

26.14 Competitive quotations for public improvement contracts.

1. Competitive quotations shall be required for a public improvement having an estimated total cost that exceeds the amount provided in this section, but is less than the competitive bid threshold established in section 26.3.

2. Unless the threshold amount is adjusted pursuant to section 314.1B, the competitive quotation threshold shall be as follows:

a. Sixty-seven thousand dollars for a county, including a county hospital.

b. Fifty-one thousand dollars for a city having a population of fifty thousand or more.

c. Fifty-one thousand dollars for a school district having a population of fifty thousand or more.

d. Fifty-one thousand dollars for an aviation authority created within a city having a population of fifty thousand or more.

e. Thirty-six thousand dollars for a city having a population of less than fifty thousand, for a school district having a population of less than fifty thousand, and for any other governmental entity.

f. The threshold amount applied to a city applies to a city hospital.

3. *a.* When a competitive quotation is required, the governmental entity shall make a good faith effort to obtain quotations for the work from at least two contractors regularly engaged in such work prior to letting a contract. Quotations may be obtained from contractors after the governmental entity provides a description of the work to be performed, including the plans and specifications prepared by an architect or engineer, if required under chapter 542B or 544A, and an opportunity to inspect the work site. The contractor shall include in the quotation the price for labor, materials, equipment, and supplies required to perform the work. If the work can be performed by an employee or employees of the governmental entity, the governmental entity may file a quotation for the work to be performed in the same manner as a contractor.

b. The governmental entity shall designate the time, place, and manner for filing quotations, which may be received by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. The governmental entity shall record the approved quotation in meeting minutes. Quotations approved outside a meeting of the governing body of a governmental entity shall be included in the minutes of the next meeting of the governing body. The governmental entity shall award the contract to the contractor submitting the lowest responsive, responsible quotation subject to section 26.9, or the governmental entity may reject all of the quotations.

c. If a public improvement may be performed by an employee of the governmental entity, the amount of estimated sales and fuel tax which a contractor identifies in its quotation shall be deducted from the contractor's price for determining the lowest responsible bidder. If no quotations are received to perform the work, or if the governmental entity's estimated cost to do the work with its employee is less than the lowest responsive, responsible quotation received, the governmental entity may authorize its employee or employees to perform the work.