

NEW HANOVER COUNTY
REQUEST FOR BIDS
ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES
RFB # 23-0061



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 BIDS
ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES
RFB # 23-0061

Bids addressed to Sara Warmuth, Chief Facilities Officer, 200 Division Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401 and marked “**RFB# 23-0061 ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES**” will be accepted until **12:30 P.M. EST, Thursday, August 25, 2022.**

Bids may also be emailed to: swarmuth@nhcgov.com. Deadline for receipt of Bids via email is **12:30 P.M. EST, Thursday, August 25, 2022.**

Instructions for submitting bids and complete requirements and information may be obtained by visiting the County’s website at <https://finance.nhcgov.com/purchasing-solicitation/open-and-closed-bids/> or by contacting Sara Warmuth at swarmuth@nhcgov.com.

New Hanover County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to make the Award which will be in the best interest of the County.

Released: July 29, 2022

Section 2 – Instructions and General Conditions

2.1 – Schedule

| Date | Action |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| July 29, 2022 | RFB issued. |
| August 1-5, 2022 | Site visits by appointment (contact rkondor@nhcgov.com) |
| Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 12 pm | Deadline for questions. All questions must be submitted in writing to Sara Warmuth, Chief Facilities Officer (swarmuth@nhcgov.com). |
| Thursday, August 11, 2022 | Questions will be answered via written addendum. |
| Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 12:30pm | Deadline for receipt of bids. |

2.2 – Preparation of Bid

2.2.1 Bidders are instructed to submit their bid in a sealed envelope clearly marked “RFB# 23-0061 ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES” Bids may also be emailed to: swarmuth@nhcgov.com.

2.2.2 The bid shall be submitted by **12:30 P.M. EST, Thursday, August 25, 2022** and addressed to:

New Hanover County
Facilities Management
Attn: Sara Warmuth, Chief Facilities Officer
200 Division Drive
Wilmington, NC 28401

Or Send your Bid via email to: swarmuth@nhcgov.com

2.2.3 **Completion of Bid Form (Price Sheet):** Bidders are expected to examine the specifications herein, the schedule and all instructions. Failure to do so will be at the bidder’s risk. Each bidder shall furnish the information required on the price sheet and exhibits(s). Bids **must** be submitted on the price sheet contained in this bid package. Bids submitted that are not on the attached price sheet and exhibits will be rejected. **BIDS NOT SIGNED WILL BE DEEMED NONRESPONSIVE AND REJECTED.**

All prices and notations shall be written in ink or typed. Discrepancies between words and numerals will be resolved in favor of words.

Changes or corrections made in the bid must be initialed by the individual signing the bid. No corrections will be permitted once bids have been opened.

2.2.4 No telephone or facsimile bids will be considered. Bids received after the time and date for closing will not be considered.

2.3 – Site Visit

Bidders may request a site visit by emailing rkondor@nhcgov.com Site visits will be available by appointment only from **August 1-5, 2022**.

2.4 – Questions

Questions concerning the specifications in this Request for Bids (RFB) should be directed to the Sara Warmuth, Chief Facilities Officer at swarmuth@nhcgov.com. Questions will be received until **Wednesday August 10, 2022, at 12:00 pm**. An addendum summarizing all questions and answers will be posted to the County's website. Bidders who have notified the County of their intent to submit a bid along with the email address will be sent the addendum upon posting.

2.5 – Communication

Bidders may not have communications, verbal or otherwise, concerning this RFB with any personnel or boards from New Hanover County, other than the person listed in this section which is Sara Warmuth, Chief Facilities Officer email swarmuth@nhcgov.com. If any vendor attempts any unauthorized communication, the bid may be rejected.

2.6 – Intent to Submit

All Bidders who intend to submit a bid on this project should send an email to swarmuth@nhcgov.com including pertinent contact information. Upon receipt of this notification, most recent building plan will be shared with you, if desired. This will also ensure that you receive any addenda issued for this RFB; if applicable.

2.7 - Cost of Preparation of Response

Costs incurred by prospective Bidders in the preparation of the response to this Request for Bids are the responsibility of the Bidder and will not be reimbursed by The County.

2.8 – Bid Opening

Bids will not be opened publicly. The bid deadline is **Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 12:30pm**.

2.9 – Award

Award “shall be made to the lowest responsive responsible bidder taking into consideration quality, performance, and the time specified in the bid for the performance of the contract.”

The County may also consider other factors such as past performance, financial stability, and availability of equipment in the consideration of award.

2.10 - Execution of Agreement

The successful Bidder will be required to enter into a formal agreement that is consistent with the bid requirements outlined within. The successful Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded by the County shall within five (5) business days after notice of award and receipt of Agreement from the County, sign and deliver to the County all required copies of said Agreement.

2.11 – Ownership of Documents

All bids and accompanying documentation will become the property of New Hanover County at the time the bids are opened and as such will not be returned to the bidder.

2.12 - Trade Secret Confidentiality

Upon receipt of your bid by New Hanover County, your bid is considered a public record except for material which qualifies as "trade secret" under N.C. General Statute 132-1.2. After opening, your bid will be provided to County staff and others who participate in the evaluation process, and to members of the general public who submit public records requests.

To properly designate material as trade secret under these circumstances, each Bidder must take the following precautions: (a) any trade secrets submitted by a Bidder must be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope marked "Trade Secret - Confidential and Proprietary Information - Do Not Disclose Except for the Purpose of Evaluating This Bid," and (b) the same trade secret/confidentiality designation must be stamped on each page of the trade secret materials contained in the envelope.

Do not attempt to designate your entire Bid as a trade secret, and do not attempt to designate pricing information as a trade secret. Doing so will result in your Bid being disqualified.

In submitting a Bid, each Bidder agrees that the County may reveal any trade secret materials contained in such response to all County staff and County officials involved in the selection process, and to any outside consultant or other third parties who assist the County in the selection process. Furthermore, each Bidder agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County and each of its officers, employees, and agents from all costs, damages, and expenses incurred in connection with refusing to disclose any material, which the Bidder has designated as a trade secret.

2.13 - Withdrawal of Bids

Bidders may withdraw or withdraw and resubmit their bid at any time prior to the closing time for receipt of bids. NO bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of ninety (90) days.

2.14 - Equal Opportunity

The non-discrimination clause contained in Section 202 (Federal) Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, relative to Equal Employment Opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and the implementing rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor, are incorporated herein.

The Bidder agrees not to discriminate against any employees or applicant for employment because of physical or mental handicap in regard to any position for which the employees or applicant is qualified. The Bidder agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in

employment and otherwise treat qualified handicapped individuals without discrimination based upon their physical or mental handicap in all employment practices.

Pursuant to GS 143-48, New Hanover County encourages small, minority, physically handicapped, and women firms to submit bids in response to this RFB.

2.15- Indemnity

The successful Bidder shall indemnify and hold the County, its 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 the Successful Bidder hereunder, resulting from the negligence of or the willful act or omission of the Bidder, his agents, employees and subcontractors.

2.16 – E-Verify

Pursuant to Session Law 2013-418, Contractor shall fully comply with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security employee legal status E-Verify requirements for itself and all its subcontractors. County requires an affidavit attesting to Contractor's compliance. Violation of the provision, unless timely cured, shall constitute a breach of contract.

2.17 - Insurance

Before commencing any work, the Bidder shall procure insurance in the Bidder's name and maintain all insurance policies for the duration of the contract of the types and in the amounts listed in this Agreement. The insurance shall provide coverage against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from operations or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Bidder, his agents, representatives, employees, or subcontractors, whether such operations are done by himself/herself or anyone directly or indirectly employed by him/her.

Limits of insurance required are detailed in the attached Draft Contract.

2.18 - Addendum

The bid package constitutes the entire set of instructions to the bidder. The County shall not be responsible for any other instructions, verbal or written, made by anyone. Any changes to the specifications will be in the form of an Addendum which will be sent to all known Bidders who are listed with the Finance Office and posted on the County's website.

You may visit our website at <https://finance.nhcgov.com/purchasing-solicitation/open-and-closed-bids/>, or email swarmuth@nhcgov.com to check for the issuance of any addenda before submitting your bid.

2.19 - Compliance with Bid Requirements

Failure to comply with these provisions or any other provisions of the General Statutes of North Carolina will result in rejection of bid/bid.

2.20- Successful Bidder

The successful Bidder who is not currently registered as a vendor in the County's vendor database will be required to register. Please visit the County's website at [Vendor Self Service \(munisselfservice.com\)](http://munisselfservice.com). For questions, contact David Maurizzi at 910-798-7192 or email dmaurizzi@nhcgov.com.

2.21 – Federal Uniform Guidance

If the source of funds for this contract is federal funds, the following federal provisions apply pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II (as applicable): Equal Employment Opportunity (41 C.F.R. Part 60); Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141-3148); Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 U.S.C. 3145); Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3701-3708); Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387); Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689); Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352); Procurement of Recovered Materials (2 C.F.R. § 200.322); and Record Retention Requirements (2CFR § 200.324).

2.22– Estimated Activation Period

The Bidder shall be prepared to sign a contract within five (5) business days of bid award. Services must begin within ten (10) days of receipt of the fully executed contract and either purchase order or notice to proceed, and to continue until services are completed.

2.23– Term and Time/Completion Schedule

Work will commence upon issuance of a purchase order or notice to proceed and will continue until services are completed. All work must be completed prior to June 30, 2023.

2.24 - Right to Reject Bids

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

2.25 – Draft Contract

A draft contract is attached for review by the Bidder.

Section 3 – Scope of Services

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.01 The BIDDER shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local codes, ordinances and requirements of all agencies having jurisdiction. The BIDDER will be responsible for obtaining all necessary licenses to complete the scope of work.
- 1.02 Performance: The quality of workmanship concerning the services provided for must reflect professional work and conduct.

2.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

New Hanover County Facilities Management seeks a qualified company to provide lift station, septic, and sewer collection box cleanings to various County facilities.

The service is to be provided at the following facilities per the schedule below:

| # | Name | Address | Schedule | Notes |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Detention Center | 3950 Juvenile Center Road | 3X per Week | Sewer Collection Box |
| 2 | Federal Point | 9815 River Road | Bi-annual | Lift Station |
| 3 | Airlie Gardens | 300 Airlie Road | Bi-annual | Lift Station |
| 4 | Judicial/Historic | 316 Princess St. | Quarterly | Lift Station |
| 5 | Fire Station 12 | 3805 Highway 421 North | Bi-annual | Septic |
| 6 | EMS Station 1 | 3830 Juvenile Center Rd. | Bi-annual | Septic |

The Contractor shall provide sufficient personnel and equipment as necessary to perform work and any/all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for this type of work.

The Contractor shall provide experienced, qualified, properly licensed/certified, and properly trained personnel to perform the services required. The Contractor shall list all required licenses in the Qualifications section of their proposal.

Company uniforms must be always worn by all employees while on County property.

Contractor must be available for after hour, weekend and holiday emergencies if called upon.

Contractor is to provide all equipment, labor and resources needed to complete service. (To include water, power, confined space equipment and all other safety equipment.)

Some services may include, but are not limited to, repair, removal, installation, rehabilitation, replacement of pumps, motors, well columns, base plates, lube assembly, etc., and the furnishing of parts and labor in conjunction with such work.

Contractor is responsible for all fees associated with the disposal of hazardous materials and waste collected from the sites.

Detention Center Specifics:

Contractor and all employees must pass background checks before starting work.

Contractors must not have any weapons in any vehicle or on their persons at the site. Contractor will be required to sign in at 24-hour desk upon arrival and sign back out upon completion of work.

Contractor will be issued key upon sign in, and key must be returned upon completion

Collection box must be cleaned Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning. This schedule is to include holidays and weekends and any emergency call from Facilities management staff with a two-hour response time.

Contract period will be from the date of award through June 30, 2023 renewable for two (2) additional one (1) year periods through June 30, 2025.

3.0 PRICE SCHEDULE

3.1 The contract will be based upon estimated cost to perform the work as outlined in the Scope of Services. Prices proposed by the bidder shall include anything necessary to complete the work including mobilization, insurance, labor, equipment, fuel, overhead, profit, permits and applicable taxes, if any. No minimum or maximum quantity is implied or inferred by this contract.

3.2 All bids must be submitted using the attached Price Sheet/Bid Form.

4.0 BIDDER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 BIDDER shall comply with all local, state and federal safety rules and regulations.

4.2 The BIDDER shall be solely responsible for maintaining safety at all work sites. The BIDDER shall take all reasonable steps to insure safety for both workers and visitors to include traffic control.

5.0 OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

BIDDER will comply with any and all applicable federal, state and local standards, regulations, laws, OSHA and all health and safety regulations.

Section 4 – Bid Sheet

NEW HANOVER COUNTY
ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES

Price Sheet/Bid Form

RFB # 23-0061

TO: Sara Warmuth, Chief Facilities Officer
New Hanover County
Facilities Management
200 Division Drive
Wilmington, NC 28401

DATE: _____ CONTRACTOR: _____

OFFICE PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

The undersigned, having carefully examined the Instructions to Bidders, New Hanover County RFB # 23 –0061 – ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES, and draft contract, including the following addenda:

ADDENDUM # _____ DATED: _____ ADDENDUM # _____ DATED: _____

As well as the premises and conditions affecting the work, proposes to furnish all services, labor, materials, and equipment called for to complete the project in accordance with the contract documents for the following amounts.

Total Year 1 Service: _____

Total Year 2 Service: _____

Total Year 3 Service: _____

Printed Name

Title

Signature

Section 5 – Statement of Assurances and Compliance

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

ANNUAL LIFT STATION AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES AND COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, as bidder certifies that the General Conditions and Instructions to Bidders, the Draft Contract, the Scope of Work and the Price Sheet/Bid Form found in the bidding documents have been read and understood.

The bidder hereby provides assurance that the firm represented in this bid, as indicated below:

- 1) Will comply with all requirements, stipulations, terms, and conditions as stated in the bid document:
- 2) Currently complies with all applicable State and Federal Laws:
- 3) Is not guilty of collusion with the vendors possibly interested in this bid or in determining prices to be submitted: and
- 4) Such agent as indicated below is officially authorized to represent the firm in whose name this bid is submitted.

Name of Firm

Name of Firm Representative

Title

Signature

Address of Firm

Telephone Number

Date

State of Incorporation

Section 6 – Minority & Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program

**Minority & Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program
FORM**

A. Authorized Representative

I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT:

I am [name] _____, [title] _____,
and the duly authorized representative of [Business Name] _____
and that I possess the legal authority to make this statement on behalf of myself and the
Business for which I am acting.

B. Affirmation Regarding MWBE Program Acknowledgement and Compliance

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of and intend to comply with the County’s MWBE Program. As such [check one]:

_____ The Business is certified as a woman- or minority-owned business by an accepted
agency. (Attach proof certification)

_____ The Business is a woman- or minority-owned business but has not been certified by an
accepted agency. (Attach document of ownership such as articles of incorporation, current
business license, K-1 of the most recent business tax return.)

_____ The Business is not a woman- or minority-owned business; however, the bidder
acknowledges the MWBE policy and if it should become necessary to subcontract some portion
of the work at a later date or obtain materials or services in conjunction with this
solicitation, the bidder will institute good faith efforts to comply with all requirements of the
MWBE program in providing equal opportunities to MWBEs.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

E-VERIFY

(To be submitted with all bids)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF _____

I, _____ (hereinafter Affiant), being duly authorized by and on behalf of _____ (hereinafter "Employer") after first being duly sworn hereby swears or affirms as follows:

1. Employer understands that E-Verify is the federal E-Verify program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies, or any successor or equivalent program used to verify the work authorization of newly hired employees pursuant to federal law in accordance with NCGS §64-25(5).
 2. Employer understands that Employers Must Use E-Verify. Each employer, after hiring an employee to work in the United States, shall verify the work authorization of the employee through E-Verify in accordance with NCGS§64-26(a).
 3. Employer is a person, business entity, or other organization that transacts business in this State and that employs 25 or more employees in this State. **(Mark Yes or No)**
 - a. YES _____, or
 - b. NO _____
 4. Employer's subcontractors must comply with E-Verify and Employer will ensure compliance with E-Verify by any subcontractors subsequently hired.
- This ____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature of Affiant

Print or Type Name: _____

State of _____ County of _____

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me, this the _____

day of _____, 20__

My Commission Expires: _____

Notary Public

(Affix Official/Notarial Seal)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AGREEMENT

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

THIS CONTRACT made and entered into this ____ day of _____ 2022 by and between **NEW HANOVER COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of North Carolina, hereinafter referred to as "County"; and _____, a _____, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor."

WITNESSETH:

That the Contractor, for the consideration hereinafter fully set out, hereby agrees with the County as follows:

1. **Scope of Services.** The Contractor shall provide sufficient personnel and equipment as necessary to provide lift station, septic, and sewer collection box cleanings to various County facilities, as more specifically described in Exhibit A, attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.

2. **Time of Performance.** The term of this Agreement shall begin from receipt of Notice to Proceed, and all work shall be completed by June 30, 2023. This Agreement may be renewed with same terms and conditions for two (2) additional one (1) year periods upon written notice by County.

3. **Payment.** County hereby agrees to pay for the cost of this Contract not to exceed a sum of _____ () Dollars. Payment is contingent upon a final County inspection and acceptance of work or services.

4. **Extra Work.** County and Contractor shall negotiate and agree upon the value of any extra work or services prior to the issuance of a County Change Order or Renewal/Amendment (CRA) form covering said extra work or services. Such Change Order or CRA shall set forth the corresponding adjustment, if any, to the Contract Price and Contract Time.

5. **Indemnity.** Contractor 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, for any property damages, personal

injuries or death arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the negligence, willful act, or omission of Contractor, its agents, employees and subcontractors in the performance of work or services.

6. Insurance. Before commencing any work or services, Contractor shall procure insurance in Contractor's name and maintain all insurance policies for the duration of the Contract of the types and in the amounts listed in this Contract. The insurance shall provide coverage against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from operations or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by Contractor, its agents, representatives, employees, or subcontractors, whether such operations by itself or anyone directly or indirectly employed by it.

7. Minimum Scope and Limits of Insurance

7.1. Commercial General Liability

7.1.1. Contractor 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 for each occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. If such CGL insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to this work or services, or the general aggregate shall be twice the required limit.

7.1.2. 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.

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

7.1.4. Contractor'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 Contractor's insurance.

7.2. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability

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

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

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

7.3. Business Auto Liability

7.3.1. Contractor shall maintain applicable Business or Personal Auto Liability and, if necessary, CUL insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. Personal auto insurance may be accepted in lieu of Business Auto Insurance.

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

7.3.3. 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.

7.3.4. Contractor'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 Contractor's insurance.

7.4. Contractor's Pollution Liability

7.4.1. Contractor shall maintain Contractors Pollution Liability covering losses caused by pollution incidents that arise from the operations of Contractor described under the scope of services of this contract.

7.4.2. Contractor's Pollution Liability shall apply to bodily injury; property damage, including loss of use of damaged property or of property that has not been physically injured, cleanup costs and defense, including costs and expenses incurred in the investigation defense, or settlement of claims. The policy of insurance affording these required coverages shall be written in an amount of at least \$1,000,000 per claim, with an annual aggregate of at least \$1,000,000.

7.4.3. Contractor's Pollution Liability shall include as an additional insured County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees.

7.4.4. If Contractor's Pollution Liability is written on a claims-made basis, Contractor 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 is complete.

7.5. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions

7.5.1. 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, or employees; Contractor shall procure a bond guaranteeing payment of deductibles or self-insured retentions.

7.5.2. Contractor shall be solely responsible for the payment of all deductibles to which all policies are subject, regardless of whether County is an insured under the policy.

7.6. Miscellaneous Insurance Provisions.

7.6.1. 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.

7.6.2. Each insurance policy required by this Contract shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be 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.

7.6.3. If Contractor'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.

7.7. 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.

7.8. Evidence of Insurance

7.8.1. Contractor 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 or services, and thereafter upon renewal or replacement of each certified coverage until all operations under this Contract are deemed complete.

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

7.8.3. 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.

7.9. Subcontractors. Contractor 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 Contractor shall be responsible for assuring that all subcontractors are properly insured.

7.10. Conditions

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

7.10.2. Contractor shall warrant the insurance contributing to the satisfaction of insurance requirements in this Contract shall not be canceled, terminated, or modified by Contractor without prior written approval of County.

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

7.10.4. County reserves the right to obtain complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies.

7.10.5. 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 Contractor's obligation to maintain such insurance.

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

7.10.7. If Contractor fails to maintain the insurance as set forth herein, County shall have the right to purchase said insurance at Contractor's expense. Contractor agrees to reimburse County for all expenses incurred for such purchase.

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

7.10.9. County shall have the right to prohibit Contractor or any subcontractor from performing work or services and may withhold payment until required certificates has been received and approved by County.

8. Independent Contractor. The parties mutually agree that the Contractor is an independent contractor and not an agent of the County, and as such, the Contractor shall not be entitled to any County employment benefits, such as, but not limited to, vacation, sick leave, insurance, workmen's compensation, or pension and retirement benefits.

9. Default and Termination. If Contractor fails to prosecute the work or services with such diligence as will insure its completion within the Contract time, or if Contractor breaches any of the terms or conditions contained in this Contract and fails to cure said breach within two (2) days of County's mailing of Notice of Default, or otherwise fails to perform the work or services hereunder to the County's reasonable satisfaction, County may terminate this Contract forthwith. Upon termination, County may, without prejudice to an action for damages or any other remedy, take the prosecution of the work or services out of the hands of Contractor. County may enter into another Contract for the completion of the Contract or use such other methods as may be required for the completion of the Contract. County may deduct all costs of completing the Contract from any monies due or which may become due to Contractor. In the event this Contract is terminated prior to completion of the services by the Contractor, the Contractor shall be paid for work or services performed to the date of termination. In no event will the amount due Contractor in the event of termination exceed that amount set forth in this Contract. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the County from pursuing any other remedy, which it may have against Contractor, including claims for damages.

10. Termination for Convenience. County may terminate this Contract for convenience at any time and without cause. Upon receipt of notice, Contractor shall immediately discontinue providing the work or service and, if applicable, the placing any orders for any materials, facilities, and supplies in connection with the performance of the work or services of this Contract.

11. Non-appropriation. All funds for payment by County under this Contract are subject to the availability of an annual appropriation of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners for the services provided under the Contract, County will terminate the Contract, without termination charge or liability, on the last day of the then-current fiscal year or when the appropriation made for then-current year for the

services/items covered by this Contract is spent, whichever occurs first. If at any time funds are not appropriated for the continuance of this Contract, cancellation shall be accepted by the Contractor on ten (10) business days' prior written notice, but failure to give such notice shall be of no effect and County shall not be obligated under this Contract beyond the date of termination.

12. Non-waiver of Rights. The parties mutually agree that either party's failure to insist upon the strict performance of any provision of this Contract 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 Contract.

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

14. Subcontracts. The Contractor shall utilize no subcontractors for performing the work or services to be performed under this Contract without the prior written approval of the County.

15. Entire Contract. This Contract constitutes the entire understanding of the parties.

16. Binding Effect. This Contract shall be binding upon the parties hereto, and their heirs, successors, executors, administrators, and assigns.

17. Severability. If any provision of this Contract is held unenforceable, all remaining provisions of this Contract shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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

20. E-Verify Compliance. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-133.3, Contractor 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.

21. 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).

23. 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 Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested:

To County:
New Hanover County Facilities Management
Attn: Scott Gordon
200 Division Drive
Wilmington, NC 28401

To Contractor:

24. Assignability. The parties hereto agree that this Contract is not transferable and shall not be assigned by either party without the written consent of the other party to this Contract.

25. Contract Under Seal. The parties hereto expressly agree to create a Contract under seal.

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

CONTRACTOR.

President (Seal)

ATTEST:

Secretary

STATE OF _____

COUNTY

I, _____, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, certify that _____ came before me this day and acknowledged that (s)he is President of _____, a _____, 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 _____, 202____.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

**[REST OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK.
NEW HANOVER COUNTY DIGITAL SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS EXHIBIT A AND IS
INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE]**