

# POLK COUNTY

## Procurement Policies and Procedures for Federal Grant Contracts

### Policies

1. Those closely involved in the establishment of the written selection criteria and selection shall have no potential conflicts of interest with any of the individuals, firms, or agencies under review (e.g., family relationships, close friendships, business dealings). Any person who might potentially receive benefits from grant-assisted activities may not participate in the decision-making process. Nepotism and conflict of interest regulations can be found in the Texas Government Code Chapter 573, Texas Local Government Code Chapter 171, and 2 CFR 200.318(c)(1).
2. All procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition.
  - a. No unreasonable requirements are placed on firms in order for them to qualify.
  - b. No unnecessary experience or excessive bonding required.
  - c. Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies is disallowed.
  - d. Noncompetitive contracts are disallowed except for when there is an approved exception
  - e. No organizational conflicts of interest
  - f. If a “brand name” product is specified, an equal or like product is acceptable.
  - g. A vendor that intends to respond to the Request for Proposals, Request for Qualifications and/or Invitation for Bid may not participate in the development or drafting of specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals, including, but not limited to, the development of the scoring criteria, the final selection of firms to be contacted, or the scoring of proposals.
3. All procurement transactions shall incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured.
4. All procurement transactions shall identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals
5. If Polk County uses a prequalified list when acquiring goods or services, Polk County will ensure the list is updated regularly, provides enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition.
6. All procurement transactions must conform to applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
7. Small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to participate. If the awarded vendor is a prime contractor and may use subcontractors, the following affirmative steps are required of the prime contractor:
  - a. Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
  - b. Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
  - c. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
  - d. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
  - e. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

### Procedures

#### Procurement Cycle Steps

**Need Defined**—Polk County user department submits request and specifications. Purchaser reviews request and specifications for unnecessary or duplicative items in accordance with 2 CFR 200.318 (d).

**Procurement Method Selected**—Based on type and estimated cost of good/service as well as purchasing authority, purchaser determines the procurement method that will result in a best value acquisition for Polk County.

**Contract Cost and Price** - A cost or price analysis must be conducted in connection with every procurement action more than the federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications (2 CFR 200.323).

The simplified acquisition threshold for federal procurement actions is currently set by the Federal Acquisition Regulation at 48 CFR Subpart 2.1 (Definitions) and in accordance with 41 U.S.C. 1908 as \$150,000, but this threshold is periodically adjusted for inflation. 2 C.F.R. §200.88

The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, an independent estimate must be made before receiving bids or proposals. 2 C.F.R. § 200.323(a).

Cost analysis is the evaluation of the separate elements (e.g., labor, materials, etc.) that make up a contractor's total cost proposal or price (for both new contracts and modifications) to determine if they are allowable, directly related to the requirement and ultimately, reasonable.

Price analysis is essentially price comparison. It is the evaluation of a proposed price (i.e., lump sum) without analyzing any of the separate cost elements of which it is composed.

**Solicitation**— Polk County creates the appropriate solicitation document, with terms and conditions and evaluation criteria clearly defined, and notifies vendor sources for an informal or formal bid process.

**Receipt of Bids and Responses to Solicitation**—Vendors submit their response to the solicitation.

**Evaluation and Awards**— Polk County reviews the responses from vendors, determines compliance with the solicitation and makes an award recommendation based on the pre-defined best value criteria.

**Negotiation of Profit** - Federal Guidelines require negotiations of profit as a separate element of the price for each contract and modification in which there is no price competition and, in all cases, where cost analysis must be performed. 2 C.F.R. § 200.323(b)

Polk County will use one of the following five methods of procurement described at 2 CFR Section 200.320: (1) procurement by micro-purchases, (2) procurement by small purchase procedures, (3) procurement by sealed bids, (4) procurement by competitive proposals, or (5) procurement by noncompetitive proposals.

#### **1. Simplified Acquisition Procedures for Purchases Below Micro-Purchase Threshold**

For purposes of this section, the micro-purchase threshold is \$3,000.

Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (§200.67 Micro-purchase). To the extent practicable, Polk County must distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the non-Federal entity considers the price to be reasonable.

## **2. Small Purchase**

Small purchase procedures are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, or other property that cost less than the lesser of the Federal Simplified Acquisition Threshold or the \$50,000 threshold defined in state law (Local Government Code §262.003 for counties and §252.021 for municipalities. If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.

For service contracts that are under the small purchase threshold and do not fall under professional services as defined in Section 2254.002(2) of Local Government Code, Polk County may receive quotes and award the contract to any reasonable and responsible bidder. The local governing body has the final authority to award contracts.

## **3. Construction and Materials Contracts**

In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions should be present:

- a. A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
- b. Two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
- c. The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

If sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

- a. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;
- b. The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;
- c. All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and for local and tribal governments, the bids must be opened publicly;
- d. A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of; and
- e. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

## **4. Professional Services Contracts**

This method is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

- a. Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;
- b. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources;
- c. Polk County must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients;
- d. Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered; and
- e. Polk County may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

**5. Noncompetitive Proposals**

This method may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- a. The item is available only from a single source;
- b. The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
- c. The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request; or
- d. After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

These Policies and Procedures are implemented through Polk County's administrative team of LIST TITLES ONLY HERE:

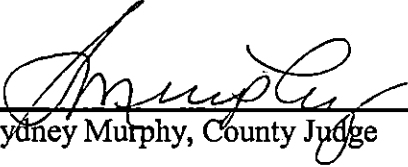
Jessica Hutchins

Louis Ploth

Terri Williams

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Stephanie Dale

  
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Sydney Murphy, County Judge

October 13, 2020  
Date