



Purchasing

18 North County Street – 9th Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4355
Phone 847 377-2992

DATE: April 11, 2023

TO: Gary Gibson, County Administrator

FROM: RuthAnne K. Hall, Purchasing Agent

RE: Exception Request for Responsible Bidder's Ordinance

Purchasing issued Bid #23033 for the Regional Operations & Communications Facility (ROC) – Radio Tower Construction. The bid was issued on February 8, 2023, and 38 firms downloaded the document. The bid opened on March 9, 2023, with one firm, Allstate Tower, Inc., submitting a bid in the amount of \$291,188.

Staff thoroughly reviewed the bid response by Allstate Tower, Inc., including reference checks and validation of apprenticeship certificates in accordance with the Responsible Bidder's Ordinance. It was at that time, that staff determined that Allstate Tower, Inc. did not participate in an active apprenticeship and training program approved and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office. Staff requested that Allstate Tower submit a revised Responsible Bidder's Affidavit and request for an exception from the Responsible Bidder's Ordinance.

The Responsible Bidder Ordinance Policy, dated February 20, 2020, allows for exceptions under Section 4.2.

Section 4.2 Exceptions Granted for Responsible Bidder Ordinance

b. All other vendors requesting an exception will be required to submit their request in writing. The Purchasing Agent will submit a finding to the County Administrator's Office that:

- i. the vendor has submitted a request for exception; and
- ii. Purchasing staff has validated that all other potential vendors are unable to comply in full with the Responsible Bidder's Ordinance; and
- iii. the vendor in question has been determined to be the apparent low bidder and meets all of the other specifications for the public works construction project; and
- iv. the award will be in the best interest of the County.

c. Recommendation of award of contract with noted vendor exception will be included on the agenda for consideration of the appropriate standing committee of the Lake County Board.

It is the determination of the Purchasing Agent that Allstate Tower, Inc. is the only bidder, has been determined to be the low bidder, fully meets all specifications in the bid document and can successfully provide the services to Lake County. There are no other bidders to be considered at this time. The award will be in the best interest of the County. Furthermore, staff has requested all training documentation from Allstate Tower, Inc., which included the following:

- Allstate Tower Inc., Safety & Health Program Index – 451 page document that identify safety policy training for new and current employees and safe operating procedures and policy requirements.
- Allstate Tower ComTrain Requirements – Documentation of training required for authorized climber and competent climber/rescuer.
- ComTrain Competent Climber/Rescuer – Tower Day – Safety checklist to be completed by all climbers.
- Allstate Tower Training Program – Document establishing required training for employees in accordance with OSHA standards.
- Fall Protection Training – Documentation of training required by all employees for fall hazards and protection.
- American Institute of Steel Construction Certificate Program for Building Fabricator.