

INVITATION TO SUBMIT
PROPOSAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 11-0012-5

UTILITY BILL AUDIT SERVICES

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: 10:00 A.M., OCTOBER 12, 2011

PROPOSAL RECEIPT DUE BY: 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 27, 2011

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

PETE LIAKAKIS, CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER HELEN L. STONE

COMMISSIONER JAMES J. HOLMES

COMMISSIONER PATRICK O. SHAY

COMMISSIONER PATRICK K. FARRELL

COMMISSIONER HARRIS ODELL, JR.

COMMISSIONER DAVID M. GELLATLY

COMMISSIONER DEAN KICKLIGHTER

COMMISSIONER PRISCILLA D. THOMAS

R. JONATHAN HART, COUNTY ATTORNEY

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
DOCUMENT CHECK LIST**

The following documents, when marked, are contained in and made a part of this Package or are required to be submitted with the proposal. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to read, complete and sign, where indicated, and return these documents with his/her Proposal. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFYING THE PROPOSAL.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

LEGAL NOTICE

ATTACHMENTS: A. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE; B. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT; C. DISCLOSURE OF RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT; D. CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT/AGREEMENT; E. SAVE FORM; F. DEBARMENT FORM; G. M/WBE PARTICIPATION FORM

COUNTY TAX CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENT: Contractor must supply a copy of their Tax Certificate as proof of payment of the occupational tax where their office is located.

CURRENT TAX CERTIFICATE NUMBER _____
CITY _____
COUNTY _____
OTHER _____

RECEIPT IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED OF ADDENDA NUMBERS _____

The undersigned bidder certifies that he/she has received the above listed and marked documents and acknowledges that his/her failure to return each, completed and signed as required, may be cause for disqualifying his/her proposal.

BY: _____
SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Chatham County has established goals to increase participation of minority and woman owned businesses. In order to accurately document participation, businesses submitting bids or proposals are strongly encouraged to report ownership status. A minority or woman owned business is defined as a business with 51% or greater minority of woman ownership. Please check ownership status as applicable:

African-American _____ **Asian American** _____ **Hispanic** _____
Native American or Alaskan Indian _____ **Woman** _____

For additional information concerning Chatham County's M/WBE Program, please contact Arneja Riley, at (912) 652-7860.

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING
POST OFFICE BOX 15180
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31416
(912) 790-1624**

DATE: September 27, 2011

RFP NO. 11-0012-5

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR UTILITY BILLING AUDIT SERVICES

This is an invitation to submit a proposal to supply Chatham County with the professional services as indicated herein. Sealed proposals will be received at the Office of the Purchasing Agent, **1117 EISENHOWER DRIVE, SUITE C, Savannah, Georgia** up to **2:00 P.M., October 27, 2011.** The Purchasing Agent reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive formalities.

Instructions for preparation and submission of a proposal are contained in the Request for Proposal package. Please note that specific forms for submission of a proposal are required. Proposals must be typed or printed in ink. If you do not submit a proposal, return the signed invitation sheet and state the reason; otherwise, your name may be removed from our bidders list.

A pre-proposal conference has been scheduled for 10:00 A.M., October 12, 2011 and will be conducted in the **3rd Floor Conference Room, 124 Bull Street, "Administrative Courthouse" Savannah, Georgia, 31401,** to discuss the specifications and resolve any questions and/or misunderstandings that may arise.

Any changes to the conditions and specifications must be in the form of a written addendum to be valid; therefore, the Purchasing Agent will issue a written addendum to document approved changes. Generally when addenda are required, the bid opening date may be changed.

Chatham County has an equal opportunity procurement policy. Chatham County seeks to ensure that all segments of the business community have access to providing services needed by County programs. The County affirmatively works to encourage utilization of disadvantaged and minority business enterprises in our procurement activities. The County provides equal opportunity for all businesses and does not discriminate against any persons or businesses regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or handicap. The County expects its contractors to make maximum feasible use of minority businesses and qualified minority employees. The terms "disadvantaged business", "minority business enterprise", and "minority person" are more specifically defined and explained in the Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual, Article VII - Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Program.

**SECTION I
INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 PURPOSE:** Chatham County is seeking proposals from responsive and qualified firms to provide utility bill auditing and rate analysis. All proposals are governed by the Code of Chatham County, Chapter 4, Article IV, and the laws of the State of Georgia.
- 1.2 INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION:** For information concerning procedures for responding to this Solicitation, contact Kathleen Watson-Scott, CPPB, at (912) 790-1619. Such contact shall be for clarification purposes only. Material change, if any to the scope of services or bidding procedures will be only transmitted by written addendum. It is the proposer's responsibility to check the website to determine if any addenda have been issued.

All questions must be submitted in writing to the Purchasing & Contracting Division, 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Citizen Service Center, Suite C, Savannah, GA. Attn: Kathleen Watson-Scott, CPPB. To facilitate prompt receipt of questions, they may be sent via FAX to (912) 790-1627 or email to kwscott@chathamcounty.org. Questions of a material nature must be received prior to the cut-off date specified in the Solicitation Schedule. If no cut-off date is listed, the deadline for questions shall be 5:00 p.m. one week prior to the deadline of receipt of proposals. If a bid or proposal is faxed, it is the responsibility of the proposer to insure that the proposal is received in its entirety prior to the deadline for bid submittal. In certain circumstances, fax bids are never allowed i.e., when there is a bid bond requirement. The entire proposal must be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidder/Proposers contained in this Solicitation.

- 1.3 ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible for a resulting contract (s) in responding to this Solicitation, the proposing firm must demonstrate that they, or the principals assigned to the project, have successfully completed services, similar to those specified in the Scope of Services section.
- 1.4 HOW TO PREPARE PROPOSALS: All proposals shall be:**
- A. Prepared on the forms enclosed herewith, unless otherwise prescribed, and **all documents must be submitted.**
 - B. Typewritten or completed with pen black or blue ink, signed by the business owner or authorized representative, with all corrections initialed and dated by the official signing the proposal. **ALL SIGNATURE SPACES MUST BE SIGNED.**

Bidders are encouraged to review carefully all provisions and attachments of this document prior to submission. Each bid constitutes an offer and may not be withdrawn except as provided herein.

- 1.5 HOW TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL: All proposals shall be:**
- A. Submitted in a sealed opaque enveloped, plainly marked **Utility Bill Audit Services RFP #11-0012-5, with date and time of bid proposal opening, and company name.**

- B. Mailed or delivered as follows in a sufficient time to ensure receipt by the Purchasing Agent on or before time and date specified above.
- a. Mailing Address: Purchasing Agent, 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite C, Savannah, Georgia, 31406.
 - b. Hand Delivery: Purchasing Agent, 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite C, Savannah, Georgia, 31406.

PROPOSALS NOT RECEIVED BY THE TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED WILL NOT BE OPENED OR CONSIDERED.

- 1.6 FORMAT FOR RESPONSES:** To be considered, contractors must submit a complete response to the Request for Proposal. To assure a uniform review process and obtain the maximum degree of comparability, each proposal shall include the following content and shall be presented in the following order:

Signature Page
Proposal Contents as listed in Special Conditions
Cost Information
Required Attachments

Each proposal must be submitted in one (1) original and three copies bound to:

Chatham County Purchasing Department
Attn: Kathleen Watson-Scott, CPPB
1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite C
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 790-1619

SECTION II
GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 2.1 **LOCAL VENDORS:** The Board of Commissioners has strongly expressed their desire to have as much “Local” participation as possible used as Sub-Contractors for the work done in Chatham County.
- 2.2 **MINORITY- WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION:** It is the desire of the County Board of Commissioners to increase the participation of minority (MBE) and women-owned (WBE) business in its contracting and procurement programs. The County program is **ACCESS**. The County is committed to a policy of equitable participation for these firms by setting goals for each contract. Bidder/proposers are requested to include in their proposals a narrative describing their past accomplishment and intended actions in this area. If bidder/proposers are considering minority or women owned enterprise participation in their proposal, those firms, and their specific duties must be identified in their proposal along with the percentage(s) and dollar amount awarded to the M/WBE firm. If a bidder/proposer is considered for award, he/she will be asked to meet with the County Staff so that the intended MBE/WBE participation goals can be formalized and included in the subsequent contact.
- If the awarded contractor/vendor is claiming minority status, the contractor/vendor shall apply for certification by Chatham County, Georgia to the Office of Minority Business Coordinator located in the Human Resources Offices. The Minority Business Coordinator will provide documentation of application status once approved or disapproved by Chatham County. Certification by any other government entity is acceptable if current copy of the certification is provided with this solicitation. For additional information concerning Chatham County’s M/WBE Coordinator, please contact Arneja Riley, at (912) 652-7860. alriley@chathamcounty.org
- 2.3 **LOBBYING ACTIVITIES:** ALL BIDDERS/PROPOSERS PLEASE NOTE: A bidder/proposer submitting a response to this solicitation must comply, if applicable, with the County Purchasing ordinance and Procedures Manual. No discussions are allowed with Board members, other elected officials, county management staff and employees. The only discussions must be through the Purchasing & Contracting Office.
- 2.4 **PUBLIC ENTITY CRIMES:** A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity.
- 2.5 **BID/PROPOSAL COSTS:** The County shall not be liable for any costs incurred by bidder/proposer in responding to this Solicitation.
- 2.6 **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** Information and material received by County in connection with all bidder’s/proposer’s shall be deemed to be public records subject to public inspection upon award or recommendation for award. However, certain exemptions to public records law are statutorily provided for in Title 50-18-70. O.C.G.A. Therefore, if the Bidder/Proposer believes any of the information contain in his or her response is exempt from the Open Records Act, the Bidder/proposer must in his or her response specifically identify the material which is deemed to be exempt and cite the legal authority for the exemption, otherwise the County will treat all materials received as public records.

- 2.7 **CONTRACT COST ADJUSTMENTS:** Prices quoted shall be firm for the contract term.
- 2.8 **NO EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT/ADDITIONAL SERVICES:** Contractor agrees and understands that the contract shall not be construed as an exclusive arrangement and further agrees that the County may, at any time, secure similar or identical services at its sole option.
- 2.9 **DELETION OR MODIFICATION OF SERVICES:** The County reserves the right to delete any portion of this Contract at any time without cause. If work has already been accomplished on the portion of the Contract to be deleted, the Contractor shall be paid for the deleted portion on the basis of the estimated percentage of completion of such portion.

If the Contractor and the County agree on modifications or revisions to the task elements, after the County has approved work to begin on a particular task or project, and a budget has been established for that task or project, the Contractor will submit a revised quote to the County for approval prior to proceeding with the work. Written change orders or amendments to the contract must be forwarded through the Purchasing Agent who will obtain required approvals.

- 2.10 **SUBSTITUTION OF PERSONNEL:** It is the intention of the County that the Contractor's personnel proposed for the contract will be available for the contract term. In the event the Contractor wishes to substitute personnel, he shall propose personnel of equal or higher qualifications and all replacements personnel are subject to County approval. In the event substitute personnel are not satisfactory to the County and the matter cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the County, the County reserves the right to cancel the Contract for cause.
- 2.11 **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:** The Contractor is an independent contractor under this Agreement. Personal services provided by the Contractor shall be employees of the Contractor and subject to supervision by the Contractor, and not as officers, employee, or agents of the County.
- 2.12 **SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE ACT AND SYSTEMATIC ALIEN VERIFICATION FOR ENTITLEMENTS (SAVE):** On July 1, 2008, the Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act (SB 529, Section 2) became effective. All contractors and subcontractors entering into a contract or performing work must sign an affidavit that he/she has used the E-Verify System. E-Verify is a no-cost federal employment verification system to insure employment eligibility. Affidavits are enclosed in this solicitation. You may download M-274 Handbook for Employers at <http://www.dol.state.ga.us/spotlight/employment/rules>. You may go to <http://www.uscis.gov>, to find the E-Verify information.

O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1, requires Georgia's cities to comply with the federal **Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program**. SAVE is a federal program used to verify that applicants for certain "public benefits" are legally present in the United States. Contracts with the City are considered "public benefits." Therefore, the successful bidder will be required to provide the Affidavit Verifying Status for City of Savannah Benefit Application prior to receiving any City contract. The affidavit is included as part of this bid package but is only required of the successful bidder.

- 2.13 ASSIGNMENT:** The successful bidder/proposer shall not assign, transfer, convey, sublet or otherwise dispose of the contract, or of any rights, title, interest therein, or his or its power to execute such contract to any person, company or corporation without prior written consent of the County.
- 2.14 CANCELLATION:** The County may cancel this contract for convenience with a sixty (60) day written notice to the other party. The County may terminate this contract immediately for cause based on non-performance.
- 2.15 SPECIFICATIONS:** Any obvious error or omission in specifications shall not inure to the benefit of the bidder but shall put the Proposer on notice to inquire of or identify the same to the County.
- 2.16 MULTIPLE PROPOSALS:** No Proposer will be allowed to submit more than one offer. Any alternate proposals must be brought to the Purchasing Agent's attention during the Pre-proposal Conference or submitted in writing at least five (5) days preceding the date for submission of proposals.
- 2.17 OFFERS TO BE FIRM:** The Proposer warrants that terms and conditions quoted in his offer will be firm for acceptance for a period of ninety (90) days from bid date submitted, unless otherwise stated in the proposal. When requested to provide a fee proposal, fees quoted must also be firm for a ninety day period.
- 2.18 LIABILITY PROVISIONS:** Where Proposers are required to enter or go into Chatham County property to take measurements or gather other information in order to prepare the proposal as requested by the County, the Proposer shall be liable for any injury, damage or loss occasioned by negligence of the Proposer, his agent, or any person the Proposer has designated to prepare the Offer and shall indemnify and hold harmless Chatham County from any liability arising therefrom. The contract document specifies the liability provisions required of the successful Proposer in order to be awarded a contract with Chatham County.
- 2.19 AWARD OF CONTRACT:** The contract, if awarded, will be awarded to that responsible Proposer whose proposal will be most advantageous to Chatham County, price and other factors considered. The Board of Commissioners will make the determination as to which proposal best serves the interest of Chatham County.
- 2.20 PROCUREMENT PROTESTS:** Objections and protests to any portion of the procurement process or actions of the County staff may be filed with the Purchasing Agent for review and resolution. The Chatham County Purchasing Procedures Manual, Article IX - Appeals and Remedies shall govern the review and resolution of all protests.
- 2.21 QUALIFICATION OF BUSINESS (RESPONSIBLE PROPOSER):** A responsible Proposer is defined as one who meets, or by the date of the acceptance can meet, all requirements for licensing, insurance, and service contained within this Request for Proposals. Chatham County has the right to require any or all Proposers to submit documentation of the ability to perform the service requested. Chatham County has the right to disqualify the proposal of any Proposer as being unresponsive or irresponsible whenever such Proposer cannot document the ability to deliver the requested service.

2.22 COUNTY BUSINESS LICENSE REQUIREMENT: A current Chatham County or municipal business tax certificate (within the State of Georgia) is required unless otherwise specified. A firm need not have a Chatham County Business Tax Certificate prior to submitting a proposal. However, a license must be obtained by the successful vendor prior to award of contract. Please contact the Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services at (912) 201-4300 for additional information. No contract shall be awarded unless all real and personal property taxes have been paid by the successful contractor and/or subcontractors as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on April 8, 1994.

2.23 INSURANCE PROVISIONS: The selected CONTRACTOR shall be required to procure and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims and injuries to persons or damage to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of work hereunder by the Contractor, his agents, representatives, employees, or subcontractors. The cost of such insurance shall be included in the Contractor's fee proposal.

Chatham County evaluates each claim on a case-by-case basis and invokes all immunities and defenses permitted under law. Chatham County is *not* to be included as a named insured on Contractor's policies.

A certificate of insurance regarding this Request for Proposal shall include the following:

- A. *Worker's Compensation:* Statutory, with a minimum Employer's Liability limit of \$500,000.
- B. *Commercial General Liability:* \$1,000,000 bodily injury and property damage per occurrence and annual aggregate.
- C. *Business Automobile:* \$1,000,000 Combined Single limit written on an "Any Auto" basis.
- D. *Fidelity Bond/Professional Liability:* \$3,000,000 Covers lost due to crime or dishonesty by employee of/or the CONTRACTOR.

2.24 INDEMNIFICATION: The CONTRACTOR agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Chatham County, Georgia, its commissioners, officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all liability, damages, claims, suits, liens, and judgments, of whatever nature, including claims for contribution and/or indemnification, for injuries to or death of any person or persons, or damage to the property or other rights of any person or persons caused by the CONTRACTOR or its subcontractors. The CONTRACTOR's obligation to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless, as set forth herein above shall include, but not be limited to, any matter arising out of any actual or alleged infringement of any patent, trademark, copyright, or service mark, or any actual or alleged unfair competition, disparagement of product or service, or other business tort of any type whatsoever, or any actual or alleged violation of trade regulations. CONTRACTOR further agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for, and to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Chatham County, Georgia, at his sole expense, and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if such claims, suits, etc., are groundless, false, or fraudulent, including any and all claims or liability for compensation under the Worker's Compensation Act arising out of injuries sustained by any employee of the CONTRACTOR or his subcontractors or anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them. The CONTRACTOR'S obligation to indemnify Chatham County under this Section shall not be limited in any way by the agreed-

upon contract price, or to the scope and amount of coverage provided by any insurance maintained by the CONTRACTOR.

The contractor shall provide the County with an insurance certificate outlining the coverage provided and 30 day written notification to the County when the coverage are terminated or expired.

- 2.25 COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATION - TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The Request for Proposals, Legal Advertisement, General Conditions and Instructions to Proposers, Specifications, Special Conditions, Proposers Offer, Addendum, and/or any other pertinent documents form a part of the Offeror's proposal and by reference are made a part of a resulting contract.
- 2.26 SIGNED RESPONSE CONSIDERED AN OFFER:** The signed Response shall be considered an offer on the part of the Proposer, which offer shall be deemed accepted upon approval by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, Purchasing Agent or his designee. In case of a default on the part of the Proponent after such acceptance, Chatham County may take such action as it deems appropriate, including legal action for damages or lack of required performance.
- 2.27 NOTICE TO PROCEED:** The successful proposer shall not commence work under this Request for Proposal until a written contract is awarded and a Notice to Proceed or Purchase Order is issued by the Purchasing Agent or his designee. If the successful Proposer does commence any work or deliver items prior to receiving official notification, he does so at his own risk.
- 2.28 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL:** Proposals may be withdrawn by submitting a written request to the County prior to the stated deadline for the receipt of proposals. Withdrawal of a proposal by any firm will not prejudice the right of the proponent to submit a new proposal, providing the latter is received timely as provided herein.
- 2.29 CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Through a statement of disclosure, your firm/organization/joint venture shall provide sufficient detail of any relationship, especially financial, between members of your firm and any county employees or their family members. This will allow the County to evaluate possible conflicts of interest. However, it will remain at the county's discretion whether the extent of any conflict of interest remains substantial to disqualify any proposal.
- 2.30 REJECTING PROPOSALS:** The County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and is not bound to accept any proposal if that proposal is contrary to the best interest of Chatham County. Similarly, the County is not bound to accept the lowest dollar proposal if the offer is not considered in the County's best interest.
- 2.31 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** During the performance of this contract, the CONTRACTOR agrees as follows:
The Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, place of birth, physical handicap, or marital status.
- 2.32 PENDING LITIGATION:** Proposals will not be accepted from any company, firm, person, or party, parent subsidiary, against which Chatham County has an outstanding claim, or a financial dispute relating to prior contract performance.

**SECTION III
SCOPE OF WORK**

- 3.1 Intent:** The intent of this request for proposal is to contract with a firm for the audit of utility bills to ensure that all electrical and natural gas accounts are correctly billed and that the County receives the most advantageous rates available to them in the marketplace. The contractor shall be responsible to not only review and audit invoices, but also be responsible for final recovery of all owed amounts.
- 3.2** The audit period shall be the previous 5 years prior to contract award.
- 3.3** Proposer shall provide a proposed schedule for completion of the audit.
- 3.4** Proposer shall propose a contractual percentage of the verified refund to be paid to the proposer. Proposer shall indicate if this is a one time payment or if they expect to receive payment for future years' savings as a result of their audit. Payment for refunds collected will be made by the County within thirty days of approval of invoice submitted by the vendor.
- 3.5** Vendor shall submit to the County at the end of the six (6) month review and evaluation period, a report indicating by utility service provider, the period of utility bills that have been reviewed and evaluated, the amount of refund due to the County, correspondence from said utility provider agreeing to the amount of the refund due to the County, and the method to be used to refund the moneys owned the County, (e.g.; cash refund check or percentage discount from monthly utility bills for a specific period of time, etc.).
- 3.6** The County will owe the vendor nothing unless and until a refund is received by the County from a utility provider.
- 3.7 Services to Be Provided:** Vendor shall review and evaluate all utility providers whom the County pays for services for:
- A. electricity
 - B. natural gas
- 3.8 Cost Saving Recommendations:**

In addition to recovering refunds, contractor will identify possible cost saving recommendations that will result in reduced expenses primarily through the identification of alternate tariffs and rates that may be available. Consultant recommendations are not mandatory and the County is under no obligation to implement the recommendations of the consultant. After approval, Contractor shall assume full responsibility for implementation, or shall provide assistance if County prefers to implement them on its own.

Consultant shall identify errors and submit claims to the service providers on behalf of the County. Consultant shall undertake refund negotiations when necessary and any follow up work to collect the refunds. Consultant shall arrange for the providers to credit refunds to County's accounts or issue refund

checks as determined by the County. Consultant shall submit recommendations for other savings opportunities and discuss these recommendations with County.

Consultant shall compile historical data (60 months) and conduct a comprehensive review of billing information. Consultant shall evaluate the results of the data checks and make judgments on additional steps to take. At a minimum, Consultant shall identify errors related to:

- **Meter reading errors**
- **Rates not in accordance with County's contracts**
- **Charges billed for incorrect or nonexistent equipment**
- **Meter malfunctions**
- **Wrong meter types installed by the utility**
- **Clerical errors in bill computations**
- **Wrong factors applied**
- **Incorrect tax charges**

In addition to error detection, contractor shall analyze rates looking for other solutions that will reduce on-going costs. Cost-saving recommendations include:

- **Alternate rates and riders offered by existing suppliers that may result in lower costs**
- **Combination or splitting of meters for billing purposes**
- **Correction of power factor penalties**
- **Negotiation of special contracts to eliminate punitive clauses**

Cost-savings recommendations are always subject to the review and approval of County prior to implementation.

3.9 Vendor shall submit to the County proposed plans which the County may, as its option, implement to correct billing errors, etc. as a matter of policy.

3.10 Unless otherwise agreed, the County will agree to payments according to the following:

- Refunds collected due to overpayments shall be paid as a one-time fee based on proposer's proposed percentage and the annual verifiable savings to the County.
- Savings which will be generated due to identifying a better rate schedule will be paid in accordance a percentage of verifiable annual savings for the first year of the proposed rate schedule.

3.11 The County reserves the right to add additional categories of billing for review and evaluation by the vendor under the same terms and conditions as the original contract.

**SECTION IV
SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

4.1 PROPOSAL CONTENTS

To be considered for award, all proposals must include, as a minimum the following information:

- a. The proposal must include a statement of the Contractor’s proposed approach and schedule to accomplish the tasks as set forth in the Scope of Work including set-up, and starting of project and or service.
- b. Describe the qualifications and experience of key personnel that will provide these services including demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the types of services to be performed. .
- c. The Contractor shall provide a fee proposal as a percentage of verifiable savings. Contractor shall provide detail as to how future savings based on rate adjustments, power factors etc. can be accounted for; that is how the County verifies that savings are a result of Consultant’s initiatives rather than other “Green Initiatives” undertaken by the County.
- d. Proposer shall provide at least three (3) references/ and or current list of clients for references to demonstrate the company’s experience and qualifications.. Include all state of Georgia (Local/State) government agencies, or departments, where you currently are or previously were under contract for your services.

4.2 PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) Proposer’s qualifications and experience (30 points)
- b) Proposed Methodology (20 points)
- c) Fee Proposal (40 points)
- d) References (10 points)

The undersigned proposer certifies that he/she has carefully read the preceding list of instructions and all other data applicable hereto and made a part of this invitation; and, further certifies that the prices shown in his/her proposal are in accordance with all documents contained in this Request for Proposals package, and that any exception taken thereto may disqualify his/her proposal.

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Proposer, have read the instructions to Proposer and agree to be bound by the provisions of the same.

This _____ day of _____ 20__.

BY: _____
SIGNATURE

TITLE

COMPANY

ADDRESS

PHONE NO.

**PART V
FEE PROPOSAL
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
RFP NO. 11-0012-1
UTILITY BILLING AUDIT SERVICES**

I have read and understand the requirements of this proposal, RFP No. 11-0012-1, and agree to provide the required services in accordance with this proposal, and all other attachments, exhibits, etc. I understand that the County will not be responsible for the reimbursement of any costs not specifically set forth in this proposal.

Percent of verifiable first year savings to be paid to the Consultant _____%

FIRM NAME: _____
PROPOSER: _____
SIGNATURE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
FAX NUMBER: _____
E-MAIL: _____

BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE/LICENSE NUMBER: _____

CITY/COUNTY/STATE: _____

ATTACHMENT A

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the provisions of Code Sections 50-24-1 through 50-24-6 of the Official Code to Georgia Annotated, related to the Drug Free Workplace have been complied with in full.

1. A drug-free workplace will be provided for the employees during the performance of the contract; and;
2. Each sub-contractor under the direction of the Contractor shall secure the following written certification:_____

(Contractor) certifies to Chatham County that a drug-free workplace will be provided for the employees during the performance of this contract known as **RFP No. 11-0012-1 UTILITY BILLING AUDIT SERVICES** pursuant to paragraph (7), of subsection (B) of Code Section 50-24-3. Also, the undersigned further certifies that he/she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

CONTRACTOR: _____ DATE: _____

NOTARY: _____ DATE: _____

ATTACHMENT B

PROMISE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Know All Men By These Presents, that I (We), _____, _____, _____,
Name Title Name of Bidder

(herein after “Company”) in consideration of the privilege to bid/or propose on the following Chatham

County project procurement **RFP No. 11-0012-1 UTILITY BILLING AUDIT SERVICES** , hereby consent, covenant and agree as follows:

1. No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of or otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin or gender in connection with the bid submitted to Chatham County or the performance of the contract resulting therefrom;
2. That it is and shall be the policy of this Company to provide equal opportunity to all business persons seeking to contract or otherwise interested with the Company, including those companies owned and controlled by racial minorities, and women;
3. In connection herewith, I (We) acknowledge and warrant that this Company has been made aware of, understands and agrees to take affirmative action to provide minority and women owned companies with the maximum practicable opportunities to do business with this Company on this contract;
4. That the promises of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall be continuing throughout the duration of this contract with Chatham County;
5. That the promises of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall be and are hereby deemed to be made a part of an incorporated by reference in the contract which this Company may be awarded;
6. That the failure of this Company to satisfactorily discharge any of the promises of non-discrimination as made and set forth above may constitute a material breach of contract entitling the County to declare the contract in default and to exercise appropriate remedies including but not limited to termination of the contract.

Signature_____Date_____

ATTACHMENT C

DISCLOSURE OF RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Failure to complete and return this information will result in your bid/offer/proposal being disqualified from further competition as non-responsive.

1. List any convictions of any person, subsidiary, or affiliate of the company, arising out of obtaining, or attempting to obtain a public or private contractor subcontract, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract.

2. List any indictments or convictions of any person, subsidiary, or affiliate of this company for offenses such as embezzlement, theft, fraudulent schemes, etc. or any other offenses indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty which affects the responsibility of the contractor

3. List any convictions or civil judgments under states or federal antitrust statutes.

4. List any violations of contract provisions such as knowingly (without good cause) to perform, or unsatisfactory performance, in accordance with the specifications of a contract.

5. List any prior suspensions or debarments by any governmental agency.

6. List any contracts not completed on time.

7. List any penalties imposed for time delays and/or quality of materials and workmanship.

8. List any documented violations of federal or any state labor laws, regulations, or standards, occupational safety and health rules.

I, _____, as _____
Name of individual Title & Authority

of _____, declare under oath that
Company Name

the above statements, including any supplemental responses attached hereto, are true.

Signature

State of _____

County of _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this _____ day of _____

2011 by _____ representing him/herself to be

_____ of the company named herein.

Notary Public

My Commission expires:

Resident State:

ATTACHMENT D

Contractor Affidavit and Agreement

CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT AND AGREEMENT

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned contractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is contracting with (name of public employer) has registered with and is participating in a federal work authorization program* [any of the electronic verification of work authorization programs operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or any equivalent federal work authorization program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security to verify information of newly hired employees, pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA),

P.L. 99-603], in accordance with the applicability provisions and deadlines established in O.C.G.A. 13-10-91.

The undersigned further agrees that, should it employ or contract with any subcontractor(s) in connection with the physical performance of services pursuant to this contract with (name of public employer), contractor will secure from such subcontractor(s) similar verification of compliance with O.C.G.A. 13-10-91 on the Subcontractor Affidavit provided in Rule 300-10-01.08 or a substantially similar form. Contractor further agrees to maintain records of such compliance and provide a copy of each such verification to the (name of the public employer) at the time the subcontractor(s) is retained to perform such service.

EEV / Basic Pilot Program* User Identification Number

BY: Authorized Officer or Agent
(Contractor Name)

Date

Title of Authorized Officer or Agent of Contractor

Printed Name of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN
BEFORE ME ON THIS THE
_____ DAY OF _____, 20__

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: _____

* As of the effective date of O.C.G.A. 13-10-91, the applicable federal work authorization program is the "EEV / Basic Pilot Program" operated by the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Bureau of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

ATTACHMENT E

Affidavit Verifying Status for Chatham County Benefit Application

By executing this affidavit under oath, as an applicant for a Chatham County, Georgia Business License or Occupation Tax Certificate, Alcohol License, Taxi Permit, Contract or other public benefit as reference in O.C.G.A. Section 50-36-1, I am stating the following with respect to my bid for a Chatham County contract for _____ . [Name of natural person applying on behalf of individual, business, corporation, partnership, or other private entity]

1.) _____ I am a citizen of the United States.

OR

2.) _____ I am a legal permanent resident 18 years of age or older.

OR

3.) _____ I am an otherwise qualified alien (8 § USC 1641) or non-immigrant under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC 1101 *et seq.*) 18 years of age or older and lawfully present in the United States.*

In making the above representation under oath, I understand that any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in an affidavit shall be guilty of a violation of Code Section 16-10-20 of the Official Code of Georgia.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____
Printed Name: _____
* _____
Alien Registration number for non-citizens.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN
BEFORE ME ON THIS THE
____ DAY OF _____, 20____

Notary Public
My Commission Expires:

ATTACHMENT F

**BIDDER'S CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION,
INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION**

The undersigned certifies, by submission of this proposal or acceptance of this contract, that neither Contractor nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntary excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency, State of Georgia, Chatham County, City of Savannah, Board of Education or local municipality. Bidder agrees that by submitting this proposal that Bidder will include this clause without modification in all lower tier transactions, solicitations, proposals, contracts, and subcontracts. Where the Bidder or any lower tier participant is unable to certify to this statement, that participant shall attach an explanation to this document.

Certification – the above information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Printed or typed Name of Signatory)

(Signature)

(Date)

Purchasing Staff Member Verification _____

Title _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____

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

ATTACHMENT G

**Chatham County
Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program
M/WBE Participation Report**

Name of Bidder: _____

Name of Project: _____ Bid No: _____

M/WBE Firm	Type of Work	Contact Person/ Phone #	City, State	%	MBE or WBE

MBE Total _____% WBE Total _____% M/WBE Combined _____%

The undersigned should enter into a formal agreement with M/WBE Contractor identified herein for work listed in this schedule conditioned upon execution of contract with the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

Signature _____ Print _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

LEGAL NOTICE

CC NO. 165070

Chatham County, Georgia seeking proposal from responsive and qualified firms that will provide the Best Value for a contract to provide services associated with **“UTILITY BILLING AUDIT SERVICES RFP NO. 11-0012-5”**

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: A pre-proposal conference will be conducted at **10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2011** in the **3rd Floor Conference Room, 124 Bull Street, “Administrative Courthouse” Savannah, Georgia, 31401**, to discuss specifications and/or any misunderstandings that may arise. Representatives from Chatham County will be in attendance.

Proposals are due by **2:00 P.M., October 27, 2011** and must be mailed or hand delivered to the **Chatham County Purchasing Office, 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite C, Savannah, Georgia, 31406**.

Specifications can be downloaded from the County’s website at <http://purchasing.chathamcounty.org> and are available in Chatham County Purchasing Office, at the address listed above. For additional information concerning specifications, please contact Peggy Joyner, Purchasing Agent @ 912-790-1626. All firms requesting to do business with Chatham County must also register on line at <http://purchasing.chathamcounty.org>.

CHATHAM COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY/AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ALL FORMALITIES. “CHATHAM COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, M/F/H, ALL BIDDERS ARE TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS”.

**MARGARET H. JOYNER, PURCHASING AGENT
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

Savannah News- INSERT: **Oct. 5, 2011**

NEWS ONLY-

Please send two copies of affidavit to:

Chatham County Purchasing Department
P.O. Box 15180
Savannah, GA 31416
(912) 790-1619