

LMCA Working Group review of landscaping proposals

31 October 2016

BRIGHT VIEW

- Their proposal addressed almost everything in the RFP but they were also the only bidder out of the four to submit their proposal late. They had to re-write the whole proposal as their initial attempt was non-compliant and addressed almost nothing in the RFP.
- While reviewing the proposal, the Working Group (WG) uncovered the fact that as Valley Crest, they failed to fulfill one of the contractual obligations in the Stevenson Avenue addendum, namely the irrigation audit.
- The WG sought clarification from the source (VDOT) re: the difference between an “inspection” and an “audit”. The former is carried out monthly by someone who doesn’t need to be a qualified irrigation inspector/engineer. It requires a cursory walk around the area, checking on sprinkler heads but no tests are carried out on the system.
- An audit on the other hand is a specific procedure that requires correct weather conditions, pressure testing devices in the various zones & recording results so that the auditor can compile a detailed report. Pressure testing is by no means the only aspect of this. The following is a list of only some of the data that is captured: sprinkler head location & spacing, sprinkler make and model, test run time, wind speed readings & soil types.
- VDOT clarified that an inspection does not exempt LMCA from carrying out an audit and stressed that this should be carried out by professionals.
- This means that in addition to the cost of the contract, \$5000 must be added to LI 6200 (Irrigation Repair & Maintenance) if the board votes for Bright View’s proposal. The WG also found out hourly rates for irrigations technicians: \$95/hour & \$60/hour for laborers.
- It is not recommended that the irrigation audit is carried out by Bright View – this can be bid out & an independent/non-affiliated contractor perform the task, thereby ensuring impartiality and the potential for a lower cost by someone else.

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING SERVICE

- The WG asked Complete about Optional Services that were not included in the price quote. Services such as edging, mulching & mowing (to name a few) would be included but spring & fall flower planting would not. This would require a separate contract. Would the board consider this to compare their price with Bright View’s?
- Complete does not subcontract its irrigation operations. They perform all tasks without the use of sub-contractors.
- In the VDOT area, Complete will carry out the contracting services on the same schedule service days and frequencies that are listed in the RFP.
- The WG asked for a price to conduct the VDOT irrigation audit - \$350. Their rates for an Irrigation Technician are \$100/hour and a laborer is \$45/hour.

The facts on both bidders are presented above. Please use them to decide which company is best suited.

Working Group members: Christine Dale, Angus McElroy, Kimberly Beach, Roger Casalengo