

**CAMERON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO RFP**

RFP NUMBER # 1466 – D

RFP TITLE: INSURANCE: VOLUNTARY (EMPLOYEE PURCHASED) – DENTAL

DATE DUE: July 28, 2008

DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M.

for opening and evaluation at the next Commissioner’s Court meeting (Proposers are invited to attend), 2nd floor County Courthouse (Dancy Building) schedule for Tuesday each week at 5:00 pm (unless re-scheduled).

RFPs received later than the date and time above will not be considered.

Carefully read all instructions, requirements and specifications. Fill out all forms properly and completely. Submit your bid with all appropriate supplements and/or samples. Prior to returning your sealed bid response / submittal, all Addendums - if issued - should be reviewed and downloaded by entering the County Purchasing web site at www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/specs.htm – Addendums Column (updated Addendums). These Addendums must be signed and returned with your bid in order to avoid disqualification. All Tabulations can also be viewed and downloaded at this site.

Please return RFP in sealed envelope. Be sure that return envelope shows the RFP Number, Description and is marked “SEALED RFP”.

RETURN RFP TO:

by U.S. mail at P. O. Box 3846, Brownsville, Texas 78523
or delivered to the office of Purchasing Agent, **County Courthouse (Dancy Bldg.)**
1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor, Room 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

For additional information or to request addendum contact: Mike Forbes or Beverly Findley at (956) 544-0871, E-mail: mforbes@co.cameron.tx.us or purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us . To ask specific questions on project requirements, please call: **Michael Forbes (956) 544-0871**

You must sign below in INK; failure to sign WILL disqualify the offer. All prices must be typewritten or written in ink.

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____ e-mail _____

Taxpayer Identification Number (T.I.N.): _____

Cameron County Acct #'s : Real Estate _____ Personal _____

Property _____

Historically Underutilized Business (State of Texas) Certification VID Number: _____

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Is Proposer’s principal place of Business within Cameron County? Yes - No

(Your signature attests to your offer to provide the goods and/or services in this RFP according to the published provision of this RFP. When an award letter is issued, it becomes a part of this contract. Contract is not valid until contract is awarded by Commissioner’s Court, (when applicable - signed by County Judge) and Purchase Order is issued.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RFP'S

These General Instructions apply to all offers made to Cameron County, Texas (herein after referred to as "County") by all prospective proposers (herein after referred to as "Proposers") on behalf of Solicitations including, but not limited to, Invitations to RFP and Requests for Quotes.

Cameron County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFP is complete, and double check your RFP for accuracy.

GOVERNING FORMS: In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall document, Cameron County's interpretation shall govern. Where substitutions are used, they must be of equivalent value or service, and specified by the Proposer as such, in the columns to the right on the "Minimum Specifications' Forms". The County's specifications may be exceeded and should be noted by the Proposers as such. Any bid NOT MEETING the Minimum Requirements specified will be rejected.

GOVERNING LAW: This invitation to RFP is governed by the competitive RFP requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 et seq., as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and that Cameron County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the County Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements.

Questions requiring only clarification of instructions or specifications will be handled verbally. If any questions results in a change or addition to this RFP, the Change(s) and addition(s) will be forwarded to all proposers involved as quickly as possible in the form of a written addendum only.

Sign the Vendor's Affidavit Notice, complete answers to Attachments A,B, C, D, and E and return all with your RFP.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE:

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire must be filed in accordance with chapter 176 of the Local Government Code by a person doing business with the governmental entity.

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.

A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than September 1 of the year for which an activity described in Section 176.006(a), Local Government Code, is pending and not later than the 7th business day after the date the originally filed questionnaire becomes incomplete or inaccurate.

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this Conflict of Interest form.

you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

can be downloaded at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/Forms/conflictinterest.pdf>

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

This questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government and no later than the 7th business day after the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed. Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to **provide the following information if the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed.** Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "N/A."

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this disclosure of interest form.

you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

can be downloaded at the following web site:

<http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/Forms/DisclosureofInterest.pdf>

PROPOSER SHALL SUBMIT RFP ON THE FORM PROVIDED, SIGN THE VENDOR AFFIDAVIT, AND RETURN ENTIRE RFP PACKET. In the event of inclement weather and County Offices are officially closed on a RFP deadline day, RFP's will be received unit 2:00 p.m. of the next business day, for opening at up coming Commissioner's Court meeting.

RFP's SUBMITTED AFTER THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE SHALL BE RETURNED UNOPENED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED VOID AND UNACCEPTABLE.

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. All responding proposers s will receive written notification regarding the outcome of the award.

OPEN RECORDS ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED. All information included will be open to the public, other proposers, media as per the Open Records Act and not be confidential in nature. If you deem any information as confidential, it should not be made part of your RFP package.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

THIS IS THE ONLY APPROVED INSTRUCTION FOR USE ON YOUR RFP. ITEMS BELOW APPLY TO AND BECOME A PART OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFP. ANY EXCEPTIONS THERETO MUST BE IN WRITING.

1. **ORIGINAL AND SIX (6) COPIES OF RFP's MUST BE SUBMITTED** Each RFP shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFP. RFP's must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified.
2. RFP's MUST give full firm name and address of the Proposer. Failure to manually sign RFP will disqualify it. Person signing RFP should show TITLE or AUTHORITY TO BIND THE FIRM IN A CONTRACT.
3. RFP's CANNOT be altered or amended after deadline time. Any alterations made before deadline time must be initiated by Proposer or his authorized agent. No RFP can be withdrawn after opening time without approval by the Commissioners Court based on a written acceptable reason.
4. The County is exempt from State Sales Tax and Federal Excise Tax. DO NOT INCLUDE TAX IN RFP. Cameron County claims exemption from all sales and/or use taxes under Texas Tax Code §151.309, as amended. Texas Limited Sales Tax Exemption Certificates will be furnished upon written request to the Cameron County Purchasing Agent.
5. Any Catalog, brand name or manufacturer's reference used in a RFP invitation is descriptive-NOT restrictive-it is to indicate type and quality desired. RFP's on brand of like nature and quality will be considered. If RFP is based on other than reference specifications, proposal must show manufacturer, brand or trade name, lot number, etc., of article offered. If other than brand(s) specified is offered, illustrations and complete descriptions should be made part of the RFP. If Proposer takes no exception to specifications or reference data, he will be required to furnish brand names, numbers, etc. as specified.
6. Written and verbal inquires pertaining to RFP's must give RFP Number and Company.
7. NO substitutions or cancellations permitted without written approval of Director of Purchasing.
8. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any RFP, waiver minor technicalities. The County of Cameron reserves the right to award by item category or by total RFP. Prices should be itemized. County also reserves the right to award either with or without trade-in, if applicable.
9. RFP unit price on quantity specified – extend and show total. In case or errors in extension, UNIT prices shall govern. RFP's subject to unlimited price increase will not be considered.
10. This is a RFP inquiry only and implies no obligation on the part of Cameron County.
11. Acceptance of and final payment for the item will be contingent upon satisfactory performance of the product received. County.
13. Partial RFP's will not be accepted unless awarded by complete category or line item. **To be awarded by total RFP.**
14. It is expected that the Proposer will meet all state and federal safety standards and laws in effect on the date of the RFP for the item(s) being specified, and the particular use for which they are meant.
14. It is the responsibility of the proposer to ask any and all questions the proposer feels to be pertinent to the proposal. Cameron County shall not be required to attempt to anticipate such questions for proposers. Cameron County will endeavor to respond promptly to all questions asked.

POINT SYSTEM: For the purposes of the evaluation, our requirements have been grouped in four (4) categories. Some categories are designated as "mandatory", and in these, the vendor must satisfy all requirements. The other categories have a range of points based upon the weight per category multiplied by the score by vendor for each category. (Score: Perfect 5; Superior 4; Good 3; Satisfactory 2; Unsatisfactory 1 min.) In these categories, each RFP will be assigned a value within the specified score according to how well the responses meet the requirements for the category. The following table lists the categories and the maximum points associated with each.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u> x <u>SCORE</u> = <u>GRAND</u>
	<u>POINTS:</u> <u>TOTAL</u>
Proposer's total proposed price	20 -----
Proposer's qualifications/experience	30
Proposer's support service	20
The proposed services and approach for meeting Cameron County's needs and requirements as well as future needs.	30
TOTAL	<u>100</u>

In the "Price" Category, the maximum points will be assigned to the RFP with lowest, total price computed as specified. The points assigned to each of the other RFPs will be reduced by the percentage by which the RFP's computed price exceeds the lowest price.

The points assigned for the other categories will be based on the information provided in the RFPs, checks of references cited, and data available from independent sources such as technical journals and rating newsletters.

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

Request For Proposal # 1466-D

Employee Benefit Insurance

GROUP VOLUNTARY DENTAL INSURANCE

Request For Proposal Submission Form

RFP ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Proposals are to be based on providing benefits comparable to current benefits. Alternate benefit plans will be considered, provided all benefit variations are explicitly stated.
2. The dental insurance plan will be eligible under the County's IRC 125 cafeteria plan.
3. The County desires to receive proposals for a three (3) year period on one of the following basis:
 - Fixed price for the three (3) year period, or
 - Two annual renewal adjustments determined by formula at the time the contract is awarded, or
 - One (1) year contract with two annual renewal options for rate and premiums deemed to be favorable to the County. Renewal rates are to be provided to County by July 1 (90 days prior to anniversary date).
4. Renewal rates must be received by the County at least 90 days prior to the date of rate change.
5. The County will sponsor only one company for voluntary dental insurance. Sponsorship by the County will include payroll enclosure education material.
6. At completion of enrollment, the County is to be provided with a master payroll deduction list that includes coverage and premium for each insured.
7. All participants enrolled in the dental insurance plan as of September 31, 2008 are to be eligible for coverage on a "no loss/no gain" basis. All dental services incurred on or after October 1, 2008 for enrolled insureds are to be eligible expenses. The County's enrollment records are to be the basis for "take-over".
8. "No loss/no gain" for participants is to include credit for accumulated deductible, coinsurance and calendar year benefits. The County will provide hard copy data for this information.
9. Minimum monthly reports are to include earned premium, paid claims and incurred claims by type of benefit.
10. If insurance company sends more than one proposal for multiple agents, only the first proposal received or first named agent will be considered. Insurance companies may submit proposals on a direct basis.

Group Dental Insurance
RFP Submission Form

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
Request For Proposal #1466-D
Employee Benefit Insurance

QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the business entity submitting the proposal:
 - a. Insurance Company Name: _____
 - b. Address: _____

 - c. Contact Person: _____
 - d. Email Address: _____
 - e. Telephone #: _____ Fax : _____
 - f. Year Founded (Insurance Company): _____
2. Describe Financial Stability of Insurance Company.
 - a. What is current A.M. Best rating for your Company? _____
(Please provide financial size category.)
 - b. If not rated by A.M. Best, please provide audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year.
 - c. Is Insurance Company authorized to do business in Texas? Yes No
3. Provide three Texas client references (preferably school districts) :

<u>Client Name</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u># Employees</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

4. Describe Claim Payment Services:
 - a. Where will claims be paid? _____
 - b. Is a toll free telephone number available for checking status of claim? Yes No
 - c. Can insured speak directly to claim examiner for questions related to payment of claim?
Yes No
 - d. What is normal claim processing time? _____

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
 Request For Proposal # 1466-D
 Employee Benefit Insurance

5. Explain procedure for establishment of incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims, first year and thereafter.

6. What trend factors have you used in your proposal?

	<u>Utilization</u>	<u>Inflation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dental	_____	_____	_____

7. How do you calculate trend adjustments - mid-point or effective date? _____

8. Describe your renewal rating formula in detail, including deficit recovery. _____

9. Are the actively-at-work provisions waived for the effective date of the contract? Yes No

10. Provide Reasonable & Customary Allowance for zip code 78520 for the following ADA Codes:

ADA Code	Description	Allowance
0120	Periodic oral evaluation	
0150	Comprehensive oral evaluation	
1110	Prophylaxis (Cleaning) Adult	
1351	Sealant-per tooth, child up to age 17	
2150	Amalgam-two surfaces, permanent	
3320	Root Canal, bicuspid	
2610	Inlay-Porcelain/Ceramic-one surface	
2710	Crown-resin	
2790	Crown-full cast high noble metal	
2950	Core build-up, including any pins	
4341	Periodontal Scaling	

11. For PPO benefits included in quote, please provide directory of providers for Cameron County and complete description of PPO benefits.

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

Request For Proposal #1466-D

Employee Benefit Insurance

12. IF PREMIUM QUOTE INCLUDES AGENT SERVICES, PLEASE PROVIDE FOLLOWING AGENT INFORMATION:

a. Agent commission formula & estimated annual commission: _____

b. Are agent commissions negotiable? Yes No

Comment: _____

c. Copy of agent's E&O Insurance Declaration Page or Certificate of Insurance.

d. Copy of agent's insurance license.

e. Name/Mailing Address for Agent & Local Service Office: _____

f. Agent's relationship with insurance company (length of time, number of groups, amount of premium):

g. Agent services to be provided: _____

h. Agent experience with insurance company: _____

i. Please attach biographical information for each agent in local service office.

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
 Request For Proposal #1466-D
 Employee Benefit Insurance

PREMIUM QUOTE:

1. Please attach complete description of benefits, exclusions, rates and minimum enrollment requirements.
2. For what period of time are quoted rates guaranteed? _____
3. Is a longer rate guarantee available? Yes No

If so, please describe: _____

(Duplicate Current Benefits)

PREMIUM QUOTE

<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Insureds</u>	<u>Your Rate</u>	<u>Monthly Premium</u>
Employee Only	280	_____	_____
Employee Plus One	117	_____	_____
Employee & Family	<u>146</u>	_____	_____
Total	543		

 Company Name

 Authorized Signature

 Address

 Type Signatory's Name & Title

 Telephone Number / Fax Number

 Agent Name

 Signatory's Email Address

REFERENCES

Please list three (3) references of current customers who can verify the quality of service your company provides. The County prefers customers of similar size and scope of work to this RFP. ***THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP.***

REFERENCE ONE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE TWO

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE THREE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned certifies that the RFP prices contained in this RFP have been carefully checked and are submitted as correct and final and if RFP is accepted (within 60 days), agrees to furnish any and/or all items upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) and upon the conditions contained in the Specifications.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, A Notary Public in and for the State of _____, on this day personally appeared _____ who, after having first been duly sworn, upon oath did depose and say;

That the foregoing RFP submitted by _____ hereinafter called "Proposer" is the duly authorized agent of said company and that the person signing said RFP has been duly authorized to execute the same. Proposer affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual has not prepared this RFP in collusion with any other Proposer. The Proposer is not a member of any trust, pool, or combination to control the price of products or services RFP on, or to influence any person to RFP or not to RFP thereon. I further affirm that the Proposer has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discounts, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted RFP. The contents of this RFP as to prices, terms or conditions of said RFP have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this RFP.

Name and Address of Proposer :

Telephone number _____ Fax number _____

Signature

Name: _____ Title: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBE BEFORE ME THIS _____ day
of _____ 20_____.

Notary Public in and for County _____ State _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP.

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §2252.001 *et seq.*, as amended, Cameron County requests Residence Certification. §2252.001 *et seq.* of the Government Code provides some restrictions on the awarding of governmental contracts; pertinent provisions of §2252.001 are stated below:

“Nonresident Proposer ” refers to a person who is not a resident.

“Resident Proposer ” refers to a person whose principal place of business is in this state, including a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

I certify that _____ is a Resident

(Company Name)

Proposer of Texas as defined in Government Code §2252.001.

I certify that _____ is a Nonresident

(Company Name)

Proposer as defined in Government Code §2252.001 and our principal place of business is

(City and State)

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP.

CAMERON COUNTY EXPRESSLY REQUESTS THAT PROPOSERS NOT DISCUSS THIS ENGAGEMENT OR THIS PROPOSER'S PLANS, EXPERIENCE OR CREDENTIALS WITH OTHER PROPOSERS OR ANY MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT, ANY COUNTY OFFICIAL, OR ANY EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT. EXCLUDED ARE PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCES, EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED PROPOSER PRESENTATIONS OR PROPOSER INTERVIEWS, OR EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES DEMONSTRATIONS. YOU MAY CONTACT THE PURCHASING AGENT / PURCHASING DEPARTMENT AT ANY TIME.

01. Has any individual with the firm submitting this Proposal Response made any contact with any member of Commissioners Court, any County Official, or an Evaluation Committee member concerning this Invitation to RFP, other than questions to the Purchasing Agent?

02. Has any individual with the firm submitting this Proposal Response made any contact with any other Proposer concerning this Invitation to RFP?

Signature of person submitting this RFP

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP.

ORDER NO. 2007O2005

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**ORDER ADOPTING CONTRACTING RULES
FOR PERSONS INDEBTED TO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, Section 262.0276, a commissioners court is authorized to adopt rules permitting a county to refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person indebted to the county;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Cameron County finds it is in the best interest of Cameron County to adopt such rules;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, that the following rules be adopted regarding Cameron County and persons interested in doing business with Cameron County:

1. Cameron County may refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person with a past due debt to Cameron County, including delinquent ad valorem taxes, even if the person is the lowest bidder or successful proposer; and
2. **For purposes of this Order, a debt is past due if it is not received in the County Treasurer’s Office by the due date in a written agreement or notice, and ad valorem taxes are past due if not received in the County Tax Assessor/Collector’s Office by February 1st following the January 1st on which the ad valorem taxes are due.**
3. For purposes of this Order, a person includes an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, and any other entity that proposes or otherwise seeks to enter into a contract or other transaction with Cameron County requiring approval by the Commissioners Court.

ADOPTED this 13 day of March, 2007.

01. Is the person or the firm submitting this Bid current with all local and State taxes?

Signature of person submitting this RFP

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP.

**Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility**

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, in the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, theory, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the proposer is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such proposer should attach an explanation to this proposal.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDENDA: When specifications are revised, the Cameron County Purchasing Department will issue an addendum addressing the nature of the change. Offerors must **sign and include it in the returned RFP/RFQ package.**

ADVERTISING: Seller shall not advertise or publish, without Buyer's Prior consent, the fact that Buyer has entered into this contract, except to the extent necessary to comply with proper request for information from an authorized representative of the federal, state or local government.

AWARD: Cameron County may hold all Rfp/Rfq's for a period of sixty (60) days. Cameron County reserves the right to delete any item it considers too expensive. Rfp/Rfq prices are to be F.O.B. Cameron County. All discounts will be considered in determining the lowest, responsible Proposer. Cameron County reserves the right to award this contract on the basis of EVALUATION CRITERIA (AS STATED IN RFP/RFQ) in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one offeror, to reject any or all Rfp/Rfq's.

BONDS: If this Rfp/Rfq requires submission of Rfp/Rfq guarantee and performance bond, there will be a separate page explaining those requirements. Rfp/Rfq's submitted without the required RFP/RFQ bond or cashier's check are not acceptable.

CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION: Buyer shall have the right to cancel for default all or any part of the undelivered portion of this order if Seller breaches any of the terms hereof, including warranties of Seller or if the Seller becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of cancellation is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which Buyer may have in law or equity.

TERMINATION: The performance of work under this order may be terminated in whole, or in part, by the Buyer in accordance with this provision. Termination of work hereunder shall be effected by the delivery to the Seller of a "Notice of Termination" specifying the extent to which performance of work under the order is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. Such right of termination is in addition to, and not in lieu of, rights of Buyer set forth.

Cameron County reserves the right to terminate the contract for default if offeror breaches any of the terms therein, including warranties of offeror or if the offeror becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies which Cameron County may have in law or equity. Default may be construed as, but not limited to, failure to deliver the proper goods and/or services within the proper amount of time, and/or to properly perform any and all services required to Cameron County's satisfaction and/or to meet all other obligations and requirements. Cameron County may terminate the contract without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

CONTRACT RENEWALS: Renewals may be made ONLY by written agreement between Cameron County and the offeror. Any price escalations are limited to those stated by the offeror in the original RFP/RFQ. Annual RFP/RFQ renewal – Price Increases: All Annual RFP/RFQ's with a one (1) year renewal option requires that the awarded Proposer must notify Cameron County of any anticipated price increases to the current Annual RFP/RFQ (in writing) at least two months prior to the annual renewal award date unless otherwise specified within the specific provisions of the RFP. This allows the County sufficient time to plan for re-Proposing due to a successful proposer required price increase. If Successful proposer fails to notify the County within time noted it shall be assumed that there will be no price increase for the following year's award period if renewed. This procedure does not apply to any Annual RFP/RFQ's which allow for Open Market Price increases or Cost allowance increases during the RFP/RFQ award period (as so specified in the RFP/RFQ documents).

DISCRIMINATION: In order to comply with the provisions of fair employment practices, the contractor agrees as follows: 1.) the contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; 2) in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, the contractor will state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap or national origin; 3) the contractor will furnish such relevant information and reports as requested by the County for the purpose of determining compliance with these regulations; and 4) failure of the contractor to comply with these laws will be deemed a breach of contract and it may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part.

DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFEROR: Upon signing this RFP/RFQ document, an offeror offering to sell supplies, materials, services, or equipment to Cameron County certifies that the offeror has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code §15.01, et seq., as amended, or the federal antitrust laws, and has not communicated directly or indirectly the RFP/RFQ made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any or all RFP/RFQ's may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the offerors. RFP/RFQs in which the prices are obviously unbalanced may be rejected. If multiples are submitted by an offeror and after the RFP/RFQ's are opened, one of the RFP/RFQ's are withdrawn, the result will be that all of the RFP/RFQs submitted by that offeror will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits a proposer from submitting multiples for different products or services.

EVALUATION: All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with law and reviewed to assure they are in the best interest of Cameron County. Evaluations shall be based on criteria, bearing on price, and performance of the items/services in the user environment. Any specific criteria section or sections identified elsewhere in this request for proposals may be evaluated by one or more evaluators once the basis and details of this process has been approved by the Purchasing Officer and acknowledged by the Evaluation Committee. Detailed information pertaining to this selective evaluation process is available to offerors and the Commissioners Court upon request. Evaluation sheets and summary of all RFP/RFQ's are subject to review by the Cameron County Purchasing Department and Evaluation Committee's recommendation to Cameron County Commissioners Court. Compliance with all RFP/RFQ requirements, delivery and needs of the using department are considerations in evaluating RFP/RFQ's. **Pricing is NOT the only criterion for making a recommendation (see criteria and relative importance of price and other evaluation factors, if any, specified elsewhere in this request for proposals.)** The Cameron County Purchasing Department reserves the right to contact any offeror, at any time, to clarify, verify or request information with regard to any RFP/RFQ. The Cameron County Purchasing Department further reserves the right to hold negotiation discussions with any responsible offeror submitting proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award in accordance with law.

PROTEST PROCEDURES: Procedure - This protest procedure is available to proposer s responding to this RFP requesting a debriefing conference.

Debriefing Conference – A debriefing conference must be requested in writing to the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days from the date of the RFP/RFQ award by the Cameron County Commissioners' Court.

Protests are made - 1. To the Purchasing Department after the debriefing conference. Proposer protests shall be received, in writing, by the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days after the proposer debriefing conference. 2. To County Auditor only after protesting first to the Purchasing Department and its resolution is not satisfactory to the protesting party. Protests to County Auditor shall be received, in writing, within five (5) business days after the proposer has received notification of a decision on the protest from the Purchasing Department. 3. To the Commissioners Court, only after the protest to the County Auditor and Purchasing Department was not resolved satisfactory to the protestor. Protests to the Commissioners Court shall be made within five (5) business days after the proposer has received notification of the County Auditor's decision.

Grounds for protest - 1. Errors were made in computing the score. 2. The County failed to follow procedures established in the RFP, the Purchasing policy: Acquisition or applicable state or federal laws or regulations. 3. Bias, discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of an evaluator. Protests not based on these criteria shall not be considered.

Format and Content - Protesting proposer s shall include, in their written protest to the Cameron County Purchasing Department, all facts and arguments upon which they rely. Proposer s shall, at a minimum, provide: 1. Information about the protesting proposer ; name of firm, mailing address, phone number and name of individual responsible for submission of the protest. 2. Information about the acquisition and the acquisition method. 3. Specific and complete statement of the County's action(s) protested. 4. Specific reference to the grounds for the protest. 5. Description of the relief or corrective action requested. 6. For protests to County Auditor or the Commissioners Court, a copy of the Purchasing Department's written decision on the protest.

Review Process - 1. Upon receipt of a proposer protest, the Purchasing Department shall postpone further steps in the acquisition process until the proposer protest has been resolved. 2. The Department's internal protest review procedures consist of the following: a) The Purchasing Department shall perform an objective review of the protest by individuals not involved in the acquisition protested. The review shall be based on the written protest material submitted by the proposer . b) A written decision will be delivered to the proposer within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting proposer shall be notified if additional time is necessary.

County Auditor Review Process - 1. The proposer may protest to County Auditor in writing within five business days after the proposer has received notification of the agency decision. 2. County Auditor shall consider all the available facts and issue a decision in writing within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting proposer shall be notified if additional time is necessary. The County Auditor's decision constitutes the final step of the protest process, except protests which may be reviewed by the Commissioner's Court. County Auditor may choose to convene a Protest Review Board (Board). The Board shall be advisory to the County Auditor and its scope of review shall be limited to procedural issues raised by the protesting proposer .

Final Determination - The final determination shall 1. Find the protest lacking in merit and uphold the agency's action; or 2. Find only technical or harmless errors in the agency's acquisition process conduct, determine the agency to be in substantial compliance, and reject the protest; or 3. Find merit in the protest and provide the agency options which may include a) Correct its errors and reevaluate all proposals, and/or b) Reissue the proposer solicitation document; or c) Make other findings and determine other courses of action as appropriate.

Commissioners Court Review Process - Protests to the Commissioners Court may be made only for Commissioners Court approved acquisitions, and only after review by County Auditor. Protests of the decisions of County Auditor shall be made by letter to the County Judge, Commissioners Court, who may establish procedures to resolve the protest. Protests shall be received by the County Judge, Commissioners Court, within five business days after the decision of County Auditor in order to be considered. The resulting decision is final, with no further administrative appeal available.

FISCAL FUNDING: A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement (if requested by the Special Requirements/Instructions), or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include fiscal funding out. If, for any reason, funds are not appropriated to continue the lease or contract, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the offeror from the using department without penalty of any kind or form to Cameron County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and redelivery shall be the responsibility of the offeror.

GRATUITIES AND PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONAL INTEREST IN CONTRACTS: Any elected or appointed official who has any substantial interest, either direct or indirect, in any business entity seeking to contract with the County, shall, before any vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity, file an affidavit stating the nature and extent of interest and shall abstain from any participation in the matter. This is not required if the vote or decision will not have any special effect on the entity other than its effect on the public. However, if a majority of the governing body is also required to file, and do file similar affidavits, than the member is not required to abstain from further participation. Attached and included is a disclosure of all of this Company's business or pecuniary financial relationships with officers or employees of Cameron County or County entities (if any such relationships exists) must be attached and included with RFP/RFQ submitted. The Buyer may, by written notice to the Seller, cancel this contract without liability to Seller if it is determined by Buyer that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered or given by the Seller, or any agent, or representative of the Seller, to any officer or employee of Cameron County with a view toward securing a contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending or the making or any determinations with respect to the performing of such a contract. In the event this contract is cancelled by Buyer pursuant to this provision , Buyer shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the cost incurred by Seller in providing such gratuities. Consistent and continued tie RFP's/RFQ's could cause rejection of RFP/RFQ's by the County and/or investigation for Anti-Trust violations. Proposer guarantees that he has not retained a person to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) CERTIFICATION : If Proposer is a Certified Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), please include a copy of your HUB Certificate with your Proposal. This information will assist Cameron County in the percentage tracking of HUB utilization.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance required for equipment RFP/RFQ should be available in Cameron County by a manufacturer authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on the Pricing/Delivery Information form. If Cameron County opts to include maintenance, it shall be so stated in the purchase order and said cost will be included. Service will commence only upon expiration of applicable warranties and should be priced accordingly.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS: Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right To Know Act", an offeror must provide to the County with each delivery, material safety data sheets which are applicable to hazardous substances defined in the Act. Failure of the offeror to furnish this documentation will be cause to reject any RFP/RFQ applying thereto.

NAME BRANDS: Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Cameron County to restrict these RFP/RFQs in such cases, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard due to like existing items. Offerors may offer items of equal stature and the burden of proof of such stature rests with offerors. Cameron County shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.

PRICING: Prices for all goods and/or services shall be firm for the duration of this contract and shall be stated on the Pricing/Delivery Information form. **Prices shall be all inclusive: No price changes, additions, or subsequent qualifications will be honored during the course of the contract.** All prices must be written in ink or typewritten. Pricing on all transportation, freight, drayage and other charges are to be prepaid by the contractor and included in the RFP/RFQ prices. If there are any additional charges of any kind, other than those mentioned above, specified or unspecified, offeror **MUST** indicate the items required and attendant costs or forfeit the right to payment for such items. Where unit pricing and extended pricing differ, unit pricing prevails.

RECYCLED MATERIALS: Cameron County encourages the use of products made of recycled materials and shall give preference in purchasing to products made of recycled materials if the products meet applicable specifications as to quantity and quality. County will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

SCANNED RE-TYPED RESPONSE – FLOPPY DISK: If in its RFP/RFQ response, offeror either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published RFP/RFQ package, then in event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the RFP/RFQ response made by offeror, the County's RFP/RFQ specifications **as published** shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

FLOPPY DISK: If offeror obtained the RFP/RFQ specifications on a floppy disk in order to prepare a response, **the RFP/RFQ must be submitted in hard copy** according to the instructions contained in this RFP/RFQ package. If, in its RFP/RFQ response, offeror makes any changes whatsoever to the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications, the County's RFP/RFQ specifications **as published** shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS: The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and that only material and workmanship of the finest quality are to be used. All interpretations of specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement. The items furnished under this contract shall be new, unused of the latest product in production to commercial trade and shall be of the highest quality as to materials used and workmanship. Manufacturer furnishing these items shall be experienced in design and construction of such items and shall be an established supplier of the item RFP/RFQ. **Substitute items will not be accepted unless approved (in advance).**

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Offerors are responsible for including all pertinent product data in the returned RFP/RFQ package. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the RFP/RFQ package and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the offeror wishes to include as a condition of the RFP/RFQ, must also be in the returned RFP/RFQ package. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire RFP/RFQ.

TITLE TRANSFER: Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Cameron County until Cameron County actually receives and takes possession of the goods at the point or points of delivery. Receiving times may vary with the using department. Generally, deliveries may be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offerors are advised to consult the using department for instructions. The place of delivery shall be shown under the "Special Requirements/Instructions" section of this RFP/RFQ package and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" address.

USAGE REPORTS: Cameron County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost, up to two (2) times during the contract period, a usage report detailing the products and/or services furnished to date under a contract resulting from this RFP. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) working days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by Cameron County department, description of each item purchased, including manufacturer, quantity of each item purchased, per unit and extended price of each item purchased, and total amount and price of all items purchased.

WARRANTY PRICE: (a) The price to be paid by the Buyer shall be that contained in Seller's RFP/RFQ which Seller warrants to be no higher than Seller's current prices on orders by others for products of the kind and specification covered by this agreement for similar quantities under similar or like conditions and methods of purchase. In the event Seller breaches this warranty, the prices of the items shall be reduced to the Seller's current prices on orders by others, or in the alternative, Buyer may cancel this contract without liability to Seller for breach or Seller's actual expense. (b) The Seller warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee excepting bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Seller for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the Buyer shall have the right in addition to any other right or rights to cancel this contract without liability and to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee. Offerors shall furnish all data pertinent to warranties or guarantees which may apply to items in the RFP/RFQ. Offerors may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. Offeror warrants that product sold to the County shall conform to the standards established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Cameron County may return the product for correction or replacement at the offeror's expense. If offeror fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Cameron County may correct at the offeror's expense.

WARRANTY PRODUCTS: Seller shall not limit or exclude any implied warranties and any attempt to do so shall render this contract voidable at the option of the Buyer. Seller warrants that the goods furnished will conform to the specifications, drawings and descriptions listed in the RFP/RFQ invitation and to the sample(s) furnished by Seller, if any. In the event of a conflict between the specifications, drawings and descriptions, the specifications shall govern.

SAFETY WARRANTY: Seller warrants that the product sold to Buyer shall conform to the standards promulgated by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event the product does not conform to OSHA standards, Buyer may return

the product for correction or replacement at the Seller's expense. In the event Seller fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, correction made by Buyer will be at Seller's expense. Have you attached the required warranty information to the RFP/RFQ (if applicable)? Yes, No.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE: All Products and/or services furnished as part of this contract must be year 2000 compliant. This applies to all computers including hardware and software as well as all other commodities with date sensitive embedded chips.

APPLICABLE LAW

This agreement shall be governed by the Uniform Commercial Code. Wherever the term "Uniform Commercial Code" is used, it shall be construed as meaning "the Uniform Commercial Code" as adopted in the State of Texas as effective and in force on the date of this agreement.

ASSIGNMENT DELEGATION: No right or interest in this contract shall be assigned or delegation of any obligation made by Seller without the written permission of the Buyer. Any attempted assignment or delegation by Seller shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph. Any contract entered into pursuant to this request is not assignable, nor the duties thereunder, by either party, without the written consent of the other party in the contract County Judge and County Auditor.

CONTRACT OBLIGATION: Cameron County Commissioners Court must award the contract and the County Judge or other person authorized by the Cameron County must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Cameron County or the offerors. Department heads are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Cameron County. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until all products and/or services covered by this purchase have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Errors and Omissions in the RFP / RFQ of any provision herein described will not be construed as to relieve the Successful proposer of any responsibility or obligation, requisite to the complete and satisfactory implementation, operation, and support of any and all equipment, systems or services.

FORCE MAJEURE: If, by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly, or in part, to carry out its obligations under this agreement, then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch. The term "Force Majeure" as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority, insurrections, riots, epidemics, landslides, lightening, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, storms, floods, washouts, droughts, arrests, restraint of government and people, civil disturbances, explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely with the discretion of the party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgement of the party having the difficulty.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: Contractor, the successful offeror, shall indemnify and hold Cameron County harmless from all claims for personal injury, death and/or property damage resulting directly or indirectly from contractor's performance. Contractor shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this RFP/RFQ, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover contractor's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this RFP/RFQ. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County upon request.

INFRINGEMENTS: There will be no warranty by buyer against infringements. As part of this contract for sales, Seller agrees to ascertain whether goods manufactured in accordance with the specifications attached to this agreement will give rise to the rightful claim of any third person by way of infringement or the like. Buyer makes no warranty that the production of goods according to the specification will not give rise to such a claim, and in no event shall Buyer be liable to Seller for indemnification in the event that Seller is sued on the grounds of infringement or the like. If Seller is of the opinion that an infringement or the like will result, he will notify Buyer to this effect in writing within two (2) weeks after the signing of this agreement. If Buyer does not receive notice and is subsequently held liable for the infringement or the like, Seller will hold Buyer harmless. If Seller in good faith ascertains that production of the goods in accordance with the specifications will result in infringement or the like, this contract shall be null and void, except that Buyer will pay Seller the reasonable cost of his/her search as to infringement. The contractor agrees to protect the County from claims involving infringement of patents or copyrights.

INTERPRETATION PAROLE EVIDENCE: This writing is intended by the parties as a final expression of their agreement and is intended also as a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of their agreement. No course of prior dealings between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any term used in the agreement. Acceptance or acquiescence in a course of performance rendered under this agreement shall not be relevant to determine the meaning of this agreement, even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection. Whenever a term defined by the Uniform Commercial Code is used in this agreement, the definition contained in the Code is to Control.

MODIFICATIONS: This contract can be modified or rescinded only by a writing signed by both of the parties or their duly authorized agents.
O.S.H.A.: Offeror must meet all Federal and State OSHA requirements.

RIGHT TO ASSURANCE: Whenever one (1) party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform, he/she may demand that the other party give written assurance of their intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made, and no assurance is given within five (5) days the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

SEVERABILITY: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

VENUE: Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Cameron County, Texas.

WAIVER OF SUBROGATION: Offeror and offeror's insurance carrier waive any and all rights whatsoever with regard to subrogation against Cameron County as an indirect party to any suit arising out of personal or property damages resulting from offeror's performance under this agreement. No claim or right arising out of a breach of this contract can be discharged in whole, or in part, by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing, signed by the aggrieved.