

## INVITATION TO BID

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF BALDWIN

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the County Commission of Baldwin County, (“Commission”), Alabama, will receive bids in the Purchasing Office on **April 5, 2022, at 1:00 P. M., for the Provision of Off-Site Printing, Mailing and Automated Management of the Quarterly Statements/Late Notices for Baldwin County Solid Waste Collections. Bids will be opened on April 5, 2022, at 1:30 P. M., in the Purchasing Conference Room located at 257 Hand Ave., Bay Minette, Alabama. Bids received after the April 5, 2022, at 1:00 P. M., deadline will not be considered.** All times to be determined solely by the clock on the wall of the Purchasing Conference Room. For all purposes and uses herein, a bid and all required paperwork is “received” at the time and date indicated on the Purchasing Office file stamp which shall be impressed on the face of all such documents when and as presented at the Purchasing Office.

### **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

A **mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at the Baldwin County Purchasing Conference Room located in the Annex III Building at 257 Hand Avenue, Bay Minette, AL., on **Monday, March 28, 2022 at 10:00 A.M., Central Standard Time.** **ALL INTERESTED BIDDERS MUST ATTEND.** Vendors will not be allowed to submit a bid for the project if they or a representative of their company does not attend the Pre-Bid Conference.

### **SEE ATTACHED SPECIFICATIONS**

This invitation package consists of **ELEVEN (11) pages.** Bidders shall verify that have received all pages as indicated. If all pages have not been received, then it is the responsibility of the bidder to contact the Purchasing Director, Wanda Gautney at (251) 580-2520 phone, (251) 580-2536 fax.

### **GENERAL BID INFORMATION**

Bidders shall carefully read all parts of the invitation package with its accompanying schedules and attachments, if any. Bidders shall direct all requests for explanation or additional information concerning the meaning or interpretation of the conditions or attached specifications of this invitation to Wanda Gautney in writing or by e-mail ([wgautney@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto:wgautney@baldwincountyal.gov)) in sufficient time for a reply before submission date of bids. The Commission cannot, and does not, guarantee that such inquiries sent by mail or e-mail will be received timely or prior to the required submission date and time. It is the responsibility of the bidder to contact the Purchasing Director, Wanda Gautney at (251) 580-2520 if a reply is not received.

The use of specific names and numbers in the specifications is not intended to restrict the bidder or any seller or manufacturer but is solely for the purpose of indicating the type, size and quality of materials, product services, or equipment considered best suited for Baldwin County.

Contact initiated by a potential bidder with a county official will be only as specifically set out in this invitation. Any other contact with a county official initiated by a potential bidder or bidder regarding this bid, **between the date of this invitation to the date of bid award**, shall be deemed and treated as an attempt to unduly influence the bid award, and may be grounds for rejection of the bid submitted by the bidder initiating such other contact, at the discretion of the Baldwin County Commission.

### **BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS**

All bidders, to the best of their knowledge and belief, must be in, and remain in compliance with all applicable Federal, Alabama State, County and municipal laws, regulations, resolutions and ordinances. In particular, and without limitation, all bidders must be licensed and permitted in accordance with The Code of Alabama Title 10, concerning corporations doing business within Alabama, Title 34, dealing with licensing for businesses, Title 40, concerning licenses and taxation, unless otherwise exempt. All bidders should be prepared to timely submit to the County non-confidential evidence or documentation demonstrating that the fact they are presently licensed and permitted under Alabama law. Such non-confidential evidence or documentation is encouraged to be submitted with the Bid Package

The bidder expressly acknowledges, to and for the benefit of the Baldwin County Commission, that this Agreement may be funded with **federal grant monies** and, therefore, bidder expressly warrants and agrees that it shall at all times comply with all applicable federal, state, local and municipal laws and regulations. For more information about the Federal regulations visit the website <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html> Code of Federal Regulations.

**All out-of-state bidders must provide proof of proper certification of authority, and any required registration, to transact business in this State, in order to perform work for the Baldwin County Commission. Bidder's Registration Number shall be provided on the Bid Response Form. The phone number for the Alabama Secretary of State is (334) 242-5324, Corporate Division.**

**All vendors, contractors and grantee are required to comply with the Alabama Immigration Law under Sections 31-13-9 (a) and (b) of the Code of Alabama. Forms and documents will be included with award documents. Information and forms can be found on the Baldwin County Commission's Purchasing website under E-Verify at [www.baldwincountyal.gov](http://www.baldwincountyal.gov)**

### **PREPARING THE BID**

Bids must be typed or handwritten in ink. A bid submitted in pencil is unacceptable. The Bid Guarantee and Bid Response Form must be the original paperwork; copies are not acceptable. All required paperwork must be received in the sealed Bid Package.

These specifications exhibit the general intent and purpose of Baldwin County regarding this bid; and they shall be so considered by the bidders. Accordingly, the bidder admits and agrees that said specifications are not complete in every detail. The bidder also agrees that the work and materials not indicated, or expressly mentioned in these specifications, but which are

reasonably necessary for the full and faithful performance of the item(s) bid in accordance with the full and faithful intent, will be included in the bid and incorporated in the work the same as if fully and expressly indicated and specified.

The Bidders shall list on a separate sheet of paper any variations from, or exceptions to, the conditions and specifications of this bid. The exceptions shall be labeled “**EXCEPTION(S) TO BID CONDITIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS,**” and shall be attached to the front of the bid inside the Bid Package. Additional features and/or capabilities not included in the specifications may be included in the bid.

To facilitate the bid evaluation and tabulation, bids should be submitted with specifications identified in the order in which they appear in this document. If applicable, the bidder will provide cost in two (2) categories:

(1) Cost using material as specified.

(2) Cost using material as specified of at least 25% recycled material, if available.

It is the intent of the Commission to award bids which include recycled material when not prohibitive in cost and when in compliance with all other terms and conditions of the Alabama Competitive Bid Law.

**IF THE TOTAL PROPOSED BID AMOUNT EXCEEDS \$10,000.00, A BID GUARANTEE OF AT LEAST 5% OF THE PROPOSED BID AMOUNT, NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00, WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THE BID.** Such bid guarantee shall be in the form of a bid bond (individual or annual, provided, that bonding is available for such services, equipment or materials), postal money order, certified check, cashier’s check, or Letter of Credit. **No exceptions will be allowed.** In the event that a bidder is unable to, or does not, accept the bid award, the bid guarantee may be forfeited to the County at the County’s discretion.

### **SUBMITTING THE BID**

In the event that a bidder is financing the product(s) through another agency other than itself, the financing agency must sign the Bid Response Form along with the bidder. A copy of the financing agreement and all conditions must be included with the Bid Response Form. The bidder and the Financing Agency will be held to the requirements stated in the Invitation to Bid. Any assignment of the financing agreement must be approved by the financing agency and the County Commission. Failure to disclose the financing information and all conditions will disqualify the Bidder at the County’s discretion.

Bidders that are returning a **NO BID** statement shall write on the outside of the Bid Package, the **Bid Number (i.e. WG22-27) with “NO BID”** written underneath. The Bid Package will not be opened in public, but it will be noted that the bidder did respond.

Bids may be hand delivered at any time prior to the bid opening date and time to the Baldwin County Purchasing Office, Annex III Building, 257 Hand Avenue, ATTN: Wanda Gautney, **(mailing) 312 Courthouse Square-Suite 15, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507**. The Commission cannot guarantee that bids sent by mail or courier will be received will be received on or before the bid opening day and time as required. Bids received after the deadline shall not be accepted and shall be returned.

All bids received must be in a sealed envelope plainly marked, **“WG22-27” “PROVISION OF OFF-SITE PRINTING, MAILING & AUTOMATED MANAGEMENT OF THE QUARTERLY STATEMENTS/LATE NOTICES FOR BALDWIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE COLLECTIONS.”** Bids submitted by “Express/Overnight” services must be in a separate inner envelope/package sealed and identified as stated in the previous sentence. Bidders and any other interested individuals are invited to attend the bid opening.

### **BID AWARD**

The Baldwin County Commission, at its discretion, may offer an extension of the Contract awarded to the successful bidder for an additional period not to exceed twelve (12) months or until such time that a new contract can be bid and awarded. Any extension will be at the same prices, terms and conditions. Any extension must have the written approval of both the County and Awarded Bidder within sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the original contract.

All factors stated in this invitation package will be considered in determining the successful bidder, and any omission(s) of the stated requirements may be cause for rejection of the bid (s), all as determined solely by the Baldwin County Commission.

The County Commission reserves the right to study bids as to their correctness and may award the bid within a thirty (30) day period but the County Commission reserves the right to extend the bid award for an additional thirty (30) days until an award decision can be made.

The Baldwin County Commission reserves the right to reject any, and all bids, to waive any informality in bids, and to accept in whole or in part, such bid or bids, solely at its discretion.

### **TITLE 39/CODE OF AL COMPLIANCE**

As a condition of any Bid Award and the respective contract(s) pursuant thereto, the County places full reliance upon the fact that it is the sole responsibility of any contractor, person or entity entering into such a contract with Baldwin County for the prosecution of any public works, to ensure that they and/or any of their respective agents comply with all applicable provisions of Title 39-1-1 et seq. Code of AL 1975.

More specifically, any contractor, person or entity entering into such a contract with Baldwin County for the prosecution of any public works shall be in compliance with, and have full knowledge of, the following provisions of Title 39:

“(f) The Contractor shall, immediately after the completion of the contract give notice of the completion by an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation. published within the city or county in which the work has been done, for a period of four successive weeks. A final settlement shall not be made upon the contract until the expiration of 30 days after the completion of the notice. Proof of publication of the notice shall be made by the contractor to the authority by whom the contract was made by affidavit of the publisher and a printed copy of the notice published . . .” §39-1-1(f) Code of AL 1975.

“(g) Subsection (f) shall not apply to contractors performing contracts of less than fifty thousand (\$50,000) in amount. In such cases, the governing body of the

contracting agency, to expedite final payment, shall cause notice of final completion of the contract to be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation, published in the county of the contracting agency and shall post notice of final completion on the agency's bulletin board for one week, and shall require the contractor to certify under oath that all bills have been paid in full. Final settlement with the contractor may be made at any time after the notice has been posted for one entire week." §39-1-1 (g) Code of AL 1975.

**NOTE: Any failure to fully comply with this section or any applicable laws of the State of Alabama shall be deemed a material breach of the terms of both the Bid Award and the respective contracts resulting there from. Furthermore, Baldwin County takes no responsibility for resulting delayed payments, penalties, or damages as a result of any failure to strictly comply with Alabama Law.**

Done this 2nd day of March, 2022.

James E. Ball s.s  
JAMES E. BALL, Chairman  
Baldwin County Commission

### **BID #WG22-27 SPECIFICATIONS**

The Baldwin County Commission – Baldwin County Solid Waste is soliciting bids for Off Site Printing, Mailing, and Automated Management of the statements and past due notices for Garbage Collections Services. These two types of statements/notices are referenced generically throughout these Bid Specifications as “statements”.

These specifications shall be construed as minimum. All integral parts not specifically mentioned in the scope of these specifications that are necessary provide a complete working unit shall be furnished.

Bidder shall give unit prices as indicated on the Bid Response Form. The price shall include all applicable charges, to include but not limited to all setup charges including programming, preprinted forms, envelopes, services provided, etc.

Award will be to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. Is it not the policy of the Baldwin County Commission to purchase on the basis of low bid only. Quality, conformity with specifications, purpose for which required, terms of delivery and fast service and experience are among the factors that will be considered in determining the responsive bidder.

### **BID RESPONSE FORM:**

Each supplier should use the Response Form provided for their bid. Exceptions are to be attached to the back of the Response Form.

### **INTENT TO AWARD TO ONE BIDDER**

It is the County's intent to award the bid to one Bidder.

**It is the intent of the Baldwin County Commission to award this contract for a twelve (12) calendar month period. However, the Baldwin County Commission may, at their option and in agreement with the Successful Bidder, renew the contract for up to two (2) additional years (2023 and 2024), in twelve (12) month increments. The Baldwin County Commission will, in writing, notify the Contractor thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the 2022 contract with the intent to extend the contract. The prices for 2022 shall also apply to the extension period(s).**

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days following the bid opening unless approved by the Baldwin County Commission, Bay Minette, Alabama.

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

The Baldwin County Solid Waste's Office normal hours of operation are 8:00am to 4:30pm. Vendor must adhere to the hours of operation to accommodate effective and timely communications.

### **VENDOR MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. The Vendor shall specify and provide a dedicated primary contact to work with the Baldwin County Solid Waste Administrative Office Staff during the initial setup phase, testing, and throughout the actual mailing phases of the statements/ notices during the year.
- B. The Vendor shall document that they have sufficient knowledge, experience, and capacity to fulfill the requirements of this bid by providing at least three references

(include contact names and phone numbers) of projects similar in size and scope to this Bid. Provide any additional information that you believe to be relevant to this Bid and your capabilities to provide the services requested (e.g., product brochures, articles in trade journals, etc.).

- C. The Vendor shall have sufficient facilities and a comprehensive continuity of services plan that will ensure continued uninterrupted service even following a disaster event.
- D. The Vendor acknowledges that some of the information being processed may be confidential and as such will treat all information as confidential information. The Vendor will have policies and procedures in place to ensure that confidentiality is maintained and will not release any information or use it for purposes outside those specific to fulfilling the requirements of this Bid.

### **MINIMUM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. The Vendor must accept data files in the format created from the County's software solution, which is currently CORE Computing Solutions, Inc. These will be provided as ASCII Flat Text files. A file layout/data definition will be provided that describes the data field locations. There will be a separate data file generated for each of the billing group statements/notice types. The Vendor must be able to pull the variable statement data from the format(s) provided and convert it into the format(s) that they require. The County will not make changes in order to conform to specific Vendor imposed format requirements.
- B. The Vendor must provide a secure web site or ftp site to accept the Monthly upload of statement data files. The methodology utilized must provide for an end-to-end secure encrypted connection for the upload. If any specialty software or certificates are required in order to utilize the service, the Vendor must furnish those at no additional cost to the County.
- C. The Vendor must maintain and utilize current technology for post automation and high-speed processing systems to ensure that the mail is presorted and run at the highest discount rate obtainable for the County. This will include, but is not limited to, performing CASS Certification and NCOA processing of the statement mailing addresses. The Vendor will be responsible for using the mailing address information in the format and order provided by the County, to then perform any sorting, parsing, or manipulation required to get the information in the proper format to produce the desired results. The Vendor will generate Intelligent Mail Bar Code and print it appropriately on all mailings.
- D. The Vendor must utilize ACS post mailing services to receive electronic notification of change-of-address and other non-delivery reasons to reduce manual address notifications. The Vendor must provide an electronic report or portal access to this return information for the County. The Vendor will utilize this and any other viable means to provide a continuous process of mailing address quality improvement to the County.
- E. Statements shall be created on 8.5 x 11 white paper with a minimum of 20# bond, **with black ink.. The late notice will have a shaded area for the "Past Due" statement to be highlighted.** The paper must have perforations appropriate to the layout of the specific statement type that provides a citizen returnable portion. The citizen returnable portion must have all the pertinent information to process the payments, including

account/statement identifier information that will be used for OCR purposes specified by the County. The front of the Statement will contain the variable information which is to be laid out and merged with appropriate headings, logos, and other static statements. The front of the Statement will contain a section where a variable message/comment provided by the County can be printed on all Statements for that specific type of statements and month. The Vendor must work with the County on the final design of the Statements and must provide the County with examples and Proofs for final design approval.

- F. The County will require certain account/statement identifier information OCR (optical character recognition) to be printed in a consistent location such that they appear on the citizen returnable portion of the Statements. The OCR will contain the statement identifiable key for the specific statement. This informationThe OCR will be used by the County's lockbox service vendor for OCR (optical character recognition) scanning during their processing of payments.
- G. The Vendor will fold, insert, and seal the notices in a #10 envelope that shows the appropriate mailing address, return address, and Intelligent Mail Barcode. The Vendor will also insert a #9 return envelope with the appropriate County return address information for the specific statement type.
- H. The Vendor will have the capability to print and insert an additional single 8.5 x 11 static letter sheet into all envelopes for a monthly mailing of a statement billing group(s). This will be used in cases when it is desired by the County to furnish additional information to the citizen that will not fit into the message/comment section of the Notice. This will be on white paper, single sided, with black ink only. This will be a separate billable component should the County chose to use this option on a mailing. There is a separate component on the Bid Response Form to specify the Vendor bid for this component.
- I. The Vendor will presort, tray, and prepare the Invoices such that the County receives the maximum postage discount available. The Vendor will deliver the Invoices to the appropriate bulk mailing area of the Post Office and ensure they are accepted by the Post Office.
- J. The Statements must be processed and mailed within three (3) business days after receiving the data files from the County.
- K. The Vendor will work with the County to identify and implement quality control measures to ensure that all data provided by the County is processed. This may include but is not limited to utilizing hash totals, counts, or other control methods. The Vendor will provide access to a digital copy of the Statements for review and approval by the County prior to the notices being printed. The County will be provided access to a digital copy of the final Statements that can be accessed online or downloaded for future reference.
- L. The Vendor will provide Automated Notice Management tools via a website to aid the County in submitting Statement data, managing mailing address corrections, accessing Statements for review and approval, and for other functions that will enhance the services being provided.
- M. The Vendor will provide the County with an immediate report after processing the invoice file, which will give a breakdown of the cost of the postage for that run. The County will only pay the actual postage cost; mark up of postage fees will not be allowed.

- N. The pricing provided on the Bid Response Form must be all inclusive of setup costs, forms costs, envelope costs, printing, address certification, delivery to the post office, and all other materials and services required to fulfill the requirements of this Bid.
- O. The following table is a breakdown of the estimated monthly volume.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Quarterly/monthly Statements Estimated Count</b>	<b>Late Notices Estimated Count</b>
January	10,500	2,800
February	10,500	2,800
March	10,500	2,800
April	10,500	2,800
May	10,500	2,800
June	10,500	2,800
July	10,500	2,800
August	10,500	2,800
September	10,500	2,800
October	10,500	2,800
November	10,500	2,800
December	10,500	2,800

**BID#WG22-27 RESPONSE FORM**

Off Site Printing, Mailing, and Automated Management of the Quarterly Statements/Notices for  
Baldwin County Solid Waste Collections  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Out of State \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes No Registration Number

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Company Rep \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Rep. Name Typed or Printed)

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Financing through another agency beside yourself \_\_\_\_\_ or XX  
Yes No

If yes, must attach a copy of the financing agreement and all conditions to this response from.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Financing Agency Authorized Signature

Any brochures or specification material that is being offered should be attached to this Response Form. Reference Information on at least three projects similar in size and scope (including contact names and phone numbers) should be attached to this Response Form.

**BID #WG22-27 RESPONSE FORM**

Off Site Printing, Mailing, and Automated Management of the Quarterly Statements/Notices for Baldwin County Solid Waste.

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**1. Statements - Approximate Quantity of each mailing per details listed in the Bid Specifications**

@ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / each

**Optional**

**2. Additional Cost per envelope for printing and inserting an additional 8.5 x11 letter sheet as described in paragraph H of these Bid Specifications. This will only be billable if the County chooses to use this optional feature for a specific monthly mailing of a specific invoice notice type.**

@ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / each