

Town of Murphy

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Commissioners
Charlene Smith
Gail Stansell Walker
Keisha Dockery

To: All Prospective Bidders

From: Chad Simons, Town Manager

Subject: Request for Qualifications for Downtown Streetscape Design

Date: July 5, 2022

The Town of Murphy is requesting statements of qualifications from professional management and design firms to provide landscape architecture and engineering services related to streetscape design in downtown Murphy. Specifically, the Town is wishing to redesign its four pocket-parks in the heart of downtown, as well as improve the streetscape in the General Business District. The Town is also requesting grant writing services for this fall's Rural Transformation Grant Application round – organized by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

For information pertaining to the specifics of the proposal or for additional information, please contact:

Chad Simons, Town Manager
manager@townofmurphync.com
828-837-2510, ext. 4
Town of Murphy
PO Box 130
Murphy, NC 28906

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Background

The Town recently became a North Carolina Main Street Community and completed our first ever Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Based on the public engagement work conducted during the comprehensive planning process and through the town's evolution in the Main Street Program, the public wants to better promote assets that enhance the local arts, Appalachian culture, and outdoor recreation.

The Town is collaborating with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in 2023 and 2024 to redesign our downtown traffic and parking patterns. Additionally, the Town in 2023 will replace as much water/sewer infrastructure as possible before the NCDOT repaving project commences in January 2024. The firm receiving this work will need to consider these future projects as they are conducting the design work and configuring their work timelines associated with this project.

The Town is requesting the design and estimated construction costs for a downtown Stage/Gazebo at one of the four pocket park locations. The firm will work closely with the Downtown Development Director, and the Appalachian Culture and Outdoor Recreation Main Street Sub-Committees in designing the Stage/Gazebo. The firm will also work closely with the two subcommittees and the Downtown Development Director to reinvent the three other pocket parks, with the goal of improving pedestrian amenities for outdoor dining and enjoyment, street trees, and other beautification and pedestrian friendly improvements.

The survey of the four pocket parks and a preliminary drawing of the future downtown roundabout is attached to this Request for Qualifications. The roundabout has yet to be approved by the Town Council, but the NCDOT has stated that the proposed change is the best design for traffic flow and downtown parking.

Services to be Provided: Landscape Architecture, Stage/Gazebo Design, Estimate of probable construction and implementation costs, streetscape design, and grant writing services.

Schedule

Firms should propose a schedule to expedite the design of this project to the extent feasible and demonstrate their ability to meet deadlines for the grant writing services proposed. We recognize we are requesting a tight schedule, as we are hoping to use this design and pay for its implementation in this fall's Rural Transformation Grant Application. Interested firms must be prepared to attend the outdoor recreation and Appalachian subcommittee meetings in August. Ultimately, the plan must be approved by the Town Council.

Firms responding to this request must be registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and the North Carolina Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors. The engineers performing and in responsible charge of the work must be registered professional engineers in the state of North Carolina, in good ethical and professional standing.

40% - qualifications and experience of the firm to perform the type of work required.

30% - Project approach that clearly and thoroughly demonstrates a familiarity with the project and process required.

30% - Performance of the firm on similar and previous projects with North Carolina municipalities. Specific experience in a similar historic downtown context should be clearly demonstrated. Previous success on obtaining Rural Transformation grant monies earlier this year is preferred.

- July 5, 2022 – RFQ Published
- August 1 – Approval of Design and Grant Writing Contract
- August – September – Design work performed, and grant application work commences
- October – Grant application submitted.

RFQ responses can be submitted to the Town Manager at Town of Murphy, 5 Wofford Street, Murphy, NC 28906. Responses can also be submitted electronically at manager@townofmurphync.com. The deadline for submissions is July 27, 2022.