



Request for Proposals No. 2024-028
**Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and
Disposal Services**

Due Date: December 15, 2023
Time: 11:00 AM EST
Receipt Location: Union County Government Center
Procurement Department
500 N. Main Street, Suite 709
Monroe, NC 28112
(Note: Follow the submittal instructions listed in this document to electronically upload a proposal package)

Procurement Contact:

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1 NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT

**Union County, North Carolina
Request for Proposals No. 2024-028
Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Services**

Electronic proposals will be received by the Union County's Procurement Department at the Union County Government Center, 500 North Main Street, Monroe, NC 28112 until **11:00 AM EST on December 15, 2023**. Late submittals will not be accepted.

Union County, North Carolina, through the Union County Solid Waste Division, is soliciting proposals from experienced and qualified firms to provide Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Services.

Copies of the solicitation may be obtained from the locations listed below:

1. Download the Proposal Documents from the Union County website:
<https://www.unioncountync.gov/departments/bids-procurement/current-bids>
2. Download the Solicitation Documents from the State of North Carolina Electronic Vendor Portal:
<https://evp.nc.gov> (Search County of Union – Filter Solicitation Status Open).

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Proposal Documents are to be submitted in writing to the Procurement contact person listed on the cover page (michael.high@unioncountync.gov). Deadline for questions is on **November 10, 2023 at 2:00 PM EST**.

Union County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities and to make such selection deemed in its best interest.

Union County reserves the right to award to multiple vendors.

Offerors are required to comply with the non-collusion requirements set forth in the Solicitation Documents.

Union County encourages good faith effort outreach to Minority Businesses (HUB Certified) and Small Businesses.

2 SUBMITTAL DETAILS

2.1 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND DELIVERY ADDRESS

All Proposal Submittals are to be received by the Union County Procurement Department no later than **11:00 AM EST on December 15, 2023** per the instructions below. Any submittals received after this date and time shall be rejected without exception.

2.2 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The proposal must be submitted electronically using the following link: <https://lfportal.unioncountync.gov/Forms/procurementsubmit>. Select the Solicitation drop down arrow and choose this RFP from the list. Complete the form, upload your proposal, and select submit. An email will be sent to the address listed on the form as your confirmation of receipt.

The proposal package **must be signed** by a person who is authorized to bind the proposing Company. Instructions for preparing the proposal are provided herein.

Paper submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions e-mailed directly to the Procurement Contact will not be accepted.

There is no expressed or implied obligation for Union County to reimburse Offerors for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request.

Union County reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities and to make such selection deemed in its best interest;
- Cancel this solicitation; and
- Award to multiple vendors.

2.3 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE AND SITE VISIT

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **November 7, 2023, at 10:00 AM** at the following location. A Union County Solid Waste staff representative and Union County Procurement representative will be present to give a brief overview of the project and give access to the Union County Solid Waste Management Facility.

Union County MSW Transfer Station
2125 Austin Chaney Road
Wingate, NC 28174

2.4 PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

Proposal questions will be due on or before **November 10, 2023 at 2:00 PM EST**. The primary purpose is to provide participating Offerors with the opportunity to ask questions, in writing, related to the RFP.

Submit questions in a Word Document or in the body of an email and send to Michael High Michael.high@unioncountync.gov by the deadline shown above. Questions sent in

graph or Excel sheet format will not be accepted. **The email subject line should identify the proposal number and project title.** All questions and answers may be posted as addenda on www.unioncountync.gov and/or <https://evp.nc.gov>

2.5 PROPOSAL ADDENDUM

Union County may modify the RFP prior to the date fixed for submission of proposals by the issuance of an addendum.

Should an Offeror find discrepancies or omissions in this RFP or any other documents provided by Union County, the Offeror should immediately notify the County of such potential discrepancy in writing via email as noted above.

Any addenda to these documents shall be issued in writing. No oral statements, explanations, or commitments by anyone shall be of effect unless incorporated in the written addenda. Receipt of Addenda shall be acknowledged by the Offeror on Appendix C – Addendum and Anti-Collusion form.

2.6 COMMUNICATION

All communications, any modifications, clarifications, amendments, questions, responses or any other matters related to this Request for Proposals must be made only through the Procurement Contact noted on the cover of this RFP. A violation of this provision is cause for the County to reject a Company's proposal. No contact regarding this document with other County employees is permitted and may be grounds for disqualification.

3 PURPOSE

3.1 COUNTY

The County (estimated population 239,859) is located in the central, southern piedmont. The County provides its citizens with a full array of services that include public safety, water/wastewater utilities and sanitation, human services, cultural and recreational activities, and general government administration.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

Union County (hereafter the "County"), through Union County Solid Waste Department, is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors for the transportation and disposal of municipal solid waste.

4 SCOPE OF SERVICES

4.1 SCOPE OF WORK SUMMARY

Successful Offeror shall be responsible for the transportation and disposal of Acceptable Waste from the Union County MSW Transfer Station (2125 Austin Chaney Road, Wingate NC, 28174) to the Disposal Site and for the management, storage, treatment, utilization, processing and final disposal of all Acceptable Waste received at the Disposal Site. Offeror shall also be responsible for the compliance with state and federal requirements to fund and implement closure and post closure maintenance of the Disposal Site until

such time as final closure and post closure of the Disposal Site is certified complete by the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) or other successor regulatory agency with jurisdiction. In performing these requested functions, the successful Offeror shall provide sufficient personnel, equipment and utilities for operation of the Disposal Site and for closure and post-closure maintenance in accordance with state and federal law.

Union County makes no warranties as to minimum, maximum or average amounts of MSW to be transported and disposed of as a result of this Request and/or a subsequent agreement. Solid waste to be transported will include only municipal solid waste. Union County will continue to provide disposal services for construction and demolition debris, white goods, tires, and land clearing debris.

The Offeror shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, supervision and insurance necessary to provide professional material hauling and disposal services. **The Offeror shall have available at all times sufficient transfer vehicles, trailers and adequately trained drivers to transport MSW collected by Union County on a daily basis.** Peak loads, holidays and other foreseeable circumstances will not relieve the successful Offeror from this obligation. Offeror may provide hauling services through subcontractors entered into by successful Offeror.

4.2 TRACTOR TRAILER / TRANSPORT VEHICLES

In addition to the successful Offeror providing all labor, materials, equipment, supervision and insurance necessary to provide professional and businesslike hauling services the Offeror also shall provide an adequate number of collection tractor trailers including spares to serve as back-up.

The County requires that the successful Offeror provide enough transport vehicles, trailers and manpower to provide Continuous Transport Services that will prevent waste from being stockpiled at the Union County Transfer Station. The Offeror shall have available at all times an adequate number of transfer trailers to remain at the Union County MSW Transfer Station to facilitate waste flows in compliance with NCDEQ requirements and to allow the County to be able to remove all MSW from the tipping floor by the end of operations each day.

All trailers shall be open top and fully comply with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) hauling requirements regarding top mounted tarped vehicles. The County requires that the successful Offeror provide an adequate tarping system capable of preventing the escape of litter during hauling.

The successful Offeror will be required to tarp each load prior to hauling. All hauling equipment shall meet all State of NC road safety requirements and they shall be in good reliable working condition.

All trailers shall be of proper size to park in the loading area of the Transfer Station. Any accident or incident involving the Offeror's or subcontractor's trucks shall be the

responsibility of the Offeror to resolve or correct. This includes traveling to or from the worksite, the worksite area or other areas that the trucks need to access for work. The successful Offeror shall hold Union County and its agents harmless for any claims related to traffic accidents, incidents, or damage involving said trucks.

The County will provide a staging area at the facility for trailers; therefore, the drivers should not park trailers in locations that interfere with the daily operations of the Transfer Station.

4.3 DRIVERS / EMPLOYEES

All drivers must have a current, valid NC driver's license must be adequately trained to operate to a tractor trailer. The County reserves the right to discontinue the use of any driver for failure to perform in a satisfactory manner.

Union County reserves the right to reject the Offeror's personnel who, in the County's judgment, are not adequately qualified to perform the work or for just cause (lack of courtesy, profanity, repeated lack of compliance with operating procedures, unsafe operation). The Offeror shall make arrangements for a replacement within twenty-four (24) hours.

The Offeror's employees shall consistently show the highest levels of customer service and courtesy. The Offeror's employees shall display professional attitudes and behavior, and be dressed in clean uniforms at all times. The Offeror shall maintain the highest level of communications with designated County representatives in all aspects of the operation.

4.4 HAULING SCHEDULE

The Offeror shall be prepared to completely haul all MSW collected daily during the County's hours of operation without regard to weather or other circumstances. The County's normal operating hours for the transfer station are Monday through Friday from 6:00am until 4:00pm and Saturday from 8:00am until 12:00pm except during Union County Division of Solid Waste designated holidays.

4.5 REMOVAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

The Offeror shall have available an adequate number of transfer vehicles and trailers to remain at the Transfer Station Facility to facilitate waste flows in compliance with all NCDEQ requirements and to allow the County to be able to remove all MSW from the tipping floor and load into the transfer trailers before the end of operations each day.

All collected MSW at the Union County landfill will be loaded into the Offeror's transfer trailers by Union County personnel. Each Offeror must be able to provide adequate trailers and equipment to ensure compatibility with the County's equipment and facilities.

The Offeror shall assume ownership of and liability for MSW at the time that it is loaded onto trailers. The Offeror is solely responsible to ensure that all vehicles and equipment are at all times in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and requirements.

If the Offeror cannot provide the necessary services as stated and agreed upon, the Offeror shall be solely responsible and liable for any and all expenses incurred by the County as a result of the Offeror's inability to perform to include an additional penalty of \$1000.00 per day.

4.6 TRANSPORT AND TIPPING FEES

For all acceptable Waste that is covered by this Agreement, the contractor shall be paid a transportation and disposal fee per ton equal to the amount in Appendix A – Price Form or other agreed upon price. The Transport and Tipping Fee is inclusive of all Pass-Through charges, other than the current state disposal tax, and such Pass-Through Charges are the responsibility of the Contractor. Tons per load shall be determined by utilizing Union County’s scale house (the “Scale House”), which is adjacent to the Transfer Site. Contractor shall weigh each empty trailer at the Scale House prior to Union County loading such trailer. Each trailer will then be weighed again at the Scale house immediately after loading. The tons per load net weight of Acceptable Waste will be determined using the dual weight measurements and will be the basis for payment. The County shall be required, in accordance with North Carolina law and acceptable industry practices, to have the scales at the Scale House periodically tested, calibrated and certified by the Measurement Section of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Customer Services. Union County will be responsible for all costs and expenses associated with such testing, calibration and certification.

4.7 TRANSPORTATION AND TIPPING FEE ADJUSTMENTS

The Transportation and Tipping Fee for the Initial Term shall be based upon the response to this solicitation. Price adjustments may be negotiated with the selected vendor annually and shall be adjusted on an annual basis as of July 1st of each year beginning on July 1, 2025 and continuing on each July 1st annually thereafter during the term of this Agreement.

The Transportation and Tipping Fee shall be adjusted by The Price Adjustment Factor, as defined below, times the initial contract amount.

The Price Adjustment Factor (PAF) for each successive year shall the number determined as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 0.55 times | The Consumer Price Index for January of the current year divided by the Consumer Price Index for January 2024; |
| Plus 0.2 times | The Motor Vehicle Parts Index for January of the current year divided by the Motor Vehicle Parts Index for January 2024; |
| Plus 0.25 times | The Fuel Index for January of the current year divided by the Fuel Index for January 2024; |

Where:

- The Consumer Price Index is the “Consumer Price Index (CPI)- Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers – South Region All Items 1982 – 1984 = 100

(CWUR0300SAO) as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. The CPI may be found at:

http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CWUR0300SA0?data_tool=Xqtable

- The Motor Vehicle Parts Index (MVPI) is the “Producer Price Index Commodity Data for Motor Vehicle Parts (WPU1412) as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The MVPI may be found at:
http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/WPU1412?include_graphs=false&output_type=column&years_option=all_years
- The Fuel Index (FI) is the “Producer Price Index Commodity Data for #2 Diesel Fuel (WPU057303) as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The FI may be found at:
http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/WPU057303?data_tool=Xqtable

Example – Using January 2022 and January 2023 Indexes.

Index	Jan 2022	Jan 2023
CPI	268.146	285.907
MVPI	135.717	140.143
FI	365.449	449.169

$PAF = .55 (285.907 / 268.146) + .20 (140.143 / 135.717) + .25 (449.169 / 365.449)$

PAF = 1.10

Adjusted Price = Initial Price * 1.10

The winning company will send the designated price increase request to the Solid Waste Director or his designee at least 90 days prior to the July 1 date.

4.8 CHANGES IN PASS-THROUGH CHARGES

In the event the current rate of a Pass-Through Charge is changed after the Effective Date, the parties shall negotiate the Transport and Tipping Fee in good faith.

4.9 FINES AND PENALTIES

The Contractor shall be liable for any fines or other penalties assessed to Union County by any government agency, which fines or penalties result from Contractor's failure to comply with Applicable Law or to comply with duties imposed on Contractor pursuant to this Agreement, including by way of example, not limitation, Contractor's duty to make available adequate equipment or supply an adequate number of transport vehicles for timely loading such that the tipping floor is clean at the end of each day.

4.10 SAFETY

The Offeror shall provide all employees with necessary personal protective equipment such as industry specific clothing, head, respiratory, eye, hand and foot protection.

4.11 DAMAGE TO COUNTY PROPERTY

The Offeror shall be responsible to repair and/or replace any County property that is damaged in the course of providing service under this Request at no additional expense to the County. Claims are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the Offeror will only be responsible for damage for which the Offeror is legally liable for.

Any maintenance activity performed onsite by the Offeror to their equipment must be done in the areas approved by the Landfill Supervisor and shall be left in clean condition upon completion.

4.12 DUE DILIGENCE

The County reserves the right to make site visits to the successful Offeror's operation facilities prior to and after award. Site visit might include (but not be limited to): a walkthrough of warehouse and storage facilities: inspection and review of delivery fleet capabilities. Union County may make such reasonable investigations as deemed appropriate and necessary to determine the ability of the Offeror to provide the services, permits, facilities, equipment and expertise to perform as requested, and Offeror shall furnish the County all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. The County reserves the right to inspect transportation equipment and/or the disposal facility prior to selecting a Offeror.

5 DETAILED SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 TERMS OF SUBMISSION

All material received from a person or company ("Offeror") in response to this solicitation shall become the property of Union County and will not be returned to the Offeror. Any and all costs incurred by an Offeror in preparing, submitting, or presenting submissions are the Offeror's sole responsibility and Union County shall not reimburse the Offeror. All responses to this solicitation will be considered a public record and subject to disclosure under applicable public records law.

Any material in a response which the Offeror considers a trade secret and exempt from disclosure as a public record under applicable law, including N.C.G.S. §§ 132-1.2 and 66-152, must be properly designated as a trade secret. In order to properly designate such material, the Offeror must: (i) submit any trade secret materials in a separate envelope, or file, from all other submitted material, being clearly marked as "Trade Secret – Confidential and Proprietary Information," and (ii) stamp the same trade secret/confidentiality designation on each page of the materials therein which contain trade secrets.

To the extent consistent with public records law, Union County will make reasonable efforts to maintain the confidential nature of trade secrets, as determined by Union County and subject to the conditions set forth herein. Offeror understands and agrees by submitting a response to this solicitation, that if a request is made to review or produce a copy of any information in the Offeror materials which was properly labeled by the Offeror as a trade secret, Union County will notify the Offeror of the request and the date that such

materials will be released to the requestor unless the Offeror obtains a court order enjoining that disclosure. If the Offeror fails to obtain the court order enjoining disclosure prior to that date, Offeror understands and agrees that Union County will release the requested information to the requestor on that date.

Furthermore, the Offeror also agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Union County and each of its officers, employees, and agents from all costs, damages, and expenses incurred in connection with refusing to disclose any material that has been designated as a trade secret by Offeror.

5.2 DUPLICATE PROPOSALS

No more than one (1) proposal from any Offeror will be considered by the County. In the event multiple proposals are submitted in violation of this provision, the County will have the right to determine which proposal will be considered, or at its sole option, reject all such multiple proposals.

5.3 PROPOSAL FORMAT

The County desires all responses to be identical in format in order to facilitate comparison. While the County's format may represent a departure from the vendor's preference, the County requests adherence to the format. All responses are to be in the format described below.

Offerors should prepare their proposals in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. Each Offeror is required to submit the proposal electronically – Refer to page 4, item 2.2. Each section should be identified as described below. Proposals should be prepared as simply as possible and provide a straightforward, concise description of the proposer's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP.

The County may award a contract based on initial offers received without discussion of such offers. A proposer's initial offer should, therefore, be based on the most favorable terms available. The County reserves the right to contact proposers regarding cost and scope clarification at any time throughout the selection process.

The successful Offeror's proposal must include all responses to the requirements contained within this RFP and all appendices (if applicable) must be completed in their entirety.

By submitting a proposal, the successful Offeror's Offeror agrees to all applicable provisions, terms and conditions associated with this RFP. This solicitation, the successful Offeror's submitted proposal, all appendices and attachments (if applicable), and stated terms and conditions may become part of the resulting contract.

Utmost attention should be given to accuracy, completeness, and clarity of content. All parts, pages, figures, or tables should be numbered and clearly labeled. Response information should be limited to pertinent information only. Marketing and sales type information is not to be included.

Omissions and incomplete answers may be deemed unresponsive. Please initial any corrections.

The proposal should be organized and identified by section as follows:

- **Section A** – Cover Letter
- **Section B** – Company Background and Experience
- **Section C** – Project Team
- **Section D** – Methodology and Implementation Plan
- **Section E** – Landfill Certifications
- **Section F** - References
- **Section G** – Proposed Pricing
 - Appendix A – Price Form (completed); submit with proposal
- **Section H** – Required Forms
 - Appendix B – Proposal Submission (signed)
 - Appendix C - Addenda Receipt and Anti-Collusion (signed)

5.3.1 SECTION A – COVER LETTER

Provide the following information about your company. Respond to each item and provide supporting documentation and/or exhibits as requested or desired.

1. Legal Company Name and DBA (if applicable)
Address
Telephone Number
Website Address
Name of Single Point of Contact
Title
Telephone Number
Email Address
2. Name of Person with Binding Authority
Title
Address
Telephone Number
Email Address
3. Stipulate that the proposal price will be valid for a period of 180 days.
4. Make the following representations and warranty in the cover letter, the falsity of which might result in rejection of its proposal: “The information contained in this proposal or any part thereof, including any exhibits, schedules, and other documents and instruments delivered or to be delivered to the County, is true, accurate, and complete. This proposal includes all information necessary to ensure that the statements therein do not in whole or in part mislead the County as to any material facts.”

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5.3.2 SECTION B – COMPANY BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

This section provides each vendor with the opportunity of demonstrating how its history, organization, and partnerships differentiate it from other entities. Careful attention should be paid to providing information relevant to Union County needs.

Provide a concise profile of the Proposer’s organization to include the following:

- Corporate history, and number of years in business under the current organizational name, structure and services offered.
- Assets available to meet County service requirements.
- Is the Offeror’s organization involved in any pending litigation that may affect its ability to provide its products and services?

5.3.3 SECTION C – PROJECT TEAM

Describe the professional staff to be associated with this project. Upon award and during the contract period, if the contractor chooses to assign different personnel to the project, the Contractor must submit their names and qualifications including information listed above to the County for approval before they begin work. At a minimum, this section should include the following information for each key person identified by the company:

- Name and title
- Project responsibilities and roles
- Involvement levels & durations
- Years of relevant experience
- Length of service with the company

5.3.4 SECTION D - METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Provide a description of the approach and methodology to be used to accomplish the Scope of Work of this RFP. The Methodology Section should include:

- An implementation plan that describes the methods, including controls, by which your firm manages projects of the type.
- Project management, implementation strategies or techniques that the Offeror intends to use in carrying out the work.
- Brief description of efforts your firm will undertake to achieve client satisfaction and to satisfy the requirements of this solicitation.
- Brief description of specific tasks you will require from County staff. Explain what the respective roles of County staff and your staff would be to complete the tasks specified.

5.3.5 SECTION E – LANDFILL CERTIFICATIONS

- Provide Certifications for the landfill the Offeror will utilize.
- Include a copy of current NCDEQ MSW facility permit.

5.3.6 SECTION F – REFERENCES

- Provide, at a minimum, three (3) comparable clients with whom your firm has an established relationship similar to the Scope of Work outlined in this RFP and include the following:
 - Company Name
 - Contact Name and Title
 - Address
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Project name
 - Length of Relationship

5.3.7 SECTION G – PRICE FORM

Complete Appendix A – Price Form, and submit with proposal.

5.3.8 SECTION H – REQUIRED FORMS

Offerors must include signed copies of the following documents:

- Appendix B – Proposal Submission (signed)
- Appendix C – Addenda Receipt and Anti-Collusion (signed)

6 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS

6.1 SELECTION PARTICIPANTS

1. Maintaining the integrity of the RFP process is of paramount importance for the County. To this end, please do not contact any members of Union County or its staff regarding the subject matter of this RFP until a selection has been made, other than the County's designated contact person identified in the introduction to this RFP.
2. Representatives of Union County will read, review, and evaluate the RFP independently based on the evaluation criteria. Failure to abide by this requirement shall be grounds for disqualification from this selection process.
3. The County will establish an RFP Evaluation Team to review and evaluate the RFPs. The RFP Evaluation Team will assess the RFPs independently in accordance with the published evaluation criteria. Union County reserves the right to conduct interviews with a shortlist of selected Offerors.
4. At its sole discretion, the Owner may ask written questions of Offerors, seek written clarification, and conduct discussions with Offerors on the RFPs.

The County reserves the right to determine the suitability of proposals on the basis of a proposal meeting scope and submittal criteria listed in the RFP. Evaluation criteria and other relevant RFP information will be used to assist in determining the finalist Vendor.

6.2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Offeror may be asked to provide the following financial information. If the following financial information is requested, it shall be readily available and provided to the County within forty-eight (48) hours upon request during the bid certification process:

1. Annual audited financial reports for the past five (5) fiscal years;
2. Credit reports, credit bulletins, bank and vendor references, and any other published statements by agencies that have been issued or published about the entity within the past five (5) years;
3. Indicate whether the Company (and/or predecessor, guarantor, or subcontractor) has declared bankruptcy within the last five (5) years;
4. Provide a description of the financial impact of any past or pending legal proceedings and judgments that could materially affect the Offeror's financial position or ability to provide service to the County.

6.3 EVALUATION SELECTION PROCESS

A weighted analysis of the evaluation criteria will be utilized to determine the Vendor that represents the best value solution for the County.

In the evaluation and scoring/ranking of Offerors, the County will consider the information submitted in the RFP as well as the meetings (if applicable) with respect to the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP.

The initial evaluation criteria/factors and relative weights listed below will be used to recommend selection of the Proposed Offeror or for the purpose of selecting Short-Listed Offerors. The County may choose to award without engaging in interview discussions.

RFP Criteria	Weights
Company Background and Experience	35%
Project Team, Methodology & Implementation Plan	35%
Price	20%
Compliance with Submittal Requirements	10%

Vendors may be invited to give a demonstration of the capabilities of the proposed solution to the Union County evaluation team. The successful bidder's demonstration (if requested), along with questions and answers, will be a critical component of the overall vendor evaluation.

After identification of Short-Listed Offerors, the County may or may not decide to invite Short-Listed Offerors to vendor demonstration/interviews. If interviews are scheduled with the Short-Listed Offerors, previous evaluation and rankings are not carried forward. For the purpose of selecting a Preferred Offeror, the evaluation criteria will be given the following relative weights:

Interview Criteria	Weights
Proposed Approach & Staff	60%
Price, Quality and Relevance of Interview as it Relates to the Scope of the RFP	40%

Additional meetings may be held to clarify issues or to address comments, as deemed appropriate. Proposers will be notified in advance of the time and format of such meetings.

6.4 AWARD PROCEDURE

Union County has the right to reject any or all proposals, to engage in further negotiations with any Company submitting a proposal, and/or to request additional information or clarification. The County is not obligated to accept the lowest cost proposal. The County may accept the proposal that best serves its needs, as determined by County officials in their sole discretion.

The County reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of the proposals received. Therefore, it is important that the proposal be submitted initially on the most favorable terms.

A proposal may be rejected if it is incomplete. Union County may reject any or all proposals and may waive any immaterial deviation in a proposal.

More than one proposal from an individual, Offeror, partnership, corporation or association under the same or different names, will not be considered.

The County reserves the right to enter into negotiations with the top ranked Offeror. However, negotiations with the top ranked Offeror does not signify a commitment by Union County to execute a contract or to continue discussions.

The County reserves the right to terminate negotiations at any time and for any reason. The County may select and enter into negotiations with the next most advantageous Proposer if negotiations with the initially chosen Proposer are not successful.

The award shall be made in the best interest of the County. This Request for Proposal is not subject to any competitive bidding requirements of North Carolina law. The County reserves the right to accept other than the most financially advantageous proposal.

The award document will be a Contract incorporating, by reference, all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the Offeror's proposal as negotiated.

6.5 CONFLICT CERTIFICATION

The Offeror must certify that it does not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest with, or adversarial litigation against the County or any of its officers or employees. During the course

of the contractual relationship formed pursuant to this solicitation, any such conflict of interest, whether newly arising or newly discovered, must be disclosed to the County in writing.

7 GENERAL CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

7.1 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The contract award may have an initial term of Five (5) years with one Five (5) year renewal option at the County's discretion, pending annual budget approval.

Union County has the right to reject any or all proposals, to engage in further negotiations with any Company submitting a proposal, and/or to request additional information or clarification. The County is not obligated to accept the lowest cost proposal. The County may accept that proposal that best serves its needs, as determined by County officials in their sole discretion.

All payroll taxes, liability and worker's compensation are the sole responsibility of the Offeror. The Offeror understands that an employer/employee relationship does not exist under this contract.

All proposals submitted in response to this request shall become the property of Union County and as such, may be subject to public review.

7.2 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The contents of this Proposal and the commitments set forth in the selected Proposal(s) shall be considered contractual obligations, if a contract ensues. Failure to accept these obligations may result in cancellation of the award. All legally required terms and conditions shall be incorporated into final contract agreements with the selected Service Provider(s).

7.3 SUB-CONTRACTOR/PARTNER DISCLOSURE

If the proposal by any Company requires the use of sub-contractors, partners, and/or third-party products or services, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. The Company submitting the proposal shall remain solely responsible for the performance of all work, including work that is done by sub-contractors.

7.4 EXCEPTION TO THE PROPOSAL

An "exception" is defined as the Service Provider's inability or unwillingness to meet a term, condition, specification, or requirement in the manner specified in the Proposal. All exceptions taken must be identified and explained in writing in the proposal and must specifically reference the relevant section(s) of this Proposal. Other than exceptions that are stated in compliance with this Section, each proposal shall be deemed to agree to comply with all terms, conditions, specifications, and requirements of this Proposal. If the Service Provider provides an alternate solution when taking an exception to a requirement, the benefits of this alternate solution and impact, if any, on any part of the remainder of the Service Provider's solution, must be described in detail.

7.5 MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL

Prior to the scheduled closing time for receiving proposals, any Vendor may withdraw their proposal. After the scheduled closing time for receiving proposals, no proposal may be withdrawn for 180 days. Only written requests for the modification or correction of a previously submitted proposal that are addressed in the same manner as proposals and are received by the County prior to the closing time for receiving proposals will be accepted. The proposal will be corrected in accordance with such written requests, provided that any such written request is in a sealed envelope that is plainly marked "Modification of Proposal" – with solicitation number and name on the front of the envelope. Oral, telephone, or fax modifications or corrections will not be recognized or considered.

7.6 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

All Offerors will be required to follow Federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies. Union County will affirmatively assure that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement, equal employment opportunity will be offered to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, and marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

7.7 MINORITY BUSINESSES (MBE) OR DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES (DBE)

It is the policy of Union County that Minority Businesses (MBEs), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and other small businesses shall have the opportunity to compete fairly in contracts financed in whole or in part with public funds. Consistent with this policy, Union County will not allow any person or business to be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against in connection with the award and performance of any contract because of sex, race, religion, or national origin.

7.8 LICENSES

The successful Offeror(s) shall have and maintain a valid and appropriate business license (if applicable), meet all local, state, and federal codes, and have current all required local, state, and federal licenses.

7.9 E-VERIFY

E-Verify is the federal program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies, or any successor or equivalent program, used to verify the work authorization of newly hired employees pursuant to federal law. Vendor/Offeror shall ensure that Offeror and any Sub-Contractor performing work under this contract: (i) uses E-Verify if required to do so; and (ii) otherwise complies with applicable law.

7.10 DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

During the performance of this Request, the Offeror agrees to provide a drug-free workplace for their employees; post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance

or marijuana is prohibited in the workplace and specify the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition; and state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Offeror that the Offeror maintains a drug-free workplace.

For the purposes of this section, “drug-free workplace” means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a Offeror/Offerors in accordance with this chapter, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the Request.

7.11 INSURANCE

One or more of the following insurance limits may be required if it is applicable to the project. The County reserves the right to require additional insurance depending on the nature of the agreement.

At Contractor’s sole expense, Contractor shall procure and maintain the following minimum insurances with insurers authorized to do business in North Carolina and rated A-VII or better by A.M. Best, or as otherwise authorized by the Union County Risk Manager.

- A. **WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**
Statutory (coverage for three or more employees) limits covering all employees, including Employer’s Liability with limits of:
 - \$500,000 Each Accident
 - \$500,000 Disease - Each Employee
 - \$500,000 Disease - Policy Limit

- B. **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY**
(for any agreement unless otherwise waived by the Risk Manager)
Covering Ongoing and Completed Operations involved in this Agreement.
 - \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
 - \$2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate
 - \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
 - \$1,000,000 Personal and Advertising Injury Limit

- C. **COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY**
(for any agreement involving the use of a contractor vehicle while conducting services associated with the agreement)
 - \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit - Any Auto

- D. **PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY**
(only for any agreement providing professional service such as engineering, architecture, surveying, consulting services, etc.)
 - \$1,000,000 Claims Made

- E. NETWORK SECURITY & PRIVACY LIABILITY (CYBER)
(for any agreement involving software applications)

\$1,000,000 Claims Made

Contractor shall provide evidence of continuation or renewal of Professional Liability Insurance for a period of two (2) years following termination of the Agreement.

ADDITIONAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. The Contractor's General Liability policy shall be endorsed, specifically or generally, to include the following as Additional Insured:

UNION COUNTY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES ARE INCLUDED AS ADDITIONAL INSURED WITH RESPECTS TO THE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY.

Additional Insured status for Completed Operations shall extend for a period of not less than three (3) years from the date of final payment.

- B. Before commencement of any work or event, Contractor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance in satisfactory form as evidence of the insurances required above.
- C. Contractor shall have no right of recovery or subrogation against Union County (including its officers, agents and employees).
- D. It is the intention of the parties that the insurance policies afforded by contractor shall protect both parties and be primary and non-contributory coverage for any and all losses covered by the above-described insurance.
- E. Union County shall have no liability with respect to Contractor's personal property whether insured or not insured. Any deductible or self-insured retention is the sole responsibility of Contractor.
- F. Notwithstanding the notification requirements of the Insurer, Contractor hereby agrees to notify County's Risk Manager at 500 N. Main Street # 130, Monroe, NC 28112, within two (2) days of the cancellation or substantive change of any insurance policy set out herein. Union, in its sole discretion, may deem failure to provide such notice as a breach of this Agreement.
- G. The Certificate of Insurance should note in the Description of Operations the following:

Department: _____
Contract #: _____

- H. Insurance procured by Contractor shall not reduce nor limit Contractor's contractual obligation to indemnify, save harmless and defend Union County for claims made or suits brought which result from or are in connection with the performance of this Agreement.
- I. Certificate Holder shall be listed as follows:
- Union County
Attention: Keith A. Richards, Risk Manager
500 N. Main Street, Suite #130
Monroe, NC 28112
- J. If Contractor is authorized to assign or subcontract any of its rights or duties hereunder and in fact does so, Contractor shall ensure that the assignee or subcontractor satisfies all requirements of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, maintenance of the required insurances coverage and provision of certificate(s) of insurance and additional insured endorsement(s), in proper form prior to commencement of services.

7.12 INDEMNIFICATION

Contractor agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold Union County, its officers, employees and agents free and harmless from and against any and all losses, penalties, damages, settlements, costs, charges, professional fees or other expenses or liabilities of every kind and character arising out of or relating to any and all claims, liens, demands, obligations, actions, proceedings, or causes of action of every kind in connection with or arising out of this agreement and/or the performance hereof that are due, in whole or in part, to the negligence of the Contractor, its officers, employees, subcontractors or agents. Contractor further agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for, and defend the same at its sole expense and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto.

8 APPENDIX A – PRICE FORM

RFP 2024-028 Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Services

Submit with Proposal

Company Name _____

Transport and Tipping (disposal) Fee per ton: \$ _____

The Transport and Tipping Fee is inclusive of all Pass-Through charges, other than the current state disposal tax, and such Pass-Through Charges are the responsibility of the Contractor.

9 APPENDIX B – PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

RFP 2024-028 Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Services

Submit with Proposal

This Proposal is submitted by:

Company Legal Name: _____

Representative Name: _____

Representative Signature: _____

Representative Title: _____

Address: _____

County/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Website Address: _____

It is understood that Union County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to make awards according to the best interest of the County, to waive formalities, technicalities, to recover and re-advertise this project. Proposal is valid for 180 days. Proposal is submitted by an executive of the company that has authority to contract with Union County, NC.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Required Signature: _____

Date: _____

10 APPENDIX C – ADDENDUM AND ANTI-COLLUSION
RFP 2024-028 Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Services

Submit with Proposal

Please acknowledge receipt of all addenda by including this form with your Proposal. Any questions or changes received will be posted as an addendum on unioncountync.gov and/or <https://evp.nc.gov>. It is your responsibility to check for this information.

Addendum No.	Date Downloaded
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I certify that this proposal is made in good faith and without collusion with any other offeror or officer or employee of Union County.

Company Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

11 APPENDIX D – SAMPLE VENDOR PAYMENT NOTIFICATION

RFP 2024-028 Municipal Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal Services

Informational Purposes Only - Do not submit with proposal.



Finance Department
500 North Main Street Suite #714
Monroe, NC 28112 T. 704-283-3813
www.unioncountync.gov

ATTENTION: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VENDORS

As part of our Fraud Prevention Program, Union County now prefers two methods for payments to vendor accounts. These methods allow for faster and easier payments to vendors.

The first and preferred method available is to accept a VISA card payment from the County. If you accept payment via VISA, payment is made at the time of the transaction or upon receipt and approval of the invoice.

The second method is an Electronic Funds Transfer. (EFT) This means that you will receive payment of invoices due directly into your bank account. With this method, you will get an email confirmation giving you the date, invoice numbers, and total amount paid. Your payment will be available to you on Monday (or the first banking day if Monday is a bank holiday) following receipt of an approved invoice from the County department invoiced.

An EFT Enrollment Form to enroll in the program is attached for your convenience. You can also visit the Union County website at www.unioncountync.gov at any time to get a new form if your banking information changes. If the banking information changes and you do not notify us, it will delay receipt of payment for invoices.

If you wish to receive payment via the County's VISA card, please contact Heather Howey at 704-283-3539, or send an email to ap@unioncountync.gov and you will be added to the list of vendors accepting the VISA card method of payment.

Union County prefers all vendors participate in one of the two methods described above.

Thank you in advance for your participation.