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Governor

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Questions and Answers

TO: All Bidders
FROM: Becky Kirker
DATE: 10/27/2020
BID #: C003506 – Tree Maintenance in the New York City Region

Question #1:

Please provide previous bid results-tabulations, including unit prices for all items.

Answer #1:

This information cannot be provided.

Question #2:

What exactly is the arborist inspecting for? Is it just hazardous trees that need to be removed or hazardous conditions in trees that could be mitigated with pruning or cabling? Examples, dead wood, hangers, cracks and splits etc.

Answer #2:

At a minimum, the arborist inspects for dead branches, wood rot, unsafe branches and the overall health of the tree.

Question #3:

How is the information intended to be presented for approval? What is the format of the Hazard Tree Report being requested and are field photos required? What are the details required for the report?

Answer #3:

The contractor notifies the park manager of the location of hazardous trees by filling out a "Hazard Tree Inspection Report" which contains the name of the park, the inspectors name and signature, and the year and month of the inspection. Field photos are not required. The report is divided into six columns that include: Species, # and diameter, Location in Park, Condition of Tree, Action to be Taken, and Date Action was Taken.

Question #4:

Is there a GIS/GPS tree inventory for each park and/or software utilized?

Answer #4:

There is not a GIS/GPS inventory for each park and no software.

Question #5:

Is the expectation that a ISA Certified Arborist who is TRAQ certified performs a Level 2 Tree Risk Assessment (360 degree visual ground inspection of canopy, trunk and trunk flares) for every tree in every park twice a year for no fee or charge for site inspection consulting for time to document the proper scope of work for approval? Please consider the time involved in the field and administrative. Should this be a separate activity for fee per tree?

Answer #5:

It is expected that an ISA certified arborist perform a level 2 risk assessment in accordance with the table below.

Park	Approximate # of Trees in Scope	TRAQ Scope (any tree which poses a risk to the following)
Clay Pit Ponds	775	Trees along roads, driveways, hiking trails, and buildings
Riverbank State Park	250	All Trees
Roberto Clemente State Park	75	All Trees
Four Freedoms State Park	50	All Trees
Gantry Plaza State Park	50	All Trees
Shirley Chisholm State Park	100	All Trees
Bayswater State Park	200	All Trees

Question #6:

What liability does the arborist and company inherit by being asked to do such an inspection?

Answer #6:

Liability is on the arborist to make recommendations on tree health. If property damage or injury is caused by the arborist's recommendation (or lack thereof), then it falls to their Professional Liability insurance.

Question #7:

Is there a certain size diameter tree or condition that should be inspected rather than every tree?

Answer #7:

Every tree in accordance with the table in response to #5.

Question #8:

How does this size crew range relate to the 1000 hours being requested on the Bid Form, page 64; is the 1000 man hours or crew hours?

Answer #8:

The Bid Form line item of Arborist/Tree Maintenance is for 1000 man hours.

Question #9:

Who determines the size of the crew and equipment to be used?

Answer #9:

The contractor determines the size and type of the crew based on the Hazardous Tree Reports in conjunction with OPRHP.

Question #10:

Does this indemnification apply to the "free" consulting services being requested for the semi-annual Hazard Tree Reports? This clause should only apply to the actual work and activities being performed by the contractor and be directly related to the negligence of the contractor that would or could lead to the liability within a certain frame of time, i.e. 1 year. Contractor has no control over weather events or acts of god and if they did not touch the tree for an activity should not be held responsible liability wise for looking at it. Budget restraints in preventing actions to mitigate tree risk is also consideration out of the contractor's hands and could be a limiting factor.

Answer #10:

Indemnification applies to all services in-scope for this contract.

Question #11:

Based upon your link submitted for rate classification it would appear that (Heavy & Highway) Laborer page 236 on latest Article 8 Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule would apply for this type work. As it appears:

*Tree Work, *Landscape = \$43 and hour with Supplemental Benefits of an additional \$46.43 per hour.

*Includes trimming, cutting, planting and/or removal of trees. This equates to a minimum rate of pay of \$89.43 an hour (more than 55% average top pay for Tree Pruner/Remover in local region) and where Section 220 from NYC Comptrollers Office for this exact same work and classification Tree Remover/Pruner is \$38.14 per hour Supplemental \$16.55 for a hourly rate of pay of \$54.69 and where Grounds person is \$29.08 per hour with Supplemental \$16.55 for an hourly rate of pay of \$45.63.

Question: Can the above section 220 rates be utilized considering all of the parks in this contract reside within the 5 boroughs and in doing so we allow a more competitive hourly bid rate to be utilized and thus be able to accomplish a much greater scope of work for the budget allocated?

Answer #11:

Rate of pay is subject to the current New York State Department of Labor Prevailing wage schedule found in section 4.20 of the IFB.

Question #12:

Whatever rate is determined to be utilized and allowed, must that rate be paid for the 8 hours worked for the entire day or only for the time the employees is performing the activity?

Answer #12:

The rate is to only be paid for the actual time the employee performed services under the scope of the contract.

Question #13:

Assuming that the bucket truck, wood chipper and stump grinder are hourly equipment costs only and do not include the laborer?

Answer #13:

The rates requested for the bucket truck, wood chipper, and stump grinder are for hourly equipment costs and do not include the laborer.

Question #14:

And that if a laborer is sent out separately to grind stumps as a one-person crew that it would be the blended rate per hour plus the hourly stump cost?

Answer #14:

If an employee is sent to grind a stump, the invoice would request payment for the hours the employee worked plus the hours the stump grinder was used.