



ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MICHAEL B. COOPER
PARISH PRESIDENT

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

St. Tammany Parish Government is seeking responses for the following project:

RFP# 21-13-3 – Bond Counsel & Related Services

This RFP is available online at <http://www.stpgov.org>. It is the Proposer's responsibility to check the Parish website frequently for any possible addenda that may be issued. The Parish is not responsible for a proposer's failure to download any addenda documents required to complete an RFP.

Responses will be received by the Department of Procurement, until **2:00 p.m. CST Tuesday, August 17, 2021**. RFP responses will be opened publicly at the physical location as stated in Section 1.4 of the RFP documents and only respondents who have submitted an RFP response shall be identified aloud. Prices shall not be read. Each response will be evaluated by designated Parish personnel after the submission deadline and public opening has passed.

Each Proposal must be sealed. The outside of the envelope, box or package should be marked with the Proposer's Name and Address, the Proposal Name, the RFP #, and the Proposal Opening Date.

The successful Respondent must supply St. Tammany Parish Government with all required documentation as specified in the RFP documents. Said Respondent must also be in Good Standing and licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana.

Proposals will be received at the St. Tammany Parish Government Department of Procurement Office, 21454 Koop Dr., Suite 2F, Mandeville LA., 70471 from each Respondent or his agent, or by certified mail with return receipt requested.

Procurement Department

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT

Bond Counsel & Related Services
2021



RFP Number: 21-13-3

Proposal Opening Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Proposal Opening Time: 2:00 pm

July 2, 2021

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR

Bond Counsel & Related Services

PART I: OVERVIEW

1.1 Background/Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain proposals from qualified law firms who are interested in providing Bond Counsel and related services to assist St. Tammany Parish Government (Parish) in the issuance and sale of bonds and other debt/financing instruments (including refundings of existing bonds). The selected Proposer shall render opinion(s) on: the validity of the debt offering(s), the security for such offering(s), and whether and to what extent interest on any bonds/debt is exempt from income and other taxation. The selected firm shall provide and file all required documentation, proceedings, preliminary official statements, official statements, analyses, reports, etc. and other communications in support of the bond/debt issue and/or which are required by State or Federal regulation. The opinion of Bond Counsel shall provide assurance both to the Issuer (the Parish) and to investors who purchase the bonds that all legal and tax requirements relevant to the matters covered by the opinion are met.

The selected law firm(s) will provide legal services to the Parish in coordination with the Parish Council and Finance Department in connection with the possible issuance of, or refunding of, bonds or other debt, for a period of one (2) years, with an option to extend for one (1) year, commencing on the date of the Notice to Proceed issued by the Parish and continuing until the completion of the financing including all post-closing matters for any debt issue commenced within the two year period (the "Term").

The Parish's debt outstanding at December 31, 2020 consisted of General Obligation Bonds, Sales Tax Bonds, and Revenue Bonds. In the past, the Parish has also utilized Certificates of Indebtedness and Community Disaster Loans. The selected firm could be asked to assist the Parish in the issuance of any of these types of debt issues, or any other acceptable debt and financing vehicles available to local governments in the State of Louisiana.

A list of the Parish's outstanding debt and obligations can be found in the Parish's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports available on the Parish website at www.stpgov.org.

The Parish may or may not utilize a Municipal Advisor

The successful Proposer will contract with the Parish and will act on behalf of St. Tammany Parish Government in all matters undertaken in connection with the Project. The successful Proposer will report directly to the Parish Council and the Finance Committee and will work with the Parish Finance Department to develop the proposed financing.

Submittal of a proposal does not create any right or expectation to a contract with the Parish.

1.2 Definitions

- A. Shall – The term “shall” denotes mandatory requirements.
- B. Must - The term “must” denotes mandatory requirements.
- C. May - The term “may” denotes an advisory or permissible action.
- D. Should – The term “should” denotes a desirable action.
- E. Contractor – A Proposer who contracts with the Parish.
- F. Parish - St. Tammany Parish Government.
- G. Discussions- For the purposes of this RFP, a formal, structured means of conducting written or oral communications/presentations with responsible Proposers who submit proposals in response to this RFP.
- H. RFP – Request for Proposal.
- I. Proposer – Person or entity responding to this RFP.
- J. Agreement – A contract between the Contractor and the Parish.
- K. Evaluation Committee – Committee established for the purposes of evaluating proposals submitted in response to this RFP.

1.3 Schedule of Events

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (CT)</u>
1. RFP Available	Wednesday, June21, 2021	8:00 am
2. Pre-Proposal Conference (if required):*		Omitted
3. Deadline to receive written inquiries	Friday, August 6, 2021	2:00 pm
4. Deadline to answer written inquiries	Thursday, August 12, 2021	2:00 pm
5. Proposal Opening Date (deadline for submitting proposals)	Tuesday, August 17, 2021	2:00 pm
6. Oral discussions with proposers, if applicable		<i>To be scheduled</i>
7. Notice of Intent to Award to be mailed		<i>To be scheduled</i>
8. Contract Initiation		<i>To be scheduled</i>

NOTE: The Parish reserves the right to revise this schedule. Any such revision will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFP.

1.4 Proposal Submittal

This RFP may be obtained online at <http://stpgov.org/>.

It is the Proposer's responsibility to check the Parish website frequently for any possible addenda that may be issued. The Parish is not responsible for a proposer's failure to download any addenda documents required to complete an RFP.

All proposals shall be received by the Procurement Department **no later than the date and time shown in the Schedule of Events.**

Important - - Clearly mark outside of the sealed envelope, box or package with the following information and format:

- X **Name and Address of Proposer**
- X **Proposal Name Bond Counsel & Related Services**
- X **RFP #: 21-13-3**
- X **Proposal Opening Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021**

Proposals may only be sent via certified mail, hand-delivery or courier service to our physical location at:

St. Tammany Parish Government Procurement Department
21454 Koop Drive, Suite 2F
Mandeville, Louisiana 70471

Proposer is solely responsible for ensuring that its courier service provider makes inside deliveries to our physical location. The Parish is not responsible for any delays caused by the proposer's chosen means of proposal delivery.

Proposer is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its proposal. Failure to meet the proposal opening date and time shall result in rejection of the proposal.

PROPOSALS SHALL BE OPENED PUBLICLY AT THE PHYSICAL LOCATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE AND ONLY PROPOSERS SUBMITTING PROPOSALS SHALL BE IDENTIFIED ALOUD. PRICES SHALL NOT BE READ.

1.5 Proposal Response Format

Proposals submitted for consideration should follow the format and order of presentation described below:

- A. **Cover Letter:** The cover letter should exhibit the Proposer's understanding and approach to the project. It should contain a summary of Proposer's ability to perform the services described in the RFP and confirm that Proposer is willing to perform those services and enter into a contract with the Parish.

ATTENTION: Please indicate in the Cover Letter which of the following applies to the signer of this proposal. Evidence of signature authority shall be provided upon the Parish's request.

1. The signer of the proposal is either a corporate officer who is listed on the most current annual report on file with the secretary of state **or** a member of a partnership or partnership in commendam as reflected in the most current partnership records on file with the secretary of state. **A copy of the annual report or partnership record must be submitted to the Parish before contract award.**
2. The signer of the proposal is a representative of the Proposer authorized to submit this proposal as evidenced by documents such as, corporate resolution, certification as to corporate principal, etc. **If this applies, a copy of the resolution, certification or other supportive documents must be submitted to the Parish before contract award.**

The cover letter should also:

1. Identify the submitting Proposer and provide its federal tax identification number;
 2. Identify the name, title, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of each person authorized by the Proposer to contractually obligate the Proposer; and
 3. Identify the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of the contact person for technical and contractual clarifications throughout the evaluation period.
- B. **Table of Contents:** Organized in the order cited in the format contained herein.
- C. **Proposer Qualifications and Experience:** History and background of Proposer, financial strength and stability, related services provided to Louisiana parish and local government entities, existing customer satisfaction, volume of merchants, etc. **LIMIT TO FOUR PAGES.**

"Attorney-in-Charge"

Proposer shall provide the name and qualifications of the **"Attorney-in- Charge"** for the proposed Parish engagement/project, and his/her prior bond counsel experience with local Louisiana governments. Any changes of the "Attorney-in-Charge" during the term of the engagement shall be pre- approved in writing by the Parish. **LIMIT TO ONE PAGE.**

"The Bond Buyer's Municipal Marketplace." Municipal Bond Attorneys

Additionally, all proposers must be listed in *"The Bond Buyer's Municipal Marketplace," Municipal Bond Attorneys*, current Edition. **Proposer must submit a copy of its listing in "The Bond Buyer's Municipal Marketplace," Municipal Bond Attorneys, current edition.**

Recent Projects:

Proposer should specifically provide a description of the firm's relevant consulting assignments for other Louisiana local governments similar to the Project requested herein which have been completed by the Proposer within the last three (3) years ("Recent Projects"). **LIMIT TO TEN RECENT PROJECTS.**

The description of any such Recent Project should include the following:

1. Name of the client;
2. Year of the assignment
3. Nature of the services rendered; and relevance/similarity to the Parish's contemplated bond transactions herein
4. Professionals assigned to the project who are also proposed to serve on this assignment.
5. The structure, timing, terms, and other related matters for each recent example submitted.

- D. **Proposed Solution/Technical Response:** Illustrating and describing proposed technical solution and compliance with the RFP requirements.
- E. **Project Schedule:** Sample schedule of implementation plan for the issuance and/or sale of bonds or other debt/financing instruments (including refundings of existing bonds). This schedule is to include implementation actions, timelines, responsible parties, etc.
- F. **Financial Proposal:** Proposal shall include the following: 1) **Attachment "A"** (1 page) – "Bond Counsel Fee Proposal Worksheet" for the bond transactions being contemplated in this RFP; 2) Proposer's Fee/Price Schedule which does not exceed those fees established by the State of Louisiana; and 3) itemization of costs as indicated on Attachment "A." The Contractor shall be required to track and invoice the work performed for each Bond separately.

All proposed rates and fees are subject to negotiation. Prices proposed and/or negotiated shall be firm for the duration of the contract. This financial proposal shall include any and all costs the Proposer wishes to have considered in the contractual arrangement with the Parish.

- G. **References:** Proposer should provide "**letters of reference**" from previous public jurisdiction clients which include the previous clients' names, addresses, telephone numbers and contact persons for five (5) other public jurisdictions for which comparable services have recently been rendered, including a description of the services provided. The "letters of reference" should indicate the Proposer's ability to successfully perform engagements within time limits and budget estimates. **LIMIT FIVE LETTERS OF REFERENCE.**
- H. **Customer Service:** Each Proposer should submit a provision for customer service, including personnel assigned, toll-free number, and account inquiry, etc.

- I. **Resumes:** Each Proposer should submit resumes for account manager, designated customer service representative(s) and any other key personnel to be assigned to this Project, including those of subcontractors, if any.
- J. **Financial Stability Statement:** Each Proposer should submit information demonstrating the Proposer's financial stability (financial statements, annual reports, or similar data for the last three years).
- K. **Additional Information:** Each Proposer should submit any other information deemed pertinent by the Proposer including terms and conditions which the Proposer wishes the Parish to consider.
- L. **Acknowledgment and Waiver:** Proposer shall execute and have notarized an Acknowledgment and Waiver (Attachment "C" hereto). Proposers shall acknowledge and affirm compliance with Attachment "H" - "Rule 1993-A, Disclosure of Agreement Between Financial Professionals for Negotiated Transactions". **ALL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL.**
- N. **Multiple Copies of Response:** Each Proposer shall submit one (1) signed original response. Four (4) additional copies of the proposal should be provided, as well as one (1) redacted copy, if applicable (See Section 5.2).
- O. **Sample Engagement Letter:** Each Proposer shall provide its Engagement Letter for the Project for consideration by the Parish. Proposer should also submit any Disclosure or Other Statements required by SEC Rules. Terms of engagement letters are subject to negotiation. **NO PAGE LIMIT.**
- P. **Conflicts of Interest:** Each Proposer shall identify and describe any potential or actual conflict of interest that may arise upon Proposer's engagement as Bond Counsel pursuant to this RFP. This disclosure should include, but not be limited to, any family or business relationship in Proposer's firm, or any attorney or employee in Proposer's firm, that has or may have with any member of the St. Tammany Parish Council or Administration, their staff, the Parish Government's staff, or elected officials of the Parish or of other government entities in St. Tammany Parish (including legal representation). **NO PAGE LIMIT.**
- Q. **Criminal Proceedings and Investigations -** Give a brief but complete description of any criminal proceeding, criminal investigation, or other oversight entity's investigation of alleged securities laws violations involving Proposer's firm (all areas of the firm) or any professionals in Proposer's firm who would be performing services under this RFP. **NO PAGE LIMIT.**
- R. **Malpractice Insurance & Claims:** Provide the limits of Proposer's firm's malpractice coverage. Please state whether Proposer firm has settled any past claims or has any claims pending against it related to opinions delivered in prior bond issues. Malpractice coverage is required in addition to the insurance coverages required on Attachment "D". **PAGE LIMIT: ½ PAGE.**

PART II: SCOPE OF WORK/SERVICES

2.1 Scope of Work/Services

Services to be provided pursuant to this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. In coordination with the Parish, draft, review and/or prepare or assist in the preparation of all resolutions, notices, Bond Purchase Agreements and other legal documents to ensure that the bonds are issued in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations;
- b. Review and assist in the preparation of any official statement(s) and other disclosure documents;
- c. As necessary, and in concert with the Parish, resolve issues regarding the issuance of the bonds that are raised by public officials;
- d. Review and/or verify the financing plan and cash flows prepared by the underwriting team to ensure compliance with relevant arbitrage restrictions;
- e. Render an opinion as to the legality and tax-exempt status of the bond issue and 10b-5 opinions (if applicable);
- f. In concert with the Parish, prepare and distribute closing documents (including the arbitrage certificate and filing all required tax certificates and forms relating to Federal and State taxation) to the appropriate parties and coordinate and conduct the closing of the transaction (selected counsel will be responsible for bond transcript preparation);
- g. Review and comment on proposed documents and legal opinions submitted by any swap providers;
- h. Negotiate or assist in the negotiation of the terms and conditions of the Bonds and/or any swap agreements;
- i. Assist with all required presentations and/or appearances (including rating agencies);
- j. Attend all related meetings and participate in all related telephone conferences on behalf of the Parish;
- k. Counsel and advise the Parish relative to all legal matters in connection with the bonds and/or interest rate agreement(s);

- l. Negotiate or assist in the negotiation of credit enhancement arrangements if necessary;
- m. Assist Parish staff and the Municipal Advisor (if any) to determine the timing of the bond issue to preserve flexibility under tax laws; and
- n. Adhere to RULE NO. 1993-A (Adopted March 20, 1994), DISCLOSURE OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS FOR NEGOTIATED TRANSACTIONS, as applicable.

Minimum Qualifications

All Proposers must maintain a fully staffed office in the State of Louisiana and must have a partner or director whose primary residence and legal domicile is in the State of Louisiana. In order to be considered for appointment as Bond Counsel, Proposer must demonstrate that it has "substantial experience" (as hereinafter described) in the practice of law related to municipal finance. For the purposes of this RFP, "substantial experience" shall mean that Proposer has at least one partner, director, associate or attorney on staff who lives in Louisiana, has a minimum of ten (10) years of municipal finance experience as bond counsel and has been bond counsel for municipal bonds within the past 10 years. Additionally, all Proposers must be listed in *"The Bond Buyer's Municipal Marketplace," Municipal Bond Attorneys*, current Edition. No joint Proposals will be allowed.

Nothing in the RFP shall be construed to limit the Parish's ability to obtain the same or similar services from any other person or entity. Likewise, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the Contractor from rendering the same or similar services to any other entity.

2.2 Period of Agreement

The law firm(s) chosen as Bond Counsel in connection with this RFP will be appointed to begin work immediately upon the date of the Notice to Proceed issued by the Parish for a period of two (2) years with one option to renew for one (1) year upon written agreement of both parties. The law firm(s) chosen shall also provide services in connection with any and all post-closing matters relative to the financing and/or interest rate agreements for bond/debt issues originating during the contract term.

The contract shall terminate pursuant to the terms and conditions of section 5.31 herein, the terms and conditions of the contract, by operation of law, as agreed between the parties, or upon satisfactory completion of all services and obligations described in the contract.

2.3 Price Schedule

Proposer should provide its fee schedule for Bond Counsel which does not exceed those fees established by the State of Louisiana. The Parish is seeking the most advantageous arrangement, and reserves the right to negotiate hourly fee schedules or other price proposals.

Prices offered/negotiated shall remain fixed for the term of the engagement and any renewals. The Contractor shall be required to invoice the work performed for each Bond separately.

2.4 Deliverables

The deliverables listed in this section are the minimum desired from the successful Proposer. Every Proposer should describe what deliverables will be provided per their proposal and how the proposed deliverables will be provided.

2.5 Location

The selected firm may be required to attend meetings and/or present information at St. Tammany Parish offices.

PART III: EVALUATION

The evaluation committee shall assign points to its evaluation of each Proposal as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	Possible Points
Compliance with the RFP, proposal quality & completeness	10
Understanding of the Project & Project Timeline/Schedule	10
Approach to the Project	30
Qualifications of the Proposer, including, but not limited to, its experience and personnel assigned to the Project	40
Overall costs and fees to be charged	5
Proposal references (must be "letter(s) of reference")	5
Total	100

The proposal will be evaluated in light of the material and the substantiating evidence presented to the Parish, not on the basis of what may be inferred.

The scores will be combined to determine the overall score. The Proposer with the highest overall score will be recommended for award.

PART IV: PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

4.1 Performance Requirements

Contractor must perform pursuant to all State and Federal requirements, as applicable.

4.2 Performance Measurement/Evaluation

Omitted as not applicable to this RFP.

PART V: GENERAL PROVISIONS

5.1 Legibility/Clarity

Responses to the requirements of this RFP in the formats requested are desirable with all questions answered in as much detail as practicable. The Proposer's response is to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements. Proposals prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Proposer's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP is also desired. Each Proposer is solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of its proposal.

5.2 Confidential Information, Trade Secrets, and Proprietary Information

The designation of certain information as trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information shall only apply to the technical portion of the proposal. The cost proposal will not be considered confidential under any circumstance. Any proposal copyrighted or marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

For the purposes of this procurement, the provisions of the Louisiana Public Records Act (LSA-R.S. 44.1, *et. seq.*) will be in effect. Pursuant to this Act, all proceedings, records, contracts, and other public documents relating to this procurement shall be open to public inspection. Proposers are reminded that while trade secrets and other proprietary information they submit in conjunction with this procurement may not be subject to public disclosure, protections must be claimed by the Proposer at the time of submission of its Technical Proposal. Proposers should refer to the Louisiana Public Records Act for further clarification.

The Proposer must clearly designate the part of the proposal that contains a trade secret and/or privileged or confidential proprietary information as "confidential" in order to claim protection, if any, from disclosure. The Proposer shall mark the cover sheet of the proposal with the following legend, specifying the specific section(s) of his proposal sought to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend:

"The data contained in pages ____ of the proposal have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential information and such data shall only be disclosed for evaluation purposes, provided that if a contract is awarded to this Proposer as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, the Parish of St. Tammany shall have the right to use or disclose the data therein to the extent provided in the contract. This restriction does not limit the Parish of St. Tammany's right to use or disclose data obtained from any source, including the Proposer, without restrictions."

Further, to protect such data, each page containing such data shall be specifically identified and marked "CONFIDENTIAL".

Proposers must be prepared to defend the reasons why the material should be held confidential. If a competing proposer or other person seeks review or copies of another proposer's confidential data, the Parish will notify the owner of the asserted data of the request. If the owner of the asserted data does not want the information disclosed, it must agree to indemnify the Parish and hold the Parish harmless against all actions or court proceedings that may ensue (including attorney's fees), which seek to order the Parish to disclose the information. If the owner of the asserted data refuses to indemnify and hold the state harmless, the Parish may disclose the information.

The Parish reserves the right to make any proposal, including proprietary information contained therein, available to Parish personnel, the Parish Council, or other Parish and state agencies or organizations for the sole purpose of assisting the Parish in its evaluation of the proposal. The Parish shall require said individuals to protect the confidentiality of any specifically identified proprietary information or privileged business information obtained as a result of their participation in these evaluations.

If your proposal contains confidential information, you should also submit a redacted copy along with your proposal. If you do not submit the redacted copy, you will be required to submit this copy within 48 hours of notification from the Procurement Department. When submitting your redacted copy, you should clearly mark the cover as such - "REDACTED COPY" - to avoid having this copy reviewed by an evaluation committee member. The redacted copy should also state which sections or information have been removed.

5.3 Proposal Clarifications Prior to Submittal

5.3.1 Pre-proposal Conference

Omitted as not applicable to this RFP.

5.3.2 Proposer Inquiry Periods

The Parish shall not and cannot permit an open-ended inquiry period, as this creates an unwarranted delay in the procurement cycle and Parish operations. The Parish reasonably expects and requires *responsible and interested* proposers to conduct their in-depth proposal review and submit inquiries in a timely manner.

An inquiry period is hereby firmly set for all interested Proposers to perform a detailed review of the proposal documents and to submit any written inquiries relative thereto. *Without exception*, all inquiries MUST be submitted in writing by an authorized representative of the Proposer, clearly cross-referenced to the relevant solicitation section (even if an answer has already been given to an oral question during a Pre-proposal Conference). All inquiries must be received by the close of business on the Inquiry Deadline date set forth in Section 1.3 Schedule of Events of this RFP. Only those inquiries received by the established deadline shall be considered by the Parish. Inquiries received after the established deadline shall not be entertained.

Inquiries concerning this solicitation may be delivered by e-mail or hand-delivery to:

St. Tammany Parish Government Procurement Department
Attn: Procurement
21454 Koop Drive, Suite 2F
Mandeville, Louisiana 70471

E-Mail: purchasing@stpgov.org

An addendum will be issued and posted at the Parish website, www.stpgov.org, to address all inquiries received and any other changes or clarifications to the solicitation. Thereafter, all proposal documents, including but not limited to the specifications, terms, conditions, plans, etc., will stand as written and/or amended by any addendum. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any Proposer as a result of any oral discussions with any Parish employee or Parish consultant. It is the Proposer's responsibility to check the Parish website frequently for any possible addenda that may be issued. The Parish is not responsible for a Proposer's failure to download any addenda documents required to complete an RFP.

Proposer shall be aware that this RFP is not subject to the Louisiana Public Bid Law or the Louisiana Procurement Code. As such, Proposers are not provided an opportunity to protest the process or results of this RFP.

5.4 Errors and Omissions in Proposal

The Parish will not be liable for any error in the proposal. Proposer will not be allowed to alter proposal documents after the deadline for proposal submission, except under the following condition: the Parish reserves the right to make corrections or clarifications due to patent errors identified in proposals by the Parish or the Proposer. The Parish, at its option, has the right to request clarification or additional information from the Proposer.

5.5 Proposal Guarantee

Omitted as not applicable to this RFP.

5.6 Performance Bond

Omitted as not applicable to this RFP.

5.7 Changes, Addenda, Withdrawals

The Parish reserves the right to change the Schedule of Events or issue Addenda to the RFP at any time. The Parish also reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFP.

If the Proposer needs to submit changes or addenda, such shall be submitted in writing, signed by an authorized representative of the Proposer, cross-referenced clearly to the relevant proposal section, prior to the proposal opening, and should be submitted in a sealed envelope. Such shall meet all requirements for the proposal.

5.8 Withdrawal of Proposal

A Proposer may withdraw a proposal that has been submitted at any time up to the proposal closing date and time. To accomplish this, a written request signed by the authorized representative of the Proposer must be submitted to the Procurement Department.

5.9 Material in the RFP

Proposals shall be based only on the material contained in this RFP. The RFP includes official responses to questions, addenda, and other material, which may be provided by the Parish pursuant to the RFP.

5.10 Waiver of Administrative Informalities

The Parish reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive administrative informalities contained in any proposal.

5.11 Proposal Rejection

Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Parish to award a contract. The Parish reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted or to cancel this RFP if it is in the best interest of the Parish to do so.

5.12 Ownership of Proposal

All materials (paper content only) submitted in response to this request become the property of the Parish. Selection or rejection of a response does not affect this right. All proposals submitted will be retained by the Parish and not returned to Proposers. Any copyrighted materials in the response are not transferred to the Parish.

5.13 Cost of Offer Preparation

The Parish is not liable for any costs incurred by prospective Proposers or Contractors prior to issuance of or entering into a Contract. Costs associated with developing the proposal, preparing for oral presentations, and any other expenses incurred by the Proposer in responding to the RFP are entirely the responsibility of the Proposer, and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the Parish.

5.14 Non-negotiable Contract Terms

Non-negotiable contract terms include but are not limited to taxes, assignment of contract, audit of records, EEOC and ADA compliance, record retention, content of contract/order of precedence, contract changes, governing law, claims or controversies, and termination based on contingency of appropriation of funds.

5.15 Taxes

Any taxes, other than state and local sales and use taxes from which the Parish is exempt, shall be assumed to be included within the Proposer's cost.

5.16 Proposal Validity

All proposals shall be considered valid for acceptance until such time an award is made, unless the Proposer provides for a different time period within its proposal response. However, the Parish reserves the right to reject a proposal if the Proposer's acceptance period is unacceptable and the Proposer is unwilling to extend the validity of its proposal.

5.17 Prime Contractor Responsibilities

The selected Proposer shall be required to assume responsibility for all items and services offered in his proposal whether or not he produces or provides them. The Parish shall consider the selected Proposer to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract.

5.18 Use of Subcontractors

Each Contractor shall serve as the single prime contractor for all work performed pursuant to its contract. That prime contractor shall be responsible for all deliverables referenced in this RFP. This general requirement notwithstanding, Proposers may enter into subcontractor arrangements. Proposers may submit a proposal in response to this RFP, which identifies subcontract(s) with others, provided that the prime contractor acknowledges total responsibility for the entire contract.

If it becomes necessary for the prime contractor to use subcontractors, the Parish urges the prime contractor to use Louisiana vendors, including small and emerging businesses, a small entrepreneurship or a veteran or service-connected disabled veteran-owned small entrepreneurship, if practical. In all events, any subcontractor used by the prime should be identified to the Parish.

Information required of the prime contractor under the terms of this RFP, is also required for each subcontractor and the subcontractors must agree to be bound by the terms of the contract. The prime contractor shall assume total responsibility for compliance.

5.19 Written or Oral Discussions/Presentations

Written or oral discussions may be conducted with Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award; however, the Parish reserves the right to enter into an Agreement without further discussion of the proposal submitted based on the initial offers received. Any such written or oral discussion shall be initiated by the Parish.

Any commitments or representations made during these discussions, if conducted, may become formally recorded in the final contract.

Written or oral discussions/presentations for clarification may be conducted to enhance the Parish's understanding of any or all of the proposals submitted. Any such written or oral discussions/presentations shall be initiated by the Parish. Proposals may be accepted without such discussions.

5.20 Acceptance of Proposal Content

The mandatory RFP requirements shall become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the successful Proposer to accept these obligations shall result in the rejection of the proposal.

5.21 Evaluation and Selection

All responses received as a result of this RFP are subject to evaluation by the Evaluation Committee for the purpose of selecting the Proposer with whom the Parish shall contract.

To evaluate all proposals, a committee whose members have expertise in various areas has been selected. This committee will determine which proposals are reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. If required, written or oral discussions may be conducted with any or all of the Proposers to make this determination. Any such written or oral discussions shall be initiated by the Evaluation Committee.

Results of the evaluations will be provided by the Evaluation Committee to the Procurement Director. Written recommendation for award shall be made for the Proposer whose proposal, conforming to the RFP, will be the most advantageous to the Parish, price and other factors considered.

The committee may reject any or all proposals if none is considered in the best interest of the Parish.

5.22 Contract Negotiations

If for any reason the Proposer whose proposal is most responsive to the Parish's needs, price and other evaluation factors set forth in the RFP considered, does not agree to a contract, that proposal shall be rejected and the Parish may negotiate with the next most responsive Proposer. Negotiation may include revision of non-mandatory terms, conditions, and requirements. The Procurement Department must approve the final contract form and issue a purchase order, if applicable, to complete the process.

5.23 Contract Award and Execution

The Parish reserves the right to enter into a contract without further discussion of the proposal submitted based on the initial offers received.

The RFP, including any addenda, and the proposal of the selected Contractor will become part of any contract initiated by the Parish.

Proposers are discouraged from submitting their own standard terms and conditions with their proposals. Proposers should address the specific language in the sample contract in Attachment "B" of this RFP and submit any exceptions or deviations the Proposer wishes to negotiate. The proposed terms will be negotiated before a final contract is entered. Mandatory terms and conditions are not negotiable.

If the contract negotiation period exceeds thirty (30) days or if the selected Proposer fails to sign the contract within **twenty (20) calendar** days of delivery of it, the Parish may elect to cancel the award and award the contract to the next-highest-ranked Proposer.

Award shall be made to the Proposer with the highest points, whose proposal, conforming to the RFP, will be the most advantageous to the Parish, price and other factors considered.

The Parish intends to award to a single Proposer.

5.24 Acknowledgment and Waiver of Protest Rights

Proposer shall execute an Acknowledgment and Waiver (the "Waiver") (Attachment "C") and shall produce same to the Parish along with its proposal. Such Waiver shall state that Proposer has read this RFP and the Waiver, and understands that the Parish's obligations under this RFP are not dictated by Louisiana Public Bid Law or the Louisiana Procurement Code. As such, Proposer understands that it is provided no opportunity for protest and waives all such rights.

5.25 Notice of Intent to Award

Upon review and approval of the evaluation committee's and agency's recommendation for award, the Procurement Department will issue a "Notice of Intent to Award" letter to the apparent successful Proposer. A contract shall be completed and signed by all parties concerned on or before the date indicated in the "Schedule of Events." If this date is not met, through no fault of the Parish, the Parish may elect to cancel the "Notice of Intent to Award" letter and make the award to the next most advantageous Proposer.

The Procurement Department will also notify all unsuccessful Proposers as to the outcome of the evaluation process. The evaluation factors, points, evaluation committee member names, and the completed evaluation summary and recommendation report will be made available to all interested parties after the "Notice of Intent to Award" letter has been issued.

5.26 Insurance Requirements

The Contractor shall comply with all insurance requirements of the Parish as contained in Attachment "D". All policies of insurance shall meet the requirements of the Parish prior to the commencing of any work. The Parish has the right, but not the duty, to approve all insurance policies prior to the commencing of any work. Contractor shall furnish the Parish with certificates of insurance effecting coverage(s) required by the RFP (see Attachment "D"). The certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The certificates are to be received and approved by the Parish before work commences. The Parish reserves the right to require complete certified copies of all required policies, at any time.

5.27 Subcontractor Insurance

The Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insured's under its policies or shall insure that all subcontractors satisfy the same insurance requirements stated herein for the contractor.

5.28 Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

Neither party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance beyond its control resulting from acts of God or force majeure. The parties shall use reasonable efforts to eliminate or minimize the effect of such events upon performance of their respective duties under the contract.

Contractor shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the Parish from suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description relating to personal injury and damage to real or personal tangible property caused by Contractor, its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors in the performance of the contract, without limitation; provided, however, that the Contractor shall not indemnify for that portion of any claim, loss or damage arising hereunder due to the negligent act or failure to act of the Parish. In connection therewith, the Contractor shall execute the Hold

Harmless Agreement furnished by the Parish (Attachment "E"). Work may not commence until such Hold Harmless Agreement is executed by the Contractor and received by the Parish.

Contractor will indemnify, defend and hold the Parish harmless, **without limitation**, from and against any and all damages, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), claims judgments, liabilities and costs which may be finally assessed against the Parish in any action for infringement of a United States Letter Patent with respect to the Products, Materials, or Services furnished, or of any copyright, trademark, trade secret or intellectual property right, provided that the Parish shall give the Contractor: (i) prompt written notice of any action, claim or threat of infringement suit, or other suit, (ii) the opportunity to take over, settle or defend such action, claim or suit at Contractor's sole expense, and (iii) assistance in the defense of any such action at the expense of Contractor. Where a dispute or claim arises relative to a real or anticipated infringement, the Parish may require Contractor, at its sole expense, to submit such information and documentation, including formal patent attorney opinions, as the Parish shall require.

The Contractor shall not be obligated to indemnify that portion of a claim or dispute based upon: (i) Parish's unauthorized modification or alteration of a Product, Material, or Service; (ii) Parish's use of the Product, Material, or Service in combination with other products, materials, or services not furnished by Contractor; (iii) Parish's use in other than the specified operating conditions and environment.

In addition to the foregoing, if the use of any item(s) or part(s) thereof shall be enjoined for any reason or if Contractor believes that it may be enjoined, Contractor shall have the right, at its own expense and sole discretion as the Parish's exclusive remedy to take action in the following order of precedence: (i) to procure for the Parish the right to continue using such item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable; (ii) to modify the component so that it becomes non-infringing equipment of at least equal quality and performance; or (iii) to replace said item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable, with non-infringing components of at least equal quality and performance, or (iv) if none of the foregoing is commercially reasonable, then provide monetary compensation to the Parish up to the dollar amount of the Contract.

The Parish may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor, or may proceed against the performance and payment bond, if any, as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs and the like asserted by or against them.

5.29 Fidelity Bond Requirements

Omitted as not applicable to this RFP.

5.30 Payment

5.30.1 Payment for Services

Payment of all fees and costs shall be made from bond proceeds when sufficiently detailed records are provided for eligible services rendered in connection with each bond transaction. The Contractor shall be required to invoice the work performed for each Bond separately.

The Parish shall require the Contractor to provide detailed support for all fees, costs and Bond Issuance Costs invoiced through closing, including but not limited to: time records for Contractor staff, invoices with time records for all other consultants, subcontractors or third-party providers used, invoices for all out-of-pocket costs, and any other documentation required to support the validity of the costs incurred.

The detailed support described above shall be provided upon closing of each bond transaction.

5.31 Termination

5.31.1 Termination of the Contract for Cause

The Parish may terminate the contract for cause based upon the failure of the Contractor to comply with the terms and/or conditions of the contract, or failure to fulfill its performance obligations pursuant to the contract, provided that the Parish shall give the Contractor written notice specifying the Contractor's failure. If within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice, the Contractor shall not have corrected such failure or, in the case of failure which cannot be corrected in thirty (30) days, begun in good faith to correct such failure and thereafter proceeded diligently to complete such correction, then the Parish may, at its option, place the Contractor in default and the contract shall terminate on the date specified in such notice.

The Contractor may exercise any rights available to it under Louisiana law to terminate for cause upon the failure of the Parish to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract, provided that the Contractor shall give the Parish written notice specifying the Parish's failure and a reasonable opportunity for the Parish to cure the defect.

5.31.2 Termination of the Contract for Convenience

The Parish may terminate the contract at any time by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor of such termination or negotiating with the Contractor an effective date.

The Contractor shall be entitled to payment for deliverables in progress, to the extent work has been performed satisfactorily.

5.31.3 Termination for Non-Appropriation of Funds

The continuance of the contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of the contract by the Parish Council. If the Parish Council fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of the contract, or if such appropriation is reduced for any lawful purpose, and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated.

5.32 Assignment

The Contractor shall not assign any interest in the contract by assignment, transfer, or novation, without prior written consent of the Parish. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit the contractor from assigning his bank, trust company, or other financial institution any money due or to become due from approved contracts without such prior written consent. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the Parish.

5.33 No Guarantee of Quantities

The quantities referenced in the RFP are estimated to be the amount needed. In the event a greater or lesser quantity is needed, the right is reserved by the Parish to increase or decrease the amount, at the unit price stated in the proposal.

The Parish does not obligate itself to contract for or accept more than its actual requirements during the period of the contract, as determined by actual needs and availability of appropriated funds.

5.34 Audit of Records

The Parish Auditor, state auditors, federal auditors or others so designated by the Parish, shall have the option to audit all accounts directly pertaining to the resulting contract for a period of five (5) years after Project acceptance or as required by applicable State and Federal law. Records shall be made available during normal working hours for this purpose.

5.35 Civil Rights Compliance

The Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Opportunity Act of 1972, Federal Executive Order 11246, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Act of 1975, and Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Contractor agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices, and will render services under the contract and any contract without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, veteran status, political affiliation, or disabilities. Any act of discrimination committed by Contractor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable shall be grounds for termination of the contract.

5.36 Record Retention

The Contractor shall maintain all records in relation to the contract for a period of at least five (5) years after final payment.

5.37 Record Ownership

All records, reports, documents, or other material related to any contract resulting from this RFP and/or obtained or prepared by Contractor in connection with the performance of the services contracted for herein shall become the property of the Parish and shall, upon request, be returned by Contractor to the Parish, at Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of the contract.

5.38 Content of Contract/ Order of Precedence

In the event of an inconsistency between the contract, the RFP and/or the Contractor's Proposal, the inconsistency shall be resolved by giving precedence first to the final contract, then to the RFP and subsequent addenda (if any) and finally, the Contractor's Proposal.

5.39 Contract Changes

No additional changes, enhancements, or modifications to any contract resulting from this RFP shall be made without the prior approval of the Parish.

Changes to the contract include any change in: compensation; beginning/ ending date of the contract; scope of work; and/or Contractor change through the Assignment of Contract process. Any such changes, once approved, will result in the issuance of an amendment to the contract.

5.40 Substitution of Personnel

The Parish intends to include in any contract resulting from this RFP the following condition:

Substitution of Personnel: If, during the term of the contract, the Contractor or subcontractor cannot provide the personnel as proposed and requests a substitution, that substitution shall meet or exceed the requirements stated herein. A detailed resume of qualifications and justification is to be submitted to the Parish for approval prior to any personnel substitution. It shall be acknowledged by the Contractor that every reasonable attempt shall be made to assign the personnel listed in the Contractor's proposal.

5.41 Governing Law

All activities associated with this RFP process shall be interpreted under Louisiana Law. All proposals and contracts submitted are subject to provisions of the laws of the State of Louisiana and specifications listed in this RFP. Jurisdiction and venue for any suit filed in connection with this RFP process and contract shall be exclusive to the 22nd Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana.

5.42 Anti-Kickback Clause

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the mandate dictated by the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act which provides that each Contractor or subgrantee shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the completion of work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled.

5.43 Clean Air Act

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt Federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the EPA list of Violating Facilities.

5.44 Energy Policy and Conservation Act

The Contractor hereby recognizes the mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the State energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163).

5.45 Clean Water Act

The Contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 508 of the Clean Water Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt Federal contracts, grants or loans of facilities included on the EPA List of Violating Facilities.

5.46 Anti-Lobbying and Debarment Act

The Contractor will be expected to comply with Federal statutes required in the Anti-Lobbying Act and the Debarment Act.

Attachment "A"
RFP#
Bond Counsel & Related Services

Bond Counsel Fee Proposal Worksheet

(Fees are Subject to Negotiation)

	<u>Cost Per Bond</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
All Bond Commission Services* <i>(per \$1,000 of debt issued)</i>	\$ _____	\$ _____
Out-of-Pocket Expenses (itemized)* <i>(must provide a cap)</i>		\$ _____
Other Services (itemized)*		\$ _____
TOTAL*		\$ _____

* *Fees are subject to negotiation and the total will be used as the figure for evaluating the fee proposal*

The following items are subject to negotiation but will not be used to rank fee proposals:

Hourly rate to be charged for unrelated services*	\$
<hr/>	
Estimated fee for other required services (itemize) *	\$
<hr/>	

ATTACHMENT "B"

Omitted

ATTACHMENT "C"
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER

_____ ("Proposer") hereby acknowledges that it has received Request for Proposal No. _____ ("RFP"), issued by the St. Tammany Parish Government, and has been advised that same is not subject to the Louisiana Public Bid Law or the Louisiana Procurement Code. As such, Proposer understands and acknowledges that it has not been granted and otherwise possesses no right to protest, contest, debate or otherwise call in question the processes, procedures, methodology or results of the RFP or the selection of a Contractor in connection therewith.

To the extent that the Proposer may otherwise have any such rights, Proposer herein waives all such rights to protest, contest, debate or otherwise call in question the processes, procedures, methodology or results of the RFP or the selection of a Contractor in connection therewith and agrees it will not file claims of any type or manner, in a court of law or otherwise, in any way related to same.

SIGNED, this _____ day of _____, 202__.

WITNESSES:

Proposer

Printed Name: _____

By: _____
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Printed Name: _____

Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

STATE OF _____

PARISH/COUNTY OF _____

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary, on this _____ day of _____, 202__.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: _____



Attachment D

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS*

Professional Services Project: Bond Counsel & Related Services
RFP#: 21-13-3

*****IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ*****

Prior to submitting your quote or bid, it is recommended that you review these insurance requirements with your insurance broker/agent.

These requirements modify portions of the insurance language found in the General Conditions and/or Supplementary General Conditions; however, there is no intention to remove all sections pertaining to insurance requirements and limits set forth in the General Conditions and/or Supplementary General Conditions, only to amend and specify those items particular for this Project.

- A. The Provider shall secure and maintain at its expense such insurance that will protect it and St. Tammany Parish Government (the "Parish") from claims for bodily injury, death or property damage as well as from claims under the Workers' Compensation Acts that may arise from the performance of services under this agreement. All certificates of insurance shall be furnished to the Parish and provide thirty (30) days prior notice of cancellation to the Parish, in writing, on all of the required coverage.
- B. All policies shall provide for and certificates of insurance shall indicate the following:
1. Waiver of Subrogation: The Provider's insurers will have no right of recovery or subrogation against the Parish of St. Tammany, it being the intention of the parties that all insurance policy(ies) so affected shall protect both parties and be the primary coverage for any and all losses covered by the below described insurance.
 2. Additional Insured: St. Tammany Parish Government shall be named as Additional Insured with respect to general liability, automobile liability and excess liability coverages, as well as marine liability and pollution/environmental liability, when those coverages are required or necessary.
 3. Payment of Premiums: The insurance companies issuing the policy or policies will have no recourse against St. Tammany Parish Government for payment of any premiums or for assessments under any form of policy.
 4. Deductibles/Self-Insured Retentions: Any deductibles and/or self-insured retentions in the described insurance policies **must be declared on the Certificate of Insurance**, and are both assumed by and the sole risk of the Provider. The Parish will have the sole discretion to accept or reject deductibles and/or self-insured retentions exceeding \$100,000 as it deems appropriate. The Parish may require Provider to produce evidence of verifiable financial ability to satisfy its deductibles and/or self-insured retentions; however, the Parish assumes no liability or obligation resulting from its examination, acceptance, or rejection of information presented.
 5. Project Reference: The project(s) and location(s) shall be referenced in the Comment or Description of Operations section of the Certificate of Insurance (Project ##-###, or Bid # if applicable, Type of Work, Location).
- C. Coverage must be issued by insurance companies authorized to do business in the State of Louisiana. Companies must have an A.M. Best rating of no less than A-, Category VII. St. Tammany Parish Risk Management Department may waive this requirement only for Workers Compensation coverage at their discretion.

Provider shall secure and present proof of insurance on forms acceptable to St. Tammany Parish Government, Office of Risk Management no later than the time of submission of the Contract to the Parish. However, should any work performed under this Contract by or on behalf of Provider include exposures that are not covered by those insurance coverages, Provider is not relieved of its obligation to maintain appropriate levels and types of insurance necessary to protect itself, its agents and employees, its subcontractors, St. Tammany Parish Government (Owner), and all other interested third parties, from any and all claims for damage or injury in connection with the services performed or provided throughout the duration of this Project, as well as for any subsequent periods required under this Contract.

The insurance coverages checked (✓) below are those required for this Contract.



1. **Commercial General Liability*** insurance – **Occurrence Form** - with a Combined Single Limit for bodily injury and property damage of at least \$1,000,000 per Occurrence / \$2,000,000 General Aggregate and \$2,000,000 Products-Completed Operations. Contracts over \$1,000,000 may require higher limits. The insurance shall provide for and the certificate(s) of insurance shall indicate the following coverages:
- a) Premises - operations;
 - b) Broad form contractual liability;
 - c) Products and completed operations;
 - d) Personal/Advertising Injury.



2. **Business Automobile Liability*** insurance with a Combined Single Limit of \$1,000,000 per Occurrence for bodily injury and property damage, and shall include coverage for the following:
- a) Any auto;
- or**
- b) Owned autos; **and**
 - c) Hired autos; **and**
 - d) Non-owned autos.
- (If no owned vehicles, hired and non-owned may be acceptable, subject to the review and approval of St. Tammany Parish, Office of Risk Management.)



3. **Workers' Compensation/Employers Liability insurance*** - Workers' Compensation coverage as required by State law. Employers' liability limits shall be a minimum of \$500,000 each accident, \$500,000 each disease, \$500,000 disease policy aggregate. When water activities are expected to be performed in connection with this project, limits shall be a minimum of \$1,000,000 each accident, \$1,000,000 each disease, \$1,000,000 disease policy aggregate and coverage under the USL&H Act, Jones Act and/or Maritime Employers Liability (MEL) must be included. **Coverage for owners, officers and/or partners in any way engaged in the Project shall be included in the policy.** The names of any excluded individual must be shown in the Description of Operations/Comments section of the Certificate.



4. **Pollution Liability and Environmental Liability*** insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence / \$2,000,000 aggregate including full contractual liability and third party claims for bodily injury and/or property damage, for all such hazardous waste, pollutants and/or environmental exposures that may be affected by this project stemming from pollution/environmental incidents as a result of Contractor's operations.

If coverage is provided on a claims-made basis, the following conditions apply:

- 1) the retroactive date must be prior to or coinciding with the effective date of the Contract, or prior to the commencement of any services provided by the Contractor on behalf of the Parish, whichever is earlier; AND
- 2) continuous coverage must be provided to the Parish with the same retro date for 24 months following acceptance or termination of the Project by the Parish either by
 - a) continued renewal certificates **OR**
 - b) a 24 month Extended Reporting Period

*The Certificate must indicate whether the policy is written on an occurrence or claims-made basis and, if claims-made, the applicable retro date must be stated.



5. **Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions*** insurance in the sum of at least \$1,000,000 per claim / \$2,000,000 aggregate is required when work performed by Contractor or on behalf of Contractor includes professional or technical services including, but not limited to, construction administration and/or management, engineering services such as design, surveying, and/or inspection, technical services such as testing and laboratory analysis, and/or environmental assessments. An occurrence basis policy is preferred.

If coverage is provided on a claims-made basis, the following conditions apply:

- 1) the retroactive date must be prior to or coinciding with the effective date of the Contract, or prior to the commencement of any services provided by the Contractor on behalf of the Parish, whichever is earlier; AND
- 2) continuous coverage must be provided to the Parish with the same retro date for 24 months following acceptance or termination of the Project by the Parish either by
 - a) continued renewal certificates **OR**
 - b) a 24 month Extended Reporting Period

*The Certificate must indicate whether the policy is written on an occurrence or claims-made basis and, if claims-made, the applicable retro date must be stated.



6. **Marine Liability/Protection and Indemnity*** insurance is required for any and all vessel and/or marine operations in the minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence / \$2,000,000 per project general aggregate. The coverage shall include, but is not limited to, the basic coverages found in the Commercial General Liability insurance and coverage for third party liability

***Excess/Umbrella Liability** insurance may be provided to meet the limit requirements for any Liability coverage. For example: if the General Liability requirement is \$3,000,000 per occurrence, but the policy is only \$1,000,000 per occurrence, then the excess policy should be at least \$2,000,000 per occurrence thereby providing a combined per occurrence limit of \$3,000,000.)

- D. All policies of insurance shall meet the requirements of the Parish prior to the commencing of any work. The Parish has the right, but not the duty, to approve all insurance coverages prior to commencement of work. If any of the required policies are or become unsatisfactory to the Parish as to form or substance; or if a company issuing any policy is or becomes unsatisfactory to the Parish, the Provider shall promptly obtain a new policy, timely submit same to the Parish for approval, and submit a certificate thereof as provided above. The Parish agrees not to unreasonably withhold approval of any insurance carrier selected by Provider. In the event that Parish cannot agree or otherwise authorize a carrier, Provider shall have the option of selecting and submitting a new insurance carrier within 30 days of said notice by the Parish. In the event that the second submission is insufficient or is not approved, then the Parish shall have the unilateral opportunity to thereafter select a responsive and responsible insurance carrier all at the cost of Provider and thereafter deduct from Provider's fee the cost of such insurance.
- E. Provider shall maintain a current copy of all annual insurance policies and agrees to provide a certificate of insurance to the Parish on an annual basis or as may be reasonably requested for the term of the contract or any required Extended Reporting Period. Provider further shall ensure that all insurance policies are maintained in full force and effect throughout the duration of the Project and shall provide the Parish with annual renewal certificates of insurance evidencing continued coverage, without any prompting by the Parish.
- F. Provider shall maintain a current copy of all annual insurance policies and agrees to provide same to the Parish on an annual basis or as may be reasonably requested. Provider further shall ensure that all insurance policies are maintained in full force and effect throughout the duration of the Project and shall provide the Parish with annual renewal certificates of insurance evidencing continued coverage, without any prompting by the Parish.

- G. It shall be the responsibility of Provider to require that these insurance requirements are met by all contractors and sub-contractors performing work for and on behalf of Provider. Provider shall further ensure the Parish is named as an additional insured on all insurance policies provided by said contractor and/or sub-contractor throughout the duration of the project.
- H. Certificates of Insurance shall be issued as follows:

**St. Tammany Parish Government
Attn: Risk Management
P O Box 628
Covington, LA 70434**

To avoid contract processing delays, be certain the project name/number is included on all correspondence including Certificates of Insurance.

***NOTICE: St. Tammany Parish Government reserves the rights to remove, replace, make additions to and/or modify any and all of the insurance requirements at any time.**

Any inquiry regarding these insurance requirements should be addressed to:

**St. Tammany Parish Government
Office of Risk Management
P O Box 628
Covington, LA 70434
Telephone: 985-898-5226
Email: riskman@stpgov.org**

Attachment E

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

_____ (Contractor) agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless St. Tammany Parish Government, its elected and appointed officials, departments, agencies, boards and commissions, its officers, agents servants, employees, including volunteers, from and against any and all claims, demands, expense and liability arising out of injury or death to any person or the damage, loss or destruction of any property to the extent caused by any act or omission of Contractor, its agents, servants, employees, and subcontractors, or any and all costs, expense and/or attorney fees incurred as a result of any claim, demands, and/or causes of action that results under the performance or non-performance of this contract.

_____ (Contractor) agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for and defend any such claims, demand, or suit, as described in the paragraph above, at its sole expense and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if it (claims, etc.) is groundless, false or fraudulent.

SIGNED, this ____ day of _____, 20__

WITNESSES:

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

STATE OF _____

PARISH/COUNTY OF _____

SWORN TO and subscribed before me, Notary, on this ____ day of _____, 20__.

(Name of Contractor)

BY: _____

(Signature of Authorized Officer)

Print Name: : _____

Title: _____

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: _____

Please complete the following:

Claims contact for this project will be:

(Print name and title of Contact Person)

Address

Email address

Telephone#

Cell #

Fax #

Attachment F

**AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO LA R.S. 38:2224 AND ETHICS PROVISIONS
FOR PROFESSIONAL & ESSENTIAL SERVICE CONTRACTS**

STATE OF _____

PARISH/COUNTY OF _____

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, in and for the above stated State and Parish (or County), personally came and appeared:

Print Name

who, after first being duly sworn, did depose and state:

1. That affiant is appearing on behalf of _____, who is seeking a Professional or Essential Service Contract with St. Tammany Parish Government.
2. That affiant employed no person, corporation, firm, association, or other organization, either directly or indirectly, to secure the public contract under which he received payment, other than persons regularly employed by the affiant whose services in connection with the construction, alteration or demolition of the public building or project or in securing the public contract were in the regular course of their duties for affiant; and

3. That no part of the contract price received by affiant was paid or will be paid to any person, corporation, firm, association, or other organization for soliciting the contract, other than the payment of their normal compensation to persons regularly employed by the affiant whose services in connection with the construction, alteration or demolition of the public building or project were in the regular course of their duties for affiant.

4. If affiant is a sole proprietor, that neither affiant, nor his/her immediate family is a public servant of St. Tammany Parish Government or the Contract is not under the supervision or jurisdiction of the public servant's agency.

5. If affiant is executing this affidavit on behalf of a juridical entity such as a partnership, corporation, or LLC, etc., that no public servant of St. Tammany Parish Government, or his/her immediate family, either individually or collectively, has more than a 25% ownership interest in the entity seeking the Contract with St. Tammany Parish Government if the Contract will be under the supervision or jurisdiction of the public servant's agency.

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Entity name: _____

THUS SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,
THIS _____, DAY OF _____, 202__.

Notary Public

Print Name: _____

Notary I.D./Bar No.: _____

My commission expires: _____

**AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO LA R.S. 38:2212.10 CONFIRMING
REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION IN A STATUS VERIFICATION
SYSTEM**

STATE OF _____

PARISH/COUNTY OF _____

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, in and for the above stated State and Parish (or County), personally came and appeared:

Print Name

who, after first being duly sworn, did depose and state:

1. That affiant is appearing on behalf of _____, a private employer seeking a bid or a contract with St. Tammany Parish Government for the physical performance of services within the State of Louisiana.
2. That affiant is registered and participates in a status verification system to verify that all employees in the state of Louisiana are legal citizens of the United States or are legal aliens; and
3. That affiant shall continue, during the term of the contract, to utilize a status verification system to verify the legal status of all new employees in the state of Louisiana.
4. That affiant shall require all subcontractors to submit to the affiant a sworn affidavit verifying compliance with this law.

Printed Name: _____
Title: _____
Name of Entity: _____

**THUS SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,
THIS _____, DAY OF _____, 202__.**

Notary Public

**Attachment G
Sample Scoring Matrix
RFP # 21-13-3
Bond Counsel & Related Services**

Vendor/Business Name _____

Evaluator's Name _____

CRITERIA	POSSIBLE POINTS	ASSIGNED POINTS	COMMENTS
Compliance with the RFP, proposal quality & completeness	10 pts		
Understanding of the Project & Project Timeline/Schedule	10 pts		
Approach to the Project	30 pts		
Qualifications of the Proposer, including, but not limited to, its experience and personnel assigned to the projects	40 pts		
Overall costs and fees to be charged	5 pts		
Proposal references (must be "letter(s) of reference")	5 pts		

Vendor Total **100pts**

Signature of Evaluator: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT "H"

This Form must be submitted with Proposal

RULE NO. 1993-A

Adopted March 20, 1994

DISCLOSURE OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS FOR NEGOTIATED TRANSACTIONS

WHEREAS, the duties of the Louisiana State Bond Commission ("the Commission") require that it choose financial professionals (including, without limitations, firms of underwriters, financial advisers and bond attorneys) in connection with certain bond issues and the Commission predicates such choices upon the competing firms' experience, qualifications and performance, in order that a broad spectrum of firms including minority and women-owned and regional firms are given an opportunity to actively and fully participate in such financings; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission's duties also require that it approve applications from local governmental entities to issue bonds and such applications include information on the financial professionals involved in handling the issues;

NOW THEREFORE, in order to insure the integrity of the structure of the financing team which the Commission is charged with the responsibility of choosing and/or approving for handling bond issues, the Commission hereby adopts the following rule regarding agreements by and between financial professionals as to the sale of such bonds:

1. Terms and/ or existence of all joint accounts and/or any other fee-splitting arrangements by and between financial professionals must be disclosed and approved by the Commission.
2. For bond issues for which the Commission is charged with the responsibility to choose the financial professionals, the following will apply;
 - a. Firms under considerations for selection by the Commission must file a disclosure statement to be submitted as part of their proposal (whether such proposal is solicited or unsolicited), listing any and all agreements by and between themselves and any other financial professionals which relate to the bond issue.
 - b. Financial professionals include, in any proposal submitted to the Commission, the name or names of any person or firm, including attorneys lobbyist and public relations professionals engaged to promote the selection of the particular financial entity.
 - c. Joint proposals from financial professionals will be allowed only if the Commission's solicitation for offers requests and/or permits joint proposals. The Commission reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to decide on an issue –by-issue basis whether joint proposals will be permitted.
 - d. All financial professionals submitting joint proposals and/or intending to enter into accounts or any fee-splitting arrangements in connection with a bond issue must fully disclose and have approved by the Commission any plan or arrangement to share tasks, responsibilities, and fees earned, and disclose the financing professionals with whom this sharing is proposed, and my changes thereto which may occur.

- e. The Agreement among Underwriters will govern all transactions during the underwriting period and such agreement must be disclosed and filed with the Commission.
 - f. No later than forty-five (45) days following the bond sale, all participating underwriters must file with the Commission in notarized affidavit form individual post-sale reports, which include a full accounting for all bonds sold and all commissions earned, and any other compensations paid or earned in connection with such sale
3. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of Section 1 or 2 of this rule may result in a firm's immediate dismissal, disqualification from later issues, or other penalties as may be provided by law or the rules, policies and procedures of the Commission as the Commission in its sole discretion may deem appropriate.
 4. For those bond issues which the Commission must approve but which the Commission is not responsible for the choice of the financial professionals, the following will apply:
 - a. The details of any arrangements for compensation of all the financial professionals in the transaction (including any joint accounts or fee-splitting agreements) and the method used to calculate the fees to be earned must be provided to the Commission in the written application. The Commission's receipt of this information is a prerequisite for being placed on the agenda.
 - b. At closing, this information must be certified in notarized affidavit form by the financial professional to be correct and filed with State Bond Commission within five (5) days thereof. This information will form a part of the public record of th

I understand and acknowledge the requirements of Rule 1993-A and the related

disclosure requirements therein. I affirm _____
Print Name of Firm

agrees to comply with all requirements of Rule 1993-A as it pertains to the services

under this Request for Proposals.

Signature: _____

Printed Name & Title: _____

Date: _____