

CITY OF SCRANTON

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Proposals will be received by the Office of the City Controller for the City of Scranton, 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18503 until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at which time proposals will be opened in City Council Chambers and will be made available for public viewing at: www.youtube.com/user/electriccitytv570 for the following:

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

All qualifications shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) which may be obtained from the City of Scranton Purchasing Department and which may be had by bona fide bidders. Copies can also be obtained on the City of Scranton website at: www.scrantonpa.gov. If you intend to submit a proposal, you are required to notify Julie Reed, Purchasing Clerk for the City of Scranton via email at: jreed@scrantonpa.gov. If you fail to notify the Purchasing Clerk of your intent to submit a proposal, you will not receive any Addenda or answers to any questions that may be submitted by other bidders.

Proposals will be received and identified by "Legal Services for the City of Scranton". Due to the closure of City Hall, all proposals will be submitted electronically to John Murray, City Controller for the City of Scranton via: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/zE965ESQM4jJ5E89rsM0> so as to arrive by the date and time specified above. The City will require a PDF document of this proposal.

All proposals **must** be accompanied by signed Affirmative Action, Certificate of Non-Segregated Facilities, Non-Collusion Affidavit and Disclosure Forms.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph O'Brien, Esq. at: jobrien@scrantonpa.gov.

Atty. Joseph O'Brien, Esq.

Solicitor for the City of Scranton

**CITY OF SCRANTON
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. PURPOSE

This purpose for this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to seek proposals from attorneys/law firms for the following legal services to be rendered to the City of Scranton.

1. Defense counsel in civil actions filed against the City in the federal and state courts of Pennsylvania, including but not limited to:
 - a) Premises Liability;
 - b) Automobile Liability;
 - c) Civil Rights, including Employment, Licensing, Permitting, Liens, Taxation, Public Officials and Law Enforcement;
 - d) Contractual Liability; and
 - e) Other similar claims.
2. Bond counsel in tax exempt and other financing related to City government.
3. Collection of delinquent business privilege and other similar taxes.

B. ISSUING OFFICE

1. This Request for Qualifications is issued for the City of Scranton. The submittal of qualifications must be submitted not later than 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2021 to:

John Murray
City Controller for the City of Scranton
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/zE965ESQM4jJ5E89rsM0>

2. The Proposal shall be submitted by online Drop Box submission labeled:

“Proposal – RFP – Legal Services for the City of Scranton.”

3. Proposals will be handled confidentially by the City during the pre-award process.
4. The proposal shall be binding for a period of ninety (90) days from the due date for submission.
5. The City of Scranton will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by a proposer in connection with this RFQ.

C. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Attorneys/law firms interested in providing defense counsel services of this RFP should submit detailed information as to their experience in handling such cases in the federal and state courts. The City will pay \$95.00 per hour for said legal services and reimburse counsel for all costs advanced on behalf of the City in said cases. Proposers may limit their proposal to specific types of defense counsel services.

Attorneys/law firms interested in providing bond counsel and other financial services should submit detailed information as to their experience in handling such matters. Attorneys must be qualified bond counsel and listed in the appropriate directories as such. Fees and said matters will be flat fees determined on a case-by-case basis.

Attorneys/law firms interested in representing the City in collection of business privilege and other similar taxes should submit detailed information as to their experience in handling said matters. Fee in said matters will be determined on a case by cases basis and may include a rate of \$95.00, a flat fee, a contingent fee or any combination thereof.

Attorneys/law firms whose qualifications may be accepted by the City will agree not to accept any other legal representation adverse to the City without the express written approval of the City Solicitor.

Other requirements:

1. QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding this Request for Proposals should be directed to the Scranton City Solicitor by email to:

Joseph A. O'Brien, Esquire
jobrien@scrantonpa.gov

All questions must be received by 2:00 p.m. on March 4, 2021. Inquiries received after 2:00 p.m. will not receive responses.

~~No telephone calls with questions will be taken.~~

2. ADDENDA

To ensure consistent interpretation of certain items, answers to questions the City deems to be in the interest of all will be made available to all respondents.

Responses to questions will be issued in the form of an Addendum to the Request for Proposals.

3. PUBLIC OPENING

Drop box Proposals will be opened and can be watched using the following livestream link on March 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at: www.youtube.com/user/electriccitytv570.

II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. No verbal information to Proposers will be binding on the City. The written requirements will be considered clear and complete, unless written attention is called to any apparent discrepancies or incompleteness before the opening of the proposals. All alterations to the Request for Proposals will be made in the form of a written communication emailed to all prospective proposers. The communications shall then be considered to be part of the Request for Proposals.

B. Submission of a proposal will be considered as conclusive evidence of the proposer's complete examination and understanding of the request.

C. The City of Scranton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted and to request additional information from any Proposer. The City of Scranton reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in the procedures or proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the City of Scranton. The City may elect, at its sole and absolute discretion, to award a Contract based on the initial proposals, or, to open negotiations,

either written or oral, with one or more proposers to address performance, technical, pricing, delivery, or other provisions. If negotiations are opened, the City may elect, at its sole and absolute discretion, to conclude negotiations at any time if it is determined to be in its best interest, or they will be closed upon settlement of all questions and clarifications. Proposals may be rejected and negotiations terminated by the City. The award will be based on the offers submitted, as well as any and all negotiations conducted. The City further reserves the right to reject all proposals and seek new proposals when such procedure is considered to be in the best interest of the City.

D. The award will be made to that responsive and responsible proposer whose proposal, conforming to requirements of the request; will be most advantageous to the City. The following factors will be considered: experience of the proposer, whether the proposer is in compliance with City of Scranton tax requirements and laws, whether proposer is in compliance with federal and state laws, responses received from proposer's references, resources and ability of proposer to complete the work, whether proposer has performed any other contract with the City in an acceptable manner, and any other factors deemed relevant by the City.

E. The City shall have the right, without invalidating the contract, to make additions to or deductions from the items or work covered by the Request for Qualifications. In case such deductions or additions are made, an equitable price adjustment shall be made between the City and the Proposer. Any such adjustments in price shall be made in writing.

F. After notice from the City, the selected proposer will be required to enter into a contract with the City within 30 days of the Notice of Award. The contract will be for a period of 1 year and the City will have the right to automatically renew the contract for another year by so informing proposer no later than 60 days before the expiration of the contract. The contract will include all of the provisions of this Request for Proposal and any other terms deemed appropriate by the City.

G. Proposals must be in typewritten form. Unsigned proposals will not be accepted. Proposers are expected to examine the content of the request and respond accordingly. Failure to do so will be at the Proposer's risk.

H. Unless otherwise specified, all formal proposals submitted shall be binding for ninety (90) calendar days following the bid opening date and may be extended at the agreement of both parties.

I. CONTRACT TERMINATION

Any contract awarded by the City in response to this RFQ may be cancelled by the City by giving the proposer 60 days written notice of intent to cancel.

J. CONTROLLING LAW

This Request for Proposals is governed by, and will be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without regard to any conflict of law provisions.

K. PROPOSAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

By submitting a Proposal, the proposer agrees that it now carries or will carry throughout the term of any Contract generated as a result of this Request for Proposals professional liability insurance in an amount to be determined at the sole discretion of the City based upon the work to be performed. Certificates of Insurance shall be furnished to the City of Scranton upon request.

L. BIDDER'S ETHICS AND COLLUSION

Collusive Bidding: Any firm that submits more than one proposal in such a manner as to make it appear that one of the proposals submitted is competitive with that of a different proposer, or any two or more firms that agree to fix their respective proposals in such a manner as to be awarded the contract shall be disqualified

from further consideration of award of this contract and shall be subject to any applicable penalties under the law.

Bribery: Any firm that attempts to influence a City official to award this contract to such proposer's firm by promising to provide or by providing to such City official any gratuity, entertainment, commission or any other gift, in exchange for a promise to award the contract to such firm shall be disqualified from further consideration of award of this contract and shall be subject to any applicable penalties under the law.

Conflict of Interest: Any firm that knows of any City official having a material direct or indirect financial interest in such proposer's firm shall be required to submit a written statement, along with the Form of Proposal, detailing such interest. Failure to disclose a known such financial interest shall result in the firm's disqualification from further consideration of award of this contract.

M. BINDING ON SUCCESSORS

- a. Any contract awarded by the City pursuant to this RFQ, shall be binding on the parties, their heirs, successors and assigns.
- b. Any contract awarded by the City pursuant to this RFQ, shall not, without the written consent of the City, be assigned, hypothecated, or mortgaged.
- c. No agreement awarded by the City pursuant to this RFQ shall be transferable in proceedings in attachment or execution against bidder or in voluntary or involuntary proceedings in bankruptcy or insolvency or receivership taken by or against the respondent, or by any process of law including proceedings under Chapter X and XI of the Bankruptcy Act.

N. OPEN RECORDS LAW/PUBLIC INFORMATION

Under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law (the "Law"), 65 P. S. Section 67.101 et. seq., a record in the possession of the City is presumed to be a public record subject to disclosure to any legal resident of the United States, upon request, unless protected by a statutory exception.

Any contract dealing with the receipt or disbursement of funds by the City or the City's acquisition, use or disposal of services, supplies, materials, equipment or property is subject to disclosure under the Law. The following are not subject to disclosure under an exception in the Law:

1. A proposal pertaining to the City's procurement or disposal of supplies, services or construction prior to the award of a contract or prior to the opening and rejection of all bids; and
2. Financial information of a bidder or proposer requested in an invitation to bid or request for proposals to demonstrate the bidder's or proposer's economic capability.

O. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

A pre-proposal conference will not be held.

P. REFERENCES

As a requirement for consideration, proposals must include at least two (2) references, including contact information, who can attest to the attributes of the proposer.

Q. PERSONNEL

The proposal should include identify and experience of those individuals who will perform the contract on behalf of proposer.

R. AFFIDAVITS

The following affidavits all of which are attached hereto are required by the City of Scranton from all bidders:

- a. Affirmative Action Certificate
- b. Certificate of Non-Segregated Facilities
- c. Non-Collusion Affidavit
- d. Disclosures by Current Contractors

Attachment A. Affirmative Action Certification

During the term of this contract, Bidder agrees as follows:

- (1) Bidder shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, independent contractor or any other person because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex or handicap. Bidder shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees or agents are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex or handicap. Such affirmative action shall include, but is not limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training. Bidder shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees, agents, applicants for employment, and other persons, a notice to be provided by the contracting agency setting forth the provision of this affirmative action certification.
- (2) Bidder shall, in advertisements or requests for employment placed by it or on its behalf, state all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex or handicap.
- (3) Bidder shall send each labor union or workers' representative with which it has a collective bargaining agreement to other contract or understanding, a notice advising said labor union or worker's representative of its commitment to this affirmative action certification. Similar notice shall be sent to every other source of recruitment regularly utilized by bidder.
- (4) It shall be no defense to a finding of noncompliance with this affirmative action certification that bidder has delegated some of its employment practices to any union, training program, or other source of recruitment which prevents it from meeting its obligations. However, if the evidence indicates that the bidder was not on notice of the third-party discrimination or made a good faith effort to correct it; such a factor shall be considered in mitigation in determining appropriate sanctions.
- (5) Where the practices of a union or of any training program or other source of recruitment will result in the exclusion of minority group persons, so bidder will be unable to meet its obligations under this affirmative action certification, bidder shall then employ and fill vacancies through other affirmative action employment procedures.
- (6) Bidder shall comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in hiring or employment opportunities. In the event of bidder's

noncompliance with affirmative action certification of this contract or with any such laws, this contract may be terminated or suspended, in whole or in part, and bidder may be declared temporarily ineligible for further City of Scranton contracts, and other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked.

- (7) Bidder shall furnish all necessary employment documents and records to, and permit access to its books, records, and accounts by, the City of Scranton Department of Business Administration, for purposes of investigation to ascertain Compliance with the provision of this certification. If bidder does not possess documents or records reflecting the necessary information requested, it shall furnish such information on reporting forms supplied by the City of Scranton Department of Business Administration.
- (8) Bidder shall actively recruit minority subcontractors or subcontractors with substantial minority representation among their employees.
- (9) Bidder shall include the provisions of this affirmative action certification in every subcontract, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor.
- (10) Bidder's obligations under this clause are limited to the bidder's facilities within Pennsylvania, or where the contract is for purchase of goods manufactured outside of Pennsylvania, the facilities at which such goods are actually produced.

DATE: _____

(Name of Bidder)

BY _____

TITLE _____

Attachment B. Certificate of Non-Segregated Facilities

The bidder certifies that he does not maintain or provide for his employees and segregated facilities at any of his establishments, and that he does not permit his employees to perform their services at any location under his control where segregated facilities are maintained. The Bidder certifies further that he will not maintain or provide for his employees any segregated facilities at any of his establishments, and that he does not permit his employees to perform their services at any location under his control where segregated facilities are maintained. The Bidder agrees that a breach of this certification will be a violation of the Equal opportunity clause in any contract resulting from acceptance of his bid. As used in this certification, the term "segregated Facilities," means any waiting rooms, work areas, restrooms and washrooms, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, locker rooms and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation, and housing directive or are in fact segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, because of habit, local custom, or otherwise. The Bidder agrees that (except where he has obtained identical certifications from proposal sub-contractors for specific time periods) he will obtain identical certifications from proposed sub-contractors prior to the award of sub-contracts exceeding \$10,000 which are not exempt from the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause, and that he will retain such certification in his files.

NOTE: The penalty for making false statements in offers is prescribed in 18 U.S.C. §1001.

DATE: _____

(Name of Bidder)

BY _____

TITLE _____

Attachment C. Non-Collusion Affidavit of Prime Bidder

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

_____, being
first duly sworn, deposes and says that:

1. He is _____
(Owner, partner, officer, representative or agent)

of _____, the Bidder that has
submitted the bid;

2. He is fully informed respecting the preparation and contents of the attached Bid and
of all pertinent circumstances respecting such Bid;

3. Such Bid is genuine and is not a collusive or sham Bid;

4. Neither the said Bidder nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents,
Representatives, employees or parties in interest, including this affiant, has in any
way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly with any other
Bidder, firm or person to submit a collusive or sham Bid in connection with the
Contract for which the attached Bid has been submitted or to refrain from bidding
in connection with such Contract, or has in any manner, directly or indirectly,
sought by agreement or collusion or communication or conference with any other
Bidder, or to Bidder, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance or
unlawful agreement any advantage against the City of Scranton (Local Public
Agency) or any person interested in the proposed Contract; and;

5. The price or prices quoted in the attached Bid are fair and proper and are not
tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, connivance or unlawful agreement on the part
of the bidder or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees or parties in
interest, including this affiant.

Non-Collusion Affidavit
Signature Page

Signed _____

(Title)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

THIS _____ DAY OF _____
_____, 20 _____

(TITLE)

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES _____
_____, 20 _____

Disclosures by Current Contractors

1. Provide the names and titles of all individuals providing professional services to the City of including advisors and subcontractors, if any. After each name, please provide the responsibilities of that person with regard to the professional services provided to the City of Scranton.
 - List the names of any of the above individuals who are current or former officials or employees of the City of Scranton and their position;
 - List the names of any of the above individuals who has been a registered federal or state lobbyist and the date of the most recent renewal/registration.
2. Since January 1, 2011, have any of the individuals identified in paragraph two above been employed by the City of Scranton. If yes, please identify the individual by his/her name and position with the City of Scranton and dates of employment.
3. Since January 1, 2011, has the Contractor employed paid compensation to a third party intermediary, agent, or lobbyist to directly or indirectly communicate with any individual on the list of municipal officials in connection with any transaction or investment involving the Contractor and the City of Scranton. This question does not apply to any officer or employee of the Contractor who is acting within the scope of the Contractor's standard professional duties on behalf of the Contractor including the actual provision of legal, accounting, engineering, real estate, or other professional advice, services or assistance pursuant to its professional services contract with the City of Scranton.
4. Since January 1, 2011 has any agent, officer, director, or employee of the Contractor solicited a third party to make a political contribution to any municipal official or candidate for municipal office in the City of Scranton or to the political party or political committee for whom the solicitation was made. If yes, please identify the agent, officer, director, or employee who made the solicitation; the individual or individuals who were solicited, and the municipal officers, candidates, political party, or political committee for whom the solicitation was made.
5. Since January 1, 2011, has the contractor made any Contribution to a municipal official or candidate for municipal office in the City of Scranton. If yes, please identify the recipient, the amount, and the date of the contribution.
6. Does the Contractor have a direct financial, commercial, or business relationships with any individual on the List of Municipal Officials. With regard to every municipal official for which the answer is yes, identify that individual and provide a detailed written description of that relationship.
7. Since January 1, 2011, has the Contractor conferred any gift of more than nominal value to any individual on the List of Municipal Officials. A gift includes money, services, loans, travel, and

entertainment, at value or discounted value. With regard to every municipal official for which the answer is yes, identify the recipient, the gift, and the date it was conferred.

8. Did the Contractor make political contributions the meet all of the following four criteria: (i) The contribution was made at any time since January 1, 2011; (ii) the contribution was made by an officer, director, executive-level employee, or owner of at least five percent (5%) of the Contractor; (iii) the amount of the contribution was at least \$500.00 in the form of either a single contribution by an officer, director, executive-level employee or owner of at least five percent (5%) or the aggregate of all contributions by all officers, directors, executive-level employees, and owners of at least five percent (5%) and (iv) the contribution was made to a candidate for any public office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or to an individual who holds that office, or to a political committee of a candidate for public office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or of an individual who holds that office. If yes, then the Contractor shall provide the following information: the name and address of the contributor, the contributor's relationship to the Contractor, the name and office or position of each recipient, the amount of the contribution, and the date of the contribution.
9. Regarding the provision of professional services to the City of Scranton, are you aware of any conflicts of interest, whether apparent, potential, or actual, with respect to any officer, director, or employee of the Contractor and officials or employees of the City of Scranton. If yes, please provide a detailed written explanation of the circumstances which you believe provide a basis to conclude that an apparent, potential, or actual conflict of interest may exist.
10. Please provide the name(s) and person(s) completing this form. One of the individuals identified by the Contractor in paragraph two must participate in completing this form and must sign the verification statement below.

VERIFICATION

I, _____, hereby state that I am _____
for _____, and am authorized to make this verification.

I verify that the facts set forth in the foregoing Act 44 Disclosure Form for entities providing professional services to the City of Scranton are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to penalties of 18 P.A.C.S section 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Signed: _____ Date: _____