



TOWN OF SPRUCE PINE, NC
May 24, 2024
(Amended 5/29/24)
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
TOWN ENGINEERING SERVICES

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Spruce Pine (Town) is soliciting proposals to provide Town Engineering Services as an independent contractor to the Town. The Town is interested in obtaining the professional services of consulting firms to provide support for various projects for an initial period of three (3) years, with two (2) one-year optional extensions. Firms that serve North Carolina local government entities are encouraged to respond. Services typically conducted by the selected firm include, but are not necessarily limited to, the items listed in this RFQ. Work shall be provided to Town on an as-needed basis, as authorized by the Town Manager or the Town Manager's designee. Proposers shall be licensed to practice engineering in the State of North Carolina and be members in good standing with the North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. To avoid potential conflicts of interest, the Town will consider proposals from engineering firms, as well as individual engineers that do not provide design services to private development interests. The Town of Spruce Pine is an Equal Opportunity Employer and invites the submission of proposals from small and minority and woman-owned firms, and historically underutilized businesses.

B. BACKGROUND

The Town of Spruce Pine, population 2240, is located in Mitchell County. The Town Council

consists of a mayor and four council members elected at large. The Town operates under the Council/Manager form of government.

The Town of Spruce Pine has an annual budget of approximately \$6,400,000. The Town has 6 operating departments, including Administration, Police, Public Works, Water and Wastewater, Parks & Recreation and Main Street.

C. ANTICIPATED SELECTION SCHEDULE

The Town anticipates the following general timeline for its selection process. The Town reserves the right to change this schedule.

- RFQ Advertised: May 24th, 2024
- Proposal Due Date: June 21st, 2024
- Selection Evaluation Week of June 24th, 2024
- Contract Approval July 8th, 2024
- Commencement of Contract July 10th, 2024

D. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Firms shall be qualified professional engineering firms that have experience in design, funding consulting, bidding, construction administration oversight and construction inspection of local government capital improvement projects to include water systems, wastewater systems, stormwater, parks and recreation, and streets and roads. The selected firm shall confirm their ability to provide the following scope of services:

1. Serve as Engineer-of-Record for the Town.
2. Under the direction of the Town Manager or designee, oversee capital project design and construction.
3. Provide infrastructure impact analysis, as needed.
4. Provide detailed design and construction specifications for successful bidding and construction coordination of infrastructure improvements and maintenance projects.

5. Parks and Recreation – projects may include bicycle and pedestrian pathways and parks.
Services may include bidding and construction administration services, grant administration services, environmental engineering, planning and consulting services, and other professional services as may be needed to meet the Town’s goals.
6. Consult with state, federal and county agencies having jurisdictional authority over Town project, as warranted.
7. Assist with budgeting services, planning and rate studies.
8. Suggest and comment on engineering-related ordinance modifications, construction standards and specification modifications.
9. Work with Town staff to review or complete all its applications, or agency notifications.
10. Work with Town staff, organizations, and funding agencies to help develop competitive and complete funding proposals.
11. Serve as the Town's Project Manager for public improvements prepared by other engineers.
12. Review preliminary design drawings and design calculations for compliance with local, county and state requirements and sound engineering practices.
13. Attend pre-application, pre-construction, Town Council meetings and other meetings, as requested by the Town.
14. Periodically review project construction sites to confirm compliance with plans and specifications.
15. Review completed project plans.
16. Review and formulate updates to master plans and feasibility studies, as requested.
17. Subconsultants may be used, subject to written approval by the Town, on design projects or where supplemental expertise is desired.
18. Perform additional basic engineering and special services, which cannot be fully described at this time, as requested by the Town.

The selected firm reports directly to the Town Manager. Inquiries from the public and/or press are outside the purview of the Town Engineering Services. All inquiries for the Town Engineering Services' time shall be channeled through the Town Manager, or the Town Manager's designee, who must authorize such request prior to the selected firm taking any action.

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL AND DUE DATE

Proposers shall email the Statement of Qualifications containing a PDF proposal with subject line: "Town of Spruce Pine, NC - Town Engineering Services." Proposals shall be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21st, 2024 to:

Darlene Butler
PO Box 189
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Proposals shall be organized as specified in section 3. Proposal shall not exceed 20 single-sided pages, exclusive of the front and back covers. The Town assumes no responsibility for undelivered emails.

Proposals that are not delivered by the above-specified time and date will not be considered.

B. INQUIRIES

Questions concerning this RFQ should be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20th, 2024, in writing to:

Darlene Butler, Town Manager
Town of Spruce Pine
PO Box 189
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Email: manager@sprucepine-nc.gov

Please include subject line: "Questions Regarding RFQ for Town Engineering Services."

C. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Town reserves the right to:

1. Seek clarifications of each proposal.
2. Negotiate a final contract that is in the best interest of the Town and the public.
3. Reject any or all proposals.
4. Cancel this RFQ at any time if doing so would be in the public interest, as determined by Town in its sole discretion.
5. Award the contract to any proposer based on the evaluation criteria set forth in this RFQ.
6. Waive minor informalities contained in any proposal, when, in the Town's sole judgment, it is in the Town's best interest to do so.
7. Request any additional information Town deems reasonably necessary to allow Town to evaluate, rank and select the most-qualified proposer to perform the services described in this RFQ.

D. PUBLIC RECORDS

All proposals submitted are the property of the Town of Spruce Pine, thus subject to disclosure pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Act. Accordingly, proposals received and opened shall not be available for public inspection until after the Town's notice of intent to award this contract is issued. Thereafter, except for information marked "Proprietary", all documents received by the Town shall be available for public disclosure. The Town will attempt to maintain the confidentiality of materials marked "Proprietary" to the extent permitted under North Carolina law.

E. COSTS

Proposers responding to this RFQ do so solely at their own expense.

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND EVALUATION

A. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The Town will review proposals received to determine whether each proposer meets the following minimum qualifications:

1. A professional engineer licensed to work in the State of North Carolina.
2. Ability to provide the engineering services needed by the Town to the standards required by the Town, County and State.
3. Has the financial resources to perform the desired engineer services, or the ability to obtain such resources.

B. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Proposals shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

1. The name of the person(s) authorized to represent the proposer in negotiating and signing any agreement which may result from the proposal.
2. Detailed information on the Firm's ability to provide the services described herein. Include sufficient discussion of proposed methodologies, techniques and procedures. Describe the hierarchy of project management. Provide suggestions of any additional services that may enhance the value and/or effect of the overall economy and effectiveness of the contract.
3. The names of professional persons who will perform the work and a current resume for each, including a description of qualifications, skills and responsibilities. The Town is interested in professionals with experience serving local governmental entities.
4. Specifically address proposer's familiarity with laws and regulations governing water systems, wastewater systems, stormwater, streets and roads, and electrical engineering operations, construction and maintenance of the Town's current systems.
5. Explanation of proposer's workload capacity and level of experience commensurate with the level- of-service required by the Town.
6. Explanation of proposer's facilities and availability of professional staff.
7. Proof of Insurance of \$1 million professional liability insurance. Proof of coverage by Workers' Compensation Insurance or exemption.

8. A list of at least three references from local government clients for whom similar services have recently been provided. (For all references, please include names, phone numbers, e- mail address and description of work performed.)
9. A list of the tasks, responsibilities and qualifications of any subconsultants proposed to be used on a routine basis and proof of adequate professional liability insurance for any sub-consultants.
10. Confirmation that the proposer is a professional engineer licensed to work in the State of North Carolina.

C. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals meeting the above minimum qualifications will be evaluated by the Town using the following criteria.

1. Firm Experience/Reputation/Workload: Firm's experience in similar work and the record of successful results of that work. Consideration will be given to the Firm's ability to take on additional work, specific management approach, how well the Firm 's organization structure shows sufficient depth of its present workload, approach to managing project budget and time, and the Firm' s ability to offer quality services required. Maximum Points: 25
2. Project Management Approach: Responses to Section 2. D. 2. as outlined regarding the Firm's Project Management Approach and the performance of the identified services as well as project deliverables. Maximum Points: 25
3. Experience of Project Team: Having the right team helps deliver a project within budget and on- schedule. The Town will give considerable weight to the individual qualifications of the team members who will be assigned to do a majority of the work identified. Consideration will include the individual qualifications, experience, and location of key personnel. Maximum Points: 35
4. Thoroughness of the Proposal: The Firm's overall proposal in addressing the services required by the town. Maximum Points:15