



PURCHASING POLICY

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DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY FOR IMPROPER PURCHASING: THE CITY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR ANY PURCHASE, EXPENDITURE, PROMISE OR AGREEMENT FOR EXPENDITURE ARISING FROM ANY PROCUREMENT MADE IN ITS NAME OR IN THE NAME OF ANY AGENCY, AUTHORITY, COMMISSION, OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL BODY UNDER ITS AUTHORITY, BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON OR ANY PERSON ACTING IN VIOLATION OF THIS PURCHASING POLICY OR OUTSIDE OF THE AUTHORIZATION OR DELEGATION AS PROVIDED BY THIS POLICY. THE EXPENSE OF ANY SUCH TRANSACTION SHALL BECOME THE PERSONAL LIABILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AT FAULT UNLESS OTHERWISE RATIFIED OR EXEMPTED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

SECTION I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

(1) PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to state the City’s position regarding the responsibility and authority for the acquisition and contracting for Goods, Services, Professional Services, Real Estate, and Capital Assets. This policy will clarify purchasing functions and outline purchasing policies, as well as describe departmental relationships, responsibilities and participation in the procurement cycle. Moreover, this policy will provide control functions, assure proper record keeping and confirm purchases in writing to allow the City to meet the following goals:

- A. Ensure that tax dollars are spent in the most economical way;
- B. Maintain at all times and under all conditions a continuous supply of Goods and Services necessary for the operation of the City;
- C. Encourage and promote fair and equal opportunity for all persons doing, or seeking to do, business with the City;
- D. Safeguard the quality and integrity of the City's procurement process;
- E. Ensure compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to procurement;
- F. Manage procurement and inventories of purchased Goods to meet the use requirements of City departments at the most advantageous cost to the City;
- G. Administer procurement contracts and contract amendments; and
- H. Properly dispose of all material and equipment declared to be surplus or obsolete.

In addition, this policy is to set a standard of environmentally preferable procurement and demonstrate the City’s commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship. The City has a unique opportunity to further expand its leadership in the area of environmentally preferable purchasing, and through its actions, elicit changes in the marketplace. By further incorporating environmental considerations into public purchasing, the City will positively impact human health and the environment, remove unnecessary hazards from its operations, reduce costs and liabilities, and improve the environmental quality of the region. This policy will guide the City’s efforts in procuring environmentally preferable Goods and Services.

The philosophy behind this policy is one of separating the need for Goods and Services from the function of negotiation and executing the necessary contractual purchase agreement.

(2) SCOPE OF POLICY



This policy and the award of bid provisions herein are solely for the fiscal responsibility and benefit of the City of Stonecrest, and confer no rights, duties or entitlements to any vendor, bidder or proposer.

The scope of this purchasing policy covers the procurement of most Goods and Services for non-construction purposes without regard to the past method by which the material or service has been or is customarily procured. The policy covers all contractual and purchase agreements between the City and another Person. The procurement function includes the initial agreement/purchase, changes and/or re-negotiations. This policy establishes the specific responsibility and authority of the procurement of materials and services.

As part of the audit process, the internal controls and accounting processes outsourced to municipal services Vendors will be evaluated and a measure of assurance given as a requirement of completion of the City's annual audit. The staff of outsourced municipal services Vendors assigned to work at City offices and perform purchasing activities on behalf of the City is not exempt from the City's adopted Purchasing Policy. Furthermore, unless due to the lack of competitive options, the City will not typically procure Goods and Services from outsourced municipal services Vendors not expressly stated in their contract to provide municipal services or which do not have a direct impact on the Vendor's ability to provide those contracted services.

The provisions of this policy do not apply to procurements for the following:

- A. Public works construction contracts to the extent governed by O.C.G.A. §36-91-1 *et seq.*;
- B. Services and construction whose procurement falls under a conflicting federal or Georgia statute;
- C. Works of art for public places, or other creative/artistic endeavors that require a particular and demonstrated skill or talent to include, but not limited to, artists, musicians, and writers;
- D. Antiques and other unique assets of historical value, including restoration of these items;
- E. Real Property, including but not limited to transactions governed by O.C.G.A. § 36-37-1 *et seq.*, real estate brokerage and appraising, abstract of titles for real property, title insurance for real property, and other related costs of disposition and/or acquisition of real property, except as provided in Section VII(F) (Real Estate Acquisitions);
- F. Employee Benefits and health related services procured through a quotation and negotiating process conducted by an expert in the field, or to maintain continuity of employee-health records;
- G. Travel, entertainment, conferences, training, speakers, instructors, facilitators, and meeting expenses, or other expenditures covered by another City policy;
- H. Dues, memberships, and board member fees;
- I. Insurance procured through a negotiating process;

- J. Legal services, litigation, experts and materials, and related legal expenses;
- K. Items or services procured for resale or to generate a revenue;
- L. Advertisements including, but not limited to, bid/proposal solicitations and legal advertisements required by law or by City policy;
- M. Financial Instruments: Professional services and instruments/products related to the City's financial well-being, including but not limited to the following areas: marketing of bonds and other forms of debt or debt management, investments, banking, assets, and pension assets;
- N. Subscriptions and dues established during the budget process;
- O. Utilities;
- P. Seized Property included in a court order authorizing disposal;
- Q. Grant awards or agreements that require certain firms or individuals to perform the work;
- R. Contracts involving federal funding whose procurement falls under a conflicting federal or Georgia statute or regulation, except as provided in Section VIII.

(3) DEFINITIONS

When used in this policy, the following words, terms and phrases, and their derivations, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- A. **ADDENDUM** means a change, clarification or correction in the Solicitation Documents, prior to the award of a Contract.
- B. **AMENDMENT** means an agreed upon change order, addition to, deletion from, correction or modification of a Contract including a Contract Extension or a Contract Renewal.
- C. **BID / PROPOSAL BOND** means a form of bid security executed by the Bidder (or Proposer) as principal and by a Surety, to guarantee that the Bidder (or Proposer) will enter into a Contract within the time specified in the Invitation for Bid or Request for proposals, and will furnish the necessary bonds and insurance, and meet any other requirements of those documents.
- D. **BIDDER** means a person or entity submitting a bid or quote to the City for the supply of Goods or Services.
- E. **CAPITAL ASSET** is an item of personal property having a normal life expectancy of three years or more other than components.

- F. CITY means the City of Stonecrest and, as the context warrants, those persons or bodies authorized to act on its behalf, including, but not limited to, the City Council, committees, boards and staff.
- G. CITY ETHICS POLICY shall mean Article X, Ethics, of Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia.
- H. CITY FINANCE DIRECTOR/FINANCE DIRECTOR means the City Accountant as described in the City Charter, his agent, or the department head of the City Finance Department, if such a department is in existence.
- I. COMPETITIVE AWARD means a procurement based upon the outcome of one of the competitive processes set forth in this Policy, where award is made based on the lowest quotation or Bid submitted by a responsible and responsive Bidder or to the most qualified or advantageous Proposer based on the qualitative and/or quantitative factors identified for the procurement. A Competitive Award can be made even if only a single bid or proposal has been received from a Bidder or Proposer who is determined to be responsible and responsive.
- J. CONSTRUCTION means the process of building, altering, improving or demolishing any public structure or building, or other public improvements of any kind to any public real property including the provision of materials therefor. The term "Construction" does not include the routine operation, repair and/or maintenance of existing structures, buildings or real property.
- K. CONSTRUCTION SERVICES means services rendered by an independent and licensed contractor having expertise in Construction.
- L. CONTRACT means all types of City agreements for the purchase or disposal of Goods, Real Estate or Capital Assets, and the procurement of Services, Professional Services or Construction Services regardless of what they may be called, including contracts for a fixed price, cost plus a fixed fee, incentive contracts, and contracts providing for the issuance of job or task orders, leases, letter contracts and purchase orders. Contracts also include Amendments, modifications and supplemental agreements with respect to any of the foregoing. Every Contract must be duly authorized and approved prior to execution.
- M. CONTRACT EXTENSION means an Amendment to a Contract that includes an increase in the term of a Contract, for which no options to renew the Contract beyond the current expiration date exist.
- N. CONTRACT RENEWAL means an exercise of an approved, existing option to increase the term of a Contract. Options to renew a Contract are often done in annual increments.
- O. COOPERATIVE PURCHASE means a group of public entity purchasers organized for the purpose of creating contracts or pricing agreements in order to take advantage of group or quantity buying discounts or special pricing from which members of the group can benefit.

- P. **EMPLOYEE** means an individual drawing a salary or wage from the City whether on a full-time or part-time basis. The term shall encompass all members of the City Council without regard to whether or not such individuals are compensated. For purposes of this Purchasing Policy the term “employee” shall include, any Vendor or any employee of such Vendor who has entered into a Contract with the City to provide administrative and department services contemplated in Section 2.12 of the Charter of the City.
- Q. **EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT** means any procurement of Goods, Capital Assets, Services or Professional Services in the context of an Emergency.
- R. **EMERGENCY** means a situation that occurs suddenly and unexpectedly and demands immediate action to prevent delays which may vitally affect the health, safety or welfare of the public or City Employees and affects the continuation of services to the citizens, and/or serious loss or injury to the City. Emergency shall also mean a condition, malfunction, or occurrence in which the immediate procurement of an item (i.e. Good, Services, or Professional Service) is essential to comply with regulatory requirements.
- S. **ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE GOODS AND SERVICES** means Goods and Services that have a lesser or reduced negative effect on human health and the environment when compared with competitive Goods and Services that serve the same purpose.
- T. **GEORGIA PROCUREMENT REGISTRY** means the state’s central bid registry established by the Department of Administrative Services, which provides a public listing of solicitations posted by state entities and local governments.
- U. **GIFTS or FAVORS** means anything of any service or value. Value shall as defined in any City of Stonecrest ethics policy.
- V. **GOODS or COMMODITIES** means supplies, apparatus, materials, equipment and other forms of tangible personal property used by a City department in the accomplishment of its responsibilities other than Capital Assets.
- W. **GOVERNING AUTHORITY** means the Mayor and City Council of the City of Stonecrest or its designee(s).
- X. **INFORMAL WRITTEN QUOTES (IWQ)** means all documents utilized for soliciting quotations for Goods, Services, or Professional Services, in which award is made based on the lowest responsive and responsible quotation and in which the type or cost of the procurement does not require a more formal Bid or proposal process.
- Y. **INVITATION FOR FORMAL BID (IFB)** means all documents utilized for soliciting bids, including those attached or incorporated by reference. These include a scope of work and all contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement. Bids are requested when requirements are clearly defined, price is the major determining factor for award, and a formal sealed submittal is required.

- Z. LATE BID/PROPOSAL means a Bid or proposal received after the time or date such bid or proposal was due, as stated in the Solicitation Documents.
- AA. LIFE CYCLE COST ASSESSMENT means the comprehensive accounting of the total cost of ownership, including initial costs, energy and operational costs, longevity and efficacy of service and disposal costs.
- BB. MULTIPLE AWARD CONTRACT means a Contract based upon one solicitation awarded to two or more Vendors to supply Goods or Services.
- CC. NEGOTIATED AWARD means a procurement made as the result of negotiations between the City and a Supplier, such as a Sole Source Procurement or Single Source Procurement or another instance, including competitive Invitation to Negotiate, where a Contract award based on direct negotiations with a Supplier of Goods or Services is appropriate.
- DD. OFFICIAL means any City elected or appointed person who holds office or any person appointed by the mayor and council of the City to serve on (1) the planning commission of the City, (2) any board or commission of the City having quasi-judicial authority; and, (3) any authority created by the City, either individually or jointly with other local governments pursuant to Georgia law.
- EE. ORDINANCE means related Administration Ordinance in Chapter 2 of the City's Municipal Code.
- FF. PAYMENT TERMS means the established due date for payments by the City to pay an invoice. Absent any agreement otherwise stated, the City's payment term will be Net 30.
- GG. PERFORMANCE BOND means a bond provided by a contractor/supplier in which a surety guarantees to the City that the Goods or Capital Assets are delivered or the Services or Construction Services are performed in accordance with the Contract documents. A letter of credit issued by a financial institution that meets the City's requirements may, at the reasonable discretion of the City, be substituted for the performance bond.
- HH. PERSON means any business, entity, company, firm, individual, union, committee, club or other organization or group of individuals.
- II. PRACTICAL means satisfactory and within reason when considering price, performance, availability, compatibility with specified operation, and public safety.
- JJ. PRE-QUALIFICATION means the part of a competitive procurement process in which the City determines, based on standards developed for a specified product or service, which interested Vendors meet those standards and are eligible for further consideration in the purchasing process.

- KK. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES means services rendered by an independent contracting individual or firm having expertise in a particular industry or subject matter due to specialized education, training, licensure or skill, and consisting primarily of advice reports, conclusions, recommendations or other outputs resulting from the time and effort of the service provider, as opposed to the acquisition of specific commodities, or of services not requiring any specialized education, licensing, training or skill (e.g. janitorial services). Professional Services include, but are not limited to, evaluations, consultations, management systems, management consulting, compiling statistical data, support of planning and operating activities, appraisal services, and research and development studies or reports.
- LL. PROPOSER means a Person submitting a proposal or qualifications to the City for the supply of Goods, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Construction Services, Services, or Professional Services.
- MM. PURCHASE ORDER means a document approved and issued by the Purchasing Agent or designee and accepted by the Vendor to obtain Goods, Capital Assets, and Services.
- NN. PURCHASING is the process of securing real estate, capital assets, materials, services, repairs, leases and rentals necessary for the operation and support of the City. The renewal, renegotiations and changes to Contracts, leases and agreements are functions of purchasing.
- OO. PURCHASING AGENT means the principal purchasing official of the City who is authorized and appointed to purchase a range of Goods, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Services, Construction Services, or Professional Services on a routine basis.
- PP. REAL ESTATE means land and any improvements and appurtenances thereto.
- QQ. REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION means the acquisition of a fee interest, estate for years or usufruct in Real Estate by purchase or lease.
- RR. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) means all documents utilized for soliciting proposals for Goods, Capital Assets or Services, including those attached or incorporated by reference. These include a scope of work and all contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement. This method is used when factors in addition to price are considered for award.
- SS. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) means all documents utilized for soliciting qualifications for Goods, Services, Capital Assets, Construction Services or Professional Services.
- TT. REQUISITION means an internal document, provided by a department to the Purchasing Agent that contains the fund source, approvals, descriptions, quantities and other information about the Goods, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Services, Construction Services

or Professional Services in order to proceed with the procurement. The Requisition becomes valid when properly completed and approved.

- UU. RESPONSIBLE BIDDER OR PROPOSER means a Person, who, in the exclusive judgment of the City, (a) has the capability in all respects to fully perform the Contract requirements; and (b) the integrity, experience, qualification, and reliability which assures good faith performance.
- VV. RESPONSIVE BIDDER OR PROPOSER means a Person, who, in the exclusive judgment of the City, has submitted a bid or proposal that conforms in all material respects to the Solicitation Documents.
- WW. SERVICES mean any performance of effort or labor, for which the City has contracted other than Professional Services or Construction Services. Services include, but are not limited to, janitorial, landscaping, and street striping.
- XX. SHORTLISTING means the part of a competitive procurement process in which the City determines, based on criteria developed for a specified Good, Service, or Professional Service which of the interested Vendors are the best qualified to be eligible for further consideration in the purchasing process.
- YY. SINGLE-SOURCE PROCUREMENT means identifying and using, without first completing a competitive process, one source for Goods, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Services, Professional Services or Construction Services among others in a competitive marketplace, which, for justifiable reasons, is found to be most advantageous for the purpose of fulfilling a given Purchasing need of the City.
- ZZ. SOLE-SOURCE PROCUREMENT means identifying and using, without first completing a competitive process, one source for Goods, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Services, Professional Services or Construction Services when that source is the only one available that can fulfill a given Purchasing need of the City.
- AAA. SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS means an Invitation for Bids, Request for proposals, Request for Qualifications, Request for Quotations, or an Invitation to Negotiate including all of the associated forms and documents of each solicitation, or any other types of documents used by the City to procure Goods, Services, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Construction Services or Professional Services.
- BBB. SPECIFICATION OR SCOPE OF WORK means any description of the physical or functional characteristics, or of the nature of Goods, Services, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Construction Services or Professional Services. Specifications or Scope of Work may include any function and other criteria that will be required to perform the work and a description of any requirement for inspection, testing, or delivery.

CCC. SUPPLIER, MERCHANT OR VENDOR means a Person currently supplying or in the business of supplying Goods, Services, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Construction Services or Professional Services.

DDD. SURETY means an organization who, for a consideration, promises in writing to make good the debt or default of another organization. The Surety must be satisfactory to the City and licensed to do business in Georgia.

EEE. THE REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/DIVISION (User) is defined as the department which has the authority and responsibility for determining the need for an item or service, its related specifications, and need date. The User is responsible for funding the need and advising Purchasing of the approved funding and the specific budget account number. The User is responsible for authorizing the purchases of all materials, services, repairs, leases and rentals in which the negotiated price exceeds the approved funding.

SECTION II – ETHICS IN PROCUREMENT

Every person, business, or entity involved in the procurement process must adhere to a high standard of ethics. Each will be bound by the City Code of Ethics and this Section II. Whenever this Section II conflicts with the City Code of Ethics, the City Code of Ethics shall control.

A. Employee Conflict of Interest

It shall be unethical for any City Employee or Official to transact any business or participate directly or indirectly in a procurement Contract when the Employee or Official knows that:

1. The Employee or Official or immediate family of such Employee or Official has a substantial interest pertaining to the procurement Contract, except that the purchase of Goods and Services from businesses which a member of the City Council or other City Employee has a substantial interest is authorized as per O.C.G.A. § 36-1-14, or the procurement Contract is awarded pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-10-22 and § 45-10-24, or the transaction is excepted from said restrictions by O.C.G.A. § 45-10-25, interpreting such statutes as if they were applicable to a municipality.
2. Any other person, business or organization with whom the Employee, Official or immediate family of such Employee or Official is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment is involved in the procurement Contract.
3. An Employee, Official or any immediate family of such Employee or Official who holds a substantial interest in a disclosed blind trust shall not be deemed to have a conflict of interest with regard to matters pertaining to that substantial interest. *See Appendix C for Sample City Employee/Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure*
4. All Employees and Officials will be asked to sign a disclosure document indicating his or her compliance with the City Ethics Policy.
5. The terms “immediate family” and “substantial interest” shall have the meaning given to such terms in the City Code of Ethics.

B. Gratuities, Rebates or Kickbacks

1. *Gratuities and other benefits.* It shall be unethical for any Employee or Official to directly or indirectly solicit, demand, receive, accept, or agree to receive any gratuity, reward, offer of employment, services, or thing of value from any person, business, or entity in connection with any award, decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation or preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a Contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal.

It shall further be unethical for any person, business, or entity to offer, give, or agree to give or offer to give any Employee or Official any gratuity, reward, offer of employment, services, or thing of value with the purpose of influencing any award, decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation or preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a Contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal.

- i. A “thing of value” shall not include:
 - a. Any gift with a value less than \$100.00;
 - b. Food or beverage consumed at a single meal or event;
 - c. An award, plaque, certificate, memento, or similar item given in recognition of the recipient's civic, charitable, political, professional, or public service;
 - d. Promotional items generally distributed to the general public or to public officers;
 - e. Rebates normally or routinely offered to customers in the ordinary course of business of such person, business or entity for the purchase of their Goods and Services are acceptable and are the property of the City; and
 - f. Educational events, materials, and meals as described in subparagraph (ii).
- ii. *Educational Events.* Nothing in this section shall preclude an Employee or Official of the City from attending seminars, courses, lectures, briefings, or similar functions at any person, business, or entity’s facility or at any other place if any such seminar, course, lecture, briefing, or similar function is for the purpose of furnishing the Official, Employee, or Agent with knowledge and information relative to the person, business, or entity’s products or services and is one which the City Manager determines would be of benefit to the City. In connection with any such seminar, course, lecture, briefing, or similar function, nothing shall preclude the Employee or Official from

receiving meals or educational materials and business related items of not more than nominal value from a person, business, or entity. However, no Employee or Official shall accept or receive free travel or lodging for less than the value thereof from a person, business, or entity.

2. *Kickbacks and Rebates.* It shall be unethical for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a Contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
3. *Contract Clause.* The prohibition against gratuities, rebates and kickbacks prescribed in this Section shall be referenced in every Contract and Solicitation.

C. Prohibition Against Contingent Fees

It shall be unethical for any Person to be retained, or to retain a Person, to solicit or secure a Contract upon any agreement or understanding for a contingent fee, except for agreements with manufacturer representatives, or agents, including, but not limited to, commercial services sales agents engaged in the business of soliciting contracts on behalf of Vendors. A “contingent fee” as used in this subsection C, means any commission, percentage, brokerage, or other fee that is contingent upon the success that a Person has in securing a city Contract.

D. Use of Confidential Information

It shall be unethical for any Employee or Official to knowingly disclose or use confidential information for actual or anticipated personal gain, or for the actual or anticipated personal gain of any other person.

E. Unauthorized Purchases

No purchases of Goods and Services shall be made in the name of the City or one of its departments, except such as is required for official use by the City or one of its departments. Purchases in the name of the City or a department for personal use by an individual or for other than official use are prohibited, and no City funds will be expended or advanced therefore.

F. Penalties and Sanctions

1. *Legal or disciplinary action by City Council.* The City Council may take appropriate legal and/or disciplinary actions pursuant to the City Code of Ethics against any Employee, Official or other Person in violation of these ethical standards.
2. *Legal or disciplinary action by City Manager.* The City Manager is authorized to take any appropriate legal and/or disciplinary actions, including dismissal, of any Employee violating this Ethics Policy.
3. *Administrative penalties for Employees.* The City Manager may impose any one or more of the following penalties or sanctions on an Employee for violations of the

ethical standards in this Section as appropriate to the situation, subject to the Personnel Manual or other appropriate appeals procedures:

- a) Oral or written warnings or reprimands.
 - b) Suspensions with or without pay for specified periods of time.
 - c) Termination of employment.
4. *Administrative penalties for outside contractors/Vendors.* The City may impose any one or more of the following penalties or sanctions on a Vendor or other Person or organization for violations of these ethical standards:
- a) Written warnings or reprimands.
 - b) Termination of Contracts.
 - c) Debarment or suspension.

G. Vendor Contact During Open Solicitations

Persons seeking an award of a City contract may not initiate or continue any verbal or written communications regarding a solicitation with any Official, Employee or other City representative other than the Purchasing Agent named in the solicitation between the date of the issuance of the solicitation and the date of the final contract award. The City Manager or designee will review violations. If determined that such communication has compromised the competitive process, the offer submitted by the individual, firm or business may be disqualified from consideration for award.

H. Evaluator Conflict of Interest

The role of an Evaluation Committee is to objectively evaluate bids/proposals and to identify and recommend the most advantageous bid/proposal. A conflict of interest arises where an Evaluation Committee has some other interest that could materially interfere with their duty to act impartially in the evaluation process.

Evaluation Committee members will be asked to sign a disclosure indicating any conflict of interest before participating in the evaluation. *See Appendix D for the Sample City Evaluator Conflict of Interest Disclosure.* Evaluation Committees may include external specialists and technical experts, if required. Each members' impartiality is equally important as their professional expertise and proficiency throughout the evaluation process. To participate on the Evaluation Committee, each person agrees to declare any conflict of interest, discharge their obligations and responsibilities to the highest standards of integrity, carry out the duties impartially and fairly and refrain from fraud and corruption. They must follow the evaluation rules set out in the bidding documents and the instructions provided to them by the Evaluation Committee Chair.

SECTION III – PURCHASING AGENT

The City Council appoints the City Manager, or such other Employee designated by the City Manager, to serve as the Purchasing Agent for the City, until such time an independent third party is appointed and contracted by the City Council to serve as the Purchasing Agent under the direction and control of the City Manager.

A. Duties and Responsibilities

The Purchasing Agent shall faithfully discharge the following duties and powers of said office:

1. Direct efforts to procure Goods, Capital Assets, Real Estate, Services, Construction Services and Professional Services in accordance with the requirements of this Purchasing Policy, the Code of the City of Stonecrest and Georgia law.
2. Arrange and negotiate the purchase or Contract for all equipment, supplies and contractual services for the City or any using agency; arrange and negotiate for the sale or otherwise dispose of all surplus equipment and supplies or real estate of the City or any using agency, in accordance with the requirements of this Purchasing Policy, the Code of the City of Stonecrest and Georgia law.
3. Manage and supervise purchasing staff.
4. Control and supervise all City storerooms and warehouses.
5. Maintain and adhere to all City purchasing procedures and the Purchasing Policy.
6. Recommend revisions to the Purchasing Policy and related procedures to provide for compliance with laws related to bidding, Contracting and Purchasing as set forth in the State of Georgia Code and Regulations, by examining the applicable laws and developing procedures for bidding, Contracting and procurement processes. Revisions to this Purchasing Policy shall be subject to the approval of City Council.
7. Plan and implement processes for the ongoing protection of the City's interests.
8. Establish guidelines, within the Purchasing Policy, governing the review and approval of specifications for procurement of Goods, Capital Assets and Services based on recyclability, energy and water conservation, life cycle cost, and other environmental considerations.
9. Maintain an inventory record of all materials, supplies, software, or equipment stored in city storerooms, warehouses, and elsewhere, including monthly reports to the Finance Director that include:
 - a) Titles of all formal solicitations and the method of source selections to be used.

- b) Contracts authorized by the City Council, the method of source selection used and the total dollar amount.
 - c) Emergency Contracts awarded pursuant to Section 1.03 of the City's Charter.
 - d) Change orders or Contract modifications authorized by the City Council and the dollar amount and reason.
 - e) Amendments or change orders authorized by the Purchasing Agent and the dollar amount and reason.
 - f) Explanation of any changes, and the costs involved, in the scope of services made between the time a Contract is awarded and the time that the Contract is authorized by the City Council.
 - g) Documentation of the types, quantities, and dollar amounts of environmentally preferable Goods (including the percentage of post-consumer and total recovered material content) and Services purchased. The report shall also include dollar amounts of non-environmental or conventional Goods and Services, identify and discuss instances where this policy is waived or its requirements found impracticable, and highlight barriers to the procurement of environmentally preferable Goods and Services, if applicable.
10. Secure all necessary approvals of the City Manager or its designee, and the City Council prior to execution of a Contract or purchase agreement.
 11. Determine the most advantageous method of procurement in accordance with the requirements of this Purchasing Policy, the Code of the City of Stonecrest and Georgia law.
 12. Ensure that all Contracts are reviewed and approved by the City Attorney pursuant to Section 3.08 of the City Charter.
 13. Ensure Council is notified as soon as reasonably possible of all upcoming and active competitive procurements.
 14. Whenever possible, utilize City-generated and City Attorney-approved standard goods/services purchasing agreements.
 15. Consult with the City Attorney if a contracting party breaches or is reasonably anticipated to breach its Contract with the City.
 16. Where in the best interest of the City, require Bid/Proposal Bonds, insurance and other forms of protection for the City on the process of procuring Goods, Capital Assets, Services and Construction Services for the City.

17. Terminate solicitations for bids for any Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction Services and Professional Services when, in the opinion of the Purchasing Agent, it is in the City's best interest to do so.
18. Reject any and all bids, when in the opinion of the Purchasing Agent it is in the City's best interest to do so.
19. Advise the Finance Director and City Manager on the status of negotiations, as well as Contract provisions and their impacts on the City.
20. Make recommendations on Contract approval, rejection, Amendment, and cancellation.
21. Provide Contract administration and supervision of Contracts. Such tasks shall include, but not be limited to, monitoring Amendments, obtaining applicable insurance certificates and monitoring applicable progress.
22. Provide and update all forms to procure Goods, Services, and Professional Services, as needed.

SECTION IV – PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The procurement process begins when the need to obtain goods or services is identified. All functions that pertain to the acquisition, including competitive procurement, contract negotiation and award, and all phases of contract administration are included in the procurement process.

A. Purchase Requisition

Requisitions are necessary to initiate the procurement process. A Requisition is essentially a request to purchase Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction Services or Professional Services. *See Appendix C* for sample Requisition form. It lets the Purchasing Agent know, in detail, what the Using Department/Division (“User”) needs and whether the purchase or expenditure is authorized. In general, Users must prepare Requisitions for all procurements within the scope of this policy that exceed \$5,000.

The following steps shall be completed to initiate the procurement process:

1. *Determine Need*: The User is responsible for determining the need for a good or service and providing appropriate documentation and justification therefor, including a purchase requisition.
2. *Determine Funding*: The User is responsible for ensuring budget availability. Specific budget account numbers must be on the purchase requisition.
3. *Determine Specifications*: The User is responsible for determining the quantity, quality, dimensions, duration and all other necessary specifications essential to the

determination of what is to be procured. The specifications must, where applicable, conform to the approved City standards for identity and continuity.

4. *Prepare Requisition:* Requisitions shall be prepared far enough in advance that the Purchasing Agent can obtain competitive prices and the Vendor has enough time to make the delivery. A Requisition must contain the following information, where applicable to the goods or services sought:
 - a) User's information – name and contact information of the department/division and Employee preparing the purchase Requisition.
 - b) Date issued – the date the Requisition is prepared.
 - c) Need date – must state a definitive delivery date or date/duration of service (lead time of at least one week, must be allowed).
 - d) Complete description and specifications of goods or services.
 - e) Quantity.
 - f) Estimated cost.
 - g) Delivery destination.
 - h) Complete budget account number.
 - i) Previous purchase information, quotation, or contract (if known).
 - j) Known or suggested Vendor(s).
 - k) Authorized Approval – must include signature from department director and Finance Director.

5. *Routing the Requisition.* After preparing the Requisition, Users shall transmit the Requisition to the following stations:
 - a) Departmental Authorization- the department director shall certify that the Requisition is authorized.
 - b) Finance Department- the Finance Director shall certify, by signature, that the proper account was listed and the availability of budgetary funds.
 - c) Purchasing Office - the Purchasing Agent shall process the Requisition and obtain all necessary approvals.

6. *Acceptance of Procured Item or Service:* Within 24 hours, the User is responsible for advising the Purchasing Office in writing on a receiving report the receipt of the Goods procured and whether or not such Goods are found to be unsatisfactory. All returns of Goods or Capital Assets must be initiated by the User through the Purchasing Agent. Additionally, all Amendments or cancellation to any agreements must be made by the Purchasing Agent.

B. Purchase Orders and Contracts

1. The Purchasing Agent shall issue Purchase Orders for all approved Requisitions.
2. If a Contract is required or appropriate, all negotiations of agreements for Goods and Services shall be conducted by the Purchasing Agent. It is recognized that special situations may exist where there is a special need for the User to be involved in the negotiation process. This must be in conjunction with the Purchasing Agent at all times. The Purchasing Agent will make final recommendation for agreements.
3. The Purchasing Agent will review the Contract for form, completeness, insurance considerations, legal implications, and any other items dictated by each situation. The Contract will then be sent to the User and approved by the Department Director and returned to Purchasing.
4. All Contracts not arising out of the proprietary functions of the City shall conform with O.C.G.A § 36-60-13.
5. It is the responsibility of the Purchasing Agent to secure all necessary approvals prior to execution of a Contract or purchase agreement.
6. Once the Contract is officially executed, the original of the Contract will be filed in the City Clerk's office.
7. Once a Contract is awarded by the City, the Contract may be amended, without the necessity of rebidding such Contract, provided the original Contract amount and the scope of the Contract is not substantially altered. The Purchasing Agent will review all change orders. Change orders will be processed to correct the account distribution, quantity, addition/deletion of line items, change in description and unit price. If a quoted price of the change order is more than \$25,000, shall require additional Requisition and approval from all necessary parties pursuant to the Purchasing Thresholds. The Purchasing Agent cannot use the change order process to circumvent the Purchasing Policy. Change orders cannot substantially change the scope of the Contract.

SECTION V – PURCHASING THRESHOLDS

The following dollar amounts and approvals apply to all city departments.

(1) PURCHASING THRESHOLDS MATRIX

	Procurement Method*	Required Approvals**	Amendments/Change Orders
≤ \$4,999.99	No Requisition/Purchase Order necessary.	1. Department Director	Increases greater than \$25,000 (excluding any contingency) require additional Requisition and approval from all necessary parties
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	Three verbal quotes - Requisition, Purchase Order, and/or Contract as appropriate	1. Department Director 2. Finance Department 3. Purchasing Agent 4. City Attorney (contracts)	
\$10,000 - \$24,999.99	Competitive Procurement: Informal Solicitation - Requisition, Purchase Order, and/or Contract as appropriate	1. Department Director 2. Finance Department 3. Purchasing Agent 4. City Manager 5. City Attorney (contracts)	
\$25,000 & >	Competitive Procurement: Formal Solicitation - Requisition, Purchase Order, and/or Contract as appropriate	1. Department Director 2. Finance Department 3. Purchasing Agent 4. City Manager 5. City Attorney (contracts) 6. City Council	
<p>* The Procurement Methods listed above are not applicable to Sole Source Procurement, Single Source Procurement, Emergency Procurement, Cooperative Purchasing, and Real Estate Acquisition. <i>See</i> Section VII (Noncompetitive Procurements). Notwithstanding this exclusion, the Required Approvals must still be obtained based on the applicable purchasing threshold unless otherwise provided in Section VII.</p> <p>** City Council approval always required if purchase not within annual budget.</p> <p>*** ALL COMPUTER SOFTWARE/HARDWARE AND MARKETING/MEDIA CONTENT MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS/IT DIRECTOR</p>			

(2) PURCHASING THRESHOLDS EXPLAINED

Though competitive procurement may not be required under the applicable purchasing threshold, the Purchasing Agent may require the purchase to be competitively procured if he or she deems it necessary to best serve the interests of the City.

- A. Small purchases may be made up to **\$4,999.99** without bids. Department Director may approve said small purchases if within annual budget. User shall attempt to obtain the Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction or Professional Services most advantageous to the City, price and other factors considered. A Purchase Order is not necessary unless the vendor requires such. In the event a Purchase Order is required, the User must provide a Requisition to the Purchasing Agent for processing. This must be approved by the Purchasing Agent and Finance Department. If a contract is involved, it may be executed by the City Manager or Mayor without need of review by the City Attorney.
- B. Purchases from **\$5000 - \$9,999.99** will require a Requisition, Purchase Order, and a minimum of three verbal quotes. If after due diligence, the User cannot reasonably find a third quote, the Purchasing Agent can waive the quote requirement if presented with sufficient written justification from User. The Department Director, Purchasing Agent, and Finance Director must approve the purchase. The Purchasing Agent shall attempt to obtain the Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction or Professional Services most advantageous to the City, price and other factors considered. If a contract is involved, it must be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney and may be executed by the City Manager or Mayor.
- C. Purchases from **\$10,000 - \$24,999.99** will require a Requisition, Purchase Order, and a minimum of three informal quotes/bids/proposals. *See* Informal Solicitations, Section VI (1). If after due diligence, the User cannot reasonably find the required quotes/bids/proposals, the Purchasing Agent can waive the quote requirement if presented with sufficient written justification from User. The Department Director, Purchasing Agent, Finance Director, and City Manager must approve the purchase. If a contract is involved, it must be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney and may be executed by the City Manager or Mayor.
- D. Purchases from **\$25,000 and greater** will require a Requisition, Purchase Order, and formal solicitation. *See* Formal Solicitations, Section VI (2). The Department Director, Purchasing Agent, Finance Director, City Manager, and City Council must approve the purchase. If a contract is involved, it must be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney and executed by the Mayor.
- E. *State/Federal Grants or Funds.* Periodically, the City may be given private/public grants and donations from sources such as the State and Federal Government and private corporations. These types of solicitations are more restrictive and may dictate the procurement process and methodology that the City is to follow for an award. *See* Projects Using Federal Aid Highway Program (FAHP) Funding, Section VIII. Both federal and state procurement supersedes the purchasing requirements of the City when buying goods and services using federal or state grant monies. Departments should refer to the Federal Acquisition Regulations for guidance on specific federal procurement policies.

SECTION VI – COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS

(1) INFORMAL SOLICITATIONS

Requests for informal quotes, bids, and proposals are Informal Solicitations (“IS”) that are prepared and issued with the goal of obtaining competitive responses. Informal Solicitations shall be used for all Purchases from **\$10,000 - \$24,999.99**, unless otherwise provided by this policy. The steps to complete an IS are outlined below. Unless otherwise provided, the responsibility for these steps shall fall on the User:

- A. Prepare Requisition and Develop specifications, scope of work, etc. for all goods and services being requested. Upon finalization of the specifications, prepare any documents required by the IS and send to Purchasing Agent for approval.
- B. Use the Formal Solicitation Process if the Purchasing Agent deems it necessary to serve the best interests of the City.
- C. After specifications are approved by the Purchasing Agent, send a copy of the specifications to the identified Vendors.
- D. *Public Notice*. The Purchasing Agent shall, at a minimum, post a copy of the IS on the City’s website, and provide any additional public advertisement if required by law.
- E. Purchasing Agent and User shall evaluate the responses to the IS. On or after the due date indicated in the IS, the Purchasing Agent shall determine which quote, bid, or proposal best serves the City’s interests. Tie informal quotes/bids shall be handled in the same way as tie formal bids. A split or partial award may be given to the lowest cost provider of each item or reasonable grouping of items if:
 1. The IS requires multiple Goods or Services;
 2. More than one Vendor provides a quote/bid/proposal that meets the specifications for the Goods or Services;
 3. A price comparison can be made between the Goods or Services; AND
 4. An acquisition, delivery, and other requirements can be reasonably administered.
- F. Amend Requisition and include authorized approvals.
- G. Purchasing Agent shall prepare and issue Purchase Order or Contract, where appropriate.

(2) FORMAL SOLICITATIONS

All purchases from **\$25,000 and greater** require a formal solicitation. The Purchasing Agent shall determine the method of formal solicitation is appropriate for the subject purchase. A Bid/ Proposal Bond or Performance Bond may be required for any solicitation.

A. Invitation for Formal Bids

Invitation for Formal Bids (IFB) are prepared and issued with the goal of obtaining competitive responses in the procurement of Goods, Capital Assets, Services and Construction Services. The process to initiate and complete an IFB is outlined below:

1. User prepares Requisition and develops specifications, scope of work, etc. for all goods and services being requested.
2. Upon finalization and approval of the specifications, Purchasing Agent shall prepare any documents required for the IFB.
3. *Public Notice.* The Purchasing Agent shall advertise the IFB on the City's website, at City Hall, and provide additional public advertisement if required by law. Said public notice shall include such details and specifications as will enable the public to know the extent and character of the IFB, and shall be advertised a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date set for bid opening, unless it can be demonstrated that an Emergency exists, pursuant to Section VII (D) Emergency Procurement. In such event, the requirement for public notice may be reduced by the Purchasing Agent.
4. *Correction/Withdrawal of Bids.* Correction or withdrawal of inadvertently erroneous bids is permitted in accordance to the terms indicated within the IFB; however, minor irregularities may be waived by the Purchasing Agent. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the time scheduled for bid opening, or as otherwise stated in the IFB.
5. *Opening Sealed Bids.* Bids shall be opened in the presence of the Purchasing Agent or the designee of the Purchasing Agent and at least one other witness at the time and place designated in the Invitation for Bids. All relevant information, including each Bid amount and Bidder's name, will be recorded on a summary sheet. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Interested persons shall have access to information regarding procurement transactions of the City in accordance with City policy and the Georgia Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.*
6. *Evaluation of Bids.* Bids will be evaluated based on the qualification factors set forth in the IFB, which may include criteria to determine acceptability of Goods or Capital Assets (for example, inspection, testing, quality, workmanship, delivery, and suitability for a particular purpose). Criteria for the acceptability of Goods or Capital Assets shall be used to determine whether particular Goods are responsive to the IFB, and not to determine the relative desirability between acceptable Goods or Capital Assets. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities of bids, to request clarification of information submitted in any bid, to further negotiate with the Responsive and Responsible Bidder selected for Contract award, or to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever.

7. *Contracts.* The Bid may require a Contract. Once the proposed contract terms, exceptions, and/or modifications are reviewed and approved by the City Attorney, the Purchasing Agent may submit his or her recommendation and the proposed Contract to the City Council for approval and award.
8. *Award of Bids.* The Purchasing Agent shall submit his or her recommendation and proposed Contract to the City Council for approval and award. The Bid will be awarded, if an award is made, to the Responsible and Responsive Bidder offering the lowest price whose bid meets the requirements and criteria set forth in the IFB. The Contract shall be approved by City Council prior to execution and/or performance.
9. Upon the award of bid, User amends Requisition and Purchasing Agent shall prepare a Purchase Order or Contract, if appropriate.
10. *Split/Partial Awards.* Split or partial bid awards may be awarded with the same guidelines and restrictions as those provided for split or partial Informal Solicitations.
11. *Tie Bids.* In the event two or more identical bids are received, the following procedure will be used when the basis of award is low bid:
 - (i) A tie Bidder whose products are manufactured in Georgia would be recommended to the City Council for an award, over a Tie Bidder without products manufactured in Georgia. *See* Section IX (1).
 - (ii) If the procedures in (i) above do not result in an award, then the tie Bidder who has environmentally preferable goods and services would be recommended to the City Council for an award. *See* Section IX (2).
 - (iii) If the procedures in (i) and (ii) above do not result in an award, then to the extent permitted by law, a tie Bidder having an office within the limits of the City would be recommended to the City Council for an award over one without an office in the City. A Person within the state of Georgia would be recommended to the appropriate approving authority for an award over one without an office in Georgia.
 - (iv) If the procedures in (i) through (iii) above do not result in an award, the tie Bidders will be contacted and advised of the tie and asked if they wish to reduce their bid in writing submitted in a sealed envelope to be opened at the time and place stated by the Purchasing Agent or the designee of the Purchasing Agent. If one or more of the tied Bidders agrees to participate, award will be made to the new low bid. If none of the tied Bidders agree to participate or if the new bids are tied, then City staff shall break the tie by following the procedures described below, as necessary.
 - (v) If all of the procedures above do not result in an award, then, the Purchasing Agent or the designee of the Purchasing Agent in the presence of at least two witnesses will flip a coin one time. Award to the winner of the coin flip will be recommended to the City Council.

B. Request for Proposals (RFP)

When the Purchasing Agent determines the use of an Invitation for Bids is not practical or not advantageous because of existing market conditions or the type of items required, the City may procure Goods, Capital Assets, Services, or Construction Services through receipt of competitive sealed proposals. Competitive sealed proposals are solicited through the use of an RFP, with the goal of obtaining competitive responses. The process to initiate and complete RFP is outlined below:

1. User prepares Requisition and develops specifications, scope of work, etc. for all goods and services being requested.
2. Upon finalization and approval of the specifications, Purchasing Agent shall prepare any documents required for the RFP.
3. *Public Notice.* The Purchasing Agent shall advertise the RFP on the City's website, at City Hall, and provide additional public advertisement if required by law. Said public notice shall include such details and specifications as will enable the public to know the extent and character of the RFP, and shall be advertised a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date set for opening proposals, unless it can be demonstrated that an Emergency exists, pursuant to Section VII (D). In such event, the requirement for public notice may be reduced by the Purchasing Agent.
4. *Correction or Withdrawal of Proposals.* Correction or withdrawal of proposals is permitted in accordance with instructions contained within the RFP. No proposal may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the time scheduled for proposal opening, or as otherwise stated in the RFP.
5. *Opening Sealed Proposals.* Proposals shall be opened publicly by the Purchasing Agent, in the presence of one or more witnesses at the time and place designated in the RFP. A register of proposals is prepared that lists each Proposer's name. Late proposals will be rejected and returned unopened.
6. *Evaluation of Proposals.* The RFP will identify the criteria to be considered and evaluated as the basis of award. Proposals submitted by Responsible and Responsive Proposers are evaluated by Purchasing Agent or the designee of the Purchasing Agent based upon the criteria applicable to the RFP. All proposals (or the most acceptable proposals in the discretion of any committee evaluating proposals) will be ranked in order of their acceptability to the City, giving consideration to the criteria.
7. *Contract Award.* Once the proposed contract terms, exceptions, and/or modifications are reviewed and approved by the City Attorney, the Purchasing Agent may submit his or her recommendation and the proposed Contract to the City Council for approval and award. The Contract award will be awarded, if award is

made, by the City Council to the Responsive and Responsible Proposer whose proposal is determined, in the City's exclusive discretion, to be the most advantageous to the City, taking into consideration price, qualifications, and other factors as indicated in the RFP. Unless otherwise provided by law, the City has no obligation to award the Contract to the Proposer who proposes the lowest price.

8. *Public Access to Proposal Documents.* Interested persons shall have access to information regarding procurement transactions of the City in accordance with City policy and the Georgia Open Records Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.* All meetings of the City's Council are duly noticed public meetings and all documents submitted to the City as a part of or in connection with a Proposal may constitute public records under Georgia law regardless of any person's claim that proprietary or trade secret information is contained therein. Unless otherwise provided herein, by submission to the City, Proposers waive any claim to the proprietary nature of submitted information. The Proposer may designate in the smallest increments possible, that part of the qualifications which is deemed to be proprietary, which, subject to the City's reasonable determination, shall be redacted for purposes of the public agenda. Proposals and all related correspondence are governed by the Georgia Open Records Act and shall be provided to anyone properly requesting same, after contract award. The City cannot protect proprietary data submitted in vendor proposals unless provided for under the open records law and clearly marked as proprietary by the Proposer. In the event the Proposer deems certain information to be exempt from the disclosure requirements, the Proposal must specify what content is considered exempt and cite the applicable provision of the law to support that assessment. In the event such information is requested under the open records law, the Proposer's assessment will be examined by the City Attorney who will make a determination. The decision to withhold or release the information will be at the City Attorney's sole discretion.

C. Request for Qualifications

Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) may be used if the Purchasing Agent determines that it is in the City's best interest to evaluate the experience and qualifications of a Service, Construction Service or Professional Service provider, without regard to price or prior to considering price.

The procedure for soliciting, opening and evaluating statements of qualifications shall be the same as described herein for competitive sealed proposals. Such service providers whose qualifications meet the criteria established in the RFQ, at the sole discretion of the City, may be considered for Contract award by participation in the completion price negotiation. The City shall attempt to negotiate a fee with the highest ranked firm. If no agreement is reached, the City shall begin negotiations with the next highest ranked firm. Negotiations will proceed in this manner until an agreement is reached. The City reserves the right to reject any or all responses for any reason. Clarification of information may be requested by the City.

D. Multi-step Solicitation

The City may initiate the multi-step solicitation process described below when: (a) the Purchasing Agent determines it is impractical to prepare an adequate or complete description of the Goods, Capital Assets, Services or Construction Services desired (due to insufficient data, uncertain requirements, unfamiliar market options, etc.), (b) the Purchasing Agent desires to identify a field of qualified Bidders, Proposers, Goods or Services, out of a broader field of Bidders, Proposers, Goods or Services, or (c) the Purchasing Agent determines that a multi-step process would best serve the City's interests.

1. The City may request that priced proposals be submitted in two separate envelopes, with pricing information contained in one envelope and all other requested information contained in the other envelope. In such case, proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the requirements set forth in the RFP, initially without regard to price and without opening the envelope containing pricing information. Based on such evaluation, the City will establish a field of at least three (if possible and available) qualified or most qualified Proposers. The City may conduct interviews with Proposers to aid in the identification of qualified or most qualified Proposers. In the event the City conducts interviews with Proposers, the City is not required to interview any Proposers deemed by the City to be unqualified or less qualified than other Proposers.
2. After establishing a field of qualified or most qualified Proposers, the City will open the pricing envelopes of only the qualified or most qualified Proposers, and evaluate such pricing information in the manner described in the RFP for purposes of recommending/making an award (e.g. most advantageous proposal, price and other factors considered or low price submitted by qualified Proposers). In the absence of specific instructions to the contrary in the RFP, pricing information will be evaluated together with all other information required by the RFP for purposes of selecting among the qualified field of Proposers the most advantageous proposal, price and other factors considered.

(3) SOLICITATIONS REQUIRING PUBLIC NOTICE IN GEORGIA PROCUREMENT REGISTRY (GPR)

The GPR is the state's central bid registry established by the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) and managed by the agency's State Purchasing Division (SPD). The registry provides for the advertising of bid opportunities by state and local governments to ensure transparency and offer market competition.

- A. The City shall advertise all bid or proposal opportunities for **goods, services, or both** that are valued at **\$100,000.00 or more** in the GPR for a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date set for opening bids/proposals. Each advertisement shall include such details and specifications as will enable the public to know the extent and character of the bid or proposal opportunity. *See O.C.G.A. § 36-80-27.*

- B. The City shall advertise all contract opportunities for **public works construction** that are valued at **\$100,000.00 or more** in the GPR for at least four continuous weeks prior to the opening of the sealed bids or proposals, unless otherwise provided by O.C.G.A. § 36-91-20.
- C. The Purchasing Agent may adopt procedures requiring additional bid or proposal opportunities to be advertised on the GPR.

SECTION VII – NON-COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENTS

The provisions of this policy section shall apply to the procurement of Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction Services or Professional Services, when the purchase does not exceed **\$9,999.99** or when the Purchasing Agent determines that competitive procurement is not practical, feasible, or possible. Notwithstanding any other provision, any Contract or subcontract entered into by the City with any Person for the construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of all or part of a public road in the City including, but not limited to, a Contract or subcontract for the purchase of materials, for the hiring of labor, for professional services, or for other things or services incident to such work, shall be entered into in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 32-4-114.

A. Sole Source Procurement

The City may acquire Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction Services or Professional Services pursuant to a Sole Source Procurement. Sole Source Procurement is available when Goods, Services, or Professional Services are limited to one source, or when they must be obtained from a specific manufacturers' dealer and valid competition among dealers does not exist. No Sole Source Procurement shall be valid without the prior authorization of the Governing Authority. For each instance in which the use of Sole Source Procurement is proposed, the User must provide to the Governing Authority a written report that identifies the specific reasons justifying such use and shows the requirements stated herein are satisfied. The Governing Authority may authorize the use of Sole Source Procurement only if it determines that such use fully complies with the requirements stated herein.

B. Single Source Procurement

The City may acquire Services or Professional Services pursuant to a Single Source Procurement. A Single Source Procurement is a procurement made from one Person among others in a competitive market place which, for justifiable reasons, is found to be most advantageous for the purpose of fulfilling the given purchasing need. Single Source Procurement is available only if the following conditions exist:

1. The proposed use of Single Source Procurement concerns any of the following situations:

- a. To obtain the Services or Professional Services of any Person for the purpose of serving in any appointed position identified in Article III of the City Charter; or
- b. To obtain the Professional Services of any Person where such Person establishes to the User that:
 - i. Regarding the provision of such Professional Services, he has significantly more experience than other prospective providers or has unique knowledge and experience that no other prospective provider possesses;
 - ii. He has more historical knowledge of the particular issue/subject to be addressed by the procurement while other prospective providers have failed to demonstrate to the User that they have the same level of historical knowledge;
 - iii. In comparison to other prospective providers, he is particularly suited to provide the procurement as he and the City had a satisfactory business relationship in his earlier provision of such Professional Services to the City; or
 - iv. He has the capacity and willingness to provide such Professional Services to the City in an emergency situation while other prospective providers have failed to demonstrate to the User that they have such capacity and willingness.
2. The Person desiring to provide the procurement has agreed, in writing, that he will not disclose to any third party any confidential information, trade secret or financial information of the City that he may obtain in the course of providing the procurement to the City.
3. The User has analyzed the current open, competitive market conditions regarding the provision of such Services or Professional Services and has determined that the price to be paid to the proposed provider is substantially similar to the current price in the open, competitive market for such Services or Professional Services.

No Single Source Procurement shall be valid without the prior authorization of the Governing Authority. For each instance in which the use of Single Source Procurement is proposed, the User must provide to the Governing Authority a written report that identifies the specific reasons justifying such use and shows the requirements stated herein are satisfied. The Governing Authority may authorize the use of Single Source Procurement only if it determines that such use fully complies with the requirements stated herein

C. Emergency Procurement

The City may acquire Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction Services or Professional Services by directly negotiating an award in the event of an Emergency. An Emergency exists when a situation occurs suddenly and unexpectedly and demands immediate action to prevent delays which may vitally affect the health, safety or welfare of the public or City Employees and affects the continuation of services to the citizens, and/or serious loss or injury to the City. Emergency also exists if a condition, malfunction,

or occurrence in which the immediate procurement of an item (i.e. Good, Services, or Professional Service) is essential to comply with regulatory requirements.

The City Manager shall make the determination when an Emergency exists. Such emergency procurements shall be made with as much competition as is practicable under the circumstances.

When the need for an emergency purchase occurs during normal working hours, the User shall request approval from the City Manager or his designee. If an Emergency situation should arise after office hours which requires immediate action on the part of the agency involved for the protection of the best interest of the City or if a like situation arises on a weekend or holiday and when it is not possible or convenient to reach the City Manager or Purchasing Agent, any purchase necessary shall be made by the official in charge of such department or agency, and such purchase reported to the Purchasing Agent within 24 hours.

As soon as practicable, a record of each Emergency procurement shall be made and shall set forth the contractor's name, the amount and type of the Contract, a listing of the item procured under the Contract, and the identification number of the Contract file. Moreover, written determination of the basis for declaring the Emergency and for the selection of the particular Person for the provision of Goods, Capital Assets, Services, Construction Services or Professional Services shall be included in the Contract file. If the cost of the procurement is \$25,000 or more, City Council approval must be obtained at the next meeting following the emergency procurement.

D. Cooperative Purchasing

The City may acquire Goods, Capital Assets and Services by from a Supplier having a requirements Contract/Annual Agreement with any public entity (e.g., federal, state, county, city, authority, school board, Buying Cooperative, etc.) for Goods, Capital Assets or Services described in such contract and at prices or discounts no less favorable than any set forth in such Contracts.

Use of State/Co-Op Contracts: The Purchasing Agent may procure supplies, services or construction items through the Contract established through competitive means by the purchasing division of the State of Georgia, national Co-Ops (i.e.-U.S. Communities), and collaborative purchasing agreements with other local governments when deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

Prior to making any purchase, the Purchasing Agent or User shall obtain approval from all necessary parties pursuant to the applicable purchasing threshold.

E. Real Estate Acquisitions¹

1. Compliance with Applicable Regulations

¹ Reference Note- See O.C.G.A. § 36-37-1 et seq. for provisions governing the disposition of municipal property or acceptance of gifts, grants, or donations of property

All real estate acquisition activities shall conform to applicable federal, state (e.g. O.C.G.A § 36-80-18 and O.C.G.A § 36-60-13) and local laws and regulations and shall be subject to the provisions of the City Code of Ethics.

2. Confidentiality

The City Council and City staff shall maintain the confidentiality of potential and ongoing real estate acquisitions and related information subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings and Open Records Acts.

3. Formal Approval

All real estate transactions shall be formally approved by the City Council in a public meeting prior to the City entering a sales contract. This shall not prohibit or interfere with the City Council's ability to discuss same and negotiate terms in Executive Session subject to the requirements of the Open Meeting and Open Records Acts.

4. Appraisals

For any piece of real estate, for which a sales contract has been signed, the City will conduct at least one appraisal by an independent third-party who holds the Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI) membership designation.

5. Land Acquisition Procurement Process

- a. City staff will investigate and identify properties for purchase that generally meet an approved plan or strategy. Furthermore, land purchased with a specific funding source will only be used for such purposes anticipated and/or authorized. If the City determines that the land cannot be used for its intended purpose, the City may dispose of the property in a manner consistent with Georgia law and funds raised through the sale of the property will be used for future land purchases consistent with the purposes authorized.
- b. City staff may work with a Real Estate broker to gather information and make site visits related to properties under consideration for acquisition.
- c. City staff will regularly brief the City Council in Executive Session on properties the city is considering purchasing to receive direction on "terms and price" from the City Council.
- d. City staff will negotiate "Letters of Intent" with land owners on properties the City Council has provided staff with direction on "terms and price".
- e. City staff will conduct due diligence on the real estate to be purchased including at a minimum but not limited to:

- i. Environmental testing (Phase I required, Phase II and specialized testing if warranted);
 - ii. Production of an ALTA survey of the property;
 - iii. Production of a MAI appraisal of the property;
 - iv. Complete title work on the property; and
 - v. Other reasonable due diligence activities as warranted.
- f. Prior to requesting a resolution from the City Council authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all closing documents to complete the purchase of the property, the city staff will ensure completion of all due diligence items (PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED).

SECTION VIII – PROJECTS USING FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY PROGRAM (FAHP) FUNDING

The City shall use the competitive negotiation method for the procurement of engineering and design related services when FAHP funds are involved in the contract (as specified in 23 U.S.C. § 112(b)(2)(A) and 23 CFR § 172.5(a)(1)). The solicitation, evaluation, ranking, selection, and negotiation shall comply with the qualifications-based selection procurement procedures for architectural and engineering services codified under 40 U.S.C. § 1101 *et seq.*, commonly referred to as the Brooks Act. *See* Appendix A.

SECTION IX – PREFERABLE GOODS AND SERVICES

(1) PREFERENCE FOR PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED IN GEORGIA

When contracting for or purchasing supplies, materials, equipment, or agricultural products, excluding beverages for immediate consumption, the City shall give preference, as far as may be reasonable, economical, and practicable, to such supplies, materials, equipment, and agricultural products as may be manufactured or produced in the State of Georgia. Such preference shall not sacrifice quality.

In determining whether such a preference is reasonable in any case where the value of a contract for or purchase of such supplies, materials, equipment, or agricultural products exceeds \$100,000.00, the City shall consider, among other factors, information submitted by the bidder which may include the bidder's estimate of the multiplier effect on gross state domestic product and the effect on public revenues of the state and the effect on public revenues of political subdivisions resulting from acceptance of a bid or offer to sell Georgia manufactured or produced goods as opposed to out-of-state manufactured or produced goods. Any such estimates shall be in writing. The City shall not divide a contract or purchase which exceeds \$100,000.00 for the sole purpose of avoiding these requirements.

(2) ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE GOODS AND SERVICES

- A. In determining which Goods, Capital Assets and Services to purchase, the City shall integrate environmental factors into the City’s procurement decisions, when available and commercially practicable in the reasonable discretion of the User. Whenever possible or practicable, the City shall:
1. Purchase copy, computer, and fax paper with at least 30 percent post- consumer recycled content;
 2. Purchase non-emergency fleet vehicles that provide the best available net reduction in vehicle fleet emissions including, but not limited to, the purchase of alternative fueled and hybrid vehicles;
 3. Consider purchasing lower emission emergency fleet vehicles with comparable specifications for performance, safety, and fuel availability during emergencies as conventionally-powered emergency fleet vehicles;
 4. Purchase at least Energy Star rated equipment and appliances for use in local government facilities when practicable based upon considerations of Life Cycle Costs;
 5. Purchase water-saving products, including WaterSense labeled, whenever practicable, including but not limited to, high performance fixtures such as toilets (1.28 gallons per flush or less), urinals (0.5 gallons per flush or less), low-flow faucets (1.5 gallons per minute or less), aerators, and upgraded high-efficiency irrigation systems;
 6. Replace disposable with re-usable, recyclable, or compostable Goods;
 7. Consider Life Cycle Cost Assessment; and
 8. Evaluate, as appropriate, the environmental performance of Vendors in providing Goods and Services.
- B. The analysis to determine environmentally preferable Goods and Services may include raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, disposal of products, or service delivery. Specifically, factors that should be considered by the User when determining that Goods have environmentally preferable attributes include, but are not limited to:
1. Minimization of virgin, unrecycled material used in Goods;
 2. Maximization of recycled materials used in Goods;
 3. Life cycle economics of Goods and Services;
 4. Reuse of existing Goods or materials in Goods;
 5. Recyclability, biodegradability and compostability of Goods;
 6. Minimization of packaging;
 7. Reduction of energy and fuel consumption;
 8. Reduction of water consumption;
 9. Toxicity reduction or elimination;
 10. Durability and maintenance requirements; and

11. Ultimate disposal of the Goods.

SECTION X – PROTESTS, SUSPENSION, AND DEBARMENT

A. Right to Protest.

Any actual Bidder or Proposer who is aggrieved in connection with the formal solicitation or award of a Contract may protest to the City. Protestors shall seek resolution of their protests/complaints initially with the City Manager.

1. *Timeliness.*

- a. Protests arising from factual or legal basis that the protestor knew or should have known prior to the submission of the bid/proposal must be submitted within three business days of the submission of the bid/proposal.
- b. Protests arising from factual or legal basis that the protestor knew or should have known subsequent to the date the bid/proposal was submitted must be submitted within ten business days after the protestor knew or should have known of such basis, but in no event shall any protest be submitted more than ten business days after the award of the contract.
- c. Untimely protests are invalid and shall be denied as such.

2. *Contents of Protest.* The protest shall, at a minimum, be in writing and include the following information:

- a. Identity and contact information of protestor;
- b. Appropriate identification of the subject solicitation or award;
- c. Detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest;
- d. Documentation supporting the protest and/or allegations;
- e. Statement of the specific relief requested; and
- f. Signed by an officer or person authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the protestor.

3. *Submission of Protests.* All protests shall be submitted to the City Manager via registered mail, overnight delivery, or hand delivery.

4. *Protest Resolution.* If a protest complies with subsections (1) through (3) above, the City Manager shall request a response from the Purchasing Agent. The Purchasing Agent's response will be returned to the City Manager within seven (7) business days from the submission of the protest. The City Manager is empowered to decide to uphold, dismiss or amend the decision of the Purchasing Agent.

5. *Decision on Protest.* The City Manager shall inform the protestor of the decision in writing within fifteen (15) business days of the submission of the protest or, if the City Manager requires more time to render a decision, the City Manager will advise the protestor within the initial ten (10) days of the additional amount of time required to render a decision.
6. *Appeals.* Any actual Bidder or Proposer who is aggrieved by the decision of the City Manager in connection with a protest shall file a notice of appeal with the City Manager and City Clerk within seven (7) days of receipt of the decision.
 - a. *Hearing.* The City Manager shall set a hearing date before City Council not more than thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the notice. The City Clerk shall cause notice of the hearing date, time, and location to be served upon the parties by registered mail. At the hearing, all parties shall be provided a fair and impartial hearing and shall be allowed to offer argument as to whether the City Manager's decision should be affirmed or overturned. Said hearing will not be de novo, but shall be of an appellate nature.
 - b. *Decision.* Within seven (7) days of the hearing, the City Council shall issue a written decision on the appeal, which shall either affirm or reject the City Manager's decision. The City Clerk shall send a copy of the decision to the protestor(s) by registered mail.
 - c. *Finality.* A decision by the City Council under subsection 6(b) above shall be final and conclusive as to the City's appeal process. Any further action shall be through the court.
7. *Stay of Procurement.* In the event a protest complies with subsections (1) through (3) above, the Purchasing Agent shall not proceed with the further solicitation or award of the Contract until all administrative remedies have been exhausted, or the City Manager or City Attorney makes a determination that the award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the interests of the City.

B. Suspension and Debarment

1. *Authority to Suspend or Debar.* After reasonable notice to the Person involved and reasonable opportunity for that Person to respond, the Purchasing Agent shall have the authority to initiate proceedings to suspend or debar a Person from doing business with the City. The City Manager shall have the authority to order suspension or debarment as provided herein.
2. *Causes for Suspension or Debarment.* The causes for suspension or debarment include:

- a. Conviction for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtain or attempting to obtain a public or private contractor subcontract, or in performance of such contract or subcontract;
 - b. Conviction of state or federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty which currently, seriously and directly affects responsibility as a city contractor;
 - c. Conviction of state or federal antitrust statutes arising out of the solicitation and submission of bids or proposals;
 - d. Violation of contract provisions of a character which is regarded by the Purchasing Agent to be so serious as to justify suspension action, which includes but is not limited to the following:
 - i. Failure to perform in accordance with the specifications within a time limit provided in a city contract;
 - ii. A recent record of failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts, provided, that failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the Person shall not be considered to be a basis for suspension; or
 - iii. Falsification of any documents.
 - e. Commission or solicitation of any act that would constitute a violation of the ethical standards set forth in this Purchasing Policy and the City's Code of Ethics.
 - f. Any other cause that is serious and compelling as to affect the Person's responsibility as a city vendor, including debarment or suspension by another government entity.
3. *Initiation of Suspension or Debarment Action.* When the Purchasing Agent receives information from any source concerning a cause for suspension or debarment, he or she will promptly investigate the matter. If the Purchasing Agent finds cause that suspension or debarment is warranted, the Purchasing Agent shall prepare a written determination detailing the grounds for and length of the proposed suspension or debarment. Written notice of a proposed suspension or debarment action shall be sent by registered mail to the Person subject to the action, and shall also be sent to the City Manager and City Attorney.
4. *Review of Proposed Suspension or Debarment.* Within fifteen (15) days of receiving said notice, the Person subject to the action shall submit any and all responsive records or documents in defense of the proposed suspension or debarment to the City Manager. Failure to submit a timely written response shall result in a waiver of review.

5. *Final Decision.* After consultation with the City Attorney, the City Manager shall issue a final decision, which shall adopt, amend, or reject the proposed suspension or debarment. When suspension or debarment is ordered, the length of the suspension or debarment, the reasons for such action and to what extent affiliates are affected shall be set forth in writing and sent by registered mail to the Person subject to the action.
6. *Effect of Suspension or Debarment.* A suspension or debarment decision shall take effect upon issuance and mailing of written notice of such decision to the Person subject to the action. After the suspension or debarment takes effect, the Person shall remain suspended or debarred until the period specified in the decision expires.
7. *Duration of Suspension/Debarment.* Suspensions shall be for a period not to exceed 120 days. Debarment shall be for a period not to exceed three years, unless cause is based on a felony conviction for an offense related or associated with fraudulent contracting or misappropriation of funds. In such event, the debarment shall be for a period not to exceed seven years.
8. *List of Suspended/Debarred Persons.* The Purchasing Agent shall create and maintain a list of all suspended and debarred Persons. All departments shall be routinely supplied with said list.

SECTION XI – PROPERTY DISPOSAL

A. Compliance with Applicable Regulations

The disposal of municipal property shall conform to applicable federal, state (*e.g.* O.C.G.A § 36-37-6) and local laws and regulations and shall be subject to the provisions of the City Code of Ethics.

B. Excess, Surplus, and Obsolete Materials

It shall be the duty of the User to report all excess, surplus or obsolete materials to the Purchasing Agent. At this point, the Purchasing Agent will examine alternatives as to the most advantageous disposition of the items. Items could be refurbished or reconditioned, transferred, traded in on new equipment or sold by auction or sealed bid, or destroyed. For property over \$5,000 in aggregate or \$1,000 individually, the City Council shall approve the request to have the property declared surplus. For other property, the Purchasing Agent shall present a list to the City Manager for approval.

1. *Transfer or Re-use.* The most gainful method for handling an item no longer needed by a department is to transfer it to another department that has a use for the item.
2. *Trade-In.* In replacing obsolete equipment, it may be financially advantageous to trade-in the old equipment. The invitation for bids on the replacement item should call for bid prices with or without trade-in and provide that award may be made either way.

3. *Sale.* Excess, surplus and obsolete items not transferred or traded-in may be consolidated and offered for sale to the highest responsible bidder either by auction or by sealed bid method. Auctions can be traditional or contemporary including online auctions such as www.Govdeals.com or similar websites. The consolidated list will be submitted to City Council for approval before an auction or sealed bid is organized. The property offered for sale will be on an “AS IS/WHERE IS” basis. Sealed bids will be opened at the time and place announced with the City, retaining the right to reject any and all. A tabulation of all bids received shall be available for public inspection following the opening of all bids. Said bids shall be retained and kept available for public inspection for a period not less than sixty (60) days from the date the bids were opened.

4. *Public Notice of Sale:* For the sale of personal property with an estimated value exceeding \$500.00, the City shall cause legal notice to be published in the official legal organ or newspaper of general circulation not less than fifteen (15) but no more than sixty (60) days preceding the day of the auction or the last day for the receipt of bids/proposals. The notice shall include a general description of the property to be sold.
 - a. The notice for sale by auction shall also contain the conditions of the proposed sale and shall state the date, time, and place of the proposed sale.
 - b. The notice for sale by sealed bids shall also contain an invitation for proposals and shall state the conditions of the proposed sale, the address at which bid blanks and other written materials connected with the proposed sale may be obtained, and the date, time, and place for the opening of bids.

C. Sale to Employees

To avoid any appearance of impropriety in the disposition program, it is the City’s policy to prohibit the direct sale of surplus property to any City Employee, Official or Agent. This policy does not prohibit any City Employee, Official or Agent from extending an offer at a public auction or in the form of a sealed bid.

D. Allocation of Proceeds

Proceeds from the sale of excess or surplus property will go into the City’s Fund that held the asset.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:

PROJECTS USING FAHP FUNDING

In accordance with the requirements of the Brooks Act, (40 U.S.C. § 1101 *et seq.*), the following competitive negotiation procedures shall apply to City procurements for architectural, engineering, and related design services when Federal Aid Highway Program (FAHP) funds are involved in the project:

A. Solicitation.

The solicitation process shall be by public announcement, public advertisement, or any other public forum or method that assures qualified in-State and out-of-State consultants are given a fair opportunity to be considered for award of the contract. Procurement procedures may involve a single step process with issuance of a request for proposal (RFP) to all interested consultants or a multiphase process with issuance of a request for statements or letters of interest or qualifications (RFQ) whereby responding consultants are ranked based on qualifications and request for proposals are then provided to three or more of the most highly qualified consultants. Minimum qualifications of consultants to perform services under general work categories or areas of expertise may also be assessed through a prequalification process whereby statements of qualifications are submitted on an annual basis. Regardless of any process utilized for prequalification of consultants or for an initial assessment of a consultant's qualifications under an RFQ, a RFP specific to the project, task, or service is required for evaluation of a consultant's specific technical approach and qualifications.

B. Request for Proposal (RFP).

The RFP shall provide all information and requirements necessary for interested consultants to provide a response to the RFP and compete for the solicited services. The RFP shall:

1. Provide a clear, accurate, and detailed description of the scope of work, technical requirements, and qualifications of consultants necessary for the services to be rendered. The scope of work should detail the purpose and description of the project, services to be performed, deliverables to be provided, estimated schedule for performance of the work, and applicable standards, specifications, and policies;
2. Identify the requirements for any discussions that may be conducted with three (3) or more of the most highly qualified consultants following submission and evaluation of proposals;
3. Identify evaluation factors including their relative weight of importance in accordance with Sections C and D;
4. Specify the contract type and method(s) of payment to be utilized;
5. Identify any special provisions or contract requirements associated with the solicited services;

6. Require that submission of any requested cost proposals or elements of cost be in a concealed format and separate from technical/qualifications proposals as these shall not be considered in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase; and
7. Provide a schedule of key dates for the procurement process and establish a submittal deadline for responses to the RFP which provides sufficient time for interested consultants to receive notice, prepare, and submit a proposal, which except in unusual circumstances shall be not less than 14 days from the date of issuance of the RFP.

C. Evaluation Factors.

Criteria used for evaluation, ranking, and selection of consultants to perform engineering and design related services must assess the demonstrated competence and qualifications for the type of professional services solicited. These qualifications-based factors may include, but are not limited to, technical approach (e.g., project understanding, innovative concepts or alternatives, quality control procedures), work experience, specialized expertise, professional licensure, staff capabilities, workload capacity, and past performance.

Price shall not be used as a factor in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase. All price or cost related items which include, but are not limited to, cost proposals, direct salaries/wage rates, indirect cost rates, and other direct costs are prohibited from being used as evaluation criteria.

In-State or local preference shall not be used as a factor in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase. State licensing laws are not preempted by this provision and professional licensure within a jurisdiction may be established as a requirement which attests to the minimum qualifications and competence of a consultant to perform the solicited services.

The following non-qualifications-based evaluation criteria are permitted under the specified conditions and provided the combined total of these criteria do not exceed a nominal value of ten percent of the total evaluation criteria to maintain the integrity of a qualifications-based selection:

1. A local presence may be used as a nominal evaluation factor where appropriate. This criterion shall not be based on political or jurisdictional boundaries and may be applied on a project-by-project basis for contracts where a need has been established for a consultant to provide a local presence, a local presence will add value to the quality and efficiency of the project, and application of this criteria leaves an appropriate number of qualified consultants, given the nature and size of the project. If a consultant outside of the locality area indicates as part of a proposal that it will satisfy the criteria in some manner, such as establishing a local project office, that commitment shall be considered to have satisfied the local presence criteria.
2. The participation of qualified and certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) sub-consultants may be used as a nominal evaluation criterion where appropriate in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.

D. Evaluation, Ranking, and Selection.

1. Consultant proposals shall be evaluated by the City based on the criteria established and published within the public solicitation.
2. While the contract will be with the prime consultant, proposal evaluations shall consider the qualifications of the prime consultant and any sub-consultants identified within the proposal with respect to the scope of work and established criteria.
3. Following submission and evaluation of proposals, the City shall conduct interviews or other types of discussions to determine three of the most highly qualified consultants to clarify the technical approach, qualifications, and capabilities provided in response to the RFP. Discussions may be written, by telephone, video conference, or by oral presentation/interview. Discussions following proposal submission are not required provided proposals contain sufficient information for evaluation of technical approach and qualifications to perform the specific project, task, or service with respect to established criteria.
4. From the proposal evaluation and any subsequent discussions which have been conducted, the City shall rank, in order of preference, at least three consultants determined most highly qualified to perform the solicited services based on the established and published criteria.
5. Notification must be provided to responding consultants of the final ranking of the three most highly qualified consultants.
6. The City shall retain acceptable documentation of the solicitation, proposal, evaluation, and selection of the consultant in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 18.42.

E. Negotiation.

1. Independent estimate. Prior to receipt or review of the most highly qualified consultant's cost proposal, the City shall prepare a detailed independent estimate with an appropriate breakdown of the work or labor hours, types or classifications of labor required, other direct costs, and consultant's fixed fee for the defined scope of work. The independent estimate shall serve as the basis for negotiation and ensuring the consultant services are obtained at a fair and reasonable cost.
2. If concealed cost proposals were submitted in conjunction with technical/qualifications proposals, only the cost proposal of the consultant with which negotiations are initiated may be considered. Concealed cost proposals of consultants with which negotiations are not initiated should be returned to the respective consultant due to the confidential nature of this data (as specified in 23 U.S.C. 112(b)(2)(E)).

3. The City shall retain documentation of negotiation activities and resources used in the analysis of costs to establish elements of the contract in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 18.42.

F. Small Purchases.

The small purchase method involves procurement of engineering and design related services where an adequate number of qualified sources are reviewed, and the total contract costs do not exceed an established simplified acquisition threshold. The City may use the State's small purchase procedures which reflect applicable State laws and regulations for the procurement of engineering and design related services provided the total contract costs do not exceed the Federal simplified acquisition threshold (as specified in 48 CFR 2.101). When a lower threshold for use of small purchase procedures is established in State law, regulation, or policy, the lower threshold shall apply to the use of FAHP funds as allowed by Federal law. The following additional requirements shall apply to the small purchase procurement method:

1. The scope of work, project phases, and contract requirements shall not be broken down into smaller components merely to permit the use of small purchase procedures.
2. A minimum of three consultants are required to satisfy the adequate number of qualified sources reviewed.
3. Contract costs may be negotiated in accordance with State small purchase procedures; however, the allow ability of costs shall be determined in accordance with the Federal cost principles.
4. The full amount of any contract modification or amendment that would cause the total contract amount to exceed the established simplified acquisition threshold would be ineligible for Federal-aid funding. The FHWA may withdraw all Federal aid from a contract if it is modified or amended above the applicable established simplified acquisition threshold.

G. Noncompetitive.

The noncompetitive method involves procurement of engineering and design related services when it is not feasible to award the contract using competitive negotiation or small purchase procurement methods. The following requirements shall apply to the noncompetitive procurement method:

1. The City may use their own noncompetitive procedures which reflect applicable State and local laws and regulations and conform to applicable Federal requirements.
2. The City shall establish a process to determine when noncompetitive procedures will be used and shall submit justification to, and receive approval from, the FHWA before using this form of contracting.
3. Circumstances under which a contract may be awarded by noncompetitive procedures are limited to the following:

- i. The service is available only from a single source;
 - ii. There is an emergency which will not permit the time necessary to conduct competitive negotiations; or
 - iii. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined to be inadequate.
4. Contract costs may be negotiated in accordance with the City noncompetitive procedures; however, the allow ability of costs shall be determined in accordance with the Federal cost principles.

H. Additional Procurement Requirements.

1. Common Grant Rule.

- i. The City must comply with procurement requirements established in State and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures which are not addressed by or in conflict with applicable Federal laws and regulations (as specified in 49 CFR 18.36).
- ii. When State and local procurement laws, regulations, policies, or procedures are in conflict with applicable Federal laws and regulations, the City must comply with Federal requirements to be eligible for Federal-aid reimbursement of the associated costs of the services incurred following FHWA authorization (as specified in 49 CFR 18.4).

2. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

- i. The City shall give consideration to DBE consultants in the procurement of engineering and design related service contracts subject to 23 U.S.C. 112(b)(2) in accordance with 49 CFR part 26. When DBE program participation goals cannot be met through race-neutral measures, additional DBE participation on engineering and design related services contracts may be achieved in accordance with the City's FHWA approved DBE program through either:
 - a. Use of an evaluation criterion in the qualifications-based selection of consultants; or
 - b. Establishment of a contract participation goal.
- ii. The use of quotas or exclusive set-asides for DBE consultants is prohibited (as specified in 49 CFR 26.43).

- ##### 3. Suspension and Debarment. The City must verify suspension and debarment actions and eligibility status of consultants and sub-consultants prior to entering into an agreement or contract in accordance with 49 CFR 18.35 and 2 CFR part 180.



APPENDIX C: SAMPLE CITY EMPLOYEE/
OFFICIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION FORM

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
City Employee/Official

Name (of person making the Declaration):

Position / title:

Organization:

Procurement Project:

Confidentiality

I understand that the procurement project's information, discussions, meetings, correspondence and material are confidential, and I agree to keep this information safe and not supply this information to, or discuss this information with, anyone outside the Evaluation Committee.

No contact with bidders/proposers

I agree that I will have no contact with any bidder/proposer during the procurement. I will not:

- a. pass information or make comments to them about the procurement
- b. receive any gift, gratuity, hospitality or any inducement from them
- c. be in contact with, or meet them, or have any discussion about the procurement with them. I will immediately pass any requests for information or meetings that I receive from any bidder/proposer to the Evaluation Committee Chair.

Declaration

I understand my role as a City Employee or Official, and I make this declaration in good faith. *Select one of the following two options:*

NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I have no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest in relation to this procurement process and my role as an employee and I undertake to carry out my duties with the highest degree of objectivity and integrity.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I have a conflict of interest.

1. Select the type of conflict of interest:

Actual: This is an existing conflict of interest, for example: you have a close relative who is a director of one of the firms that has submitted a bid/proposal.

Potential: This is a conflict of interest that is about to happen or could happen, for example: you or a close relative is in the process of being hired by, or acquiring part or full ownership of a firm that has submitted a bid/proposal.

Perceived: This is a conflict of interest which might be reasonably perceived by others as compromising a person's objectivity, for example: you have a close personal friendship with a director of one of the firms that has submitted a bid/proposal.

2. Describe the circumstances giving rise to the conflict of interest:

Signature:

Date:



CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
Evaluation Committee

Name (of person making the Declaration):

Position / title:

Organization:

Procurement Project:

Confidentiality

I understand that the procurement project's information, discussions, meetings, correspondence and material are confidential, and I agree to keep this information safe and not supply this information to, or discuss this information with, anyone outside the Evaluation Committee.

No contact with bidders/proposers

I agree that I will have no contact with any bidder/proposer during the procurement. I will not:

- a. pass information or make comments to them about the procurement
- b. receive any gift, gratuity, hospitality or any inducement from them
- c. be in contact with, or meet them, or have any discussion about the procurement with them. I will immediately pass any requests for information or meetings that I receive from any bidder/proposer to the Evaluation Committee Chair.

Declaration

I understand my role as a member of this procurement Evaluation Committee, and I make this declaration in good faith. *Select one of the following two options:*

NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I have no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest in relation to this procurement process and my role as a member of the Evaluation Committee and I undertake to carry out my duties with the highest degree of objectivity and integrity.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I have a conflict of interest.

1. Select the type of conflict of interest:

Actual: This is an existing conflict of interest, for example: you have a close relative who is a director of one of the firms that has submitted a bid/proposal.

Potential: This is a conflict of interest that is about to happen or could happen, for example: you or a close relative is in the process of being hired by, or acquiring part or full ownership of a firm that has submitted a bid/proposal.

Perceived: This is a conflict of interest which might be reasonably perceived by others as compromising a person's objectivity, for example: you have a close personal friendship with a director of one of the firms that has submitted a bid/proposal.

2. Describe the circumstances giving rise to the conflict of interest:

Signature:

Date:

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Objectives

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts in the Department's highway, transit, and airport financial assistance programs;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the Department's DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet this part's eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
6. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities conducted by recipients.
7. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program; and
8. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Establishing Contract Goals

The following factors to consider in setting contract goals include:

- a. Location
- b. Type of Work
- c. Availability of DBEs

Establishing Overall Goals

The overall goal must be based on demonstrable evidence of the availability of ready, willing, and able DBEs relative to all businesses ready, willing, and able to participate on the DOT-assisted contracts (hereafter, the "relative availability of DBEs"). The goal must reflect determination of the level of DBE participation you would expect absent the effects of discrimination.

1. Determine a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs.
2. Once a base figure has been calculate, examine all of the evidence available in the jurisdiction to determine what adjustment, if any, is needed to the base figure to arrive at the overall goal. If the evidence does not suggest an adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.
3. For FHWA recipients, the overall goal should be expressed as a percentage of all Federal-aid highway funds you will expend in FHWA-assisted contracts in the forthcoming three fiscal years.

Example of a DBE Goal:

For Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2020, the Company established a DBE program goal of 25%; 21% race conscious; and 4% race neutral. The Company intends to award at least 25% of its total DOT-assisted contracts with qualified DBE firms through race conscious and race neutral means.

Proposed FFY 2021-2023, the Company in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26, hereby announces its Federal Fiscal Year 2021-2023 goal of 23% for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation on contracts assisted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Company DBE goal is based on demonstrable evidence of the availability of ready, willing and able DBEs relative to all businesses that are ready, willing and able to participate on FTA-assisted contracts. The DBE goal reflects the level of DBE participation that would be expected on transit contracts absent of the effects of discrimination.

Another example of a DBE Goal: A \$2 million contract to widen a one-mile stretch of city street. The LPA procurement team identifies several subcontracting possibilities—including striping, trucking, and traffic control—totaling \$220,000, or 11 percent of the contract value. The team searches the State DOT’s database of certified firms and identifies several DBE firms that are certified to perform these work items. The LPA also considers the location of the project and the availability of DBE firms to do the work which may increase or decrease the 11 percent. Based upon this analysis, the LPA believes that a contract goal of 9.5 percent is appropriate.

Establishment of Contract Goals					
Subcontracting		Allocated Costs		Percentage	
Striping		\$20,000		1%	
Trucking		\$80,000		4%	
Traffic Control		\$20,000		1%	
Other Work Types		\$100,000		5%	
Total		\$220,000		11%	
Adjustment				-1.5%	