

Solicitation VA786-16-R-0301
Questions/Answers

August 2, 2016

Base year viruses option 1 thru 4 is considerable increase in many quantities which is understandable as the cemetery gravesite will increase/grow service areas to be maintain will increase as well

Q: Are these increase on number of quantity a fair estimate realistic or is these increase number a guess?

Study projected between 450-500 interments a year – first year we will have higher rate due to those families that have been holding on to their loved ones remains waiting for the cemetery to open.

Why we are asking the above question, as certain items such as mowing is an ongoing and constant workload, so 7 to 36 acres beginning option one is a pretty considerable jump 400% increase, so we want to justify needs to make sure we cover overhead to maintain the option years. As the cemetery grows in size, common sense, is that certain requirements increase and growth in this contract regarding manpower, equipment, & SUPPLIES will apply as well.

Government furnished Staging area;

Q: Will the contractor be allowed to place a portable structure on site to store the needed tool, equipment, and supplies on site? Yes

Q: Will the contractor be allow to erect a fence around the furnished staging area to secure their company owned property? Gov't will furnish.

The Government states contractor be responsible to maintain fire extinguisher and safety equipment.

Q: Does this mean their company owned extinguisher and safety equipment or government provided items? Gov't provides extinguishers and they require a monthly and annual inspections required by OSHA standards in gov't buildings BUT contractor must purchase and maintain their own fire protection equipment.

Contractors must wear required safety equipment that is their responsibility to purchase and upkeep according to OSHA standards.

The government states roadways are to be cleaned with a street sweeper every day, as needed to existing roadways, to keep them free of dirt, mud resulting from there operational duties/task.

Q: Can a sweeper mounted attachment on a skid-steer be utilized for cleaning the above described debris in lieu of having a much higher in expense a truck mounted sweeper? YES

Provide clarification that no trash receptacles provided are only for contractual operation services for this contract,

Q: Please provide public use trash container quantity? Six – for public use in and around the cemetery for visitor's disposal of floral arrangements and minor trash at committal shelter/restrooms/PIC and 3 sections.

Q: Who is responsible for disposal cost of the trash removed from the public use containers? The cemetery will provide a dumpster for general trash removal. Grounds waste removal will be at contractor's expense.

Clarify that washing and cleaning of headstones requirements are vague under what the clin for cost shows. Attachment states all plus 30 % prior to veterans day; example, as if you should have say 960 headstones clin shows 1000 for est qty, for that given year, plus you add 30% for veterans day you add 288 totaling 1248 stones for cleaning.

⇔ Please provide clarification as to what your intent is for this requirement when the increase is greater than the Clin Quantity?

Clarification – 30% of cleaning must be done before holiday mentioned – not in addition to requirement.

Clin's 0001 thru 0004 does the government request this work as a task order or is it performance base?

Work must be completed according to NCA standards and measures.

Attachment C states that headstones will increase by an average of 800 to 1000 annually, but the CLIN item 0001-3 thru 4001-3 only increase by 500.

⇔ Please clarify how the contractor will be compensated when or if these quantities exceed to Clin item number? Headstone placement is based on EACH so it will be compensated by number of headstones placed.

⇔ When receiving headstone to unload them, what will the average weight a pallet or number of headstone on a pallet be? That will vary depending on burial rate/headstones ordered. Each headstone weighs 250 pounds. One pallet max number is 10 to 12 headstones. .

Clin 0003 Headstones

⇔ Who provides the needed materials for setting headstones (moistened, Crushed Limestone) graded to crushed powder to 3/8 inch? Contractor

What is the cost of a headstone in the event one is broken during the a installation or handling process? Negligence would result in cost of \$383/each

When the ground is frozen in the winter month and setting headstones become virtually impossible, what is the expectation or back up plan? You find a way to headstones – thaw ground if needed.

After destroying a damaged headstone is the government or the contractor responsible for the disposal of the destroyed material/headstone? Placed in dumpster after properly disposed.

When Gopher/Moles become present will the government reimburse the contractor for any related cost in eliminating them or other pest? Pest control is part of the contract.

Who is responsible for the cost of quality top soil; If the contractor provide an annual quantity for estimating costing calculations? Contractor responsibility as part of operational cost.

Buffer areas are to be maintained as not to create distraction from a public area.

⇔ Provide clarification as to who creates builds/installs this trench? It will be there – contractor maintains it.

⇔ What is the length of this trench so we can estimate costing efforts to maintain to standards? See SOW.

Clin 0016 Mulch beds and tree rings could you provide a depth of mulch you will require, so we can determine an annual amount of mulch needed annually? **Not specific as depth may vary. See SOW.**

Clin 0018 Irrigation; Just FYI info as the irrigation is newly install I assume commercially, so assuming it has a warranty time frame for mal-functions/repairs. So we assume for the first assume anything not related to daily operation would be the installer's responsibility.

⇨ Please clarify what is contractor and installers responsibility during any warranty period?
One year warranty on materials and installation covered. Contractor reports problems.

Clin 0020 Snow Removal

⇨ Please provide a measurement of quantity per event that is required for this requirement base year to include each added option year? **See SOW.**

⇨ Please clarify events, quantity, for clear pathway for passage of an interment during the snow season? **Pathway would need to be wide enough for appropriate equipment to get to the site.**

⇨ When plowing a roadway or sidewalk you in turn end up with windrow like pile of snow, how do you intent for the contractor to avoid this? **Falls under the means and methods – not for VA/NCA to determine.**

Avenue of Flags You describe that they are Aluminum poles set into concrete bases on patriotic holidays and special events.

⇨ Attachment O does not provide clear direction/description as to who places or these flags out in there concrete base? **Contractor places.**

Clin's 0021&22 Sod

⇨ Please provide the sizes of area for sod removal for maintaining these required services?

Depends on how many burials and in which burial sections. Casketed sites are 3x8 and cremation sites are 4x4 and private vaults are 4x10 and oversized vaults are also 4x10.

Clin 0022 Shelter

⇨ Where is this shelter and appropriate items stored when not in use?

Shelters are permanent and so are the benches. Church truck/urn biers are stored near the shelter. Cleaning supplies will need to be taken out to the shelter as needed.

⇨ What is the expectation of a daily average for ceremonies being performed using interment shelter?

No way to indicate – number of 450 -500 services a year.

Clin 0023 Transportation and Floral

⇨ Who provides the custody document, please provide a sample copy?

Cemetery provides this document and your initials are the only thing needed and the cemetery maintains custody of this document.

⇨ Who will tag the floral arrangements as they arrive on site to properly identify which grave/decedent they belong to? **Cemetery Staff**

⇨ Please provide a sample copy? **Cemetery maintains custody and is internal to NCA.**

0024 Janitorial Services

≤ For Janitorial services will there be storage closest within the bldg or bldg's for storing the needed cleaning supplies/equipment? **Not in ETO but there is a janitorial closet in the permanent admin and maintenance building.**

What is the square footage of the Admin bldg, Maintenance Bldg, Restrooms, and Honor guard bldg. for Janitorial purposes? **See SOW. In ETO 2 double-wide and 1 single wide trailers with two additional restroom trailers – 2 stalls each.**

US Department of Labor Wage Determination services act WD 05-2326 Rev-16 you have many occupational codes for selecting a worker category hourly rate. The only apparent category that is even close to cemetery worker is (99310 mortician), we are looking for a category that will represent the individuals that will be transporting the remains from the committal ceremony to the grave-site.

Please provide clarification in the SC determination of which category for the individuals, we should use for the transportation of remains to the grave-site?

For clarification on which Wage Determination services, please use (99310 mortician)