

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Justification and Approval

For

#### Other Than Full and Open Competition (OTFOC) Ground Ambulance Services – VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Systems

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 4, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS), Contracting Office (90C-A), 1010 Delafield Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. Purchase request transaction number 646-12-1-101-0019 [Advanced Life Support Services (ALS), Basic Life Support Services (BLS), mileage, waiting time, oxygen, and morgue transport] and purchase request transaction number 646-12-1-101-0020 (24/7 on-site paramedic services) for Ground Ambulance Services for VAPHS.

2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:**

Justification for OTFOC applies to a short term one (1) month contract that will provide for continuation of critical ground ambulance services while a long term contract is being negotiated. The Government anticipates award of a new firm fixed price requirements contract to Transcare Pennsylvania, Inc., the incumbent Contractor.

3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**

This contract is for ground ambulance services with an estimated contract value is \$271,757.08, and the period of performance is November 1-30, 2011. The following are the line items and estimated quantities for this contract:

1. ALS Ambulance Services	114	Trips
2. BLS Ambulance Services	439	Trips
3. Mileage	3,328	Each
4. Oxygen	111	Each
5. Waiting Time (15 min)	17	Each
6. 24/7 on site paramedic Services at H. J. Heinz and Highland Drive Divisions	1	Month

The Contractor shall provide all vehicles, personnel, management, supplies, transportation, equipment and reports necessary to cover ground ambulance emergency transport service. The Contractor shall provide 24 hours per day/7 days per week ambulance coverage and emergency code response for both the VAPHS Highland Drive and H. J. Heinz Divisions with ambulance on site at both Divisions at all times. Each ambulance will be staffed by two (2) paramedics. The Contractor shall have a minimum of four (4) Advanced Life Support (ALS) and six (6) Basic Life Support (BLS) vehicles available at all times for services under this contract.

4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:** Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2.

5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):** VA Pittsburgh Healthcare is in the process of awarding a long-term contract for ground ambulance services under RFP #VA-244-11-RP-0049. This procurement was delayed due to staffing shortages in the VAPHS Contracting Office, however, proposals

have been received and are currently being evaluated. While the long-term contract is being competed, a short-term solution is being implemented so that these critical life-saving services continue for Veteran beneficiaries, as well as VA employees and visitors. Ground ambulance services must be maintained at all times at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Systems (VAPHS) sites to provide basic patient safety, as well as life support services to Veteran beneficiaries, VA employees and visitors. Because VAPHS does not have in-house code teams at Highland Drive and H. J. Heinz Divisions, Contractor on-site emergency response teams provide for immediate response to all condition A and condition C codes (emergencies) in all buildings at the Highland Drive and H. J. Heinz Divisions. Ambulance services preclude impairment of healthcare delivery capabilities in life threatening situations and are essential to mission performance. This acquisition represents a minimal time period required to satisfy the unusual and compelling urgency.

6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** An Intent to Sole Source advertisement was published in FedBizOpps on 10-22-11, and no responses were received. It was determined that conducting a competitive competition for this short time period could jeopardize the lives of Veterans, VA employees, and visitors due to the significant time and resources which would be required to implement services with a new contractor, particularly to start-up the 24/7 on-site emergency response team component.
7. **Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:** The contracting officer has determined that the anticipated cost will be considered fair and reasonable based on historical usage and pricing which has been in effect since 10-1-2009. The pricing includes all vehicles, personnel, management, supplies, transportation, equipment and reports necessary to cover ground ambulance emergency transport service and 24/7 paramedic emergency response services. It is anticipated that Transcare will hold the same pricing of its previous interim Contract #VA244-P-1727. This is the Option Year I pricing from Transcare's previous competitively bid Contract #VA244-P-0631 which was effective 10-1-2009. The market has remained stable with the exception of increased fuel prices and incremental wage increases. The pricing for this acquisition will be based on the negotiated pricing and wage rates that were considered fair and reasonable during the award and exercise of the option year of the competitive contract.
8. **Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:** Market research was previously conducted for the long-term acquisition which is currently underway to determine market conditions and the availability of small businesses to fulfill this requirement. Market research indicated that this acquisition is not available for small business set-aside and indicated that there is reasonable expectation for competition among large business to fulfill this requirement; however, the proposals received in response to the solicitation for the long-term requirement are still being evaluated. This is a commercial, non-developmental service. Techniques used to conduct market research included online search of the Central Contractor Registration database, VetBiz database, and an examination of the acquisition history and experience with the marketplace under the previous acquisition for the same services.
9. **Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:** Ground ambulance services are mission-critical. The Government must use every available option to maintain services for ground ambulance transportation. These services include ALS and BLS services. ALS services are provided by ground ambulance vehicles containing a minimum of two on-board Paramedics, cardiac monitoring, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) drugs and procedures, advanced airway management and medication monitoring and administration. Ambulances for ALS services are staffed in accordance with current Pennsylvania State laws and regulations governing the certification and licensure of private ambulances, and all ALS services for VAPHS are in accordance with current Pennsylvania State laws and regulations. These

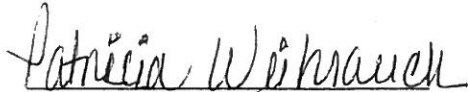
services must be maintained by all means necessary because of the compelling, critical nature of the services that are required.

**10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition:**

No responses were received to the Intent to Sole Source advertisement placed on 10-22-11.

**11. A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required:** A competitive acquisition for ground ambulance services is currently underway. VAPHS has reached out to small businesses to encourage small business participation; however, no small businesses responded to the long-term solicitation. VAPHS will continue to seek small business participation for future acquisitions.

**12. Requirements Certification:** I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Name: PATRICIA WEIHRAUCH  
Title: Administrative Officer, Geriatrics  
and Extended Care  
Clinical COTR  
Facility: VAPHS

10-27-11

Date

**13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304**

**a. Contracting Officer's Certification: (required)** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Name: KATHLEEN S. POLICICCHIO  
Title: Contracting Officer  
Facility: VAPHS

10-27-11

Date

