

SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
1701 Directors Boulevard, Suite 600
Austin, TX 78744
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a sole source firm-fixed-price purchase order to Griffith, Ballard & Company.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: This proposed action is to provide Franchise Office Region 5 with a renewal of the Griffith Actuarial Evaluation software. This software is currently installed on the Office of Information and Technology's International Business Machine (IBM) mainframe computers located in Philadelphia, PA and was customized specifically for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The Griffith Actuarial Evaluation software operates under the IBM 390 operating system and is an essential system software product that supports all online insurance processing applications. This software product provides VBA with the ability to process insurance entitlements and dividends nationwide for Veterans and their dependents. The software maintenance shall include software upgrades, software patches, and access to telephone and web support 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for the custom written insurance actuarial processing application programs. The proposed action is needed for continuity of software access because the current purchase order, VA118-11-P-0007, expires June 30, 2015. The period of performance for the proposed action will be 12 months from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. The total estimated price of this

4. Statutory Authority: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 13.106-1(b)(1)(i), which states, "Contracting officers may solicit from one source if the contracting officer determines the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available."

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is: Griffith, Ballard & Company
100 1st Ave NE Ste 117
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1109

This is a brand name justification in accordance with FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. Griffith, Ballard & Company is the sole provider of the Griffith Actuarial Evaluation software. VBA has used this customized software for many years supporting the online Insurance System applications. The majority of the insurance applications have been custom written to support the software code and routines these products use. Therefore, it would create a major rewrite of various in-house applications to process insurance entitlements and dividends using another vendor's product. By retaining Griffith, Ballard & Company's software, VA avoids the significant time and cost to have another vendor write custom software and migrate IBM's mainframes to the new software. A competitive action for new custom design software versus the renewal of

software maintenance would lead to additional costs for the purchase of new software, customization, additional training time, and associated maintenance costs. A savings would not be realized through competition for the new software and associated training and maintenance. Disruption in service would have an adverse effect on VBA's ability to process insurance entitlements and dividends nationwide for Veterans and their dependents.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: The Griffith, Ballard & Company is the only one responsible source for this item. Market research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. Griffith, Ballard & Company has successfully supported these products on the Philadelphia IBM platform, and there are no plans to replace the functionality of these software routines. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: The Government will continue to conduct market research to learn if there are changes in the marketplace that would enable future actions to be competed.

8. Market Research: In November 2014, VA contacted the current vendor, Griffith, Ballard & Company, to inquire about the availability of their product. The vendor advised it does not offer this software product through a third party and it is not available on General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedules (FSS) or National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWAC). In April 2015, the Contract Specialist used the NASA SEWP's Manufacturer Lookup tool to confirm the products do not exist on NASA SEWP GWAC IV. In May 2015, the Contract Specialist used the NASA SEWP's V Quick Request for Information tool to confirm the products do not exist on NASA SEWP GWAC V. Additionally, the Contract Specialist conducted a product and manufacturer search on GSA FSS, with no results.

9. Other Facts: None

Griffith Actuarial Evaluation Software Renewal

10. Technical and Requirements Certification: I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in this justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Michael Sweeney

Date: 5-19-2015

Information Technology Specialist

Signature: Stephen M. M. M.

11. Determination of Fair and Reasonable Price: I hereby determine that the anticipated price to the Government for this contract action will be fair and reasonable based on a review of past historical prices paid for the same software and comparing the proposal to the independent government cost estimate.

Mary C. Craig

Date: 5-19-2015

Contracting Officer

Signature: Mary C. Craig

12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification: I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mary C. Craig

Date: 5-19-2015

Contracting Officer

Signature: Mary C. Craig