



City of Cambridge

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

795 Massachusetts Ave. • Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-3219

Amy L. Witts
Purchasing Agent

TO: All Bidders

FROM: City of Cambridge

DATE: April 17, 2015

RE: File No. 6788 – City of Cambridge Parks, Cemetery and Water Department Tree Pruning- Addendum No. 2

The following questions were submitted and answered.

Question: The 2nd and 3rd items require the bidder to have completed a single-year contract in tree pruning for a Massachusetts public agency with a value of at least \$100,000.00.

As you are likely well aware, municipal contracts of this size in the metro Boston area for the most part carry a similar requirement. While companies that are based outside the city are able to find and complete contracts in smaller communities that don't have a similar requirement, our company is located in Medford and we have limited access to contracts that would meet the requirement. As a result, it is difficult for our company to find and complete such a contract without incurring a significant financial loss.

My question is whether the Purchasing Department could change the 2nd quality requirement item to expand the requirements. It currently requires the Bidder to have completed a single-year contract in tree pruning for a Massachusetts public agency with a value of at least \$100,000.00. I am asking if it can be expanded to require the Bidder to have completed a single-year contract in tree pruning for a Massachusetts public agency with a value of at least \$100,000.00, or to have gross annual receipts for tree work in excess of 10% of the estimated value of the contract. The goal of my suggestion is to allow companies like ours, based in the city, to be eligible as bidders while keeping the original intent of the question intact, which I believe is to make sure the bidding company has the production capacity to meet the requirements of the contract.

Answer: *Quality Requirements 2 & 3 will remain as is.*

Question: My second question is whether the City has considered adding a Quality Requirement that the Bidder be a TCIA Accredited company. This is a voluntary certification that ensures a tree company meets rigorous ethical, safety and quality standards. It is a certification that several cities, including the city of Chicago, cite in their bid specifications and I think the City would

benefit from including this in their Quality Requirements. The Tree Care Industry's website, www.tcia.org, has more information on the Accreditation program.

Answer: *At this time the City will not be adding this as a quality requirement*

All other details remain the same.

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Addendum No. 2