



**CAMERON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO BID**

RFP NUMBER # 220502

RFP TITLE: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF COLD ROOM INSPECTION UNIT AT FREE TRADE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

DATE DUE: MAY 24, 2022

DUE NO LATER THAN 11:00 A.M.

RFP's will be opened at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Brownsville, Texas in the Purchasing Department – 3rd Floor – Room # 345 at 11:01 a.m. (as per Purchasing Dept. time clock) on deadline due date.

RFP's received later than the date and time above will not be considered.

Please return RFP **ORIGINAL AND SEVEN (7) COPIES** in sealed envelope. Be sure that return envelope shows the RFP Number, Description and is marked "SEALED RFP".

RETURN RFP TO:

by U.S. mail or delivered to the office of Purchasing Dept., **County Courthouse (Dancy Bldg.)**
1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor, Room 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520

For additional information or to request addendum contact: Mike Forbes or Dalia Loera at (956) 544-0871, E-mail: mforbes@co.cameron.tx.us or purchasing@cameroncounty.com.

You must sign below in INK; failure to sign WILL disqualify the offer. All prices must be typewritten or written in ink.

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Historically Underutilized Business (State of Texas) Certification VID Number: _____

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____ e-mail _____

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

How did you find out about this RFP? _____ (ex: Newspaper, Web, Mail)

Is Proposer's principal place of Business within Cameron County? Yes - No

(Your signature attests to your offer to provide the goods and/or services in this RFP according to the published provision of this RFP. When an award letter is issued, this RFP becomes the contract. If a RFP required specific Contract is to be utilized in addition to this RFP, this signed RFP will become part of that contract. When an additional Contract is required a RFP award does not constitute a contract award and RFP / Contract is not valid until contract is awarded by Commissioners Court (when applicable) signed by County Judge) and Purchase Order is issued.

CHECK LIST

Offerors are asked to review the package to be sure that all applicable parts are included. If any portion of the package is missing, notify the Purchasing Department immediately. It is the Offeror's responsibility to be familiar with all the Requirements and Specifications. Be sure you understand the following before you return your RFP packet.

- Cover Sheet**
Your company name, address and your signature (**IN INK**) should appear on this page.
- Instructions to Proposers**
You should be familiar with all of the Instructions to Proposers.
- Special Requirements**
This section provides information you must know in order to make an offer properly.
- Specifications / Scope of Work**
This section contains the detailed description of the product/service sought by the County.

Attachments

- Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I**
Be sure to complete these forms and return with packet.

Other - Final Reminders To double check before submitting RFP

- Is your RFP sealed with RFP #, title, Proposer Name, & return address, on outside?
- Did you complete, sign and submit page 1?
- Did you provide the number of copies as required on the cover page?
- Did you visit our website for any addendums?

[http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp\(q\)_and_addms_and_tabs.php](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp(q)_and_addms_and_tabs.php)

If not interested in responding please let us know why e-mail to: Purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RFPS

These General Instructions apply to all offers made to Cameron County, Texas (herein after referred to as "County") by all prospective vendors (herein after referred to as "Proposers") on behalf of Solicitations including, but not limited to, Invitations to RFP.

Carefully read all instructions, requirements and specifications. Fill out all forms properly and completely. Submit your RFP with all appropriate supplements and/or samples. Prior to returning your sealed RFP response / submittal, all Addendums - if issued - should be reviewed and downloaded by entering the County Purchasing web [http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp\(q\)_and_addms_and_tabs.php](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp(q)_and_addms_and_tabs.php) Addendums Column (updated Addendums). These Addendums must be signed and returned with your RFP in order to avoid disqualification. All Tabulations can also be viewed and downloaded at this site. Annual RFP award information can be accessed at:

[http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp\(q\)_and_addms_and_tabs.php](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/bids_rfp(q)_and_addms_and_tabs.php)

Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFP is complete, and double check your RFP for accuracy.

Cameron County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFP is complete, and double check your RFP for accuracy.

GOVERNING FORMS: In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall document, Cameron County's interpretation shall govern. Where substitutions are used, they must be of equivalent value or service, and specified by the Proposer as such, in the columns to the right on the "Minimum Specifications' Forms". The County's specifications may be exceeded and should be noted by the Vendor as such. Any RFP NOT MEETING the Minimum Requirements specified will be rejected.

GOVERNING LAW: This invitation to RFP is governed by the competitive proposing requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 et seq., as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and that Cameron County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the County Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements.

Questions requiring only clarification of instructions or specifications will be handled verbally. If any questions results in a change or addition to this RFP, the Change(s) and addition(s) will be forwarded to all vendors involved (as quickly as possible) in the form of a written addendum only. Verbal changes to Bids/RFP's/RFQ's must be backed-up by written addendum or written Q/A clarifications which would be posted on County Purchasing Web site. Without written Addendum or written Q / A clarification, verbal changes to Bids / RFP / RFQ will not apply.

Sign the Vendor's Affidavit Notice, complete answers to Attachments A,B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and return all with your RFP.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE:

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire must be filed in accordance with chapter 176 of the Local Government Code by a person doing business with the governmental entity.

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.

A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than September 1 of the year for which an activity described in Section 176.006(a), Local Government Code, is pending and not later than the 7th business day after the date the originally filed questionnaire becomes incomplete or inaccurate.

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this Conflict of Interest form, you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

can be downloaded at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/docs/conflictinterest.pdf>

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

This questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government and no later than the 7th business day after the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed. Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to **provide the following information if the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed**. Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "N/A."

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this disclosure of interest form, you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

can be downloaded at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/docs/DisclosureofInterest.pdf>

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION FORM 1295

All RFPs prior to award or award of Contract by Commissioner's Court will require that the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) Form 1295 Electronic (on line) Vendor filing procedure be completed by Vendor.

All Vendors being recommended to Commissioners Court for award or renewal of award on Agenda must register and obtain a TEC Certification for the specific award. This Certification Form 1295 must be electronically submitted, printed and notarized. Notarized form must be emailed or delivered to County Purchasing Department making the request for form. This process must be completed prior to Commissioners Court Agenda for approval consideration of RFP award. There is no charge for this TEC online process.

Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) Form 1295 must be completed (by firm - on line "New Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties Electronic Filing Application" Site

at: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm)

If any Vendors have questions as to TEC Form 1295 visit the County Purchasing Web site left column tab "Vendor – TEC Form 1295" for more information. TEC Web site links can be found at this location including Question / Answers and Video instructions.

tab Link: http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/administration/purchasing_department/index.php

PROPOSER SHALL SUBMIT RFP ON THE FORM PROVIDED, SIGN THE VENDOR AFFIDAVIT, AND RETURN ENTIRE RFP PACKET. In the event of inclement weather and County Offices are officially closed on a Proposal deadline day, RFP's will be received until 2:00 p.m. of the next business day. Proposals will be opened at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Brownsville, Texas in the Purchasing Department – 3rd Floor – Room # 345 (as per Purchasing Dept. time clock).

RFP'S SUBMITTED AFTER THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE SHALL BE RETURNED UNOPENED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED VOID AND UNACCEPTABLE.

PROPOSERS MAY ATTEND PUBLICLY HELD COMM COURT MEETING FOR AWARD OF THIS SOLICITATION. All responding bidders/ proposers are welcome to attend the publicly held Commissioners Court meeting relative to the outcome / award of this solicitation. Court Meeting agenda date and times may be obtained at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/judge/agenda.htm>

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. All responding vendors will receive written notification regarding the outcome of the award.

OPEN RECORDS ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED. All information included will be open to the public, other proposers, media as per the Open Records Act and not be confidential in nature. If you deem any information as confidential, it should not be made part of your RFP package.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

THIS IS THE ONLY APPROVED INSTRUCTION FOR USE ON YOUR RFP. ITEMS BELOW APPLY TO AND BECOME A PART OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFP. ANY EXCEPTIONS THERETO MUST BE IN WRITING.

1. **ORIGINAL AND SEVEN (7) COPIES OF RFP's MUST BE SUBMITTED** Each RFP shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFP. RFP's must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified.
2. Each RFP shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFP. RFPs must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified.
3. RFPs MUST give full firm name and address of the Proposer. Failure to manually sign RFP will disqualify it. Person signing RFP should show TITLE or AUTHORITY TO BIND THE FIRM IN A CONTRACT.
4. RFPs CANNOT be altered or amended after deadline time. Any alterations made before deadline time must be initiated by proposer or his authorized agent. No RFP can be withdrawn after opening time without approval by the Commissioners Court based on a written acceptable reason.
5. Written and verbal inquires pertaining to RFPs must give RFP Number and Company.
6. NO substitutions, changes or cancellations permitted without written approval of Purchasing Agent.
7. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any RFP, waiver minor technicalities. The County of Cameron reserves the right to award by item category or by total RFP. Prices should be itemized. County also reserves the right to award either with or without trade-in, if applicable. Cameron County retains the option to re-RFP at any time if in its best interest and is not automatically bound to renewal or re-RFP. The County reserves the right to add additional County Departments (at a later time during this RFP award) as the need arises.
8. RFP price on quantity specified – extend and show total. In case or errors in extension, UNIT prices shall govern.
9. This is a RFP inquiry only and implies no obligation on the part of Cameron County. The County reserve the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received. Incomplete proposals will be considered at the County's sole discretion.
10. Partial RFPs will not be accepted unless awarded by complete category or line item.

11. It is expected that the proposer will meet all state and federal safety standards and laws in effect on the date of the RFP for the item(s) being specified, and the particular use for which they are meant.
12. It is the responsibility of the proposer to ask any and all questions the proposer feels to be pertinent to the proposal. Cameron County shall not be required to attempt to anticipate such questions for proposers. Cameron County will endeavor to respond promptly to all questions asked.
13. RFP SUBMISSION: Proposals must be in correct format and complete. Respondents are expected to address all items in as much detail as necessary for Cameron County representatives to make a fair evaluation of the Proposer and the Proposal.
14. The contract will be awarded to the most qualified proposal. An Evaluation Committee will review all completed proposals.
15. The County reserve the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any irregularities. All expenses incurred by the proposer in preparing its response to this RFP and in seeking award of this contract shall be borne solely by the proposer.
16. The County does not guarantee that a contract (or contracts) will be awarded as a result of the RFP. In the event that a contract award is made, but the contract is not executed, the County does not guarantee that the contract will be re-awarded. Cameron County staff will review all proposals for compliance and thoroughness. The proposals found to be in compliance will then be distributed to the members of a Selection Committee.
17. REIMBURSEMENTS: There is no express or implied obligation for the County to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this Request for Proposal. The County will not reimburse responding firms for these expenses, nor will the County pay any subsequent costs associated with the provision of any additional information or presentation, or to procure a contract for these services.
18. MANAGEMENT: Should there be a change in ownership or management; the contract shall be cancelled unless a mutual agreement is reached with the new County or manager to continue the contract with its present provisions and prices. This contract is nontransferable by contract vendor.
19. NEGOTIATIONS: Negotiations may be conducted with responsible offeror(s) who submit proposals that are reasonably susceptible of being selected. All firm(s) reasonably susceptible of being selected based on criteria set forth in this RFP may be given an opportunity to make a presentation and/or interview with the Selection Committee. Following any presentation and/or interviews, firms will be ranked in order of preference and contract negotiations will begin with the top ranked firm. Should negotiations with the highest ranked firm fail to yield a contract, or if the firm is unable to execute said contract, negotiations will be formally ended and then commence with the second highest ranked firm, etc. However, the County may in their sole discretion, award a contract without interviews, based solely on information supplied in the proposal responses.
20. This RFP does not commit County or their representatives to enter into a contract or award any services related to this RFP, nor does it obligate County or their representatives to pay any costs incurred in preparation or submission of a proposal or in anticipation of a contract.
21. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS: This request for Proposal, response and associated documentation, any negotiations and final contract, when properly accepted by Cameron County, shall constitute a contract equally binding between the proposer and Cameron County.

Request for Proposals

Management and Operation Services

Cold Room Inspection Facilities

at the

Free Trade International Bridge at Los Indios



A. OVERVIEW

Cameron County is now accepting sealed proposals subject to the Terms and Conditions of this Invitation for Proposals and other contract provisions, from qualified vendors for the management and operation of refrigerated inspection facilities located within the federal import lot at the Los Indios Free Trade Bridge. Proposals will be received at the Cameron County Purchasing Department, 1100 E. Monroe St., Dancy Building, Brownsville, Texas. No electronically mailed proposals will be accepted. Proposals should be sealed and clearly labeled "cold storage RFP" and addressed to Mr. Mike Forbes, CPM.

Cameron County has constructed a refrigerated inspection facility that provides an adequately climate-controlled environment for commodities being imported into the United States during inspection by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This facility helps to protect products from weather elements, dirt and dust, smog and insects during inspection.

The refrigerated inspection facility will be located within the import lot at the Free Trade International Bridge at Los Indios located at 100 Los Indios Blvd., Los Indios, Texas 78567, just south of Harlingen.

B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Cameron County seeks competitive proposals from contract vendors interested in the management and operation of a refrigerated inspection facility. The facility at the Free Trade Bridge at Los Indios is approximately 3,000 square feet and is located within the federal import lot facilities. Cameron County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and the right to solicit new proposals. Cameron County reserves the right to waive any irregularities and formalities, and to negotiate with any party relative to its proposal.

TERM: The initial term of this contract shall be for a **period of three (3) years with an option to renew for two (2) additional three-year terms, subject to the GSA license to Cameron County for the use of the facilities.** Any renewal options may require a market analysis to evaluate the facility use fee. The selected contract vendor shall have the right of first refusal to manage and operate upon terms negotiated by the County.

2. Cameron County requests proposals which will include a facility use fee for the management and operation of the refrigerated facility that will provide both compensation to the bridge owners and funds to cover the management and operating costs. There is no fee structure established, thus proposals are encouraged to be innovative and are meant to allow creativity in the establishment of a fee structure which is beneficial to all parties.

3. The permitted use of the facility is to provide an adequate climate controlled environment for products during inspection by the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP). It is the intent of Cameron County to accept the proposal from a contract vendor that demonstrates financial stability and has an established track record of working within the trade industry. The premises shall not be used for any other purpose without written consent from County.

- A. The contract vendor that manages and operates the refrigerated facility is responsible for collecting the facility use fee on a per truck basis from each broker/customer that utilizes the refrigerated facility during inspection by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in order to cover all costs associated with the management and operation of the refrigerated facilities and compensation to the County.
- B. The County will award one contract for the management and operation of the facility. If the contract vendor **manages and operates** the refrigerated facility, the contract vendor may also operate and conduct stevedore services (unloading and loading products for their customers) and must also allow existing or future stevedores to continue offering stevedore services (unloading and loading products for their customers) within the refrigerated facilities at no cost to the stevedore.

4. The contract vendor is responsible for developing a fee structure which, over time, is beneficial to all parties. The

County will consider any and all options including but not limited to using the cold room at no charge for a period of time.

5. The County shall deliver to the contract vendor the following:

- A. Refrigerated facilities;
- B. Exterior walls and roof;
- C. Complete plumbing and refrigeration system;
- D. Complete electrical lighting and outlets;
- E. Lighting;
- F. All exterior doors and hardware;
- G. Concrete floors;

6. The contract vendor shall be responsible for the management and operation of the facilities, including but not limited to, payment (as negotiated) of facility use fee to the County, obtaining approval to manage and operate in federal facilities from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), personnel (including obtaining proper security clearance), and obtaining any additional necessary equipment (electric forklift), along with being compliant with any other federal, state, or local statutes, ordinances, regulations or requirements.

7. The contract vendor shall be responsible for maintaining the premises, at its own expense, in a clean manner. Cameron County will keep the equipment in good repair and operating condition throughout the term. Cameron County shall be responsible for fixing premises and maintaining equipment, at its own expense, due to normal wear and tear.

8. The contract vendor shall be responsible for the cost to repair any damage to the refrigerated facilities caused by negligence or misconduct. All repairs caused by the contract vendor shall be restored to the original condition.

9. Cameron County shall maintain all refrigerated facility systems and equipment in good operating condition.

10. The contract vendor will be required to post a security device, such as a standby letter of credit, in the amount of \$25,000.00 in favor of Cameron County in the event of early termination.

11. The contract vendor will be required to present to and obtain County approval of the facility use fee on a per truck basis. The facility use fees presented for approval must be reasonable and customary for the industry. Any and all future increases in the facility use fee will require Cameron County's approval before implementation.

12. The contract vendor is responsible for all taxes, special assessments and governmental charges during the term of the contract on the furniture, equipment, trade fixtures, appliances, and other personal property placed by the contract vendor and not owned by Cameron County.

13. Cameron County will pay for all utility costs required to operate the refrigerated facility.

14. The selected contract vendor will be contractually required to agree and enter into a nondisclosure agreement (NDA), or proprietary information agreement (PIA), reference to the operation of the refrigerated facilities. The broker contract information shall not be disclosed to third parties. The confidential relationship between the parties is necessary to protect any type of confidential and proprietary information or trade secrets of those firms that ship their goods through these ports of entry, subject to the Texas Public Information Act.

15. The County shall not invoice the contract vendor for a period of six (6) months. At that point the County will meet with the contract vendor to set an amount the contract vendor will be required to pay County per each unloading into cold room inspection storage.

C. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The successful Proposer shall furnish the County with certified copies of valid insurance policies herein required upon execution of the contract and shall maintain said policies in full force and effect at all times during the term of this contract.

1. Commercial General Liability insurance at minimum combined single limits of \$1,000,000 per-occurrence and \$2,000,000 general aggregate for bodily injury and property damage, Coverage must be amended to provide for an each-project aggregate limit of insurance. An alternative would be to have separate limits for all lines of General Liability coverage for each project.

2. Workers Compensation insurance at statutory limits, including Employers Liability coverage a minimum limits of \$1,000,000 each-occurrence each accident/\$1,000,000 by disease each-occurrence/\$1,000,000 by disease aggregate.

3. Commercial Automobile Liability insurance at minimum combined single limits of \$1,000,000 per-occurrence for bodily injury and property damage, including owned, non-owned, and hired car coverage.

4. Contract vendor will be responsible for any third-party contractor, and shall either assure County the third-party meets the same insurance requirements or contract vendor shall take on the third-party vendor's liability as their own

5. A Comprehensive General Liability insurance form may be used in lieu of a Commercial General Liability insurance form. In this event, coverage must be written on an occurrence basis, at limits of \$1,000,000 each-occurrence, combined single limit, and coverage must include a broad form Comprehensive General Liability Endorsement.

6. With reference to the foregoing insurance requirement, contract vendor shall specifically endorse applicable insurance policies as follows:

- A. The County shall be named as an additional insured with respect to General Liability and Automobile Liability.
- B. All liability policies shall contain no cross-liability exclusions or insured versus insured restrictions.
- C. A waiver of subrogation in favor of the s shall be contained in the workers' compensation, and all liability policies.
- D. All insurance policies shall be endorsed to require the insurer to immediately notify County of any material change in the insurance coverage.
- E. All insurance policies shall be endorsed to the effect that County will receive at least sixty- (60) days notice prior to cancellation or non-renewal of the insurance.
- F. All insurance policies, which name County as an additional insured, must be endorsed to read as primary coverage regardless of the application of other insurance.
- G. Required limits may be satisfied by any combination of primary and umbrella liability insurances.
- H. Contract vendor may maintain reasonable and customary deductibles, subject to approval by County.
- I. Insurance must be purchased from insurers that are financially acceptable to County. Insurer must be rated A- or greater by AM Best Rating with an admitted carrier licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance.

7. All insurance must be written on forms filed with and approved by the Texas Department of Insurance. Certificates of Insurance shall be prepared and executed by the insurance company or its authorized agent and shall contain provisions representing and warranting the following:

- A. Sets forth all endorsements and insurance coverages according to requirements and instructions contained herein.
- B. Shall specifically set forth the notice-of-cancellation or termination provisions to County.

8. Contract vendor shall furnish County with certified copies of all insurance policies at least thirty (30) days prior to commencement of operations.

D. PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

1. A detailed proposal shall be submitted to Cameron County for the management and operation of the refrigerated facility. The proposal shall be in a binder and organized as described in paragraphs 3 through 7 below.

2. Cameron County will be utilizing best value evaluation criteria to select the vendor. You are asked to respond to the following questions and provide concise responses to these questions. Do include boilerplate marketing brochures or informational documents with your responses.

3. TAB A - Overview of Company Experience - *Evaluation percentage assigned 25%*

It is the County desire to establish a strong, lasting relationship with a firm for the management and operation of the refrigerated facility. In order to demonstrate your ability to be a strategic partner, provide responses to the following information requests and questions that address your company's operations, organization, financial viability and structure.

- A. Provide an overview of your company.
- B. Describe your company's business strategy and mission.
- C. Provide at least three (3) operational references and/or customer references that have knowledge of your experience and ability working in the trade industry.

4. TAB B - Financial Ability for the Management or Management and Operation of the Refrigerated Facilities - *Evaluation percentage assigned 25%*

In order to determine the financial ability of your firm to manage and operate the facility, the following information is requested:

Include your typical CPA prepared yearly Financial Statements for your company for the last two (2) years and (if available) to include ex: Salaries and wages, payments for services, Operational expenses consisting of insurances, rent, utilities, supplies, and equipment, Licenses, fees, and all other expenses.

These financial statements shall be submitted in a separate sealed envelope and shall be identified as such. If you wish to have your financial statements returned after our evaluation please include a letter stating such.

5. TAB C - Management Plan —*Evaluation percentage assigned 10%*

- A. Provide a management plan that includes projected number of monthly unloading and loading volume, number of forklifts and spare batteries to be available, staffing levels and any other information that may pertain to the management and operation of the refrigerated facilities.
- B. Describe any added value specifications/features/proposals that will be advantageous to Cameron County if we selected your company to manage and operate the refrigerated facilities.

6. TAB D — Total Facility Use Fee on a Per Truck Basis Structure - Evaluation percentage assigned 25%

- A. The proposal shall include the per truck fee to be charged to the customer for utilizing the refrigerated facilities during inspection.
- B. Per truck fee and Stevedore service fees, if applicable, must be listed separately and should not be included in the total facility use fee.
- C. The total facility use fee on a per truck basis must also include proposed compensation to the County.

7. TAB E — Compensation to County for the Management and Operation of the Refrigerated Facility - *Evaluation percentage assigned 15%*

- A. The total facility use fee proposed for each truck that uses the refrigerated inspection facilities must include compensation to County. Identify how much of that fee will be compensation to County on a per truck fee basis.
- B. Attach a three-year forecast or estimated number of refrigerated inspections per refrigerated facility.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Format and Content: Please included in your RFP's / RFQ's as part of your cover the following:.

Executive Summary (2 pages max.)

Summary of RFPs/RFQs as submitted

Introduction (2 pages max.)

RFPs/RFQs must include confirm that the firm will comply with all of the provisions in this RFP/RFQ. If exceptions will be taken it should be so noted. RFPs/RFQs must be signed by a company officer empowered to bind the company. A proposer's failure to include these items in their RFPs/RFQs may cause their RFPs/RFQs to be determined to be non-responsive and the RFPs/RFQs may be rejected. Include the following: *Firms Name, Address, Phone #, Contact Name, Phone #, Email address.*

Understanding of the Project (1 pages max.)

Offerors must provide a comprehensive narrative statement that illustrates their understanding of the requirements of the project and the project schedule.

Methodology Used for the Project (1 page max.)

Proposers must provide a comprehensive narrative statement that sets out the methodology they intend to employ and that illustrates how their methodology will serve to accomplish the work and meet Cameron County's project schedule.

Management Plan for the Project (1 page max.)

Offerors must provide a comprehensive narrative statement that sets out the management plan they intend to follow and illustrates how their plan will serve to accomplish the work and meet Cameron County's project schedule.

Experience and Qualifications (2 pages max.)

Provide list specific to the personnel assigned to accomplish the work called for in this RFP/RFQ; illustrate the lines of authority; designate the individual responsible and accountable for the completion of each component and deliverable of the RFP/RFQ.

Provide a narrative description of the organization of the project team.

RFP Cost Proposal (1 page max.)

Proposer's cost RFPs must include an itemized list of all direct and indirect costs associated with the performance of this contract, including, but not limited to, total number of hours at various hourly rates, direct expenses, payroll, supplies, overhead assigned to each person working on the project, percentage of each person's time devoted to the project, and profit.

Evaluation Criteria (2 pages total max. for all criteria)

Explain your firms strengths/advantages as they pertain to each of the Evaluation Scoring criteria. Note each criteria separately with explanation for each.

E. EVALUATION FACTORS:

WEIGHTED QUANTITATIVE SCORING:

Each Vendor will be assigned a score of 1 - 4 by each evaluator for each criteria

- 4 = Very good / Exceeds expectations
- 3 = Above expectations
- 2 = Meets expectations
- 1 = Does not meet expectations
- 0 = non responsive

Evaluators score by category will be multiplied by the assigned weight for each criteria by vendor then totaled. Scoring for price will be a ratio and based on a pro rata factor of the best price submitted.

Ex: Vendor W - price \$100,000 = 4 points X assigned weight (ie: 25%) = 100 points
Vendor X – price \$150,000 = 2.66 points X assigned weight (ie: 25%) = 66.6 points
Vendor Y – price \$200,000 = 2 points X assigned weight (ie: 25%) = 50 points
 $\$100,000 \div \$200,000 = .50 \times 4 = 2 \times 25 = 50$
 $\$100,000 \div \$150,000 = .66 \times 4 = 2.666 \times 25 = 66$

Once RFPs are reviewed and scored, a short list will be compiled. Interviews may be conducted with Proposers determined by total score rankings. Additional information may be required at that time. Negotiations will begin with the Proposer selected for the project. Commissioners Court will make the final selection and possible approval of the contract.

The following evaluation factors will be considered by the selection committee when evaluating each proposal:

- **Experience (weighted percentage 25%)**
- **Financial ability to operate these facilities (weighted percentage 25%)**
- **Management plan (weighted percentage 10%)**
- **Total facility use fee on a per truck basis structure (weighted percentage 25%)**
- **Compensation to the County for the management or management and operation of the facilities (weighted percentage 15%)**

RFP Title _____

Proposer's Name _____

Attachment A

REFERENCES

Please list three (3) references of current customers who can verify the quality of service your company provides. The County prefers customers of similar size and scope of work to this RFP.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP.

REFERENCE ONE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE TWO

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE THREE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned certifies that the RFP prices contained in this RFP have been carefully checked and are submitted as correct and final and if RFP is accepted (within 60 days), agrees to furnish any and/or all items upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) and upon the conditions contained in the Specifications.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, A Notary Public in and for the State of _____, on this day personally appeared _____ who, after having first been duly sworn, upon oath did depose and say;

That the foregoing RFP submitted by _____ hereinafter called "Proposer" is the duly authorized agent of said company and that the person signing said RFP has been duly authorized to execute the same. Proposer affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual has not prepared this RFP in collusion with any other Proposer. The Proposer is not a member of any trust, pool, or combination to control the price of products or services RFP on, or to influence any person to RFP or not to RFP thereon. I further affirm that the Proposer has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discounts, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted RFP. The contents of this RFP as to prices, terms or conditions of said RFP have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this RFP.

Name and Address of Proposer :

Telephone number _____ Fax number _____

Signature

Name: _____ Title: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBE BEFORE ME THIS _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Notary Public in and for County _____ State _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §2252.001 *et seq.*, as amended, Cameron County requests Residence Certification. §2252.001 *et seq.* of the Government Code provides some restrictions on the awarding of governmental contracts; pertinent provisions of §2252.001 are stated below:

“Nonresident Proposer ” refers to a person who is not a resident.

“Resident Proposer ” refers to a person whose principal place of business is in this state, including a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

I certify that _____ is a Resident
(Company Name)
Proposer of Texas as defined in Government Code §2252.001.

I certify that _____ is a Nonresident
(Company Name)
Proposer as defined in Government Code §2252.001 and our principal place of business is

(City and State)

Print
Name: _____ Signature: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

CAMERON COUNTY EXPRESSLY REQUESTS THAT PROPOSERS NOT DISCUSS THIS ENGAGEMENT OR THIS PROPOSER'S PLANS, EXPERIENCE OR CREDENTIALS WITH OTHER PROPOSERS OR ANY MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT, ANY COUNTY OFFICIAL, OR ANY EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT. EXCLUDED ARE PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCES, EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED PROPOSER PRESENTATIONS OR PROPOSER INTERVIEWS, OR EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES DEMONSTRATIONS. YOU MAY CONTACT THE ASST. AUDITOR / PURCHASING DEPARTMENT AT ANY TIME.

FROM RFP OPENING DATE THROUGH COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING FOR SELECTION, VENDORS WILL NOT APPROACH THE COUNTY JUDGE OR COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS MATTERS PERTAINING TO THIS BID.

- 01. Has any individual with the firm submitting this Proposal Response made any contact with any member of Commissioners Court, any County Official, or an Evaluation Committee member concerning this Invitation to RFP, other than questions to the Assistant County Auditor/Purchasing Officer?

- 02. Has any individual with the firm submitting this Proposal Response made any contact with any other Proposer concerning this Invitation to RFP?

Signature of person submitting this RFP

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

ORDER NO. 2007O2005

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

ORDER ADOPTING CONTRACTING RULES FOR PERSONS INDEBTED TO COUNTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, Section 262.0276, a commissioners court is authorized to adopt rules permitting a county to refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person indebted to the county;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Cameron County finds it is in the best interest of Cameron County to adopt such rules;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, that the following rules be adopted regarding Cameron County and persons interested in doing business with Cameron County:

- 1. Cameron County may refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person with a past due debt to Cameron County, including delinquent ad valorem taxes, even if the person is the lowest successful proposer; and
2. For purposes of this Order, a debt is past due if it is not received in the County Treasurer's Office by the due date in a written agreement or notice, and ad valorem taxes are past due if not received in the County Tax Assessor/Collector's Office by February 1st following the January 1st on which the ad valorem taxes are due.
3. For purposes of this Order, a person includes an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, and any other entity that proposes or otherwise seeks to enter into a contract or other transaction with Cameron County requiring approval by the Commissioners Court.

ADOPTED this 13 day of March, 2007.

Taxpayer Identification Number (T.I.N.):

Cameron County Acct #'s : Real Estate Personal Property

01. Is the person or the firm submitting this RFP current with all local and State taxes?

Signature of person submitting this RFP Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

Certification

Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, in the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, theory, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the Proposer is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such Proposer should attach an explanation to this RFP / Proposal.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

OFFICE USE ONLY

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001 (1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

Date Received

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2. Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.

(The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3. Name of local government officer about whom the information in this section is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

This section (item 3 including subparts A, B, C, & D) must be completed for each officer with whom the vendor has an employment or other business relationship as defined by Section 176.001 (1-a), Local Government Code. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A Is the local government officer named in this section receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer named in this section AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

C. Is the filer of this questionnaire employed by a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer services as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more?

Yes No

D. Describe each employment or business and family relationship with the local government officer named in this section.

4.

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

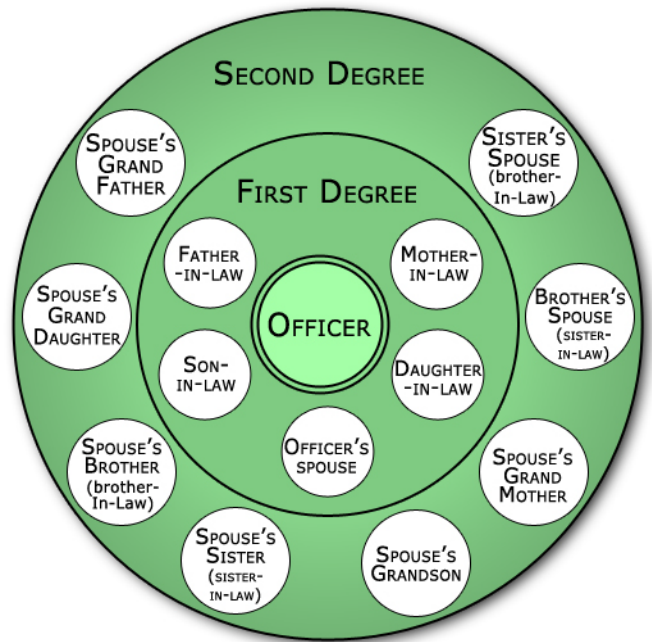
Date

NEPOTISM CHART

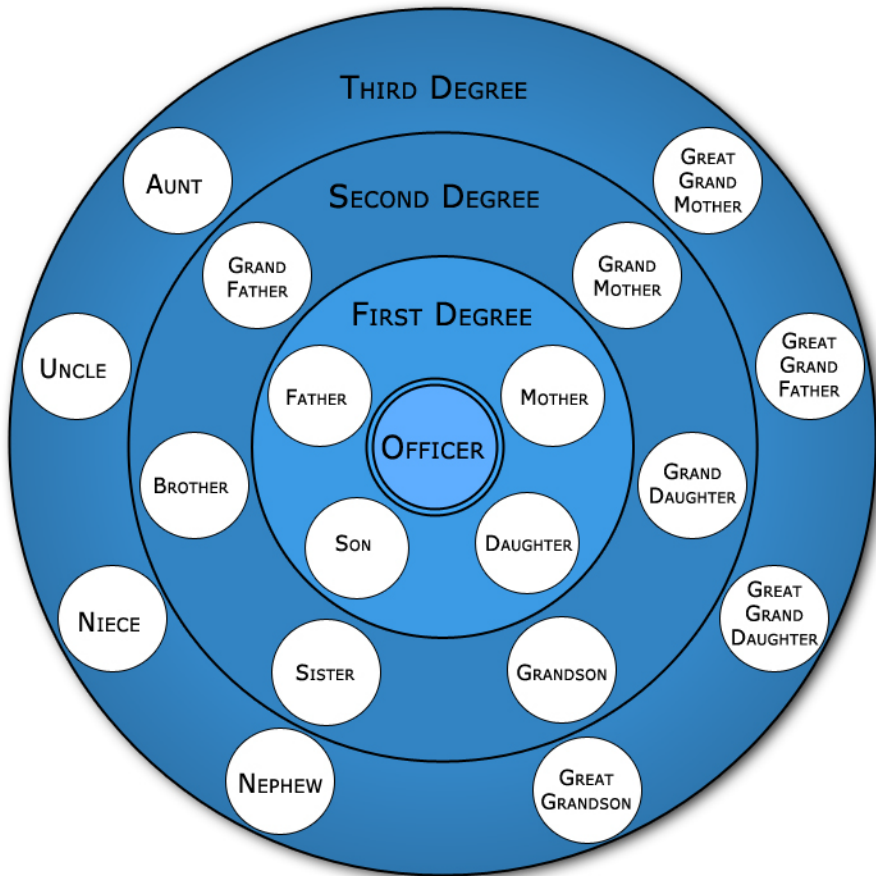
The chart below shows

- **Affinity Kinship** (relationship by marriage)
- **Consanguinity Kinship** (relationship by blood) for purposes of interpreting nepotism as defined in VTCA Government Code, Chapter 573, §§573.021 - .025

AFFINITY KINSHIP Relationship by Marriage



CONSANGUINITY KINSHIP Relationship by Blood



DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITH THE BID/RFP/RFQ
IF DISCLOSING: BIDDER / PROPOSER MUST ALSO FILE WITH THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE
THE PURCHASING DEPT. WILL NOT BE FILING ON THE BIDDER’S BEHALF

Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to provide the following information. Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with “N/A.” By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk’s Office) of the local government.

Date _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FIRM is: 1. Corporation () 2. Partnership () 3. Sole Owner ()
4. Association () 5. Other () _____

DISCLOSURE QUESTIONS

If additional space is necessary, please use the reverse side of this page or attach separate sheet.

1. State the names of each “employee, elected official, or member of Commissioners Court” of Cameron County having Substantial Interest in Business Entity Local Govt. Code 171.002

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (CONTINUED)

- a) For purpose of this chapter, a person has a substantial interest in a business entity if :
 - (1) the person owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either 10 percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or
 - (2) funds received by the person from the business entity exceeds 10 percent of the person’s gross income for the previous year.
- b) A person has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.
- c) A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest under this section if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, has a substantial interest under this section.

Name	Title	Department

CERTIFICATE

I certify that all information provided is true and correct as of the date of this statement, that I have not knowingly withheld disclosure of any information requested; and that supplemental statements will be promptly submitted to the Cameron County as changes occur.

Certifying Person: _____ Title: _____
 (Type or Print)

Signature of Certifying Person: _____ Date: _____



HOUSE BILL 89 VERIFICATION

I, _____,
[Person Name]

the undersigned representative of _____
[Company or Business Name]

(hereafter referred to as Company) being an adult over the age of eighteen (18) years of age, does hereby depose and verify that the Company named above, under the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Texas Government Code Chapter 2270:

1. Does not currently boycott the country of Israel; and
2. Will not boycott the country of Israel during the term of the contract with Cameron County, Texas.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Pursuant to Section 2270.001, Texas Government Code:

1. *“Boycott Israel” means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli-controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes; and*
2. *“Company” means a for-profit sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or any limited liability company, including a wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of those entities or business associations that exist to make a profit.*

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS (Requests for proposals (RFP))

ADDENDA: If RFP specifications, terms or conditions are revised, the Cameron County Purchasing Department will issue an addendum addressing the nature of the changes and notify interested potential Proposers. Proposers must acknowledge receipt and consideration of any such changes by signing the addendum and including it in the RFP package containing the Proposer's submittal.

ADVERTISING: Unless otherwise required by law, Proposers to County RFPs shall not publish and shall keep confidential their intentions and actions respecting any response to the RFP.

AWARD: Cameron County may hold RFP responses for a period of sixty (60) days. Cameron County reserves the right to reject any or all responses to RFPs. Cameron County reserves the right to award a contract, if any, based on the Proposer's response when compared to the EVALUATION CRITERIA (AS STATED IN THE RFP) and, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, reserves the right to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one proposer. Commissioners Court reserves the right to determine the method and procedures for the final award of all RFPs at any time they may choose, regardless of the Point System used by the Evaluation Committee.

BONDS: If the contract that may be entered into with the County will likely require a performance guarantee or bond, the Purchasing Department will attach a separate page to the RFP explaining those requirements.

CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION: In any contract resulting from the RFP, the County shall have the right to cancel all or any part of the undelivered portion of the contract if (1) Proposer breaches any of the terms hereof, including, but not limited to, applicable warranties, and/or (2) Proposer becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Such right of cancellation is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which the County may have in law or equity. Cancellation of work hereunder shall be effected by the delivery to the Proposer of a "Notice of Cancellation of Undelivered Work" specifying the extent to which performance of work, including all goods and services, under the contract is cancelled and the date upon which such cancellation becomes effective.

The performance of work under any resulting contract may be terminated in whole, or in part, by the County in accordance with this provision. The County shall have the right to terminate all or any part of the contract if (1) the Proposer breaches any of the terms hereof, including, but not limited to, applicable warranties, and/or (2) Proposer becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which the County may have in law or equity. Termination of work hereunder shall be effected by the delivery to the Proposer of a "Notice of Termination" specifying the extent to which performance of work, including all goods and services, under the contract is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective.

CHANGE ORDERS: No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise change, or affect the terms, conditions or specifications stated in the resulting contract. All change orders to the contract will be made in writing by mutual consent of the Proposer and the County.

CONTRACT RENEWALS: Contract Renewals must receive Commissioners Court approval. For contract renewal status and information, please contact Elisa Cisneros at 956-982-5405 e-mail: Elisa.Cisneros2@co.cameron.tx.us Cameron County Purchasing Dept. or Dylbia Jeffries 956-550-1340 djefferies@co.cameron.tx.us at the Cameron County Civil Legal Division. Any price escalations are limited to those stated by the original contract terms. All contracts with a one (1) year renewal option require that the Proposer must notify Cameron County of any anticipated price increases in writing at least three months (90 calendar days) prior to the annual renewal award date unless otherwise specified within the specific provisions of the contract up for renewal. This allows the County sufficient time to find an alternative vendor if possible. If Proposer fails to notify the County within time noted it shall be assumed that there will be no price increase for the following year's award period if renewed. This procedure does not apply to any contract which allows for Open Market Price increases or Cost allowance increases.

DISCRIMINATION: In order to encourage fair employment practices, the Proposer agrees as follows: 1.) Proposer will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; 2) in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, the Proposer will state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap or national origin; 3) the Proposer will furnish such relevant information and reports as requested by the County for the purpose of determining compliance with these regulations; and 4) failure of the Proposer to

comply with these laws will be deemed a breach of contract and it may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part as a result thereof.

DISQUALIFICATION OF PROPOSER: Upon submitting a response to this RFP, Proposer certifies that the Proposer has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code 15.01, *et seq.*, as amended, or the federal antitrust laws, and has not communicated directly or indirectly its RFP considerations, plan or response to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any and all responses may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the Proposers. If multiples are submitted by a Proposer and after all responses to the RFPs are opened one or more of the responses are withdrawn, the result will be that all of the responses submitted by that Proposer will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits a Proposer from submitting multiples for different products or services.

EVALUATION: All responses will be evaluated in accordance with law and reviewed to assure they are in the best interest of Cameron County. Evaluations shall be based on criteria bearing on price and performance of the items or services in the user environment. Any specific criteria section or sections identified elsewhere in this RFP may be evaluated by one or more evaluators once the basis and details of this process have been approved by the Purchasing Officer and acknowledged by the Evaluation Committee. Detailed information pertaining to this selective evaluation process is available to Proposers and the Commissioners Court upon request. Evaluation sheets and any summary of all responses are subject to review by the Cameron County Purchasing Department and Evaluation Committee's recommendation to Cameron County Commissioners Court. Compliance with all RFP requirements, delivery terms and needs of the using department are considerations in evaluating responses. Pricing is NOT the only criterion for making a recommendation (see criteria and relative importance of price and other evaluation factors, if any, specified elsewhere in this RFP). The Cameron County Purchasing Department reserves the right to contact any Proposer, at any time, to clarify, verify or request information with regard to that Proposer's response. The Cameron County Purchasing Department further reserves the right to hold negotiation discussions with any responsible Proposer determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award in accordance with law.

PROTEST PROCEDURES: Procedure - This protest procedure is available to Proposers responding to this RFP and requesting a debriefing conference.

Debriefing Conference – A debriefing conference must be requested in writing to the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days from the date of the RFP award by the Cameron County Commissioners' Court. Debriefing questions must be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Department no later than two (2) business days before the scheduled date for the Debriefing Conference. These questions will be answered at the debriefing conference. Follow-up questions must be submitted (in writing) no later than one (1) business day after the date of the Debriefing Conference and answered no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Debriefing Conference. Follow-up answers will be sent via e-mail or fax (if e-mail not available). For RFPs, Proposers are given the opportunity to ask questions of the Evaluation Committee relative to their responses and the Committee's scores.

Protests are made: 1. To the Purchasing Department after the debriefing conference. Proposer protests shall be received, in writing, by the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days after the debriefing conference. 2. To the Protest Committee, only after the protest to the Purchasing Department was not satisfactorily resolved. Protests to the Protest Committee shall be made within five (5) business days after the Proposer has received notification from the County Purchasing Department of its decision.

Grounds for protest

1. Errors were made in computing the score.
2. The County failed to follow procedures established in the RFP, the Purchasing policy on acquisitions or applicable state or federal laws or regulations.
3. Bias, discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of an evaluator. Protests not based on these criteria shall not be considered.

Format and Content - Protesting Proposers shall include, in their written protest to the Cameron County Purchasing Department, all facts and arguments upon which they rely. Proposers shall, at a minimum, provide:

1. Information about the protesting Proposer; name of firm, mailing address, phone number and name of individual responsible for submission of the protest.

2. Information about the acquisition and the acquisition method.
3. Specific and complete statement of the County's action(s) being protested. 4. Specific reference to the grounds for the protest.
5. Description of the relief or corrective action requested.
6. For protests to the Protest Committee, a copy of the Purchasing Department's written decision on the protest.

Review Process:

1. Upon receipt of a Proposer's protest, the Purchasing Department shall postpone further steps in the acquisition process until the Proposer protest has been resolved.
2. The Department's internal protest review procedures consist of the following:
 - a) The Purchasing Department shall perform an objective review of the protest by individuals not involved in the acquisition protested. The review shall be based on the written protest material submitted by the Proposer.
 - b) A written decision will be delivered to the Proposer within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting Proposer shall be notified if additional time is necessary.

Final Determination:

The final determination shall:

1. Find the protest lacking in merit and uphold the agency's action; or
2. Find only technical or harmless errors in the agency's acquisition process, determine the agency to be in substantial compliance, and reject the protest; or 3. Find merit in the protest and provide the agency options which may include recommendations to a) correct its errors and reevaluate all proposals, and/or b) reissue the Proposer solicitation document; or c) make other findings and determine other courses of action as appropriate.

Protest Committee Review Process:

Protests to the Protest Committee may be made only for Protest Committee approved acquisitions, and only after review by County Purchasing Department. Protests of the decisions of County Purchasing Department shall be made by letter to the Protest Committee, who may establish procedures to resolve the protest. Protests shall be received by the Protest Committee within five business days after the decision of Purchasing Department in order to be considered. The Committee's decision is final, with no further administrative appeal available.

FISCAL FUNDING: A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement (if requested by the Special Requirements/Instructions), or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include "fiscal funding out" clause. If, for any reason, funds are not appropriated to continue the lease or contract, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the Proposer from the using department without penalty of any kind or form to Cameron County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and redelivery shall be the responsibility of the Proposer.

GRATUITIES AND PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONAL INTEREST IN CONTRACTS: Any elected or appointed official who has any substantial interest, either direct or indirect, in any business entity seeking to contract with the County, shall, before any vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity, file an affidavit stating the nature and extent of interest and shall abstain from any participation in the matter. This is not required if the vote or decision will not have any special effect on the entity other than its effect on the public. However, if a majority of the governing body is also required to file, and do file similar affidavits, then the member is not required to abstain from further participation. Attached and included in this RFP is a disclosure of all of this Company's business or pecuniary financial relationships with officers or employees of Cameron County or County entities (if any such relationships exists) which must be filled out, attached and included with the RFP response. The County may, by written notice to the Proposer, cancel this contract without liability to Proposer if it is determined by County that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered or given by the Proposer, or any agent, or representative of the Proposer, to any officer or employee of Cameron County with a view toward securing a contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending

or the making or any determinations with respect to the performance of such a contract. In the event this contract is cancelled by County pursuant to this provision, County shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the costs incurred by Proposer in providing such gratuities. Proposer guarantees that he has not retained a person to solicit or secure any contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the Proposer for the purpose of securing business.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) CERTIFICATION: If Proposer is a Certified Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), please include a copy of your HUB Certificate with your response. This information will assist Cameron County in the percentage tracking of HUB utilization.

INSURANCE: The Proposer shall secure and maintain, throughout the duration of the Contract, insurance of such types and in such amounts as may be necessary to protect the Proposer and the interests of the County against all hazards or risks of loss as hereinafter specified. The form and limits of such insurance, together with the insurer, shall be acceptable to the County. It shall be the responsibility of the Proposer to maintain adequate insurance coverage at all times. Failure of the Proposer to maintain adequate coverage shall not relieve the Proposer of any contractual responsibility or obligation.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance required for equipment requested in RFPs should be available in Cameron County by a manufacturer authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on the Pricing/Delivery Information form. If Cameron County opts to include maintenance, it shall be so stated in the purchase order and said cost will be included. Service will commence only upon expiration of applicable warranties and should be priced accordingly.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS: Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right To Know Act", a Proposer must provide to the County with each delivery, material safety data sheets which are applicable to hazardous substances defined in the Act. Failure of the Proposer to furnish this documentation will be cause to reject any RFP applying thereto.

NAME BRANDS: Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Cameron County to restrict responses to RFPs in such cases, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard common to similar existing items. Proposers may offer items of equal stature and standard, but the burden of proof of such stature and standard rests with Proposers. Cameron County shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.

PRICING: Prices for all goods and/or services shall be firm for the duration of the contract and shall be stated on the Pricing/Delivery Information form. Prices shall be all inclusive: No price changes, additions, or subsequent qualifications will be honored during the term of the contract. All prices must be written in ink or typewritten. Pricing on all transportation, freight, drayage and other charges are to be prepaid by the Proposer and included in the price. If there are any additional charges of any kind, other than those mentioned above, specified or unspecified, Proposer MUST indicate the items required and attendant costs or forfeit the right to payment for such items. Where unit pricing and extended pricing differ, unit pricing prevails.

RECYCLED MATERIALS: Cameron County encourages the use of products made of recycled materials and shall give preference in purchasing to products made of recycled materials if the products meet applicable specifications as to quantity and quality. County will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

SCANNED RE-TYPED RESPONSE: If in its RFP response, Proposer either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published RFP package, then in event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published RFP specifications, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the RFP response made by Proposer, the County's RFP specifications as published shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFP specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS: The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practices are to prevail and that only material and workmanship of the finest quality are to be used. All interpretations of specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement. The items furnished under this contract shall be new, unused of the latest product in production to commercial trade and shall be of the highest quality as to materials used and workmanship. The manufacturer furnishing these items shall be

experienced in design and construction of such items and shall be an established supplier of the item needed in the RFP. Substitute items will not be accepted unless approved (in advance).

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Proposers are responsible for including all pertinent product data in the returned RFP package. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the RFP package and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the Proposer wishes to include as a condition of the RFP response must also be in the returned RFP response package. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the Proposer's entire RFP.

TITLE TRANSFER: Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Cameron County until Cameron County actually receives and takes possession of the goods at the point or points of delivery. Receiving times may vary with the using department. Generally, deliveries may be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Proposers are advised to consult the using department for instructions. The place of delivery shall be shown under the "Special Requirements/Instructions" section of this RFP package and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" with the address.

USAGE REPORTS: Cameron County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost up to two (2) times during the contract period, a usage report detailing the products and/or services furnished to date under a contract resulting from this RFP. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) working days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by

Cameron County department with a description, of each item purchased, including the manufacturer, quantity of each item purchased, the per unit and extended price of each item purchased, and the total amount and price of all items purchased.

WARRANTY PRICE: (a) The price to be paid by the County shall be that contained in Proposer's response to the RFP which Proposer warrants to be no higher than Proposer's current prices on orders by others for products of the kind and specification covered by this agreement for similar quantities under similar or like conditions and methods of purchase. In the event Proposer breaches this warranty, the prices of the items shall be reduced to the Proposer's current prices on orders by others, or in the alternative, County may cancel this contract without liability to Proposer for breach or Proposer's actual expense.

(b) The Proposer warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee excepting bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Proposer for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the County shall have the right in addition to any other right or rights to cancel this contract without liability and to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

Proposers shall furnish all data pertinent to warranties or guarantees which may apply to items in the RFP.

Proposers may not limit or exclude any implied warranties.

Proposer warrants that products sold and services provided to the County shall conform to the highest commercial and/or professional standards in the industry and laws established by the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and O.S.H.A. Act of 1970. In the event any product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Cameron County may return the product for correction or replacement at the Proposer's expense. If Proposer fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Cameron County may correct at the Proposer's expense.

-WARRANTY ITEMS/PRODUCTS: Proposer warrants that products sold and services provided to the County shall conform to the highest commercial and/or professional standards in the industry_ and laws established by the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and O.S.H.A. Act of 1970. In the event product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Cameron County may return the product for correction or replacement at the Proposer's expense. If Proposer fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Cameron County may correct at the Proposer's expense.

Proposer shall not limit or exclude any implied warranties and any attempt to do so shall render this contract voidable at the option of the County.

Proposer warrants that the goods furnished will conform to the specifications, drawings and descriptions listed in the RFP invitation and to the sample(s) furnished by Proposer, if any. In the event of a conflict between the specifications, drawings and descriptions, the specifications shall govern. All items must be new, in first class condition, unless otherwise specified. The design, strength, and quality of materials must conform to the highest standards of manufacturing practice.

Items supplied under this contract shall be subject to the County's approval. Successful Proposer shall warrant that all items/services shall conform to the proposed specifications and/or all warranties as stated in the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and title. Any items found defective or not meeting specifications shall be picked up and promptly replaced by the successful Proposer at no expense to the County.

SAFETY WARRANTY: As noted above, Proposer warrants that the products sold to County shall conform to the standards promulgated by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event the product does not conform to OSHA standards, County may return the product for correction or replacement at the Proposer's expense. In the event Proposer fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, correction made by County will be at Proposer's expense. Have you attached the required warranty information to the RFP (if applicable)? "Yes" or "No"

APPLICABLE LAW

To the extent it is applicable, this agreement shall be governed by the Uniform Commercial Code. Wherever the term "Uniform Commercial Code" is used, it shall be construed as meaning "the Uniform Commercial Code" as adopted in the State of Texas as effective and in force on the date of this agreement. Otherwise, Texas state and federal law shall apply.

ASSIGNMENT DELEGATION: No right, obligation or interest in this contract shall be assigned or delegated to another by Proposer without the written permission of the County. Any attempted assignment or delegation by Proposer shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph.

CONTRACT OBLIGATION: Cameron County Commissioners Court must award any resulting contract and the County Judge or other person authorized by the Cameron County Commissioners Court must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Cameron County or the Proposer. Department Heads are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Cameron County. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until all products and/or services covered by this RFP – have been delivered and accepted and all contract requirements have been satisfied.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Errors and Omissions in the RFP or any provision herein described will not be construed as to relieve the Proposer of any responsibility or obligation requisite to the complete and satisfactory implementation, operation, and support of all obligations under any resulting contract.

FORCE MAJEURE: If, by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly, or in part, to carry out its obligations under this RFP and any resulting contract, then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch. The term "Force Majeure" as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority, insurrections, riots, epidemics, landslides, lightening, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, storms, floods, washouts, droughts, arrests, restraint of government and people, civil disturbances, explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely with the discretion of the party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgment of the party having the difficulty.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: The successful Proposer shall indemnify and hold Cameron County harmless from all claims for personal injury, death and/or property damage resulting directly or indirectly from Proposer's performance. Proposer shall procure

and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this RFP, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover Proposer's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed and goods or services sold under the terms of this RFP. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County upon request.

INFRINGEMENTS: There will be no warranty by County against infringements. As part of this contract for sales, Proposer agrees to ascertain whether goods manufactured in accordance with the specifications attached to this agreement will give rise to the rightful claim of any third person by way of infringement or the like. County makes no warranty that the production of goods according to the specification will not give rise to such a claim, and in no event shall County be liable to Proposer for indemnification in the event that Proposer gets sued on the grounds of infringement or the like. If Proposer is of the opinion that an infringement or the like will result, Proposer shall notify County to that effect in writing within two (2) weeks after the signing of this agreement. If County does not receive notice and is subsequently held liable for the infringement or the like, Proposer will hold County harmless. If Proposer in good faith ascertains that production of the goods in accordance with the specifications will result in infringement or the like, this contract shall be null and void, except that County will pay Proposer the reasonable cost of Proposer's search as to infringement. The Proposer agrees to protect the County from claims involving infringement of patents or copyrights.

INTERPRETATION PAROLE EVIDENCE: Unless a separate contract or addendum hereof is prepared and entered into following the award of this RFP to a successful Proposer, this writing is intended by the parties as a final expression of the terms of this RFP and the general terms of any resulting contract. No course of prior dealings between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any term. Acceptance or acquiescence in a course of performance rendered under this RFP and any resulting contract shall not be relevant to determine meaning even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection. Whenever a term defined by the Uniform Commercial Code is used in this agreement, the definition contained in the Code is to Control, if applicable.

LATE RESPONSES: RFP responses must be received by the County before the hour and date specified. Responses received after the time and date specified will be disqualified and may be returned to sender. The County is not responsible for lateness or non-delivery of mail, delivered to wrong office, carrier, etc.

MODIFICATIONS: This contract can be modified or rescinded only by a writing signed by both of the parties or their duly authorized agents.

O.S.H.A: Proposer must meet all Federal and State OSHA requirements.

REMEDIES: The successful Proposer and County agree that both parties have all rights, duties, defenses and remedies available under law.

RIGHT TO ASSURANCE: During the RFP process and any resulting contract, whenever a Proposer or County in good faith has reason to question the other's intent to perform, demand may be made that the other party give written assurance of intent. In the event that a demand is made, and no assurance is given within five (5) days, such failure may be treated as an anticipatory repudiation of the RFP and any resulting contract.

SEVERABILITY: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

VENUE: Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Cameron County, Texas.

PROPOSER SHALL CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE OF RFB TERMS: The Proposer shall specifically state acceptance of these terms and conditions as a basis for providing the County with a response to this RFP.

THESE TERMS INCORPORATED: These General Terms and Conditions shall be incorporated in the response to the RFP and any resulting contract to this RFP. The Proposer shall specifically state acceptance of these terms and conditions as a basis for providing the County with a response to this RFP.

OTHER TERMS: The Proposer shall state any exceptions desired to these terms and conditions and may suggest alternate wording that addresses the intent of the term or condition. The County may accept or reject any suggestions in accordance with law.