

NEW HANOVER COUNTY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS DESIGN SERVICES
FUTURE FIRE STATIONS
RFQ # 22-0530



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULIA OLSON-BOSEMAN, CHAIR
DEB HAYS, VICE-CHAIR
JONATHAN BARFIELD, JR.
BILL RIVENBARK
ROB ZAPPLE

CHRIS COUDRIET, COUNTY MANAGER

Section 1 Advertisement

**NEW HANOVER COUNTY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS DESIGN SERVICES
FUTURE FIRE STATIONS RFQ 22-0530**

New Hanover County is soliciting qualifications **from** interested firms to provide complete design services for two future fire stations.

Submit Statements of Qualifications by mail to:

New Hanover County
Attn: Kevin Caison, Facilities Project Manager
200 Division Drive, Wilmington,
North Carolina 28401

The deadline for receipt of Statements of Qualifications is **5:00 P.M. EST, Thursday, April 14, 2022.**

Submitted Statements of Qualifications are not subject to public inspection until a contract is awarded and executed. Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and firms may be contacted for interviews to be conducted by phone or in person.

Instructions for submitting Statements of Qualifications and complete requirements and information may be obtained by visiting the County's website at <http://www.nhc.gov/business-nhc/bids>.

New Hanover County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Statements of Qualifications and to make the award which will be most advantageous to the County.

Lena L. Butler, Purchasing Supervisor
New Hanover County
(910) 798-7190

Released: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Section 2 Instructions

2.1 Schedule

Advertisement	<i>Tuesday March 22, 2022</i>
Deadline for Questions (Questions may be submitted from the release date until the deadline for questions)	<i>Thursday March 31, 2022 by 5:00 PM, EST</i> Answers to all questions will be posted as an addendum on April 1 by 5:00 PM
Deadline for Receipt of Statements of Qualifications	<i>Thursday April 14, 2022 by 5:00 PM, EST</i> New Hanover County Attn: Kevin Caison, Facilities Project Manager 200 Division Drive, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

2.2 Statement of Qualifications Instructions

2.2.1 Submit your Statement of Qualifications in a sealed envelope properly marked “**RFQ # 22-0530 DESIGN SERVICES -FIRE STATIONS**” and addressed to the County at the following address:

New Hanover County
Attn: Kevin Caison, Facilities Project Manager
200 Division Drive,
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Firms submitting their qualifications statements are asked to submit five (5) copies of the complete statement of qualifications along with one (1) electronic copy on USB.

Clearly indicate the firm’s name, address, email and phone number on the first page of the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).

The successful firm must have the capability of receiving and submitting all documents in an electronic format. Also, the successful firm must have Internet access for browsing and receipt of electronic documents via email.

2.2.2 Statements of Qualifications received after the time and date for closing will not be considered.

- 2.2.3** Submitted Statements of Qualifications are not subject to public inspection until a contract is awarded and executed.
- 2.2.4** After the release date, all communications between the County and prospective respondents regarding this RFQ shall be in writing. Any inquires, requests for interpretation, technical questions, clarification, or additional information shall be directed to **Kevin Caison, Facilities Project Manager** by emailing kcaison@nhcgov.com. All questions concerning this RFQ shall reference the section number and page. Questions and responses will be compiled and shared with all interested Respondents known to the County and posted as an addendum. **All questions shall be received no later than *Thursday March 31, 2022 by 5:00 PM, EST.***

Respondents may not have communications, verbal or otherwise, concerning this RFQ with any personnel or boards from New Hanover County, other than the person listed in this section. If any vendor attempts any unauthorized communication, the proposal will be rejected.

All Respondents who intend to submit a Statement of Qualification on this project should send an email to kcaison@nhcgov.com including pertinent contact information. This will ensure that you receive all addenda issued for this RFQ; if applicable.

Any changes in the qualification's request will be issued by addenda and sent by email to all proposers that have notified the County of their intent to submit a Qualification Package. The addenda will also be posted on the County's website at <http://www.nhcgov.com/business-nhc/bids/>. Verbal information obtained otherwise will not be considered in the awarding of the proposal

- 2.2.5** New Hanover County reserves the right to allow or disallow minor deviations or technicalities should the County deem it to be in the best interest of the County. New Hanover County shall be the sole judge of what is to be considered a minor deviation or technicality.
- 2.2.6** Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and oral interviews may be requested as part of the evaluation process. If interviews will be conducted, the County will contact Respondents by email to make arrangements.
- 2.2.7** The selected firm shall maintain insurance as outlined in the attached draft contract.

- 2.2.8** All costs, including travel and expenses, incurred in the preparation of this Qualification Statement will be borne solely by the proposing Respondent.
- 2.2.9** No agreements with any selected Respondent shall be binding until a contract is signed and executed by the authorized County official and authorized representatives of the vendor.
- 2.2.10** It is the policy of New Hanover County that minority businesses, as defined by NCGS 143-128 have maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts funded in whole or in part with public funds. The County has established a verifiable goal of ten percent (10%) participation in the total value of the work.
- 2.2.11** Pursuant to S.L. 2015-294, Respondents shall fully comply with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security employee legal status E-Verify requirements for itself and all its subcontractors.
- 2.2.12** Iran Divestment Act requires that the State, a North Carolina local government, or any other political subdivision of the State of North Carolina must not utilize any contractor or subcontractor found on the State Treasurer's Final Divestment List. CM certifies that it or its subcontractors are not listed on the Final Divestment List created by the North Carolina State Treasurer pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-6A-4. The State Treasurer's Final Divestment List can be found on the State Treasurer's website at the address www.nctreasurer.com/Iran and will be updated every 180 days.

Section 4: Project Description

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to solicit qualifications from qualified firms to provide complete Design Services for two Fire Stations. The proposed stations will be located on Gordon Road and on Castle Hayne Road. The anticipated services needed include:

- Space Needs Assessment and Concept Plan
- Budget Estimate based on SNA & Concept
- Complete Site Engineering and Permitting
- Complete Architectural, Structural, Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical, Security, etc. design and permitting
- Coordination with selected Construction Manager @Risk during design, bidding and construction
- Complete Construction Administration Services
- Complete FFE layout design, specifications, & bidding

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Section 5: Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria & Format of Proposal

The following criteria will be used for (1) determining the short-listed candidates and (2) the selection of the firm after the interviews. If you are submitting as a joint venture, both partners are required to respond completely.

1 Past experience in Fire Station Design (40%)

- a) List all new fire station projects designed (indicate dates) within the last 7 years. Please select **three** of the most recent projects (Sample Projects) that design is completed and bidding is completed and provide the following information:
- Scope Description - services provided & facility description
 - Budget – Provide estimated vs. actual (construction cost)
 - Schedule – Provide estimated vs. actual (design schedule including permitting)
 - Indicate the construction delivery method used
 - Indicate what could have been done better on each project to improve the outcome
 - Owner contact information
 - Reference letter from owner

2 Proposed Team for this Project & Relevant Experience (30%)

- a) Please provide a list of the proposed team members for this project. Please include their role in the project, license information, and experience.
- b) Please indicate the office location for each proposed team member.
- c) Please indicate if the proposed team worked on the Sample projects listed above.

3 Project Approach (30%)

- a) Describe your team's approach to this type of project. Please give a brief outline of the steps you would take to complete this project.
- b) Please indicate your firm's approach to ensuring end user involvement during design
- c) What will your team need from the owner to ensure a successful project?

Please see the attached score sheet showing the selection criteria point breakdown

Section 6: Selection Process

Phase 1: Each firm initially will be evaluated based upon information provided in the Selection Criteria listed above. From such review, firms receiving the highest ranking will be the firms chosen to participate in Phase 2, the second phase of the selection process. The County reserves the right to reject any and all statements of qualifications as well as reserve the right to waive any irregularities in the statements of qualifications.

Phase 2: The firms who are chosen for Phase 2 of the selection process may be required to make a presentation. Firms will be notified if presentations will be required and given the dates and times reserved for the presentations. The County reserves the right to establish additional rules and procedures for the presentations and for the interview process.

Final Selection: The County will negotiate a contract with the top rated firm as selected by the County. If a contract cannot be successfully negotiated with the top rated firm, the County will proceed to the second rated firm. The County reserves the right to decide to award the design to 2 different firms (one for each station). The County reserves the right to reject any and all statements of qualifications.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AGREEMENT

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

THIS CONTRACT made and entered into this _____ day of _____ 20____, by and between **NEW HANOVER COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, hereto referred to "County"; and _____, hereinafter referred to as "Architect"; for services described below to be rendered for the following Project: County shall hire Architect to provide design and consulting services for the two (2) Fire Stations design project, herein after referred to as "Project". Architect's duties for the Project are more particularly described in the proposal _____, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

The County and Architect hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

ARCHITECT'S BASIC DUTIES TO COUNTY

1.1 By executing this Agreement, Architect represents to County that Architect is professionally qualified to act as Architect for this Project. Architect further represents to County that Architect will maintain all necessary licenses, permits or other authorizations necessary to act as Architect for this Project until Architect's duties hereunder have been satisfied. Architect assumes full responsibility to County for the negligent acts and omissions of its consultants or others employed or retained by Architect in connection with this Project.

1.2 Execution of this Agreement by Architect constitutes a representation that Architect has become familiar with the Project and the conditions under which the Project is to be implemented.

1.3 Schedule (See Exhibit A)

1.4 Project Review Meetings. Architect shall conduct a monthly Project meeting with County. This meeting will provide a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Project's status and provide a time for discussion of major policy, project performance, design, budget, and schedule issues that may arise.

1.5 Schematic Drawings

1.5.1 Architect shall review and examine existing information, including any desired schedule, budgetary requirements and preliminary design information furnished by County to understand the requirements of the Project and shall review the understanding of such requirements with County.

1.5.2 Architect shall review and discuss with County any alternative approaches to design and construction of the Project.

1.5.3 Architect shall prepare and submit to County for review, schematic design documents consisting of drawings and other documents illustrating the scale and relationship of proposed Project modifications.

1.5.4 Architect shall furnish County two (2) copies each of drawings, sketches, forms and reports as appropriate and necessary for County's use, review, and approval.

1.6 Detailed Design

1.6.1 Based on the schematic design documents and any adjustments authorized by County in its program, desired schedule or project budget, Architect shall prepare and submit to County for review, detailed design documents consisting of drawings and other documents to fix and describe the size and character of the Project as proposed or modified by County.

1.6.2 Architect shall furnish County two (2) copies of each of drawings, sketches, forms and reports as appropriate and necessary for County's use, review and approval, unless County shall request additional copies.

1.7 Construction Documents

1.7.1 Upon County's authorization, Architect shall prepare construction documents consisting of drawings and specifications setting forth in detail the requirements for construction of the Project. Such construction documents shall be reasonably accurate, coordinated and adequate for construction and shall be in conformity and comply with applicable law, codes and regulations in force at the time of preparations of the documents. Products specified for use shall be readily available unless written authorization to the contrary is given by County.

1.7.2 Architect shall furnish County with two (2) copies each of all completed drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, and contract documents and a set of reproducible disks.

1.8 Construction Administration

1.8.1 Architect shall provide administration of the construction contract as set forth below and shall perform those duties and discharge those responsibilities set forth herein and in the Agreement between County and Architect hereinafter referred to as the "Construction Contract."

1.8.1.1 Architect's responsibility to provide the Contract Administration Services under this Agreement commences with the award of the initial Contract for Construction and terminates at the issuance to County of the final Certificate of Payment. However, Architect shall be entitled to a Change in Services when Contract Administration Services extends sixty (60) days after the original date of Substantial Completion of the work.

1.8.1.2 Architect shall be representative of and shall advise and consult with County during the provision of the Contract Administration Services. Architect shall have authority to act on behalf of County only to the extent provided in this Agreement unless otherwise modified by written amendment.

1.8.2 Upon receipt, Architect shall review and examine the Contractor's Schedule of Values, together with any supporting documentation or data, which County or Architect may require from the Contractor. The purpose of such review and examination will be to advise County of an unbalanced Schedule of Values, which allocates greater value to certain elements of the work than is indicated by such supporting documentation or data or, than is reasonable under the circumstances. If the Schedule of Values is not found to be appropriate, or if the supporting documentation or data is deemed to be inadequate, and unless County directs Architect to the contrary in writing, the Schedule of Values shall be returned to the Contractor for revision or supporting documentation or data. After making such examination, if the Schedule of Values is found to be appropriate as submitted, or if necessary, as revised, Architect shall sign the Schedule of Values thereby indicating its informed belief that the Schedule of Values constitutes a reasonable, balanced basis for payment of the Contract Price to the Contractor. Architect shall not sign such Schedule of Values in the absence of such belief unless directed to do so by County in writing.

1.8.3 Architect shall review the work of the Contractor whenever and wherever appropriate. The purpose of such inspections will be to determine the quality, quantity, and progress of the work in comparison with the requirements of the Construction Contract. In making such inspections, Architect shall exercise care to advise County of defects or deficiencies in the work, from unexcused delays in the schedule and from overpayment to the Contractor.

1.8.3.1 Architect shall neither have control over or charge of, nor be responsible for, the construction means, methods, techniques, sequences, procedures, or for safety precautions and programs in connection with the work, since these are solely the Contractor's rights and responsibilities under the Contract Documents. Architect will report to Owner any deficiencies in the construction means, methods, techniques, sequences, procedures, or safety observed by Architect or its representative.

1.8.3.2 Architect shall provide written reports of inspections and shall report to County known deviations from the Contract Documents and from the most recent construction schedule submitted by the Contractor. However, Architect shall not be responsible for the Contractor's failure to perform the work in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Documents. Architect shall be responsible for Architect's negligent acts or omissions, but shall not have control over or charge of and shall not be responsible for acts of omissions of the Contractor, Subcontractors, or their agents or employees, or of any other persons or entities performing portions of the work.

1.8.4 Architect shall at all times have access to the work wherever it is located.

1.8.5 Architect shall determine amounts owed to the Contractor based upon observations of the work as required herein, evaluations of the Contractor's rate of progress in light of the remaining Contract Time and upon evaluations of the Contractor's applications for payment, and shall issue certificates for payment to County in such amounts.

1.8.6 The issuance of a certificate for payment shall constitute a representation by Architect to County that Architect has made a review of the work as provided herein and to the best of the knowledge, information and informed belief of Architect, that the work has progressed to the level indicated, that the quality of the work meets or exceeds the requirements of the Construction Contract, and that, the Contractor is entitled to payment of the amount certified. The issuance of a Certificate of Payment shall not be a representation that Architect has reviewed construction means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures or ascertained how or for what purpose the Contractor has used money previously paid on account of the Contract Sum.

1.8.7 Architect shall render written or graphic interpretations necessary for the proper execution or progress of the work with reasonable promptness on request of County.

1.8.8 Architect shall, with the permission of County, reject work, which does not conform to the contract documents unless directed by County, in writing, not to do so. Whenever, in Architect's opinion, it is necessary or advisable, Architect shall require special inspection or testing of the work in accordance with the provisions of the Construction Contract whether or not such work is fabricated, installed, or completed. Architect shall review and approve all testing reports pertaining to project construction.

1.8.9 Architect shall review and approve, or take other appropriate action upon, the Contractor's submittal such as Shop Drawings, Product Data and Samples. Approval by Architect of the Contractor's submittal shall constitute Architect's representation to County that such submittal is in conformance with the Construction Contract. Such action shall be taken with reasonable promptness to cause no delay to the Contractor or the Project. Architect's review shall not constitute approval of safety precautions or, unless otherwise specifically stated by Architect, of any construction means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures. Architect's approval of a specific item shall not indicate approval of an assembly of which the item is a component.

1.8.10 Architect shall review, and advise County concerning, proposals and requests for Change Orders from the Contractor. Architect shall prepare Change Orders for County's approval and execution in accordance with the Construction Contract, and shall have authority to order with the consent of County, by Field Order, minor changes in the work not involving an adjustment in the Contract Price or an extension of the Contract Time.

1.8.11 Architect shall conduct a review to determine the date of Substantial Completion and the date of Final Completion, shall receive and forward to County for County's review written warranties and related documents required by the construction contract and assembled by the Contractor, and shall, when appropriate, issue a final Certificate for Payment.

1.8.12 Architect shall, without additional compensation, promptly correct any errors, omissions, deficiencies or conflicts in Architect's work product.

1.8.13 Architect shall indemnify and hold, County, its officers, officials, agents and employees, harmless against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, or other liability, including attorney fees, on account of personal injuries or death or on account of

property damages arising out of or relating to the work to be performed by Architect hereunder, resulting from the negligent act or omission of Architect, its agents, employees and subcontractors.

1.8.14 Architect shall provide a set of reproducible (inks on Mylar) record drawings of projects showing significant changes in the works made during construction based on marked-up prints, drawing and other data furnished by the Contractor to Architect. Architect shall be able to rely on the completeness and accuracy of this information.

1.9 **Additional Services**

Any additional services will be negotiated with Architect to be paid based on the attached Exhibit A, or as otherwise agreed upon through Change Order.

ARTICLE II

COUNTY'S DUTIES TO ARCHITECT

2.1 Unless otherwise provided under this Agreement, County shall provide full information in a timely manner regarding requirements for and limitations on the Project.

2.2 County's Designated Representative shall be authorized to act on County's behalf with respect to the Project. County or County's Designated Representative shall render decisions in a timely manner pertaining to documents submitted by Architect in order to avoid unreasonable delay in the orderly and sequential progress of Architects services.

2.3 Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, County shall furnish tests, inspections and reports required by law or the Contract Documents such as structural, mechanical, and chemical tests, tests for air and water pollution, and tests for hazardous materials.

2.4 County shall provide prompt written notice to Architect if County becomes aware of any fault or defect in the Project, including any errors, omissions, or inconsistencies in Architect's documents.

ARTICLE III

COMPENSATION TO ARCHITECT

3.1 **Architect's Invoices**

3.1.1 On or before the 10th day of each month, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Architect and County, Architect shall submit an invoice to County requesting payment for services properly rendered. Architect's invoice shall describe with reasonable particularity each service rendered, and the date thereof.

3.1.2 If payment is requested for services rendered by Architect, the invoice shall additionally reflect the allocations as provided in Article III and shall state the percentage of completion as to each such allocation. The invoice shall bear the signature of Architect, which signature shall constitute Architect's representation to County that the services indicated in the invoice have progressed to the level indicated, have been properly and timely performed as required herein, that the reimbursable expenses included in the invoice have been reasonably

incurred, that all obligations of Architect covered by prior paid invoices have been paid in full, and that, to the best of Architect's knowledge, information and informed belief, the amount requested is currently due and owing, there being no reason known to Architect that payment of any portion thereof should be withheld. Submission of Architect's invoice for final payment and reimbursement shall further constitute Architect's representation to County that, upon receipt from County of the amount invoiced, all obligations of Architect to others, including its consultants will be paid in full.

3.2 **Time for Payment.** County shall make payment to Architect of all sums properly invoiced as provided in Payments to Architect paragraph, within thirty (30) days of County's receipt thereof.

3.3 **Owner's Right to Withhold Payment.** In the event that County becomes credibly informed that any representations of Architect are wholly or partially inaccurate, County may withhold payment of sums then or in the future otherwise due to Architect until the inaccuracy, and the cause thereof, is corrected to County's reasonable satisfaction. County may also withhold payment in the event that Architect fails to respond in a timely manner to project issues, which arise through the course of the Project, to the County's satisfaction.

3.4 **Reimbursable Expenses**

3.4.1 Reimbursable Expenses shall mean: expenses incurred by Architect and Architect's consultants in the interest of the Project, only to the extent as follows:

3.4.2 Reasonable expenses of: transportation; long distance communications; postage; additional insurance coverage or limits, including professional liability insurance requested by County in excess amounts specified in this agreement; or other similar cost at the actual cost of these expenses to the Architect.

3.4.3 Expenses including reproduction and handling of drawings, specification and other documents; renderings; models; mock-ups requested by the County; expenses for additional services of consultants, services and land surveyors, geotechnical engineers, and other similar expenses shall be reimbursed to the Architect at a multiple of 1.15 times the amount billed to the Architect for such services.

3.5 **Basis of Compensation.** County agrees to pay Architect, for the full and faithful performance of this contract. Architect will bill County monthly and County will process payment upon approval of work completed to date. The total sum of the contract shall not exceed _____ (**\$_____**) **DOLLARS**, as per the proposal provided by the Contractor in Exhibit A, attached hereto. Time is of the essence and payment is contingent upon completion of Project by required dates and upon acceptance of the work by the County.

ARTICLE IV
ARCHITECT'S RECORDS

4.1 Architect's Records

4.1.1 Documentation accurately reflecting the time expended by Architect and its personnel, and records of Reimbursable Expenses shall be maintained by Architect and shall be available to County for review and copying upon request.

4.1.2 Architect shall maintain books, records, documents and other evidence directly pertinent to the work under this Contract in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices. County, or any of its duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, records and other evidence, which relates directly to the Project for the purpose of examination, audit, excerpts and transcriptions.

4.1.3 Records described above shall be maintained and made available during the performance under this Contract and for a period of three years after County makes final payment and all other pending matters are closed.

ARTICLE V
TERMINATION

5.1 **Termination for Cause.** This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon seven (7) days written notice to the other should such other party fail substantially to perform in accordance with its material terms through no fault of the party initiating the termination.

5.2 **Termination by County Without Cause.** This Agreement may be terminated by County without cause upon seven (7) days written notice to Architect.

ARTICLE VI
INSURANCE

6.1 Minimum Scope and Limits of Insurance

6.1.1 Commercial General Liability

6.1.1.1 Architect shall maintain Commercial General Liability (CGL) and if necessary, Commercial Umbrella Liability (CUL) insurance with a total limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. If such CGL insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to this project/location or the general aggregate shall be twice the required limit.

6.1.1.2 CGL insurance shall be written on Insurance Services Office (ISO) "occurrence" form CG 00 01 covering CGL or its equivalent and shall cover the liability arising from premises, operations, independent contractors, products-completed operations, personal and advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured Contract, including the tort liability of another assumed in a business contract.

6.1.1.3 County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees are to be covered as additional insureds under the CGL by endorsement CG 20 26 or an endorsement providing equivalent coverage as respects to liability arising out of activities performed by or

on behalf of Architect; products and completed operations of Architect; premises owned, leased or used by Architect; and under the commercial umbrella, if any. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees.

6.1.1.4 Architect's CGL insurance shall be primary as respects County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees. Any other insurance or self-insurance maintained by County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees shall be in excess of and shall not contribute to Architect's insurance.

6.1.2 Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability

6.1.2.1 Architect shall maintain Workers' Compensation as required by the general statutes of the State of North Carolina and Employer's Liability Insurance.

6.1.2.2 The Employer's Liability, and if necessary, CUL insurance shall not be less than \$1,000,000 each accident for bodily injury by accident, \$1,000,000 each employee for bodily injury by disease, and 1,000,000 policy limit.

6.1.2.3 The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees for losses arising from work performed by Architect for County.

6.1.3 Business Auto Liability

6.1.3.1 Architect shall maintain Business or Personal Auto Liability and, if necessary, CUL insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident.

6.1.3.2 Such insurance shall cover liability arising out of any auto, including owned, hired, and non-owned autos used in performance of services.

6.1.3.3 Business Auto coverage shall be written on ISO form CA 00 01, or a substitute form providing equivalent liability coverage. If necessary, the policy shall be endorsed to provide contractual liability coverage equivalent to that provided in ISO form CA 00 01.

6.1.3.4 Architect's Business Auto Liability insurance shall be primary as respects County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees. Any other insurance or self-insurance maintained by County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees shall be in excess of and shall not contribute to Architect's insurance.

6.1.4 Professional Liability Insurance

6.1.4.1 Architect shall maintain in force for the duration of this Contract professional liability or errors and omissions liability insurance appropriate to Architect's profession. Coverage as required in this paragraph shall apply to liability for professional error, act, negligence, or omission arising out of the scope of Architect's services as defined in this Contract. Coverage shall be written subject to limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per loss.

6.1.4.2 If coverage in this Contract is on a claims-made basis, Architect warrants that any retroactive date applicable to coverage under the policy precedes the effective date of this Contract; and that continuous coverage will be maintained or an extended

discovery period will be exercised for a period of two (2) years beginning from the time that work under the Contract are complete.

6.2 Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions

6.2.1 Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by County. At the option of County, either the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions as respects County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees; or Architect shall procure a bond guaranteeing payment of deductibles or self-insured retentions.

6.2.2 Architect shall be solely responsible for the payment of all deductibles to which such policies are subject, whether or not County is an insured under the policy.

6.3 Miscellaneous Insurance Provisions

6.3.1 Any failure to comply with reporting provisions of the policies listed in this Contract shall not affect coverage provided to County its officers, officials, agents, and employees.

6.3.2 Each insurance policy required by this Contract shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not canceled by either party except after thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to County, 230 Government Center Drive, Ste. #125, Wilmington, NC 28403.

6.3.3 If Architect's liability policies do not contain the standard ISO separation of insureds provision, or a substantially similar clause, they shall be endorsed to provide cross-liability coverage.

6.4 **Acceptability of Insurers.** Insurance is to be placed with insurers licensed to do business in the State of North Carolina with an A.M. Best's rating of no less than A VII unless County has granted a specific exemption.

6.5 Evidence of Insurance

6.5.1 Architect shall furnish County with a certificate(s) of insurance, executed by a duly authorized representative of each insurer, showing compliance with the insurance requirements prior to commencing the work, and thereafter upon renewal or replacement of each certified coverage until all operations under this Contract are deemed complete.

6.5.2 Evidence of additional insured status shall be noted on the certificate of insurance as per requirements in this Contract.

6.5.3 With respect to insurance maintained after final payment in compliance with requirements, an additional certificate(s) evidencing such coverage shall be provided to County with final application for payment and thereafter upon renewal or replacement of such insurance until the expiration of the period for which such insurance must be maintained.

6.6 **Subcontractors.** Architect shall include all subcontractors as insureds under its policies or shall furnish separate certificates for each subcontractor. All coverage for subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements stated herein. CGL coverage shall include independent Contractors' coverage, and Architect shall be responsible for assuring that all subcontractors are properly insured.

6.7 Conditions

6.7.1 County may, at its discretion with approval of Risk Management and the Finance Department, accept letters of credit or custodial accounts in lieu of specific insurance requirements.

6.7.2 Architect shall provide that the insurance contributing to the satisfaction of insurance requirements in this Contract shall not be canceled, terminated, or modified by Architect without prior written approval of County.

6.7.3 Architect shall promptly notify New Hanover County Facilities Management and the Risk Management Office at (910) 798-7497 of any accidents arising in the course of operations under the Contract causing bodily injury or property damage.

6.7.4 County reserves the right to obtain complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, at any time.

6.7.5 Failure of County to demand a certificate of insurance or other evidence of full compliance with these insurance requirements or failure of County to identify a deficiency from evidence that is provided shall not be construed as a waiver of Architect's obligation to maintain such insurance.

6.7.6 County request of insurance does not represent that coverage and limits will be adequate to protect Architect and such coverage and limits shall not be deemed as a limitation of Architect's liability under the indemnities granted to County in this Contract.

6.7.7 If Architect fails to maintain the insurance as set forth herein, County shall have the right, but not the obligation, to purchase said insurance at Architect's expense. Architect agrees to reimburse County for all expenses incurred for such purchase.

6.7.8 Architect or its agent may apply to County for approval of higher deductibles based on financial capacity and quality of the carrier affording coverage.

6.7.9 County shall have the right to prohibit Architect or any subcontractor from entering the Project site, performing services, or withholding payment until required certificates are acquired.

ARTICLE VII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

7.1 **Independent Contractor.** Both parties mutually understand and agree that Architect is an independent contractor and not an agent of County, and as such, Architect, its agents and employees shall not be entitled to any County employment benefits, such as, but not limited to, vacation, sick leave, insurance, worker's compensation, or pension or retirement benefits.

7.2 **Non-waiver of Rights.** It is agreed that County's or Architect's failure to insist upon the strict performance of any provision of this Agreement, or to exercise any right based upon a breach thereof, or the acceptance of any performance during such breach, shall not constitute a waiver of any rights under this Agreement. However, specific written waivers signed by the authorized County representative shall be binding upon County.

7.3. **Conflict of Interest.** No paid employee of County shall have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, as a contracting party or otherwise, in the performance of this Agreement.

7.4 **Subcontracts.** Architect shall utilize no subcontractors for carrying out the services to be performed under this Agreement without the written approval of County. By the execution of this Agreement, County grants prior approval to the following subcontractors if any (See Exhibit "B" if subcontractors are to be listed):

7.5. **Further Actions.** The parties will make and execute all further instruments and documents required to execute the purposes and intent of this Agreement.

7.6. **Inclusive Terms.** Use of the masculine herein shall include the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall include the plural.

7.7. **Governing Law.** All of the terms and conditions contained herein shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

7.8 **Time.** Architect's services shall be performed as expeditiously as is consistent with professional skill and care and the orderly progress of the Project. Architect shall submit for County's approval a schedule for the performance of Architect's service which initially shall be consistent with the periods established and which shall be adjusted, if necessary, as the Project proceeds. This schedule shall include allowances for time required for County's review, for the performance of County's Consultants, and for the approval of submissions by authorities having jurisdiction over the Project. Time limits established by this schedule approved by County shall not, except for reasonable cause, be exceeded by Architect or County.

7.9 **Use and Ownership of Documents.** The drawings, specifications and other documents or things prepared by Architect for the Project shall become and be the sole property of County upon final completion of the project. Architect shall be permitted to retain copies thereof for its records and for its future professional endeavors. Such drawings, specifications and other documents or things are not intended by Architect for use on other projects by County or others. Any reuse by County or by third parties without the written approval of Architect, shall be at the sole risk of County and County shall indemnify and save harmless Architect from any and all liability, costs, claims, damages, losses and expenses including attorneys' fees arising out of, or resulting from, such reuse; provided however, that this agreement to indemnify and save harmless shall not apply to any reuse of documents retained by, or through, the Architect. Architect shall not be restricted in any way in the use or reuse of any of the designs, drawings, details, specifications, or other work produced by Architect in the normal course of its business. It is understood that Architect is not transferring a copyright to County.

7.10 **Successors and Assigns.** Architect shall not assign its rights hereunder, excepting its right to payment, nor shall it delegate any of its duties hereunder without the written consent of County. Subject to the provisions of the immediately preceding sentence, County and Architect bind themselves, their successors, assigns, and legal representatives to

the other party to this Agreement and to the successors, assigns, and legal representatives of such other party with respect to all covenants of this Agreement.

7.11. **No Third-Party Beneficiaries.** Nothing contained herein shall create a contractual relationship with, or any rights in favor of, any third party.

7.12. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement represents the entire agreement between County and Architect and supersedes all prior communications, negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by both County and Architect.

7.13. **Notices.** All notices required hereunder to be sent to either party shall be sent to the following designated addresses, or to such other address or addresses as may hereafter be designated by either party by mailing of written notice of such change of address, by Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested:

To County:

New Hanover County Facilities Management
Attn: Kevin Caison
200 Division Drive
Wilmington, NC 28401

To Architect:

7.14 **Non-Discrimination.** Architect will take affirmative action not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment or otherwise illegally deny any person participation in or the benefits of the program that is the subject of this agreement because of race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, or national origin. To the extent applicable, Architect will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and 1968 (P.L. 90-284), and all applicable Federal, State and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, including all Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements, orders, instructions, designations and other directives promulgated to prohibit discrimination. Violation of this provision, after notice, shall be a material breach of this agreement and may result, at County's option, in a termination or suspension of this Agreement in whole or in part.

7.15 Causes of action between the parties to this Agreement pertaining to acts or failures to act shall be deemed to have accrued and the applicable statutes of limitations shall commence to run not later than either the date of Substantial Completion for acts or failures to act occurring prior to Substantial Completion or the date of issuance of the final Certificate for Payment for acts or failures to act occurring after Substantial Completion. In no event shall such statutes of limitations commence to run any later than the date when Architect's services are substantially completed.

7.16 To the extent damages are covered by property insurance during construction, County and Architect waive all rights against each other and against the contractors, consultants, agents and employees of the other for damages, except such rights as they may have to the proceeds of such insurance as set forth in this Agreement. County or Architect shall require of the contractors, consultants, agents, and employees of any of them similar waivers in favor of the other parties enumerated herein.

7.17 In the event of a breach of this Agreement by either party, the other party shall be entitled to recover its actual compensatory damages only. Such damaged party shall not be entitled to any consequential damages. Actual compensatory damages for any tort claim shall include, but are not limited to, County facility operational costs and other accommodations.

7.18. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create a contractual relationship with, or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either County or Architect.

7.19. County and Architect shall cooperate with one another to fulfill their respective obligations under this Agreement. Both parties shall endeavor to maintain good working relationships among all members of the Project team.

7.20 **Contract Under Seal.** The parties hereto expressly agree to create a contract under seal.

7.21 **E-Verify Compliance.** Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-133.3, Architect shall fully comply with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security employee legal status E-Verify requirements for itself and all its subcontractors. Violation of the provision, unless timely cured, shall constitute a breach of contract.

7.22 **Compliance with Federal Law.** If applicable, all federally funded projects, loans, grants, and sub grants whether funded in part or wholly, must be procured in a manner that conforms with all applicable Federal laws, policies, and standards, including those under the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200), and attached Addendum incorporated herein by reference.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto affixed their hands and seals, the day and year first above written and by authority duly given.

ARCHITECT

[CORPORATE SEAL]

President [SEAL]

ATTEST:

Secretary

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

I, _____, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that _____, personally came before me this day and acknowledged that (s)he is President of _____, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the corporation, the foregoing instrument was signed and sealed in its name by its President..

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this ____ day of _____, 2022.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

**[REST OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK.
NEW HANOVER COUNTY DIGITAL SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS EXHIBIT A]**