

Question: The Revised Statement of Work requests **three** types of examinations be delivered:

- a. "Initial" (p. 4; 2e). These are pre-hire exams.
- b. "Annual" (p. 4; 2e). These are routine (i.e., wellness) annual exams of adequately-functioning incumbent officers.
- c. "Fitness for duty" (p.1) These are, by necessity, much more complex and time consuming than either (a) or (b) because they involve an officer who has been identified as having a mental, emotional, or work-related problems.

However, the price sheet asks for quotes for only **two** types of exams "Psychological Evaluations for Hire" and "Annual Psychological Evaluations." These appear to correspond to evaluations (a) and (b) as indicated above. There is no place on the price sheet for a quote for Fitness-for-Duty Exams. Is the VA asking for a quote for fitness-for-duty exams, or only asking for quotes for "initial" and "annual" exams?

Answer: No Fitness for Duty evaluations are to be provided at this time on this solicitation.

Question: The Revised Statement of Work states that, "The psychological assessment will be limited to an interview by a psychologist or psychiatrist covering only job related factors" (p. 4; 2e), and that "Standardized psychological testing may be used only after reason to question the applicant/officer's suitability has arisen." However, this statement appears inconsistent with current VA policy (please see Section 5c of the Memo from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security and Law Enforcement dated 4/9/2002; and Section 2a of Fact Sheet, 2/7/2005), as I understand it. The Memo (Section 5c) indicates that "At a minimum the psychological evaluation (for applicants) should consist of a structured interview and standardized, objective psychological testing." The Fact Sheet indicates that, "All applicants for police officer positions within the Department (applicants) must successfully complete a medical examination, as well as written psychological testing and assessment, before a formal job offer is made." The Fact Sheet does also (consistent with the Revised Statement of Work) indicate that for routine annual examinations (Section 2e), "The psychological assessment is limited to a structured interview of the incumbent."

If the policies that I described are correct and current, can you please revise the Revised Statement of Work to reflect that standardized psychological testing should be used in the initial evaluations for hire? If VA policy has changed regarding using standardized testing of applicants (i.e., Psychological Evaluations for Hire), so that the exam is limited to a structured interview only, can you please refer me to the most recent authoritative source for that policy?

Answer: A revised statement of work is provided on this amendment.

Question: It is noted in the original documentation there would be 12 Psychological Evaluations for Hire and 25 Annual Psychological Evaluations. With the updated SOW, we would like to inquire on the volume of expected evaluations for FFD's for psychiatry and for psychology?

Answer: No Fitness for Duty evaluations are required on this solicitation.

Question: The answer to a previous question on award amount to PDI Ninth House was \$18,025.00. How many individual evaluations did the vendor provide for that amount?

Answer: This is considered sensitive information that is not releasable and may provide a vendor with an unfair competitive advantage over another. The solicitation clearly shows the requirements for the Department of Veterans Affairs on Pages 6 through 8 of the solicitation.

Question: What did the organization like most and least about the work as previously performed?

Answer: This is sensitive information that may not be released.

Question: The revised documents are the Amendment of Solicitation/Modification of Contract and SOW. With everything else remaining as is, do we ignore Item No. 0001AA for the Base and Option Years – Psychological Evaluations for Hire on the quoting sheet?

Answer: Vendors need to provide unit prices for all years as shown on Pages 6 through 8 of the solicitation.

Question: There is reference in B.2 to delivery to Endia Porter at 1 Veterans Drive in this original Solicitation after the quoting section, but understand that the quote is to go to you at the downtown Minneapolis address, correct?

Answer: All quotes are to be submitted to the address as shown in Block 16 of the SF 1449.

Question: Where will the work be performed? Is this strictly for the local Minneapolis facility staff?

Answer: This is for Minneapolis staff only.

Question: Is this being solicited solely because the contract has expired, or are there other reasons that would be useful for us to know of?

Answer: The last purchase order expired.