

**RFP #2023-04 EMERGENCY TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE
SERVICES**



**TOWN OF WINDERMERE
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFP: #2023-04 EMERGENCY TREE REMOVAL AND
MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

RESPONSES ARE DUE BY 3:00 PM JUNE 30, 2023

MAIL OR DELIVER RESPONSES TO:

ATT: Tonya Elliott Moore, Public Works Director
614 Main St.
Windermere, FL 34786

CONTACT:

Tonya Elliott Moore, Public Works Director
614 Main St.
Windermere, FL 34786
Phone: (407) 876-6480, Fax (407) 876-0103
Email: tmoore@town.windermere.fl.us

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1. OVERVIEW

The Town of Windermere is accepting written proposals from all qualified and interested firms to provide Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services. This would be on an on call basis during emergency situations (Blocked Roadway, Storm Damage, etc). All successful parties will demonstrate qualifications, experience, abilities, availability/response time, and price to successfully accomplish and support all aspects of the prescribed scope of work.

Those firms interested in providing this service are instructed to submit three (3) bound copies, one (1) unbound original, and one (1) electronic copy (CD: PDF Format) of their qualifications pertinent to the scope of work prior to June 30, 2023, to the attention of Tonya Elliott Moore, Public Works Director 614 Main St. Windermere, FL 34786. Qualification documents received after this date and time will not be considered. The Town of Windermere reserves the right to reject any and all qualification documents received, to solicit new qualification documents, or take any other such actions that may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Windermere. The Town of Windermere is an Equal Opportunity Employer. MBE/WBE/DBE businesses are encouraged to participate. The Town of Windermere strictly enforces open and fair competition.

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2. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Firms are invited to submit qualifications documents to the Town of Windermere to provide Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services.

Requirements for submission and selection criteria may be obtained from the Town of Windermere's web site at www.town.windermere.fl.us. All questions pertaining to this Request for Qualifications (RFP) should be directed, in writing, to Tonya Elliott Moore, Public Works Director, by email tmoore@town.windermere.fl.us. Any addenda to this RFP shall be made on the Town website. It is the sole responsibility of those submitting an RFP to check the website for addendums. These questions are due by June 23, 2023. Final addenda will be posted by June 26, 2023.

Proposers must submit one (1) original response unbound marked "Original", three (3) bound copies marked "Copies", and one (1) electronic copy (CD; PDF Format) of the submittal in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside with the Proposers name and "RFP 2023-04 Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services" addressed and delivered to:

**Att: Tonya Elliott Moore, Public Works Director
614 Main Street
Windermere, FL 34786**

All qualifications must be received by Tonya Elliott Moore before 3:00 pm June 30, 2023. Any qualifications received after this date and time will be automatically rejected. Materials may be delivered by Certified Mail, Return Receipt, hand delivered or couriered. Faxed or emailed proposals will be automatically rejected. Hand delivered qualification documents may request a receipt. If sent by mail or courier, the above mentioned envelope shall be enclosed in another envelope addressed to the entity and address stated above. Proposers should be aware that certain "express mail" services will have to meet the required time frame of submittal or be deemed automatically rejected. It is the sole responsibility of the Proposer to ensure their proposal is received in a timely manner.

The Town of Windermere reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive informalities in any or all qualification documents, to re-advertise for RFP's, and to separately accept or reject any item or items and to negotiate contracts in the best interest of the Town of Windermere.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information in this RFP we recognize that the information may not be complete in every detail and that all work may not be expressly mentioned in these specifications. It is the responsibility of the proposing company to include in their proposal all pertinent information in accordance with the objectives of the Town.

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3. Instructions to Respondents

3.01 Description

Town of Windermere is seeking qualified firms to provide On Call Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services

3.02 Copies of Responding Documents

Only complete sets of Responding Documents will be issued and shall be used in preparing responses. The Town does not assume any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets.

3.03 Disqualification of Respondents

- A. **NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT:** Any person submitting a response to this invitation must execute the enclosed NON-COLLUSION AFFIDVIT. If it is discovered that collusion exists among the Responders the response of all participants in such collusion shall be rejected , and no participants will be considered in future responses for the same work
- B. **PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME:** A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a response/bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity submit response/bids on leases or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for Category Two for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.
- C. **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE FORM:** Any person submitting a response or qualification documents in response to this invitation must execute the enclosed DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE FORM and submit it with the response. Failure to complete this form in every detail and submit it with your response will result in immediate disqualification of your response.
- D. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Any Respondent who is deemed to have a conflict of interest prohibited by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, shall be disqualified.

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- E. **PROHIBITED COMMUNICATION:** Any form of communication, except for written correspondence authorized herein, shall be prohibited regarding this particular request for qualifications, or any other competitive solicitation between:
1. Any person or person's representative seeking an award from such competitive solicitation; and
 2. Any Town Council Member or any Town staff authorized to act on behalf of the Council to award a particular contract (Selection Committee Member, etc)

For the purpose of this section, a person's representative shall include but not limited to, the person's employee, partner, officer, director, consultant, lobbyist, or any actual or potential subcontractor or consultant of the person.

This prohibition on communication shall be in effect as of the publication of the bid advertisement. The provisions of this section shall not apply to oral communications at any public proceeding, oral presentations before selection committees, contract negotiations, presentations made to the Council if requested, and protest hearings.

The provisions of this section shall terminate at time of award of grant writing services, rejects all bids, or otherwise takes action which ends the solicitation process.

3.04 EXAMINATION OF RFP DOCUMENTS

Each Respondent shall carefully examine the RFP and other contract documents, and inform him or herself thoroughly regarding any and all conditions and requirements that may in any manner affect cost, progress, or performance of the work to be performed under the contract. Ignorance on the part of the Respondent in no way relieves the Respondent of the obligations and responsibilities assumed under the contract.

Should a Respondent find discrepancies or ambiguities in, or omissions from, the specifications, or be in doubt as to their meaning, Respondent shall notify the Town Manager in writing prior to the Response Question Due Date.

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3.05 INTERPRETATIONS, CLARIFICATIONS, AND ADDENDA

No oral interpretations will be made to any potential Respondent as to the meaning of the contract documents. Any inquiry or request for interpretation received on or before June 1, 2023 will be given consideration. Any changes or interruption will be made in writing in the form of an addendum and, if used, will be posted on the Town Web Site www.town.windermere.fl.us. Each respondent shall acknowledge receipt of any addenda in their proposal. If the acknowledgement is not included, the response to the RFP will constitute acknowledgment. It is the responsibility of all Respondents to verify all addenda prior to submitting a response to the RFP.

3.06 GOVERNING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Respondent is required to be familiar with and shall be responsible for complying with all Federal, State, and Local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations that in any manner affect the work including grant award terms for all grants to which a respondent may apply on behalf of the Town.

3.07 SIGNATURE OF RESPONDENT

The Respondent must sign the response forms in the space provided for the signature. If the Respondent is a professional association or other business entity, the title of the officer signing the response on behalf of the entity must be stated and evidence of the officer's authority to sign the response must be submitted. The Respondent shall state in the response the name and address of each person interested therein.

3.08 COST OF PROPOSAL

The Town of Windermere assumes no responsibility or liability for the costs incurred by the submitting firm to prepare and/or submit a proposal. The entire cost of preparing and submitting qualification documents, or any work in connection therewith will be borne by the submitting firm or team of firms.

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4. Scope of Services

PROJECT SCOPE

Town of Windermere is seeking to contract with a qualified firm to provide all labor, materials, personnel and equipment needed to provide Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services.

4.01.1 Services will include the following to the extent approved by the Town Council and/or Town Manager

- The successful bidder will demonstrate the capabilities to respond on short notice during an emergency event for the purposes of Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services.
- Firm must be available twenty four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week including Holidays.
- Respondent must have a Certified ISA Certified Arborist on Staff during all calls.
- Firm is to provide all materials and labor to remove and dispose of debris.
- Disposal of all felled and down trees, and substantially damaged vegetation, shall be carried out in a safe and professional manner.
- Firm is responsible for all costs and fees resulting from handling, transporting, and disposing of all removed material.
- Felled and down trees, and substantially damaged vegetation shall be limbed, bucked, or chipped.
- For Emergency situations such as Hurricanes or a major storm event resulting in a significant amount of tree damage/debris, Contractor will be required to have a debris storing location as to meet FEMA and local, State, Federal guidelines to be measured for documentation purposes.

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5. Qualification/Experience requirements:

The Respondent must submit qualification/experience.

5.01 Respondents must demonstrate the following:

- Years in service
- Experience with Municipal and County governments;
- Basic knowledge of the Town of Windermere and it's Tree Canopy;
- Ability to comply with all local, State, and Federal regulations as it relates to removal, safety regulations, and disposal of tree and limb debris.
- Respondent must demonstrate their service approach to providing above described services for the Town on an emergency on call basis including estimated response time.

5.02 Supervision and Personnel

Respondent must demonstrate how the operation will be supervised and what current quality controls policies would be in place for the service.

5.03 Records

Respondent shall be required to maintain records in accordance with local, State, and Federal Public Records Retention Requirements. Firm must also be familiar with documentation and filing requirements of FEMA, FDEP, and FDOT.

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6. FEES FOR SERVICES

6.01 Price

Respondent must provide pricing list for Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services to include but not limited to:

- Mobilization Costs
- Tree Removal Cost (various height and DBH)
- Various equipment hourly rates (bobcat, etc.)
- Transport/Disposal Cost
- All other costs associated with adhering to the above mentioned scope of service.

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7. EVALUATION/PROPOSAL FORMAT

Qualification documents will be evaluated on the basis of Scope of Services listed demonstrating they are qualified and will be listed as available to seek out grant opportunities and submit all such grant opportunities to the Town for approval by the Town Council to apply.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the information provided in the response. All Respondents who demonstrate previous success in grant writing who are not disqualified on some other basis outlined in this RFP shall be approved as a qualified vendor. For qualification documents to be eligible, the format must be strictly followed. All qualification documents should be type written, bound 8 1/2 x 11 format, and should be properly identified by name of respondent and marked with "Consulting Services RFP 2023-04 "Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services" to facilitate effective evaluation by the Town, qualification documents shall be limited to 25 pages. MBE/WBE/DBE certificate(s), other appendix documentation, sectional dividers, and front and back covers will not be counted towards the total. A letter of interest or executive summary, not to exceed three (3) additional pages, may also be included in the proposal. Qualification documents that exceed this length will be considered non responsive and will not be evaluated. During this RFP process, any intentional omissions, alterations, or false representations will be grounds for rejection of any proposal.

Proposals must include the following tabbed sections:

1. Company or Personal Background
2. Experience
3. References
4. Service approach
5. Cost proposal
6. Required Forms
 - a. Response Cover
 - b. Hold Harmless Agreement
 - c. Certificate of Insurance
 - d. Non Collusion Affidavit
 - e. Drug Free Workplace Form

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8. Indemnification and Insurance

8.01.1 Indemnification and Hold Harmless

The Respondent agrees to indemnify and hold the Town harmless for any and all claims, liability, losses and causes of action which may arise out of its fulfillment of the contract awarded pursuant to this RFP. It agrees to pay all claims and losses, including related court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, and shall defend all suits filed due to the negligent acts, error or omissions or Respondent employees and/or agents

In the event the completion of a project awarded pursuant to this RFP (to include the work of others) is delayed or suspended as a result of the Respondent's failure to purchase or maintain the required insurance, the Respondent shall indemnify the Town from any and all increased expenses resulting from such delay.

8.01.2 Insurance Requirements

Respondent must provide a certificate of insurance with their response.

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RESPONSE TO: **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: RFP 2023-04 EMERGENCY TREE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**
TONYA ELLIOTT MOORE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
614 MAIN ST. WINDERMERE, FL 34786

I acknowledge receipt of any/all Addenda: _____

I have included:

- Hold Harmless Agreement
- Certificate of Insurance
- Non Collusion Affidavit
- Drug Free Workplace Form

Mailing Address:

_____ TELEPHONE _____

_____ FAX: _____

_____ DATE _____

BY signing and submitting this proposal, I am certifying that (a) I am a citizen of the United States; (b) I am not a member or an employee of any taxing authority; and (c) I do not represent any property owner in an administrative or judicial review of property tax issues.

Signature of Respondent

Witness

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this ____ day of ____, 20__, by (name of person making statement).

Notary Public

Personally Known _____ OR Produced Identification _____

Type of Identification Produced _____

My Commission Expires _____

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HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I _____ (Respondent) agrees to indemnify and hold the Town harmless for any and all claims, liability, losses and causes of action which may arise out of its fulfillment of the contract awarded pursuant to this RFP. It agrees to pay all claims and losses, including related court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, and shall defend all suits filed due to the negligent acts, error or omissions of Respondent or employees and/or agents of Respondent.

In the event the completion of a project awarded pursuant to this RFP (to include the work of others) is delayed or suspended as a result of the Respondent's failure to purchase or maintain the required insurance, the Respondent shall indemnify the Town from any and all increased expenses resulting from such delay.

Signature of Respondent

Witness

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____, by (name of person making statement).

Notary Public

Personally Known _____ OR Produced Identification _____
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NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

I _____ (Respondent) of the firm of _____ (Respondent Firm Name) responded to the notice for calling for qualification for Emergency Tree Removal and Maintenance Services for the Town of Windermere. This proposal has been executed with full authority to do so. This response has been arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication or agreement for the purposes of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to qualifications or responses of any other responder or with any competitor, and no attempt has been made or will be made by the Responder to induce any other person, partnership or corporation to submit, or not to submit, a response for the purpose of restricting competition;

The Statements contained within this affidavit are true and correct, and made with full knowledge that the Town of Windermere relies upon the truth of the statements contained in this affidavit in awarding contracts for said services.

Signature of Respondent

Witness

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____, by (name of person making statement).

Notary Public

Personally Known _____ OR Produced Identification _____
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My Commission Expires _____

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DRUG FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION

In order to have a drug-free workplace program, a business shall:

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against an employee for violations of such prohibition.
2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business's policy of maintaining a drug free workplace, available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees from drug abuse violations.
3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under this solicitation a copy of the statement specified in subsection (1) above.
4. In the statement specified in subsection (1), notify the employees that, as a condition of working in the commodities or contractual services that are under this solicitation, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employee of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of Chapter 893 or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state, for a violation occurring in the work place no later than five (5) days after such conviction.
5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in, a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.
6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this section.

As the person authorized to sign the statement, I certify that this firm complies fully with the above requirements.

Signature of Respondent

Witness