

to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. A contract may not be subdivided to avoid the requirements of this section.

(b) The Commissioners OR THE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO CONTRACT FOR THE COUNTY shall invite proposals for all contracts subject to this section by publishing a notice in at least 2 county newspapers for 2 consecutive weeks. The notice shall state that in not less than 3 weeks the Commissioners OR THE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO CONTRACT FOR THE COUNTY will meet in public session to receive bids for the described purchase or contract, state the time and place of the meeting, and reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

(c) In determining the "lowest responsible bidder", in addition to considering price, the Commissioners or the official authorized to contract for the County shall consider:

- (1) The ability, capacity, and skill of the bidder to perform the contract or provide the service required;
- (2) Whether the bidder can perform the contract or provide the service promptly, or within the time specified, without delay or interference;
- (3) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder;
- (4) The quality of performance of previous contracts or services;
- (5) The previous and current compliance by the bidder with laws and ordinances relating to the contract or service;
- (6) Whether the bidder is in arrears to the County on any debt or contract, is in default on any surety to the County, or is delinquent as to any taxes or assessments; and
- (7) Any other information that may have a bearing on the decision to award the contract.

(d) If a contract is not awarded to the lowest bidder in price, the reasons for the decision shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting at which the contract is awarded.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

Approved April 25, 2000.

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