

**PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF STRATFORD
INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BID**

BID PROPOSALS

Bid proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope and clearly marked on the outside “BID #2023-04” including all outer packaging such as DHL, FedEx, UPS, etc. All prices and notations must be printed in ink or typewritten. No erasures are permitted. Bid proposals are to be in the office of the Purchasing Department, Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Room 104, Stratford, Connecticut, prior to date and time specified, at which time they will be publicly opened.

RIGHT TO ACCEPT / REJECT

AFTER REVIEW OF ALL FACTORS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PRICE, THE TOWN OF STRATFORD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR ANY PART THEREOF, OR WAIVE DEFECTS IN SAME, OR ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL DEEMED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD.

POWER OF REJECTION

The Mayor shall have the power to reject all bids and to advertise again.

QUESTIONS

Questions concerning conditions, bidding guidelines and specifications should only be directed in writing to:

Mr. Phillip Ryan, Purchasing Agent: PRyan@townofstratford.com

Inquiries must reference date of bid opening, requisition or contract number, and must be received no later than as indicated in the bid documents prior to date of bid opening. Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the bidder waiving the right to dispute the bid specifications and conditions.

BID BOND

The BID BOND furnished, as bid security, must be duly executed by the bidder as principal. It must be in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total estimated bid, as guarantee that, in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, the bidder will, within ten days thereafter, execute such contract and furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond.

Small businesses may elect to obtain an irrevocable letter of credit or cashier’s check in lieu of the Bid Bond. Such surety must also be in an amount equal to at least five percent (5%) of the total estimated bid.

All bid bonds shall be written by a surety company or companies licensed in the State of Connecticut, and shall have at least an A-VII policy holders rating, as reported by A.M. Best Rating Services, or otherwise deemed acceptable by the Town. The Town always reserves the right to reject surety companies, if an approved surety bond cannot be provided, the bidder shall be deemed non-responsive.

A complete list of certified surety companies can be accessed on the U.S. Government Department of Treasury website: https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/ref/suretyBnd/c570_a-z.htm

NOTE: Failure to provide a Bid Bond or equivalent security is not cause for a waiver defect. Any bid not accompanied by such security will be excluded from consideration.

PRICES

Prices quoted must be firm, for acceptance by the Town of Stratford, for a period of ninety (90) days. Prices shall include all applicable duties. Bidders shall be required to deliver awarded items at prices quoted in their original bid.

F.O.B. DESTINATION

Prices quoted shall be net, delivered to destination. Bids quoting other than F.O.B. Destination may be rejected.

PERFORMANCE AND LABOR AND MATERIAL BOND

The successful bidder, within seven (7) business days after notification of award, will be required to furnish Performance and Labor and Material Bond provided by a company authorized to issue such bonds in the State of Connecticut, or Certified Check or properly executed Irrevocable Letter of Credit equal to a hundred per cent (100%) of the award.

In the event that the Contractor where required to provide evidence of insurance and a performance bond does not do so before beginning work, the Town of Stratford reserves the right to withhold payment from such supplier until the evidence of insurance and performance bond has been received by the Town.

All payment and performance bonds shall be written by a surety company or companies licensed to issue bonds in the State of Connecticut, and shall have at least an A-VIII policy holders rating, as reported by A.M. Best Rating Services, or otherwise deemed acceptable by the Town. The Town always reserves the right to reject surety companies, if approved surety bonds cannot be provided the contract shall be terminated.

A complete list of certified surety companies can be accessed on the U.S. Government Department of Treasury website: https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/ref/suretyBnd/c570_a-z.htm

BOND REQUIREMENT – NON-RESIDENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

Overview: The law requiring nonresident construction contractors to furnish security for Connecticut taxes arising from jobs performed in Connecticut has been changed in the following major ways:

- Under the law as amended, there are two classes of nonresident contractors: verified and unverified. A nonresident prime or general contractor may gain verified status and thus eliminate the requirement to file a surety bond with the Department of Revenue Services (DRS), and a nonresident subcontractor may become verified and thus eliminate the requirement for the prime or general contractor to hold back a portion of the amount owed the subcontractor under the contract.
- Under the law as amended, a single surety bond for 5% of the entire project price is required to be filed with DRS by an unverified prime or general contractor where the contract price for the entire project is \$250,000.00 or more. A person doing business with an unverified prime or general contractor for such a project must obtain proof that such contractor has filed a bond with DRS, but is no longer required to withhold an amount from payment due such contractor under the contract.
- A prime or general contractor must hold back 5% of the amount due an unverified subcontractor until the subcontractor obtains and furnishes AU-968, *Certificate of Compliance*, from DRS. An AU-968 authorizes the prime or general contractor to release all or a portion of the amounts held back from payment to the unverified subcontractor.

Prior law required compliance with one of three options to secure payment of Connecticut taxes for each contract with a nonresident prime or general contractor and with a nonresident subcontractor: (i) a nonresident contractor could furnish DRS a guarantee bond for 5% of the total contract price; or (ii) a nonresident contractor could furnish DRS a cash bond for 5% of the total contract price; or (iii) persons doing business with nonresident contractors would be required to withhold 5% of the total contract price and deposit it with DRS. This law meant that compliance with the law was required for each subcontract for a single project to real property in Connecticut. As under prior law, owners or tenants of residential real property are excluded from the requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-430(7).

More information may be obtained from: <https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Publications/Special-Notices/2011/SN-2011-17>

PERMITS

The contractor shall be responsible for securing all necessary permits, state and local, and as required by the Town of Stratford.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES

No voucher, claim or charge against the Town shall be paid without the approval of the Director of Finance for correctness and legality.

PAYMENT PERIOD

The Town of Stratford shall put forth its best effort to make payment within thirty days (30) after delivery of the item acceptance of the work, or receipt of a properly completed invoice, whichever is later. Payment period shall be net thirty days (30) unless otherwise specified. For projects that do not require a performance or bid bond, The Town of Stratford reserves the right to retain five percent (5%) of total bid amount, which is payable ninety (90) days after final payment or acceptance of the work.

THE CONTRACTOR

The Contractor for the work described shall be thoroughly familiar with the requirements of all specifications, and the actual physical conditions of various job sites. The submission of a proposal shall be construed as evidence that the Contractor has examined the actual job conditions, requirements, and specifications. Any claim for labor, equipment, or materials required, or difficulties encountered which could have been foreseen had such an examination been carefully made will not be recognized.

ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT

No contract may be assigned or transferred without the consent of the Town of Stratford.

AWARD OF BIDS

Contracts and purchases will be made or entered into with the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, except as otherwise specified in the invitation. If more than one item is specified in the invitation, the Town of Stratford reserves the right to determine the low bidder on an individual basis or on the basis of all items included in the Invitation for Bids, unless otherwise expressed by the Town.

BIDDING FOR PUBLIC WORK OR IMPROVEMENT

Any public work or improvement costing more than seven thousand five hundred (\$7,500.00) dollars shall be executed by contract except where specified work or improvement is authorized by the council based on detailed estimates submitted by the department authorized to execute such work or improvement.

All contracts for more than seven thousand five hundred (\$7,500.00) dollars shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, after public advertisement and competition, as may be prescribed by ordinance.

The Mayor shall establish reasonable regulations for pre-filing sub bids on construction contracts where it is anticipated that the contracting party shall subcontract all or a portion of the work to be done.

Any public work or improvement costing more than \$7,500 shall be executed by contract except where specified work or improvement is authorized by the Council based on detailed estimates submitted by the Department authorized to execute such work or improvement. All contracts under this section shall be awarded by the Town Council to the lowest responsible bidder, after public advertisement as specified above.

NONUSE OF WASTES

- A. All bids and contracts related to the retention of services to construct or maintain any publicly owned and/or maintained road or real property within the Town of Stratford shall include a provision stating that no materials containing natural gas or oil waste shall be utilized in providing such a service.
- B. All bids and contracts related to the purchase or acquisition of materials to be used to construct or maintain any publicly owned and/or maintained road or real property within the Town of Stratford shall include a provision stating that no materials containing natural gas or oil waste shall be provided to the Town of Stratford.
- C. The following statement, which shall be a sworn statement under penalty of perjury, shall be included in all bids related to the purchase or acquisition of materials to be used to construct or maintain any publicly owned and/or maintained road or real property within the Town of Stratford and all bids related to the retention of services to construct or maintain any publicly owned and/or maintained road or real property within the Town of Stratford:

"We ____ hereby submit a bid for materials, equipment and/or labor for the Town of Stratford. The bid is for bid documents titled _____. We hereby certify under penalty of perjury that no natural gas waste or oil waste will be used by the undersigned bidder or any contractor, subcontractor, agent or vendor agent in connection with the bid; nor will the undersigned bidder or any subcontractor, agent or vendor agent thereof apply any natural gas waste or oil waste to any road or real property within the Town of Stratford as a result of the submittal of this bid if selected."

CHANGE ORDERS

Approval Required: Except as specified herein, when any public work or improvement has been executed by contract, no changes in the terms, conditions or scope of said contract nor deviations from the specifications made a part of that contract which would result in any way in an increase in the cost of that contract to the Town shall be allowed except by the approval of the Council.

Review: Any request for change orders shall first be considered by an appropriate committee appointed and then referred to the Council for appropriate action.

Mayor's Approval: Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, the Mayor, acting upon the advice of the Town Engineer, shall have the authority to approve any such changes or deviations without the approval of the Council, provided that the cost of any such changes or deviations does not exceed the sum of \$5,000.00 and further provided that, in the opinion of the Mayor, due to extraordinary conditions, unforeseen contingencies, market conditions or the nature of the requested change, it would not be feasible or in the best interest of the Town to delay approval of the requested change.

GUARANTEE

Equipment, materials and/or work executed shall be guaranteed for a minimum period of one (1) year against defective material and workmanship. The cost of all labor, materials, shipping charges and other expenses in conjunction with the replacement of defective equipment, and/or unsatisfactory work, shall be borne by the Contractor.

CATALOGUE REFERENCE

Unless expressly stated otherwise, any and all reference to commercial types, sales, trade names and catalogues are intended to be descriptive only and not restrictive; the intent is to indicate the kind and quality of the articles that will be acceptable. Bids on other equivalent makes, or with reference to other catalogue items will be considered. The bidder is to clearly state exactly what will be furnished. Where possible and feasible, submit an illustration, descriptive material, and/or product sample.

OSHA

The bidder will certify all equipment complies with all regulations and conditions stipulated under the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1971, as amended. The successful bidder will further certify that all items furnished under this project will conform and comply with Federal and State of Connecticut OSHA standards. The successful bidder will agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Stratford for any and all damages that may be assessed against the Town.

LIFE CYCLE COSTING

Where applicable, Life Cycle Costing will be used as a criterion for awarding bids. This is a method of calculating total cost of ownership of an item over the life of the product, which may include operation and maintenance expenses, transportation, salvage value, and/or disposal costs.

INSURANCE

The Contractor shall not commence any work under the Contract until all insurance required by this section has been obtained and Certificates of Insurance and any other evidence of required coverage requested by the Town, including a copy of the policy itself, have been received and approved by the Town.

Such policies shall stipulate that no coverage can be changed or canceled, including for non-payment of premium, unless the Town has had thirty (30) days prior notice in writing. Certificates of renewals or changes in policies shall be delivered to the Owner at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the policy.

All insurance issuers chosen by the Contractor must be licensed to do business in the State of Connecticut and rated A- or better by A.M. Best Rating Services.

The Town always reserves the right to reject insurance companies, if approved insurance policies cannot be provided the contract shall be terminated.

The insurance requirements set forth below are minimum limits of coverage only and in no way limit the Contractor's liability.

The following insurance is required to be maintained in full force until all work required by the contract has been fully completed, except that Products/Completed Operations coverage shall be maintained for five (5) years.

Worker's Compensation Insurance: The Contractor shall carry Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance in the form and in such amounts as may be currently required to comply with the Labor Laws of the State of Connecticut.

Automobile Insurance: The Contractor shall carry and maintain during the life of the Contract a policy with a combined single limit of \$1,000,000.00 and rider CA9948 or equivalent.

This policy shall include all liability of the Contractor arising from the operation of all self-owned motor vehicles used in the performance of the Contract; and shall also include a “non-Ownership” provision covering the operation of motor vehicles not owned by the Contractor, but used in the performance of the work.

Commercial General Liability:

- Bodily Injury and Property Damage: \$1,000,000.00 each occurrence / \$2,000,000.00 aggregate
- Products/Completed Operations: \$1,000,000.00 each occurrence / \$2,000,000.00 aggregate

This policy shall include Subcontractor's Liability coverage, protecting the Contractor and the Town against liability arising out of the activities of Subcontractors engaged by him/her in the performance of the work.

Umbrella Policy: An umbrella policy in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 covering general liability, auto liability, and employer liability is required.

Pollution Liability Insurance: Where applicable, a policy in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 including coverage for transport and other offsite risks. Such policy must be provided to the Town for review and determination of acceptability before an award will be made.

Errors & Omissions Insurance: The successful Candidate will be required to furnish and maintain Architect's Errors and Omissions coverage, as well as Comprehensive General Liability coverage, at limits that will be satisfactory to the Town. A certificate of insurance must be provided and approved prior to the commencement of any work, and must indicate that the Town is named as additional insured for both lines of coverage. The insurance coverage must be provided by companies licensed in the State of Connecticut with an AM Best rating of A or better. Minimum coverage limit: \$5,000,000.00.

Garage Keepers / Shop Keepers Liability: The coverage should be primary and include physical damage coverage to the equipment while in the repair facility. Minimum coverage limit: \$2,000,000

Waiver of Subrogation: Waiver of subrogation is required on all policies.

Additional Insureds: The Town of Stratford, its officers, officials, employees, agents, boards, and commissions shall be named as Additional Insureds. The coverage shall be primary and non-contributory and contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the Town of Stratford. A waiver of subrogation applies under general liability, auto liability and workers compensation.

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Subcontractor's Insurance: Each Subcontractor engaged by the Contractor to perform any work under the Contract shall obtain all insurance required of the Contractor in the same amounts and subject to the same provisions specified above for the Contractor, including the Additional Insured requirement. Certificates of Insurance shall be submitted to the Contractor and the Town and approved by the Town, before commencing any work.

HOLD HARMLESS

Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Town of Stratford, its officers, employees, agents or volunteers, from and against any and all claims and demands of any nature for any loss, damage or injury which any person may suffer by reason of, or in any way arising out of, this Agreement, unless caused by the sole negligence of the Town.

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS

All applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over the locality of the project shall apply to the contract and are deemed to be included herein. If the total amount of the project, including any current or future change orders, exceeds \$100,000.00 all work is to be done in accordance with Connecticut Department of Labor (CT-DOL) rules and regulations. More information may be obtained from: www.ctdol.state.ct.us

The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, shall apply to contractors and subcontractors performing on federally funded or assisted contracts in excess of \$2,000.00 for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works. More information may be obtained from: <https://www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts/dbra.htm>

NOTE: The Town shall apply the most current wage decision applicable at the time of contract award.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer or employee or member of any elective or appointive board, commission, committee or council of the Town, whether temporary or permanent, shall have or acquire any financial interest gained from a successful bid, direct or indirect, in any project, matter, contract or business within his/her jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of the board, commission, committee or council of which he/she is a member. Nor shall the officer / employee / member have any financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract for materials or services to be furnished or used in connection with any project, matter or thing which comes under his/her jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of the board, commission, committee or council of which he/she is a member.

SCOPE OF WORK / SITE INSPECTIONS

The bidder declares that the scope of the work has been thoroughly reviewed and any questions resolved (see above for name and number of individual to contact for questions). If applicable, the bidder further declares that the site has been inspected as called for in the specifications (q.v.).

EXCEPTION TO SPECIFICATIONS

No protest regarding the validity or appropriateness of the specifications or of the Invitation for Bids will be considered, unless the protest is filed in writing with the Purchasing Agent prior to the closing date for the bids. All bid proposals rendered shall be considered meeting the attached specifications unless exceptions are noted on a separate page dated and signed by the bidder.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

It will be assumed that all terms and conditions and specifications will be complied with and will be considered as part of the Bid Proposal.

TAX EXEMPT

Federal Tax Exemption 06-6002103.

Exempt from State Sales Tax under State General Statutes Chapter 219-Section 12-412 Subsection A.

PREVAILING WAGES

The wages paid on an hourly basis to any person performing the work of any mechanic, laborer or worker on the work herein contracted to be done and the amount of payment or contribution paid or payable on behalf of each such person to any employee welfare fund, as defined in subsection (h) of this section, shall be at a rate equal to the rate customary or prevailing for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the town in which such public works project is being constructed. Any contractor who is not obligated by agreement to make payment or contribution on behalf of such persons to any such employee welfare fund shall pay to each mechanic, laborer or worker as part of such person's wages the amount of payment or contribution for such person's classification on each pay day.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (CHRO)

All bidders must complete, sign, and return the "CHRO Contract Compliance Regulations Notification to Bidders" form to the Town at the time of bid opening. Bids not including this form will be considered incomplete and rejected. This form is attached, and can also be found at <http://www.ct.gov/chro/lib/chro/pdf/notificationtobidders.pdf>

The Contractor shall set a goal of twenty-five per cent (25%) of the state-funded portion of the contract for award to eligible subcontractors holding current small business enterprise (SBE) certification from the DAS under the provisions of C.G.S. 4a-60g. Of the portion of contracts set aside for SBE's, a goal of twenty-five percent (25%) (or 6.25% of the value of the entire contract funded by the state) must be set aside for awards to eligible contractors holding current minority business enterprise certification (i.e.: DAS certified Minority ("MBE"), Women ("WBE") and/or Disabled ("DisBE") owned businesses). The contractor, general contractor, construction manager at risk must make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on such projects.

The contractor shall file within 30 days following the intent to award notice, an Affirmative Action Plan or Set Aside plan. This plan must be approved by the CHRO prior to the award of the construction contract.

DAS PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

- A. Municipal contracts for the construction or renovation of a public works project, where the estimated value is \$500,000.00 or greater, will need to comply with C.G.S. Sec. 4b-91. In such cases the contractors must be pre-qualified by the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS). When applicable, this requirement will need to be included in the Invitation to Bid as a prerequisite for selecting the Lowest Responsible and Qualified Bidder.

- B. "Prequalification" means prequalification issued by DAS to bid on a contract or perform work pursuant to a contract for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling, repair or demolition of any public building or any other public work by the state or a municipality.

- C. It is permissible to use AIA form A305, Contractor's Qualification
 - i. Statement, as a prerequisite to bidding, provided prequalification.
 - ii. Does not prevent minority/women owned firms from bidding.
 - iii. Consult your architect.