As to each item bid, the Court may either reject all Bids or award a contract to the lowest and best Bid.

SEALED BIDS may be hand-delivered to:

Williamson County Purchasing Department
Attn: Jonathan Harris
301 SE Inner Loop - Suite 106
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR

SEALED BIDS may be mailed to:

Williamson County Purchasing Department
Attn: Jonathan Harris
301 SE Inner Loop - Suite 106
Georgetown, Texas 78626

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE FORMS PROVIDED IN THIS BID DOCUMENT. (May be replaced with a computer generated printout, if submitted in an identical format to the proposal).

ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE BID FORM MUST BE FURNISHED OR THE BID MAY BE DEEMED NON RESPONSIVE. WHERE THERE IS AN ERROR IN THE EXTENSION OF PRICE, THE UNIT PRICE SHALL GOVERN.

ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES OF ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED (THIS INCLUDES ALL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED WITH THE BID). BIDS MUST BE MARKED ORIGINAL OR COPY.

ALL BIDS MUST BE RETURNED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE, MARKED WITH THE BID NAME, BID NUMBER, AND BID OPENING DATE & TIME. IF AN OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE IS GOING TO DELIVER THE BID THE BID NAME, BID NUMBER, AND BID OPENING DATE & TIME MUST ALSO APPEAR ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE DELIVERY SERVICE ENVELOPE.

For questions relating to the bidding process, contact Jonathan Harris – Assistant Purchasing Agent, (512) 943-1692.

For technical questions, contact the office of _____ (Project Engineer). Put address and phone number of project engineer here.

FACSIMILE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMITTALS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

1. All of the items listed are to be on a "per unit" basis, stating a firm price per unit or unit quantity of each item. **This price must be good from the date of Bid opening through the completion of the project. Bids which do not state a fixed price will not be considered.** The Court may award a contract for the period implied or expressly stated in the lowest and best Bid.
2. All of the items listed are to be Free On Board to final destination (**FOB DESTINATION**) with all transportation charges if applicable to be included in the price, unless otherwise specified in the Invitation for Bids. The title and risk of loss of the goods shall not pass to the County until receipt and acceptance takes place at the FOB point.

3. It is understood that the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids for any or all materials and/or services covered in this Bid request, and to waive informalities or defects in the Bid or to accept such Bid it shall deem to be in the best interest of Williamson County.
4. Funding: Funds for payment have been provided through the Williamson County budget approved by Commissioners Court for the 2006 Road Bond Program.
5. Late Bid: Bids received after submission deadline shall be unopened and will be considered VOID AND UNACCEPTABLE. Williamson County is not responsible for lateness of mail, carrier, etc.
6. Altering Bid: Bids **cannot be altered or amended** after submission deadline.
7. Sales Tax: Williamson County is by statute, exempt from the State Sales Tax and Federal Excise Tax.
8. Contract: This Bid, when properly accepted by Williamson County, shall constitute a contract equally binding between the successful bidder and Williamson County. No different or additional terms will become part of this contract.
9. Changes: No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise change, or affect the terms, conditions, plans and/or specifications stated in the Bid Package and or Bid Instructions/Requirements.
10. Delivery Times and Locations: The commodity and/or service covered by this Bid shall be as stated in the Bid Package.
11. Payments: The Construction Inspector will manage the Contractor payments. Invoices for the work specified in the Contract Documents will be submitted to the Construction Inspector. Upon satisfactory completion and acceptance of these invoices, the Construction Inspector will

forward the invoices to the County via the GEC. All payments owed will be paid no later than thirty (30) days after the goods or services are received OR the date that the invoice is received by the Auditor's office, whichever is later. As a minimum, invoices shall include:

(1) Name, address, and telephone number of Contractor and similar information in the event the payment is to be made to a different address

(2) County contract, Purchase Order, and/or delivery order number

(3) Identification of items or service as outlined in the contract

(4) Quantity or quantities, applicable unit prices, total prices, and total amount

(5) Any additional payment information which may be called for by the contract

Payment inquiries should be directed to the Auditor's Office, Accounts Payable Department: Pam Navarrette, 943-1573.

12. Conflict of Interest: No public official shall have interest in a contract, in accordance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, Local Government Code Title 5, Subtitle C, Chapter 171. As of January 1, 2006 Vendors are responsible for complying with Local Government Code Title 5, Subtitle C, Chapter 176. Additional information may be obtained from the County website at the following link: <http://www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Purchasing/ConflictofInterestDisclosure/tabid/689/language/en-US/Default.aspx>. The Williamson County Conflict of Interest Statement is located in Section 4 of this manual. This form must be completed, signed, and submitted with your bid.
13. Ethics: The bidder shall not accept or offer gifts or anything of value nor enter into any business arrangement with any employee, official or agent of Williamson County.

14. Minimum Standards for Responsible Bidders: A prospective bidder must affirmatively demonstrate bidder's responsibility. A prospective bidder must meet the following requirements:
- a. have adequate financial resources, or the ability to obtain such resources as required;
 - b. be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - c. have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - d. be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.

Williamson County may request representation and other information sufficient to determine bidder's ability to meet these minimum standards listed above.

15. References: Williamson County **REQUIRES** bidder to supply with this Bid, a list of at least **three (3) references** where like services have been supplied by their firm. Include name of firm, address, telephone number and name of representative.
16. Bidder shall provide with this Bid response, all documentation required by this Bid. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the Bid.
17. Termination for Default: Williamson County reserves the right to enforce the performance of this contract in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default of this contract. Non-Performance of the bidder in terms of specifications shall be a basis for the termination of the contract by the County. The County shall not pay for commodities/services which are unsatisfactory. Contractors will be given a reasonable opportunity before termination to correct the deficiencies. This, however,

shall in no way be construed as negating the basis for termination for non-performance.

18. Contract Administration: Under this contract, Joe England, County Engineer, Williamson County Unified Road & Bridge System, shall be the contract administrator with designated responsibility to ensure compliance with contract requirements, such as but not limited to, acceptance, inspection and delivery. The contract administrator will serve as liaison between Williamson County Commissioners Court and the successful bidder or the Construction Inspector.
19. Purchase Order: Williamson County shall generate a purchase order(s) to the successful bidder as products and/or services are required. The purchase order number must appear on all itemized invoices and/or request for payment.
20. Silence of Specifications: The apparent silence of these 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 practices are to prevail. All interpretations of these specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement.
21. Contract Times and Liquidated Damages - Bidders must agree to commence work on or before a date to be specified in a written "Notice to Proceed" of the County, and to fully complete the project within the specified time stated in the proposal. Bidders must agree to pay liquidated damages in accordance with Special Provision 000-1493 per day to County for every day past the specified completion date stated in the proposal.
22. BIDS **MUST BE**: legible and of a quality that can be reproduced.
23. Bid forms that are included in the Bid package shall be used. **CHANGES to Bid**

forms made by bidders shall DISQUALIFY THE BID. Exceptions to the Bid forms and or specifications shall be made on an **attachment** to the Bid package. **Call Jonathan Harris (512) 943-1692 for explanation if exceptions are needed.**

24. The Texas Labor Code, S406.096, requires workers' compensation insurance coverage for all persons providing services on a building or construction project for a governmental entity. The rule requires a governmental entity to timely obtain certificates of coverage and retain them for the duration of the project. The rule also sets out the language to be included in bid specifications and in contracts awarded by a governmental entity and the information required to be in the posted notice to employees. The rule is adopted under the Texas Labor Code, S402.061. The information provided below is a result of this rule. By submitting your bid to the county, you are acknowledging that this rule is a part of these bid specifications, and that you will observe and abide by all of the requirements outlined in the rule. You are further agreeing that should your bid or proposal be accepted by the Williamson County Commissioners' Court, the necessary certificates of coverage showing workers' compensation coverage, will be provided to the following name and address, prior to beginning work:

Jonathan Harris
Williamson County Purchasing Department
301 SE Inner Loop - Suite 106
Georgetown, Texas 78626

If you have any questions related to this ruling and/or requirement, you are encouraged to contact either the Williamson County Purchasing Department at (512) 943-1692, or you may call the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission at (512) 804-4000.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE COVERAGE.

A. Definitions: Certificate of coverage ("certificate")-A copy of a certificate of insurance, a certificate of authority to self-insure issued by the commission, or a coverage agreement (TWCC-81, TWCC-82, TWCC-83, or TWCC-84), showing statutory workers' compensation insurance coverage for the person's or entity's employees providing services on a project, for the duration of the project.

Duration of the project - includes the time from the beginning of the work on the project until the contractor's/person's work on the project has been completed and accepted by the governmental entity.

Persons providing services on the project ("subcontractor" in S406.096) - includes all persons or entities performing all or part of the services the contractor has undertaken to perform on the project, regardless of whether that person contracted directly with the contractor and regardless of whether that person has employees. This includes, without limitation, independent contractors, subcontractors, leasing companies, motor carriers, owner-operators, employees of any such entity, or employees of any entity which furnishes persons to provide services on the project. "Services" include, without limitation, providing, hauling, or delivering equipment or materials, or providing labor, transportation, or other service related to a project. "Services" does not include activities unrelated to the project, such as food/beverage vendors, office supply deliveries, and delivery of portable toilets.

- B. The contractor shall provide coverage, based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts and filing of any coverage agreements, which meets the statutory requirements of Texas Labor Code, Section 401.011(44) for all employees of the contractor providing services on the project, for the duration of the project.

- C. The Contractor must provide a certificate of coverage to the governmental entity prior to being awarded the contract.
- D. If the coverage period shown on the contractor's current certificate of coverage ends during the duration of the project, the contractor must, prior to the end of the coverage period, file a new certificate of coverage with the governmental entity showing that coverage has been extended.
- E. The contractor shall obtain from each person providing services on a project, and provide to the governmental entity:
 - (1) a certificate of coverage, prior to that person beginning work on the project, so the governmental entity will have on file certificates of coverage showing coverage for all persons providing services on the project;
 - (2) no later than seven (7) days after receipt by the contractor, a new certificate of coverage showing extension of coverage, if the coverage period shown on the current certificate of coverage ends during the duration of the project.
- F. The contractor shall retain all required certificates of coverage for the duration of the project and for one year thereafter.
- G. The contractor shall notify the governmental entity in writing by certified mail or personal delivery, within ten (10) days after the contractor knew or should have known, of any change that materially affects the provision of coverage of any person providing services on the project.
- H. The contractor shall post on each project site a notice, in the text, form and manner prescribed by the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, informing all persons providing services on the project that they are required to be covered, and stating how a person may verify coverage and report lack of coverage.
- I. The contractor shall contractually require each person with whom it contracts to provide services on a project, to:
 - (1) provide coverage, based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts and filing of any coverage agreements, which meets the statutory requirements of Texas Labor Code, Section 401.011(44) for all of its employees providing services on the project, for the duration of the project;
 - (2) provide to the contractor, prior to that person beginning work on the project, a certificate of coverage showing that coverage is being provided for all employees of the person providing services on the project, for the duration of the project;
 - (3) provide the contractor, prior to the end of the coverage period, a new certificate of coverage showing extension of coverage, if the coverage period shown on the current certificate of coverage ends during the duration of the project;
 - (4) obtain from each other person with whom it contracts, and provide to the contractor:
 - (a) a certificate of coverage, prior to the other person beginning work on the project; &
 - (b) a new certificate of coverage showing extension of coverage, prior to the end of the coverage period, if the coverage period shown on the current certificate of coverage

ends during the duration of the project;

(5) retain all required certificates of coverage on file for the duration of the project and for one year thereafter;

(6) notify the governmental entity in writing by certified mail or personal delivery, within ten(10) days after the person knew or should have known, of any change that materially affects the provision of coverage of any person providing services on the project; and

(7) contractually require each person with whom it contracts, to perform as required by paragraphs (1) - (7), with the certificates of coverage to be provided to the person for whom they are providing services.

J. By signing this contract or providing or causing to be provided a certificate of coverage, the contractor is representing to the governmental entity that all employees of the contractor who will provide services on the project will be covered by workers' compensation coverage for the duration of the project, that the coverage will be based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts, and that all coverage agreements will be filed with the appropriate insurance carrier or, in the case of a self-insured, with the commission's Division of Self-Insurance Regulation. Providing false or misleading information may subject the contractor to administrative penalties, criminal penalties, civil penalties, or other civil actions.

K. The contractor's failure to comply with any of these provisions is a breach of contract by the contractor which entitles the governmental entity to declare the contract void if the contractor does not remedy the breach within ten (10) days after receipt of notice of breach from the governmental entity.

25. PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT

BONDS: Chapter 262.032 and Chapter 2253.021 of the Texas Government Code governs the requirements for performance bonds and payment bonds for government entities making public work contracts. A performance bond is required if the contract is in excess of \$50,000 and is to be made for the full amount of the contract. A payment bond is required if the contract is in excess of \$25,000 and is to be made for the full amount of the contract. The bonds are to be executed within ten (10) days after receipt of written notification of award of contract prior to beginning work on the project and must be executed by a corporate surety or sureties in accordance with the Texas Insurance Code. In the event the bond exceeds \$100,000.00, the surety must also (1) hold a certificate of authority from the United States secretary of the treasury to qualify as a surety on obligations permitted or required under federal law; or (2) have obtained reinsurance for any liability in excess of \$100,000.00 from a reinsurer that is authorized and admitted as are insurer in this state and is the holder of a certificate of authority from the United States secretary of the treasury to qualify as a surety or reinsurer on obligations permitted or required under federal law.

In determining whether the surety or reinsurer holds a valid certificate of authority the County may rely on the list of companies holding certificates of authority as published in the Federal Register covering the date on which the bond is to be executed. If the public works contract is less than \$50,000 the performance bond will not be required as long as the contract provides that payment is not due until the work is completed and accepted by the county. The purpose of a performance bond is for the protection of the government entity and is conditioned on the faithful performance of the work being done in accordance with the plans, specifications and contract documents.

The payment bond is for the protection of persons supplying labor and materials to the contractor to ensure payment.

26. **BIDDERS ~~BOND~~GUARANTY:** All bids shall be accompanied by a bid guaranty check, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute performance and payment bonds, as stipulated by item 25 above, within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract to him. The guaranty check must be a certified cashier's check upon a National or State bank, ~~in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total maximum bid price,~~ payable without recourse to Williamson County. The check must be dated on or before the date of the bid opening, and must be no more than 90 days old. The bid guaranty amount will be the greater of \$10,000 or two percent (2%) of the total maximum bid price, up to a maximum amount of \$100,000, or a bid bond in the same amount from a reliable surety company, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute performance and payment bonds, as stipulated by item 25 above, within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bid guarantees must be submitted in the same sealed envelope with the bid. Bids submitted without a guaranty check ~~or bid bonds~~ will not be considered.
27. All bid securities will be returned to the respective bidders within twenty-five (25) days after bids are opened, except those which the County elects to hold until the successful bidder has executed the contract. Thereafter, all remaining securities, including security of the successful bidder, will be returned within sixty (60) days.
28. Prior to submitting any bid, bidders are required to read the plans, specifications, bid, contract and bond forms carefully; to inform themselves by their independent research, test and investigation of the difficulties to be encountered and judge for themselves of the accessibility of the work and all attending circumstances affecting the

cost of doing the work and the time required for its completion and obtain all information required to make an intelligent bid.

29. Should the bidder find discrepancies in, or omissions from the plans, specifications, or other documents, or should he/she be in doubt as to their meaning, he/she should notify at once the Project Engineer and may obtain clarification or addendum prior to submitting any bid.
30. In case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in the statement of prices in the bids, the county reserves the right to consider the most favorable analysis thereof, or to reject the bid. Unreasonable (or unbalanced) prices submitted in a bid may result in rejection of such bid or other bids.
31. Award of the contract, if awarded, will be made within sixty (60) days after opening of the bids and no bidder may withdraw his bid within said sixty (60) day period of time unless a prior award is made.
32. Within ten (10) days of written notification of award of the contract, the bidder shall execute and furnish to the County the performance bond, or letter of credit if applicable, and payment bond as required by item 25 above; and the Certificate of Insurance showing coverages in accordance with contract documents. Failure to execute contract, Bonds and Certificate of Insurance shall be just cause for the annulment of the award. In case of the annulment of the award, the bid ~~guarantee~~ guaranty shall become the property of Williamson County, not as a penalty, but as a liquidated damage.
33. Any quantities given in any portion of the contract documents, including the plans, are estimates only, and the actual amount of work required may differ somewhat from the estimates. The basis for the payment shall be the actual amount of work done and/or material furnished.

34. **THE TEXAS HAZARD COMMUNICATION ACT**, Chapter 502 of the Health and Safety Code, Sec. 502.006, states that a chemical manufacturer or distributor shall provide appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to employers who acquire hazardous chemicals in this state with each initial shipment and with the first shipment after a MSDS is updated. The MSDS must conform to the most current requirements of the OSHA standard in 29 CFR 1910.1200. By submitting your bid to the County you are acknowledging that this regulation is a part of this bid and that you will provide appropriate MSDS with each initial shipment and with the first shipment after a MSDS is updated.
35. **THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM POLICY** Under Revised Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA) of 1993 states that it is the responsibility of all contractor/sub-contractors who bring hazardous chemicals onto county property to provide appropriate MSDS to the county at the work site. When exposure to a hazardous chemical is expected each contractor/sub-contractor shall be responsible for the appropriate training of their employees. For a copy of the Williamson County Hazard Communication Program Policy contact the Williamson County Unified Road & Bridge System Safety/Training Coordinator at 512/930-3330. By submitting your bid to the County you are acknowledging that this policy is a part of this bid and that you will provide appropriate MSDS to the county work site and provide for appropriate training as applicable.