

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

OCTOBER 9, 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a fair and open process, sealed submissions will be received and reviewed by the County of Lackawanna (the "County") Board of Commissioners ("Board") for the performance of the Lackawanna County 2020 Audit.

Respondents must submit their written proposal by **1:00PM** prevailing time on **Friday, November 6, 2020**.

Submissions received will be reviewed and evaluated by the Board, based upon such criteria as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. The Board reserves the right to request clarification or additional information from any respondent. The Board, in its sole discretion, may accept the proposal of a respondent, may choose a respondent with which the Board will enter into negotiations, or may reject all proposals.

The Board reserves the opportunity to modify this Request for Qualifications at its own discretion and without prior notice, and to waive any immaterial defect or informality in any proposal as may be permitted by law.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Request for Qualifications is to solicit submissions from qualified firms and/or individuals to provide professional services on behalf of the County in connection with a financial audit as well as an Audit as required by OMB Circular A-133 related to Federal Funds awarded to the County.

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

1. Four (4) copies of the proposal must be provided. Qualifications must be submitted to the Board, c/o Brian Jeffers, Chief of Staff, 123 Wyoming Avenue, Sixth Floor, Scranton, PA 18503. Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the name of the firm submitting the proposal clearly marked on the outside of the envelope. The County assumes no responsibility for delays in any form of carrier, mail, or delivery service causing the submission to be received after the above-referenced due date and time. Submissions by fax, telephone, or e-mail is not permitted. The Final selection will be made in the sole discretion of the Board.

2. All questions regarding this Request for Qualifications should be made in writing to the Board of Commissioners, c/o Brian Jeffers, Chief of Staff, 123 Wyoming Avenue. Sixth Floor, Scranton, PA 18503.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL:

The Board will independently evaluate each submission and selection will be made upon the following criteria:

1. Experience and reputation in the accounting and auditing field.
2. Experience and reputation with respect to governmental entities.
3. Knowledge of the subject matter of the services to be provided to the County.
4. Ability to meet timelines and schedules for completion on an expedited basis as set forth by the Board.
5. Availability to accommodate any required meetings of the Board.
6. Maintenance of an office in Lackawanna County.
7. Other factors determined to be in the best interest of the County, in the Board's sole discretion.

PROPOSAL:

Each proposal must be in sufficient detail to permit evaluation, at a minimum, with respect to the following issues. Proposals must include the information that is specifically requested herein as well as such additional information as a respondent deems relevant to the process. Each respondent agrees that the proposal submitted constitutes a firm offer to the County that cannot be withdrawn for ninety (90) days from the proposal due date.

1. **Scope of Services/Prior Experience** – All submittals must detail the services proposed to be provided and the firm's experience in providing such services. The respondent must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in performing audits of governmental entities with an emphasis on audits completed in the past five (5) years.
2. **Personnel** – All proposals submitted to the County must include the following:
 - a. Name, address, and a brief description of your firm.
 - b. The names, experience, and qualifications of the individual(s) who would be primarily responsible for performing services on behalf of the County; including applicable licenses held by the individual primarily responsible for providing the required services.
 - c. A statement of assurance that your firm is not currently in violation of any regulatory rules and regulations that may have any impact on your firm's operations.
 - d. A statement that your firm is not involved in any current litigation with the County.

3. **Conflict of Interest** – All submittals must state that there are no conflicts of interest to which the firm would be subject if it were to provide the requested services on behalf of the County.
4. **Communication with elected or appointed officials** – All communications during the process should be directed to the appropriate contact listed in this Request for Qualifications. Any firm that makes any effort to communicate with any other official of Lackawanna County, either directly or indirectly, during this process, will be **EXCLUDED** from consideration.
5. **Potential Additional Services** – The County is requesting, by virtue of this Request for Qualifications, consideration be given by the respondents of the potential for the successful respondent to perform audits of a variety of Component Units of the County.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

This Request for Qualifications, and all proposals received in response, will remain confidential (with the exception of information that was previously public information), and will not be used for any purpose other than evaluation of the proposals received by the Board. Each respondent, by responding to this request, acknowledges the terms expressed above and agrees to safeguard the details of this process and the contents of this document. If your organization does not agree to these conditions concerning confidentiality, or if you elect not to respond to this Request for Qualifications, please return this Request to the Board and retain no copies thereof.