



City of Tacoma

Questions and Answers

Powerline Vegetation Clearance Crews RFB Specification No. PT24-0244F

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Hailey Erichsen, herichsen@cityoftacoma.org, by date questions were due. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org. Navigate to [Current Contracting Opportunities / Public Works and Improvements Solicitations](#), and then click [Questions and Answers](#) for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

1. Question: Can you clarify the licensing requirement? Must it be in place at the time of submission or can it be acquired at a later date?

Answer: Can be obtained at a later date but must be in place by the time the contract is signed and active. Please call the State of Washington for any detailed questions about licensing requirements. <http://bls.dor.wa.gov/>

2. Question: What are the specific requirements for the bid bond? Can you confirm whether scanned copies are acceptable for electronic submissions?

Answer: In Area 13, page 14 of the solicitation documents it goes into detail about the bid bonds and the requirements. Electronic copies are allowed at submission but the bond must be physically received within 7 business days. Bonding requirements can be sent via USPS, FedEx, or UPS or brought in physically to the address listed in the documents.

3. Question: Are there any anticipated changes to Prevailing Wages during the contract period and how will these changes be communicated?

Answer: Prevailing Wage is controlled by the State of Washington. This is detailed in Area 12 of the bid documents on page 13. L&I is in charge of rate changes and information can be found on their website: <https://secure.lni.wa.gov/wagelookup/>

4. Question: Can you elaborate on how the bids will be evaluated beyond pricing including the weight of technical qualifications and other criteria?

Answer: This bid has historically been evaluated on lowest price. If necessary, other criteria may come in to play but it has not been needed for previous solicitations.

5. Question: Is there a minimum crew size or a minimum amount of aerial trucks on hand?

Answer: Minimum crew size is three (3) employees as outlined in Section 4.01.7D. Minimum amount of aerial trucks: Refer to section 4.01.7E and 4.01.7E.1 for equipment requirements and vehicle age.

6. Question: Could you elaborate on the in-state contractor preference? This information is in the Special Notice to Bidders section, page 6.

Answer: This section is required to be included in the bid documents by the State of Washington. We are not utilizing whether a contractor is located in or out of state in our evaluation.



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7. Question: Are there specific licensing requirements to be awarded the bid? Is the only additional requirement is Line Clearance Certified?

Answer: The State of Washington has no additional requirements for this work and the City of Tacoma does not have any specific licensing requirements. The company is required to have a certified ISA arborist on staff per the specification documents Section 4.01.7F.2.

8. Question: Is the certified arborist required to be on TPU property full-time or on an as-needed basis?

Answer: Arborist is not required, only on an "if needed" basis. See section 4.01.7G.

9. Question: Given the Prevailing Wage rates are updated in Washington biannually, what measures should we include in our unit rates to account for potential mid-year increases? Would an escalation clause or another pricing adjustment mechanism be acceptable to ensure compliance with wage updates over the contract term?

Answer: The proposal pages have the escalation information included for annual increases. The solicitation language calls out for annual increases only. How an entity chooses to build in the rates for potential for additional escalation is their choice. Please review Section 4.05.3 for escalation information for this contract.

10. Question: Will crew expectations be on-call or scheduled?

Answer: Tacoma Public Utilities anticipates there should be five (5) crews available for a 40-hour work week for the length of the contract. This work is scheduled.

11. Question: In Section 3.2 it states the contractor is required to obtain any necessary permits, but in Section 4.18.3, it states that City of Tacoma will obtain the required right-of-way permits. Which section applies?

Answer: Section 4.18.3 applies – the City will obtain permits for work done on behalf of the City of Tacoma/Tacoma Public Utilities.

12. Question: Who is the current contract for this work?

Answer: Asplundh

13. Question: Do you have a list that could be provided to the vendor of preferred schools or other contractors that have been used in the past for the LEAP program?

Answer: Preferred apprenticeship programs to contact for locating LEAP-qualified employees are those that are approved by the Washington State Apprenticeship Council: <https://secure.lni.wa.gov/arts-public/#/>. LEAP does not have a list of contractors used in the past. If you have a trade-specific request, LEAP may be able to assist.

14. Question: Is the NW Line JATC part of the LEAP Program?

Answer: The [NW Line JATC](#) program is a Washington State Apprenticeship Council-approved training program. The NW Line JATC may have members who reside in the applicable LEAP zip codes and may therefore be of assistance in meeting the LEAP requirements.



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15. Question: Will the LEAP coordinator assist in identifying eligible apprentices or residents from Economically Distressed ZIP Codes?

Answer: The LEAP Coordinator will assist in identifying LEAP-qualified individuals as outlined in the two LEAP requirement categories.

16. Question: Are there any workshops or orientation sessions available for contractors to better understand LEAP compliance processes?

Answer: There will be a Pre-Construction Meeting for the awarded vendor. The LEAP Coordinator will be present for questions at that time. The LEAP Coordinator is available outside of these meetings. Contact information is contained in the bid documents for the LEAP Coordinator.

17. Question: For disposal, will the City of Tacoma's mentioned chip program be primarily used?

Answer: Yes, this is the primary method. If the trees are in an outlying area, TPU can coordinate to donate the wood chips to Pierce County as they are in need. The Contract Program Coordinator for T&D can assist with coordinating this if needed.

18. Question: Are all crews required to be QLCA?

Answer: Yes, the company holds the certification and extends to employees via training.

The above answer was given live during the pre-bid meeting. However, after the meeting, our team members reviewed and discovered an error in the answer. The answer to this question is as follows:

Correction: See Requirements outlined in Section 4.01.7B through D.

19. Question: Will we be required to fill out the 2024 Tacoma Power Prequalified Electrical Contractor application?

Answer: No, this is only required for PT24-0201F.

20. Question: Will a Washington State Contractor's license be required to participate in this project or will an existing established contractor's license with the CSLB suffice?

Answer: See Section 1.A.1 of the General Provisions. Additionally, the State of Washington only has a reciprocal licensing agreement with the State of Oregon.