

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 applicable threshold amount provided in this section, but is less than the competitive bid threshold established in section 26.3.

2. Unless the threshold amounts are adjusted pursuant to section 314.1B, the following threshold amounts shall apply:

- 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. Good faith effort shall include advising all contractors who have filed with the governmental entity a request for notice of projects. The governmental entity shall provide such notice in a timely manner so that a requesting contractor will have a reasonable opportunity to submit a competitive quotation. 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, landscape architect, or engineer, if required under chapter 542B, 544B, 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. If the governmental entity receives no quotations after making a good faith effort to obtain quotations from at least two contractors regularly engaged in such work, the governmental entity may negotiate a contract with a contractor regularly engaged in such work.

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 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. The unconditional acceptance and approval of the lowest responsive, responsible quotation shall constitute the award of a contract. The governmental entity shall record the approved quotation in its meeting minutes. The contractor awarded the contract shall not commence work until the contractor's performance and payment bond has been approved by the governmental entity. A governmental entity may delegate the authority to award a contract, to execute a contract, to authorize work to proceed under a contract, or to approve the contractor's performance and payment bond to an officer or employee of the governmental entity. A quotation approved outside a meeting of the governing body of a governmental entity shall be included in the minutes of the next regular or special meeting of the governing body.

c. If a public improvement may be performed by an employee of the governmental entity, the amount of estimated sales and fuel tax and the premium cost for the performance and payment bond which a contractor identifies in its quotation shall be deducted from the contractor's price for determining the lowest responsive, responsible quotation. 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.

2006 Acts, ch 1017, §14, 42, 43; 2007 Acts, ch 144, §9; 2009 Acts, ch 133, §10

Referred to in §26.4, 26.14A, 314.1A, 314.1B