



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



SOLICITATION AMENDMENT

RETURN OFFERS TO:

Parks Canada Agency Bid Receiving Unit
635 – 8 Avenue S.W., Suite 1300
Calgary, AB T2P 3M3

The referenced document is hereby amended: unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the contract remain the same.

Issuing Office:

Parks Canada Agency
635 – 8 Avenue S.W., Suite 1300
Calgary, AB T2P 3M3

Title:

Type 2 Sustained Action Wildland Firefighting Personnel for Parks Canada Fire Management

Solicitation No.:
5P420-14-5014/A

Amendment No.:
04

Date:
June 20, 2014

GETS Reference No.:
PW-14-00632887

Solicitation Closes:

At:
02:00 PM

On:
June 26, 2014

Time Zone:
Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

Address Inquiries to:
Adam Krisch

Telephone No.:
(403) 292-4560

Fax No.:
(403) 292-4475

Email Address:
adam.krisch@pc.gc.ca

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE OFFEROR (type or print)

We hereby acknowledge receipt of the amended instructions and confirm that provisions therefore have been made in our bid.

Vendor/Firm Name

Name of person authorized to sign on behalf of the Vendor/Firm

Title

Signature

Date



This amendment is raised to respond to bidder questions and to amend the Request for Standing Offers accordingly.

1. Question:

If the first ranked Offeror is deployed and then released eight days later, will a call-up be requested from the second ranked Offeror if services are still required or will the first ranked Offeror be called-up again?

Answer:

As indicated under 6. *Schedule and Hours of Work of Annex A – Statement of Work*:

The total length of a call-up shall not exceed 19 days in duration. Personnel shall not exceed 14 days of active fire duties as per the Work Rest Guidelines for Parks Canada Wildland Fire Operations Personnel (SOP-003).

If the Contractor is released from a call-up under the circumstance that the maximum duration of the call-up is exceeded, Parks Canada will call-up the first ranked Offeror to determine if they have additional crews with which to satisfy a new call-up. Parks Canada will follow the call-up procedures established under 6. *Call-up Procedures* under *Part 7 – Standing Offer and Resulting Contract Clauses* for all call-ups against the Standing Offer.

2. Question:

The terms of the standing offer include months outside the typical fire operational period. Is it within the expectation of Parks Canada that the Offeror is to maintain fire preparedness levels as outlined in *Annex A – Statement of Work* throughout the year - i.e. October 2015 – March 2016?

Answer:

The period of a resulting Standing Offer will be continuous throughout each period of a resulting agreement; however an Offeror must only maintain fire preparedness levels from April 01 through September 30 for each year of the agreement. Parks Canada may call-up against the Standing Offer during the off season for project work but it is not necessary for Offeror's to maintain a constant state of readiness between October 01 and March 31 for each year of the agreement.

2.1. Resulting Amendment to 2. *Scope of Work of Annex A – Statement of Work*:

Delete:

- (b) The Contractor must be able to provide at least three (3) crews at any given time during the term of the Standing Offer. A crew consists of one (1) crew leader and four (4) crew members.

Insert:

- (b) The Contractor must be able to provide at least three (3) crews between April 01 and September 30 during each term of the Standing Offer. A crew consists of one (1) crew leader and four (4) crew members.

3. Question:

Item (f) under 3. *Wildland Firefighting Crew of Annex A – Statement of Work* reads:

"The Contractor must ensure the crew(s) it provides to Parks Canada are available for export within 24 hours of a call-up for fire suppression duties within any National Park in Western and Northern Canada (AB, SK, BC, MB, NWT) (see Appendix 2)."

What is the standard at which the Offeror is expected to adhere to regarding preparedness and levels of preparedness? E.g. Is "line food" (enough rations) and cooking supplies for 48 hours on the fire line the responsibility of the Offeror?

Answer:

Unlike some agencies crews working with Parks Canada will not be held to a standard (i.e. self sufficient for 48 hours). Basic emergency rations should be included with the crew in case of unforeseen circumstances, but logistics on an incident will provides for meals and arrange food kits if required.



3.1. Resulting Amendment to 3. *Wildland Firefighting Crew of Annex A – Statement of Work:*

Delete:

- (f) The Contractor must ensure the crew(s) it provides to Parks Canada are available for export within 24 hours of a call-up for fire suppression duties within any National Park in Western and Northern Canada (AB, SK, BC, MB, NWT) (see Appendix 2).

Insert:

- (f) The Contractor must ensure the crew(s) it provides to Parks Canada are available for export within 24 hours of a call-up for fire suppression duties within any National Park or National Historic Site in Western and Northern Canada covered by a resulting Standing Offer (see Appendix 2).

3.2. Resulting Amendment to 5. *Transportation of Annex A – Statement of Work:*

Delete:

- (a) The Contractor is responsible for transportation to and from their business address to the point of hire which could be anywhere in any National Park or National Historic Site within Western and Northern Canada (AB, SK, BC, MB, NWT). Parks Canada will be responsible for transportation costs from one National Park/ National Historic Site to another National Park/ National Historic Site as required under a call-up.

Insert:

- (a) The Contractor is responsible for transportation to and from their business address to the point of hire which could be anywhere in any National Park or National Historic Site within Western and Northern Canada covered by a resulting Standing Offer. Parks Canada will be responsible for transportation costs from one National Park/ National Historic Site to another National Park/ National Historic Site as required under a call-up.

4. Question:

Falling timber in BC/AB requires the implementation of a certified faller to which each is subject to different standards and policies under provincial jurisdiction. A chainsaw with a minimum 16" bar and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a mandatory technical criteria.

What are the specific equipment expectations? Specifically: chainsaw chap specifications (speed rating), falling equipment (wedge size, axe head weight and handle length), chainsaw specifications (full wrap handle, engine size and minimum cc's)?

Also, hand tool head weights, handle lengths and back pack pump specifications (ridged or collapsible)?

Answer:

Chaps must meet WCB Standard PPE 1-1997 Leg Protective Devices. TSS 3900.

No full wrap handle chainsaws are permitted. Cache uses Stihl models ranging from 260 (50.2cc) to 660 (91.6cc). Other models may be used.

For hand tools, Pulaski should have a 5 lbs head and 36" handle, and shovels should have a 4.3 lbs head and 40" handle (e.g. Bulldog).

An example of a back pack pump is the Hale backpack pump.

5. Question:

Regarding hover exit training as outlined under 1. *Entry Weight Guidelines of Appendix A1 – Fireline Qualification for Wildland Firefighting Crews:*

- 1) Will the incoming staff supplied by the Contractor be certified within Parks Canada upon deployment for hover exit?
- 2) Would personnel operational days be effected by the administration of any Parks Canada training?



3) Who is to absorb the cost of certification and cost of training (helicopter contract)?

Answer:

1) No initial hover exit training is required. Training will not be required unless needed for a specific assignment which would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

2) No. Training will not be provided by Parks Canada.

3) Training costs would be absorbed by the Contractor. Minimal helicopter training is required (no hover exits).

6. Question:

What are the expectations of Parks Canada regarding the preservation of ecological integrity and managing operations with their federal agency's jurisdiction as it is stated under item (k) of 3. *Wildland Firefighting Crew of Annex A – Statement of Work*:

"All crew members and crew leader(s) provided by the Contractor to perform work under the Standing Offer are considered employees of the Contractor and not employees or agents of the Crown."

Answer:

This would be detailed in the specific work project and directed by a Parks Canada Representative. The Contractor would be expected to meet the work within the parameters identified for the specific project.

7. Question:

Please verify the definition of the term "commissary" as mentioned under item (o) of 3. *Wildland Firefighting Crew of Annex A – Statement of Work* and the Contractor's responsibilities associated with the provisions of "commissary".

Answer:

Commissary means the provision/sale of personal effects to fire crews. Parks Canada will not provide chewing tobacco, cigarettes, sleeping bags, deodorant, hair products, boots, etc. Nor will Parks Canada administer the provisions of these goods (i.e. recoup costs, source or transport the items).

8. Question:

As accommodations and living allowances within a reasonable distance from a National Park is often exponentially higher, especially during peak fire season; is the Contractor to absorb the additional cost(s) above and beyond the maximum rate of \$100?

Answer:

Yes, however normally on large incidents accommodation and meals are organized by the logistics section. If not, a Parks Canada rate may be arranged through the local field unit. However the Contractor should have the capacity to pay for accommodations if required.

9. Question:

Can a list of appropriate certifications and training accepted by Parks Canada be distributed for review?

Specifically regarding:

- Chainsaw operations as "falling timber" is the only descriptor mentioned; and
- Crew boss certification.

Answer:

Provincially recognized training standards are accepted by Parks Canada (e.g. Crew member training, crew leader training, Chainsaw courses that demonstrate competency requirements, etc.)



10.

Question:

When working onsite within Parks Canada jurisdiction; will the Contractor have access to Parks Canada fuel bowser/supply for trucks and equipment and be invoiced back for the cost of the fuel?

Answer:

Crews should have the ability to purchase fuel. If it is remote logistics will have something set up that the Contractor could have access to for fuelling that would be required for our own vehicles.

All other terms and conditions remain the same.