



**JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR A LIMITED SOURCE AWARD UNDER A FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE**

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations (OAO)
Strategic Acquisition Center-Frederick (SAC-F)
321 Ballenger Center Drive, Suite 125
Frederick, MD 21703

2. **Description of Action:** The proposed action is for a limited source, two-month General Services Administration (GSA) task order extension. The current task order type is a firm-fixed price task order with a base period of seven (7) months and four (4) twelve month option periods. This effort is being conducted under the authority of FAR 52.217-8, Option to Extend Services; the proposed extension will be awarded under the GSA Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Contract Number GS-02F-0405D, to West Publishing Corporation, 610 Opperman Drive, St. Paul, MN 55123.

The current task order is executing performance in the fourth and final option period which ends on March 31, 2017. The task order was awarded on May 22, 2012 with a total value of \$616,283.42. The proposed two month extension will have a period of performance of April 01, 2017 through May 31, 2017, for an estimated total of \$23,629.26. The purpose of this extension of services is to ensure that the 850 field users have ample time to transition and achieve training on the new contract (the recompetes is currently in the progress).

3. **Description of the Services:** Due to the low level of vendor responses received from the sources sought notice from the current recompetes contract (which has been solicited by VBA, and will be awarded and administered by VBA) the program office is requesting an extension on the current subject contract to ensure field coverage. This extension request will allow the VBA Contracting Office sufficient time to conduct additional market research. Additionally, once market research is conducted and approved the program office will need time to review and evaluate submitted proposals. The suggested tentative timeline provided by the VBA Contracting Officer has an estimated award date of May 31, 2017, which then requires an extension to the current contract, April 01, 2017 – May 31, 2017, to maintain continuous coverage.

4. **Authority:** The authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) is FAR 52.217-8 Option to Extend Services. The Government may require continued performance of any services within the limits and at the rates specified in the contract. These rates may be adjusted only as a result of revisions to prevailing labor rates

provided by the Secretary of Labor. The option provision may be exercised more than once, but the total extension of performance hereunder shall not exceed 6 months. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor within seven days.

5. Rationale Supporting use of Authority Cited Above: This extension will ensure that the 850 field users have ample time to transition and achieve training on the new contract. The proposed two month extension will assist with providing training on the new contract to users that spans through five time zones, (all states) to include Washington D.C., Manila, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska. Not proceeding with the two-month extension will be very difficult to accommodate training to fit users' daily work and tour of duties, which in turn will negatively impact production in various business lines in VBA. If coverage is interrupted, this could halt fiduciary field production due to the mandatory requirement to run a criminal background check on an individual before appointing them as a VA approved fiduciary. The two month extension will assist with a seamless transition of services with no interruptions or loss of production. The period of performance for the extension would be 04/01/17 through 5/31/17.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: This action is an extension of services of the current task order to allow time to award a new competitive contract. There is no competition anticipated for this requested extension of services, but in an effort to obtain competition for future requirements for the subscription for Web-Based Address Locator Services, the re-compete contract is being solicited as competitively [REDACTED]

7. Actions to Increase Competition: No barriers to future competition are anticipated. A competitive contract vehicle is anticipated to be awarded by, May 31, 2017, and future acquisitions will be awarded on a competitive basis. Additionally, any source other than West Publishing Corporation would still require time to learn what is required for this effort before another contractor would be capable of providing support. Is it in the Agency's best interest to proceed with the proposed extension of services for two months for the current task order.

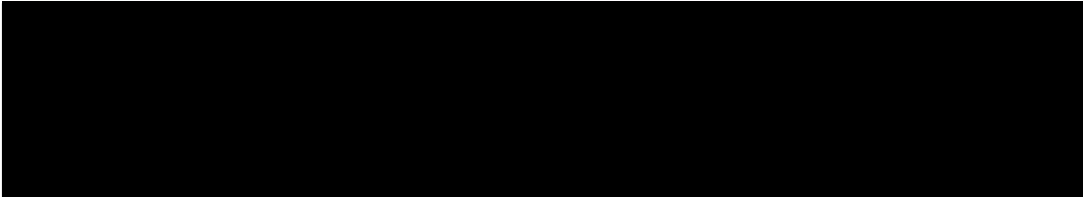
8. Determination of Best Value: In accordance with FAR Subpart 8.404(d), the prices for services offered on FSS were already determined to be fair and reasonable by GSA. In the interim, extending the subscription for Web-Based Address Locator Services using FSS established prices is determined to represent the best value to the Government.

The cost of the \$23,629.26 was derived for the two month extension from the current monthly price for two months, at \$11,814.63 a month. The monthly rate remains unchanged is found reasonable due to the fact that the price has not increased and this price was previously found fair and reasonable.

9. Market Research: There is no competition anticipated for this requested extension of services, but in an effort to obtain competition for future requirements for Web-Based Address Locator Services, the re-compete contract is being solicited as competitively.

10. Other Facts: None.

11. 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.

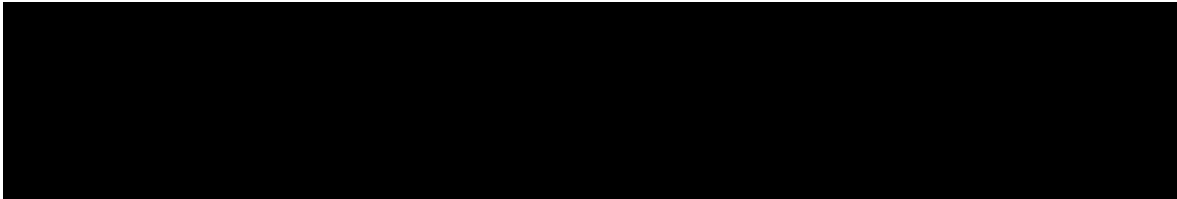


12. Determination of Best Value: I hereby determine that the proposed contract action will represent the best value to the Government consistent with FAR 52.217-8.



Approval

Based on the forgoing justification, I hereby approve the extension of services for two months, April 01, 2017 – May 31, 2017, in the estimated amount of \$23,629.26, on an other than full and open basis, pursuant to the authority cited in FAR 52.217-8, the Government may require continued performance of any services within the limits and at the rates specified in the contract, subject to availability of funds, and provided that the services and commodities herein described have otherwise been authorized for this acquisition.



Tara Flores
Contracting Officer
Strategic Acquisition Center - Frederick

Date