



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

March 25, 2009
Subject: **Vegetation Management & Arborist Services**
PINS: N/A
Location: Statewide by Region
Bid Amendment No. 1

Dear Sir/Ms.:

The following questions have been received:

Question: Please list the roads in Region 1 to be treated

Response: For the past 4 years region 1 has split the region in half using Route 25 as the dividing line and sprayed north of Route 25 one year and south of Route 25 the next. The northern half of the region was sprayed in 2008. We cannot state with certainty that only roads in the southern half will be sprayed in 2009. With limited budgets which roads will be treated will depend on the cost of the contract and other factors such as priority. The region may determine to go back to a region wide approach or stay in the southern half of the region in 2009. In either case the total length of assets will be determined by budget constraints.

There is no guarantee of work; however region 1 has sprayed a limited number of miles each year.

Question: What is the expected time frame of Region 1 vegetation control project?

Response: The roadside spray program will begin on Monday, July 6 in all regions. We do not begin the program before July 4th each year. The length of the season is determined by leaf color change in the fall. We typically try to finish before the end of September.

Question: Can a company just bid on the arborist services part of the contract?

Response: No. The contract combines arborist services and vegetation management services. A successful bid must include quotes for all the Items Listed in the Schedule of Items. Contracts will be awarded for each region based on the apparent low bid for each region. Contractors may bid on 1 region or any combination of regions. In accordance with



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section 104.5 Subcontracting of the Standard Specifications, Revision of December 2002, the contractor may subcontract a portion of services.

Question: The specifications mention that after (1) year, at mutual consent of the Contractor and Department, the contract may be renewed on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of 4 years. At the end of each year will the Contractor be allowed to renegotiate its price if it feels it needs to with the Department or is the renewal based only on the pricing of the first year?

Response: The contractor and the department must agree to continue the contract at the bid prices each year during the 4 year term of the contract. Bidders should take into consideration variability in cost for fuel, labor, and equipment. The department will consider changes to the scope of work that may affect the contract.

Question: Will this new contract replace the existing contract currently in place for statewide arborist work; if so, when does it become effective?

Response: This contract will not replace the current contract, but rather will provide an additional contract for the same services until the existing Tree Removal contract expires in December of 2009. The department continually evaluates how to provide for services.

Question: Under #27 of the General Notes it states “water for filling spray tanks may be available at camps...” If water is unavailable at a camp will the Department assist in finding a water source for the Contractor or will it be the responsibility of the Contractor to locate one?

Response: The department will provide a list of contacts (crew supervisors) in the region if requested. If a camp cannot supply water the crew supervisor may be helpful in knowing the crew area and where water may be obtained. It is the responsibility of the contractor to secure water during the day. The contractor must be aware of and obey regulations pertaining to drawing water from streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes. Regulations include prohibited bodies of water that contain aquatic invasive plants and setbacks from water when filling pesticide equipment or mixing pesticides.

Question: Do the roadside herbicide applications consist of a 2 man crew? (I assume it does from the bid sheet, but it doesn't specify it in the specs.)

Response: The Schedule of Items describes the Roadside Spray Application as a 3 man crew, spray truck, shadow vehicle. This is the only setup allowed for mechanized roadside brush spraying. The department will assign predetermined sections of roads called spray assets to be sprayed in this manner. Unless otherwise specified, both sides of the roads will be sprayed but not at the same time. Spraying is done selectively by a spray applicator from the vehicle, typically standing in the truck bed or trailer bed. We are only allowed by

regulation to spray hardwoods under 6 feet in height and softwoods under 3 feet in height. We require that an operator be spraying with a spray gun from the truck and will not permit remote application equipment or continuous spraying to take place. We may spray as little as 5 gallons per mile for example by targeting just the allowed brush in the right of way. The Roadside Spray Application should result in 90% control of the brush under the size limits. Some brush in a given spray asset will be within the buffers outlined in the Special Provision Specifications For Work of this contract. The contractor is responsible for treating this brush using hand pumped sprayers. The contractor must exercise caution when working within the buffers as described. Payment for Roadside Spray Application is by Center Line Mile as described.

The Schedule of Items describes Backpack Herbicide Application as a 2 man crew, truck, 2 backpack hand pumped sprayers. The department will pay by the hour for a 2 man crew to apply herbicide using hand pumped sprayers in areas other than spray assets such as vistas, slope easements, or the interstate.

Question: What type of powered spray application equipment is acceptable to use?

Response: The typical unit is a 300 gallon truck or trailer mounted hydraulic mechanically pressurized sprayer. The units may have piston or diaphragm pumps capable of delivering 5 to 10 gallons per minute. They may be jet or mechanical agitation suitable for applying herbicides. While most systems allow for operating pressures up to 300-400 psi we do not allow pressures above 125 psi to minimize drift. We do not limit the capacity of the tank or the size of the truck or trailer, but they must meet all applicable standards for road use and comply with the guidelines for traffic control in the contract. Contractors may want to consider having a water tank on the shadow vehicle as well.

Consider this information prior to submitting your bid on April 8, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bickford".

Scott Bickford
Contracts & Specifications Engineer