



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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Public Works

Board Action

File #: 23-537

Commissioner Keigher - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute a Professional Services Contract with AME Consulting Engineers, PC for the Gaston College ARPA Project

STAFF CONTACT

Daniel K Ziehm, PE - Public Works - 704-862-6795

BUDGET IMPACT

No additional County funds.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

In May 2021, Gaston County was awarded \$43,612,126 in federal funds to meet urgent community needs in the wake of COVID-19. An internal committee has been meeting since April 2021 to discuss eligible uses of funds, potential projects, and financial reporting. On September 26, 2023, Resolution 2023-318 approved the Gaston College ARPA Project for authorized funds not to exceed \$3,200,000. The County will manage steam boiler & HVAC system improvements and repairs for Gaston College. The County will require the services of a licensed mechanical engineering firm to assess and prioritize Gaston College's needs and provide estimated costs.

North Carolina General Statute NCGS §143-64.31 requires the initial solicitation and evaluation of firms to perform architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management-at-risk services, and design-build services (collectively "design services") to be based on qualifications and without regard to fee. NCGS §143-64.32 authorizes units of local government to exempt contracts for professional services from the qualifications-based selection requirements of NCGS §143-64.31 if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000. However, the cost for engineering services for this project is expected to exceed the \$50,000 cap for exemption, thereby requiring the engineer to be selected through the qualifications-based process. In addition, the qualification-based selection (QBS) process is required to comply with Uniform Guidance (UG) selection requirements. When federal funds are involved, waiver of QBS can only be considered when total cost is below \$10,000 per Uniform Guidance.

(Continued on Page 2)

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	CCloninger	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	RWorley	Vote
2023-404	11/28/2023	RW	BH	A	A	A	A	A	AB	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

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Page 2

Public Works staff developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Gaston College ARPA Project in accordance with statutory requirements and publicly advertised this project on October 23, 2023. Statements of Qualification (SOQ) submittals were received on November 10, 2023, from five (5) firms:

- Labella Associates, P.C.
- Optima Engineering PA
- AME Consulting Engineers, PC
- CMTA, Inc.
- McKnight Smith Ward Griffin, Incorporated

After reviewing the SOQs submitted by the five (5) firms, AME Consulting Engineers, PC was deemed to be the best qualified for Gaston College Project.

Approval of this Board Action by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners officially selects AME Consulting Engineers, PC as the engineer of record for the project listed above. Further, approval of this Board Action authorizes the County Attorney to negotiate and draft the necessary contract documents for the work and authorizes the County Manager, or her designee, to execute said contract.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A