

Answers below cover all vendor questions listed herein. For additional answers to Vendor Questions, vendors are instructed to review the amended PWS in this Amendment A00002 of the RFQ.

VENDOR QUESTIONS and ANSWERS TO VENDOR QUESTIONS

1. Vendor Question: Vendor's query references "*Sprinkler System: Contractor will be responsible for Sprinkler system start-up, system blown-down and winterizing. (All sprinkler parts and equipment will be supplied by the contractor at no additional charge to the VA).*" ...and vendor asks...
 - a. "Since the contractor cannot run the system to check it prior to turning in the bid. Will the COR run the system with the awarded contractor prior to working to establish if the system is functioning 100% and if so any will the VA correct the problems prior to the contractor being responsible for the maintenance since we cannot tell is everything is 100% at this time?" ...and vendor also asks...
 - b. "Is the responsibility of the contractor to repair the back-flow preventer, main trunk line bringing the water to the facility that provided the water to the system, controller or does the contractor only have to be responsible for the heads, zones, control wires and valves??"
 - c. Answer: Refer to Task 4.b. and 4.c. of Grounds Maintenance in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
2. Vendor Question: Vendor's query references "*Plant Maintenance and Pruning: For the purpose of achieving this outcome, fertilization of all plant materials and trees is at the discretion of the contractor. Mulch must be added to look neat in appearance and fresh. Mulch colors must match what is being used in surrounding bedding areas.*" ...and vendor asks...
 - a. "It states that mulch must be added. With the terminology (Mulch) sometimes can be referred to any material in landscape beds and tree rings (Mulch, pine straw and rock). Since the facility has rock and mulch, are we to add both rock and mulch or is the statement only referring to the mulch itself?"
 - b. Answer: Refer to Task 5.b. of Grounds Maintenance in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
3. Vendor Question: Vendor's query references "*Snow removal: TIME CONSTRAINTS: All areas must be snow free within two (2) hours after contractor arrival at Location.*" ...and vendor asks...
 - a. "Depending on the snow fall. Once the contractor is on-site and providing the service and they have completed a area and move on to the next. Will the COR need to be notified so he/she can inspect that section? I ask this because depending on snow fall amounts at the time if the contractor has moved to another section the prior section could build up again. If the contractor

has to constantly keep them clear even if the section has already been accomplished then what would be a stopping point?"

- b. Answer: The definition of stopping point and confirmation of Desired Outcome being achieved can be found in the Desired Outcome statement of Task 1. of Winter Grounds Maintenance in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
4. Vendor Question: "I see the CLIN for snow removal is per Lot. If there is a continual snow storm that provides 6 inches of snow, are we allowed to bill 3 lots since the Lot increment is for every 2 inches?"
 - a. Answer: Refer to Task 1.e.ii. of Winter Grounds Maintenance in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
5. Vendor Question: "What is the preferred method to verify snow accumulation amount at the hospital so we are billing the appropriate Lot amount?"
 - a. Answer: Refer to Task 1.v. of Winter Grounds Maintenance in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
6. Vendor Question: "Tree Removal: The SOW says that the contractor is responsible to tree removal with approval by the COR. Are we able to bill off contract if this is the case since we can never estimate how many trees will need to be removed? It can be very expensive if there is a large storm that comes through and causes damage."
 - a. Answer: Refer to Task 6.p. and 6.q. of Grounds Maintenance in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
7. Vendor Question: "Pedestrian structures, outdoor furniture: The SOW states that we are responsible for repairing pedestrian structures and site furnishing as needed. Does this mean even if we are not the responsible for the damage of the structures? Also, if we are not responsible for the damage, but we need to have them fixed, can this be billed as an "off contract" invoice?"
 - a. Answer: Refer to Task 6., specifically 6.h., of Grounds Housekeeping in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
8. Vendor Question: Is there a history of Graffiti problems at the facility. It was mentioned several times in the SOW.
 - a. Answer: There has not been an issue of exterior graffiti yet.

9. Vendor Question: “There are several areas that are undergoing construction, will you provide the contractor with a means of knowing how much green area will be installed at the completion of the construction or will this be an addition that will be added to the contract after completion of building?”
- a. Answer: VA Engineering does not foresee grass areas expanding at the Location. In contrast, there is more potential for less grass if/when the building footprint increases.
10. Vendor Question: “With regards to power washing, one per month on the sidewalks and once per quarter on entrances and other areas, does the facility require power washing during the winter months? This could be a hazard with slips.”
- a. Answer: Refer to Task 6., specifically 6.g., of Grounds Housekeeping in the PWS, of the RFQ, Amendment A00002.
11. Vendor Question: “Under Time Constraints with regards to snow removal, 2 hours from the time contractor arrives all areas will be free of snow, Will COR call out contractor after snow event in all cases? What will be the procedure during a snow event when contractor is called out and the snow event is constant?”
- a. Answer: Refer to PWS, Winter Grounds Maintenance, Task 1.b. through 1.d. to read about “who” and “how” contractors will be called to perform services. In attempting to answer your question regarding being called out in “all cases”, please refer Task 1.d. Snow Accumulation and Verbal Orders. Please also note this requirement is an indefinite, estimated quantity service and vendors are responsible for familiarizing themselves with included clauses such as FAR clause 52.216-22 as well as the Purpose of the PWS in the RFQ, with regards to performing services once called to perform.
- b. Answer: Refer to PWS, Winter Grounds Maintenance, Task 1.e. for when the snow is constant.

This is the end of the Vendor Questions and Answers to Vendor Questions. This amendment also makes the following changes to the RFQ.

12. Contract FAR clause is changed:

- a. From: FAR clause 52.243-1 CHANGES—FIXED-PRICE AUG 1987
- b. To: FAR clause 52.243-1 CHANGES—FIXED-PRICE Alternate II (Apr 1984).

13. The following verbiage has been added to the PWS section titled “Contractor Point of Contact (POC)”:

- a. “When communication between the COR and the locally assigned Contractor POC has repeatedly failed to ensure satisfactory contract performance the Contractor must remedy the situation by assigning a replacement POC. Where two or more attempts have been made to communicate with the local Contractor POC and performance results demonstrate the “communication failure” to be the cause, the CO or COR will request the contractor remedy the requirement in this section, and within 24 hours’ notice from the COR or CO. The remedy must satisfy the Desired Outcome of the PWS.”

All solicitation items remain unchanged.