



**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
501 WOODLANE DR 401N
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201**

385-RFQ-2101

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**CIVIL ENGINEER/ARCHITECT DESIGN SERVICES
FOR
EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY
IN
BIRDEYE, ARKANSAS**

**PROPOSAL DUE DATE
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2021**

**SUBMITTAL DEADLINE
4:00 PM CST**

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-801 et. seq., § 19-11-1001 et. seq., Division of Building Authority Minimum Standards and Criteria (MSC) § 2-100, and the Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services (DTSS) Office of State Procurement's (OSP) Policies and Guidelines, DTSS's Division of Building Authority (DBA), the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) is soliciting qualifications from qualified firms to provide civil engineer/architect design services for the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in Birdeye, Arkansas. Applicants must be properly registered with the appropriate professional boards in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 17-15-101 et. seq. (Architectural), Ark. Code Ann. § 17-38-101 et. seq. (Landscape Architect), Ark. Code Ann. § 17-30-101 et. seq. (Engineering) and Ark. Code Ann. § 17-48-101 et. seq. (Land Surveyors). The MSC is available for review and download at the following website link:

<https://www.transform.ar.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Final-2012-Revision.pdf>

B. Objective

ADVA is seeking a qualified firm to provide professional Civil Engineering/Architect design services for capital improvements consisting of the expansion of the cemetery, including, but not limited to; site work, such as grading, drainage, and landscaping. The expansion will be conducted in multiple funding cycles and development phases during the life of the design contract. The initial phase of the expansion project includes but is not limited to the following:

- Expansion of its Crypts and Oversized Crypts burial area by adding 1,000 +/- Crypts and 100 +/- Oversized Crypts.
- Adding infrastructure to the property by adding a delivery entrance.
- Improvements to water storage, filtration and irrigation, reservoir improvements, power back-up generator, roadway repair, grading, drainage system, restrooms, energy efficiency/improvements, health safety and welfare improvements, drainage, landscaping and infrastructure improvements, IT connectivity, wayfinding including a KIOSK system compatible with NCA updates, and new Space Command crest.

Prospective respondents interested in visiting the existing cemetery site in advance of submitting their qualifications may contact the evaluation committee facilitator, identified in Section IV.A, to schedule a site visit. This visit will be for the purposes of viewing the existing site conditions only. No details or information regarding the current proposed project or solicitation process will be provided at this visit.

C. Term

The initial term of the contract will be for four (4) years with the option for extension or renewal for up to three (3) additional one-year terms or portions thereof, not to exceed seven (7) consecutive years or until the project is completed whichever comes first.

D. Submittal of Statement of Qualifications

Responses to this Request For Qualifications (RFQ) shall be submitted to the evaluation committee facilitator identified under item IV.A of this RFQ on or before the date stipulated.

E. Clarifications

Prospective respondents may submit written questions or request for clarifications to the facilitator on or before 2:00 PM CST on the date shown under item III of this RFQ.

F. Minority, Veterans and Women's Business Participation.

The State of Arkansas supports equal opportunity in the participation in all areas of capital improvements, therefore Minority, Veterans and women's business enterprises are encouraged to participate.

A minority-owned business is defined by Arkansas Code Annotated §15-4-303 as a business owned by a lawful permanent resident of this State who is:

- African American
- American Indian
- Asian American
- Hispanic American
- Pacific Islander American
- A Service Disabled Veteran as designated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs

A women-owned business is defined by Act 1080 of the 91st General Assembly Regular Session 2017 as a business that is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one (1) or more women who are lawful permanent residents of this State.

The Arkansas Economic Development Commission conducts a certification process for minority-owned and women-owned businesses. If certified, the Prospective Contractor's Certification Number should be included in the response.

G. Vendor Performance Evaluations (Review)

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-268 (ACT 557 of 2015) all vendors are subject to quarterly performance evaluations by the Agency during the life of the contract. The Design Professional selected for this project will be evaluated on the following broad scope categories:

1. Customer Service: The degree of responsiveness provided by the vendor to an agency's request for assistance in areas including but not limited to invoicing, communications, and problem solving.
2. Delivery: The degree with which the vendor supplied the services to the agency within the time frames identified or specified in the contract or scope of work statement.
3. Quality: The conformance of the services with the stated requirements, deliverables, and performance standards specific in the contract or scope of work statement.
4. Pricing: The level to which the vendor adheres to the project budget as outlined in the contract or scope of work statement.

Specific criteria for each category will be defined in the contract negotiation phase with the selected Design Professional.

Quarterly reports will be submitted by the Agency to the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and will not be copied directly to the vendor by the Agency. OSP will review the report and submit all "Below Standard" reports to the vendor.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUESTED

A. The selected firm shall provide professional services including but not limited to the following:

1. Review of the ADVA's program and budget for this project.
2. Attend scoping meetings, review meetings, and hearings as requested by ADVA and USDVA.
3. Monthly Progress reports to be submitted to the agency (ADVA) as well as the National Cemetery Administration State Grants office.
4. Agency defined periodic 35%, 65%, 95% and 100% document completion plans. Submittal of the final documents to Division of Building Authority Design Review Section for approval.
5. Code analysis to ensure the project complies with all applicable Federal and State codes as well as State rules and standards.
6. Review of the proposed site for compliance with Federal and State regulations and rules regarding floodplain development management, endangered species, wetlands and historic sites.
7. Development of an estimate of the maximum probable cost of the project.
8. Development of a schematic design submittal (approximately 35% complete documents) and an estimate of the annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by ADVA and US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).

9. Development of a design development submittal (approximately 65% complete documents) and a revised estimate of construction cost for review and approval by ADVA and USDVA.
10. Development of a pre-final document submittal (approximately 95% complete documents), revised estimate of construction costs, and a revised estimate of annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by the ADVA and USDVA.
11. Development of a construction document submittal (100% complete documents), a revised estimate of construction cost, and a revised estimate of the annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by ADVA and USDVA.
12. Submittal of the construction documents to all applicable regulatory review agencies including DBA on behalf of ADVA.
13. Assistance with the preparation of bid advertisements and submittal to Division of Building Authority Construction Section for approval, attendance at bid openings, evaluation of bids, and review of contract documents in conjunction with award of the bid.
14. Construction contract administration and project observation to include review of contractor submittals, progress of the work proposal request, progress payments, contract change order, substantial completion and project closeout. "As Builts" will be tracked and added to plans as they occur and weekly construction site visits.
15. Review of the project site at the end of the contractor's warranty period and development of a list of deficiencies for correction under the terms of the warranty.

III. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- A. The following schedule of events is provided for preliminary planning and to convey ADVA understands of the time critical events and proposed milestones for the development of this project only. This schedule is in no way intended to establish an expectation or commitment for the execution or delivery of any or all of the events listed below. This schedule may be reviewed and revised and each step of the process up to and including the negotiation of the design services contract.

Approx. Date	Procurement Event or Project Activity
June 12, 2021	ADVA Advertises RFQ
June 18, 2021	Deadline for submittal of questions to ADVA
July 7, 2021	Deadline for submittal of qualifications to ADVA.

July 16, 2021	ADVA notifies all respondents of the consultants selected for oral presentations and interviews.
July 30, 2021	Oral presentations and interviews held at Agency (Time and location to be determined).
August 3, 2021	ADVA notifies all interviewees of firm selected for negotiation.
August 17, 2021	ADVA and consultant selected, negotiate contract term and fees.
August 27, 2021	Draft submitted to DBA for pre DFA review.
September 3, 2021	Estimated Deadline for submittal of Contract to DF&A
September 14, 2021	Estimated Date for Contract reviewed by PEER/REVIEW Committee.
September 17, 2021	Estimated Date for Contract reviewed by Legislative Council Review Committee.
September 20, 2021	Estimated Date for Contract approval by DF&A and returned to ADVA.
October 1, 2021	Design Phase begins

IV. WRITTEN QUALIFICATIONS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A. Submittal Information

1. Provide six (6) copies of the statement of qualifications and one (1) in PDF format on flash drive addressed to the evaluation committee facilitator at:

Barry Goldman, Agency Procurement Manager
Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs
501 Woodlane Dr. Suite 401N
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-1954
barry.goldman@arkansas.gov

2. Submittals shall be received at the above address on or before **4:00 PM on July 7, 2021**. Failure to meet this requirement shall result in automatic disqualification for consideration under this RFQ.
3. Envelopes should state "Statement of Qualifications for **385-RFQ-2101**, CIVIL ENGINEERING/ARCHITECT DESIGN SERVICES FOR ARKANSAS STATE VETERANS CEMETERY at BIRDEYE.

4. In accordance with the policies of ADVA and State of Arkansas concerning recycling of paper products, the statement of qualifications should be printed on recycled paper or on paper suitable for recycling. Color printing and photographs are acceptable provided they comply with the State recycling program. Do not include glossy paper in the submittal. Do not include plastic laminated sheets or covers.
5. The submittal should be bound by a plastic comb binder, tape binder, three-ring binder, or other similar method suitable for ease of removal for recycling.
6. The statement of qualifications should contain the information listed under contents below. Please note the submittal page limitations (maximum) as applicable. Unused pages in one section of the response may not be substituted for addition pages in another section.
7. A page shall consist of one typewritten, graphic, or photo representation on standard 8-1/2" x 11" stationery. Double sided print on standard 8-1/2" x 11" paper shall count as two pages. Maps, graphics or photos on one side of 11" x 17" paper shall count as two pages. Other paper sizes or blank filler pages are discouraged. It is not necessary to prepare your response to this solicitation using elaborate brochures and artwork, expensive paper and bindings or other expensive visual presentation aids.
8. Submittal brochures shall be indexed to correspond to the numbering and labeling shown under contents below.
9. No information concerning the statement of qualification, evaluation scores, nor the identity of the evaluators shall be released by ADVA until all ratings have been summarized and approved by the appropriate procurement official of the Office of State Procurement or ADVA.

B. Contents

Submittals which exceed the maximum page limits shown below shall be disqualified.

1. Transmittal Letter (2-page maximum)

This is to serve only as the document covering transmittal of the statement of qualifications. The letter should provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the official contact and an alternate. This individual(s) should be available to be contacted by telephone or attend meetings to provide clarification on the statement of qualifications as may be appropriate. A brief summary of the firm's qualifications may be provided with the body of the letter. The letter should be signed by a principal or corporate officer of the firm.

2. Proof of Registration (No page limit)

Submit evidence of proof of registration by the appropriate board having jurisdiction for each of the key personnel and the firms on the team. All individuals and firms must have a valid and current license and must be in good standing with the applicable board. Acceptable forms of proof from the Arkansas Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors may be one of the following:

- (a) A copy of the Board issued wallet card showing the name of the individual or firm, the licenses number, and current expiration date. (Place multiple cards on a single page.)
- (b) A copy of the individual's or firm's license downloaded from the appropriate Board's official website.
- (c) A copy of the on-line verification of the individual or firm's license or certificate from the appropriate Board's official website. The copy should show the individual or firm's name, license or certificate number, and current expiration date.
- (d) A copy of a temporary permit, or a letter of approval to practice as a non-resident design professional as issued by the appropriate licensing Board in Arkansas. Firm (and individuals) selected must be capable of obtaining valid licenses issued by the Arkansas Boards.

3. Proof of Insurance (No page limit)

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance in accordance with the requirements and limitations set forth in the MSC under § 2-312 and § 2-313. The consultant selected for award under this RFQ must maintain the insurance current and effective throughout the period stipulated in the MSC. The consultant may change insurance carriers subject to notification to Agency. Any new carrier must be acceptable to the Agency.

4. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEO) (No page limit)

The firm should submit a copy of their EEO policy or statement which is currently on file with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and ADVA. A respondent is not required to have a formal policy but is required to disclose whether they have one or not.

5. Office Size (4 pages' maximum)

Provide a description of the size (number of employees), and organizational structure of your firm/team. Include a detailed description of the staffing and resources for the office from which you intend to service this contract.

Indicate if all anticipated design services will be provided by in-house personnel.

If the design professional intends to utilize outside consultants (such as engineering sub consultants), provide a description of their primary office size and location, name, and services provided.

6. Office location (1-page maximum)

Provide the physical address of the office from which the primary point of contact and response for this project will be located. Include the county in which this office is located.

If housed in multiple locations, provide a description of the staffing at each location.

7. Key Personnel of the Design Team (10 pages' maximum)

Provide a description of the key personnel to be used on the design team, including consultants. Provide a brief description of the qualifications including education and licenses. You may include an organizational chart. The descriptions should detail the role each individual will play along with brief examples of similar projects where this individual served in the same or a similar capacity. Descriptions should also indicate how long the person has been with the current firm and where the individual has worked (if other than the current firm) in the past 5 years and in what capacity.

If other than the primary design team provides any of the following functions, include descriptions of the personnel that will provide peer review of the design documents, review of contractor submittals for compliance with the contract documents, and field observation of work in progress.

8. Experience (10 pages' maximum)

Provide detailed descriptions of projects (or contracts) of identical or similar nature and scope that demonstrate your understanding of the requirements of this contract. Examples should be as closely matched to this type of contract as possible. Examples of other projects that demonstrate your ability to address key elements of this type of contract may be included provided the link between the key element and the anticipated application to this contract are clearly delineated. Describe ability to address key elements such as construction management using examples.

9. Previously Awarded State of Arkansas Contracts (3 pages maximum)

Provide a complete listing of all contracts that the primary firm has or had within the previous 24 months, including all current contracts. This listing should be limited to Arkansas State Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Higher Education Institutions, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and any Arkansas

Constitutional Offices. You do not need to include public schools (K-12), county and municipal government units, or federal government contracts.

Listing should show the Agency with whom you had or have a contract, the type of contract (i.e. On-Call, or name of specific project), term of the contract (beginning and ending dates), amount of the contract, and the name, phone number and email address of the point of contact (person having operational knowledge of the contract) with the Agency.

Disclose all on-going legal controversies that you have with the Arkansas State Agency, Board or Commission, including Higher Education Institutions, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, any Arkansas Constitutional Office and any public school district (K-12). Failure to disclose any on-going legal controversies as listed above may result in your bid being disqualified.

10. Risk Management Plan (No page limit)

Provide a description of the prime design firms approach to managing risk on the project during all phases of the project beginning with the pre-design phase through the construction phase closeout. Include discussion of how the prime firm will incorporate each sub-consultant's risk management plan into an overall comprehensive plan for this project.

Provide a description of the major risk factors that you anticipate in this project and mitigation steps for each factor.

V. EVALUATION OF RESPONSES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

A. General

The following provides a general overview of the evaluation process and describes the scoring criteria to be used in this evaluation process. The statements of qualifications shall first be screened to determine that the submittal meets the guidelines and requirements of this RFQ. Submittals which do not fully comply with these requirements shall be disqualified from consideration by the committee.

All compliant submittals shall be distributed to the committee members for evaluation. After each committee member has completed their evaluation and scoring, the committee shall convene to discuss each submittal and total the scoring from all members.

The evaluation committee will be comprised of five (5) representatives from the Agency. Voting members will have subject matter expertise in the areas of contracting, design, construction, operations and maintenance. A representative of the DBA Design Review Section may attend the meeting as an observer and adviser for auditing purposes.

B. Disqualification Requirements

Submittals received after the closing date at time shown on the cover of this RFQ and in paragraph IV.A.2 will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Submittals which exceed the maximum page limits in one or more areas shown below shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Incomplete submittals shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Submittals not organized in the order prescribed in this RFQ will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Respondents who attempt to influence an evaluation team member in a manner that violates State or Federal laws or the ethical standards of the State, DTSS/OSP, DTSS/DBA, or the Agency will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation. Violations of this subparagraph shall disqualify the respondent from further consideration at any point in this selection process.

C. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

Submittals meeting the minimum requirements defined above shall be considered for evaluation. Those submissions deemed compliant will then be evaluated and scored as stipulated in section “IV.B.” of this RFQ and “V.C.” below. The information provided under this subsection will be evaluated based on the criteria contained below and scored based on the maximum points assigned to each category. The following information shall be bound in the submittal under the tab number indicated.

1. Transmittal Letter: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 2 (equivalent to 2%).

This is to serve only as the document covering transmittal of the statement of qualifications. The letter should provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the official contact and an alternate. This individual(s) should be available to be contacted by telephone or attend meetings to provide clarification on the statement of qualifications as may be appropriate.

2. Proof of Registration: A maximum of three (3) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

Submit evidence of proof of registration by the appropriate board having jurisdiction for each of the key personnel and the firms on the team. All individuals and firms must have a valid and current license and must be in good standing with the applicable board.

Acceptable forms of proof from the Boards of Architects, of Engineers and Land Surveyors, and of Landscape Architects may be one of the following:

- (a) A copy of the Board issued wallet card showing the name of the individual or firm, the licenses number, and current expiration date. (Place multiple cards on a single page.)
 - (b) A copy of the individual's or firm's license from the appropriate Board.
 - (c) A copy of the on-line verification of the individual or firm's license or certificate from the appropriate Board's official website. The copy should show the individual or firm's name, license or certificate number, and current expiration date.
3. Proof of Insurance: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance in accordance with the requirements and limitations set forth in the MSC under § 2-312 and § 2-313.

4. EEO Policy: A maximum of three (3) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 3 (equivalent to 3%).

The firm should submit a copy of their EEO policy or statement which is currently on file with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and the Agency. A respondent is not required to have a formal policy but is required to disclose whether they have one or not.

5. Office Size: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10%.

Office size (number of employees) shall be evaluated based upon the anticipated needs for a project of this type, size and complexity. The number of discipline specific designer and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed design team and backup personnel.

6. Office Location: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Response and travel time by the selected consultant is determined to be an important factor in the overall success of the project. Consideration shall be given to the location of the primary consultant's office as well as all outside consultants relative to the project site. For in-state firms, distance will be calculated based upon the Arkansas Department of Transportation's (ARDOT) most current state highway map mileage chart between cities. For out-of-state firms, distance will be calculated using Google Maps and fastest drive time. No other source of distance will be evaluated.

7. Key Personnel: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 25 (equivalent to 25%).

Key personnel shall be evaluated on their experience relative to the capacity they will serve in on the team. Experience on projects of the same or similar nature as this contract shall be the primary consideration. If a member is designated as a lead designer in a specific area, previous experience in lead roles is considered desirable. If this is the person's first project in a lead position, this shall not automatically disqualify that individual but the relative importance of that position to the overall success of the project shall be considered and points may be deducted for lack of adequate experience. The length of employment with the current firm shall be considered as well as employment history during the past 5 years. Individuals should have been employed by their current employer at least 6-months and should not have had more than 3 different employers during the past 5-years.

8. Experience-General: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 25 (equivalent to 25%).

Experience shall be evaluated on its relevance to this specific contract's requirements. Experience with projects of the same or similar nature as this specific project shall be the primary consideration. Experience of a general nature demonstrating an understanding or problem solving capability for discrete elements or functions related to this project's requirements may also be considered relevant.

9. Previously Awarded Arkansas Contracts: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

The consultant's current and recent (previous 24-months) contracting history shall be evaluated to ensure that all qualified firms have an equitable opportunity for State contracts.

10. Risk Management Plan: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Risk management plan shall be evaluated upon the consultant's overall understanding of the scope of the project and the factors that pose risk to the successful completion of the project. Consideration should be given to the types of risk identified and the consultant's mitigation strategies to control or manage these risks.

D. Scoring Summary for Written Statement of Qualifications

Category	Maximum Points	Weighted Value
1. Transmittal Letter	5	2%
2. Proof of Registration	3	5%
3. Proof of Insurance	5	5%

4. EEO Policy	3	3%
5. Office Size	5	10%
6. Office Location	5	10%
7. Key Personnel	5	25%
8. Experience	5	25%
9. Previous Arkansas Contracts	5	5%
10. Risk Management Plan	<u>5</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	46	100%

E. Notification of Results

In accordance with MSC § 2-106, within three (3) working days after the committee has completed this portion of the evaluation, ADVA shall notify all respondents of the results. Only the names of the consultants selected for interviews will be released at this time. The scoring results and the ranking order of the consultants shall remain confidential. The time, date and location of the interviews shall be included in this notification.

VI. SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR INTERVIEWS

- A. In accordance with MSC §2-106, a maximum of five (5) consultants shall be identified as the most responsively qualified and shall be selected for the oral presentation and interview phase. The total scores from all evaluators shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each submittal. The consultants having the highest average scores shall be selected for interviews. In the event of a tie score(s) for any position of ranking, the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the facilitator. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the facilitator shall notify the affected consultants and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend, it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.
- B. The order of the scheduled times for interviews shall be determined by random drawing. The names of the consultants selected for interview shall be placed in a container and the names drawn one at a time from the container by the evaluation committee facilitator. The order of the schedule shall be as follows; the first name drawn shall have the first time slot; the second name drawn the second slot and so forth until all names are drawn. All interviews may be scheduled for the same date and location.

- C. Should ADVA receive only one response to this solicitation, ADVA may request the DBA Design Review Section to waive the interview phase and proceed directly to the negotiation of a contract with the single respondent or ADVA may re-evaluate the services requested and re-advertise the solicitation. If ADVA elects to request the waiver, the committee shall complete the evaluation of the one respondent to ensure the consultant meets the minimum qualifications and expectations.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

A. General

1. Each consultant selected shall be notified in writing of their selection and scheduled for oral presentations and interviews. Consultant shall be given no less than 14 calendar days to prepare for this meeting. Consultant should be prepared to answer questions concerning the qualifications and capabilities of their proposed team and the presentation should be well prepared and concise. The consultant will be given approximately 45 minutes to discuss their unique qualifications and team structure and to present examples of their previous works. Approximately 15 minutes will be allocated for the committee to ask questions relevant to the proposed team and the project. After the question and answer period, approximately 2 minutes will be allocated for the consultant to make a brief closing statement regarding why he believes his firm/team is the best qualified for this project.
2. Interviews shall be conducted at the location shown in the letter of notification. The consultant may use photographic slides; power point presentations or poster board displays for visual aids during the presentation. It is the responsibility of the consultant to bring the necessary equipment including projectors, screens, stands or easels for this presentation.
3. The consultant may elect to provide paper copies of photographs or visual aids to the committee for later review. Copies shall be presented to the facilitator or committee chairperson at the time of the interviews. Materials should be bound in a folder labeled in a similar manner to that of the initial response to the request for qualifications. The consultant may use photographic quality matte paper, color paper and other non-recyclable paper for this portion only. This material shall be used by the committee as a reference only during the evaluation. It is not necessary to prepare elaborate exhibits, displays or presentations with high end audio or graphics. No points shall be awarded or deducted for handout materials whether presented or not.
4. In accordance with MSC § 2-106, **preliminary designs or suggested designs for specific projects shall not be permitted.** This includes renderings, sketches, site plans, space plans, or other graphic or pictorial representations developed for this specific project. Failure to adhere to this requirement shall be grounds for disqualifications. This prohibition is not intended to exclude examples of projects of similar functions that have been previously prepared for other clients.

All visual presentation materials should contain an identification of the client for which that material was prepared.

B. Evaluation of the Oral Presentation

1. Experience-Specific

The consultant shall be evaluated on ability to provide the requested services for projects of this type and size. A maximum of twenty (20) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 30 (equivalent to 30%).

- a. The consultant should present an overview of previous project experiences specific to this RFQ that illustrates the capabilities and expertise of the proposed team's ability to deliver high quality, functional and aesthetically pleasing designs. The range and types of design challenges the firm has encountered on previous projects that might occur on this contract should be discussed as well as how the consultant overcame these challenges.
- b. The consultant shall present an overview of the total number of state agency projects submitted through DBA Design Review Section (DRS) over the past 5-years. Identify projects which were submitted for public bidding, alternative delivery, in-house construction, or other. Discuss the familiarity that your firm has with the current DBA processes. Do not include public school projects, university projects, or projects for other agencies not subject to DRS review.
- c. The consultant shall present an overview of the total number of federal projects submitted through USDVA over the past 5-years. This list may include non-cemetery projects for the USDVA. Discuss all cemetery projects submitted through USDVA. Identify projects which were contracted through public bidding, design/build, negotiated contracting, or other. Discuss the familiarity that your firm has with the current USDVA processes.
- d. The consultant may discuss or present examples of projects for which his team has received local, regional or national recognition or awards in the past 5-years. Local awards may include society awards, industry association awards, or newspaper and periodical awards published annually. Regional and National awards may include association awards such as AIA, LEED, or ASHRAE or similar, and governmental awards such as GSA, DOD, EPA, DOE, Energy Star and similar. Awards include but are not limited to first, second, third place or honorable mention in a category or classification relevant to the subject project. For example, a project winning in the area of interior design or energy efficiency but not necessarily for overall project design may be applicable and appropriate for consideration.

Visual presentations of projects representing the consultant's style and creativity may be presented. To the maximum extent possible, these examples should reflect projects of similar size, function and complexity as those typically seen under this type of contract. Do not provide renderings,

site plans, elevations, or details of your proposed design solutions for this specific project. Such presentation material may disqualify you from consideration under this solicitation. Review the DBA MSC § 2-106(A) (2) (h).

2. Schedules

- a. The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar expansion and building projects of the type, size, and complexity that the Agency anticipates may be assigned during the term of the contract. A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned to this category. Weighted value is 20 (equivalent to 20%).
- b. The consultant's current workload shall be evaluated to determine that the team has sufficient capacity to meet the Agency's needs. Staffing patterns, staff utilization, and staff productivity of the consultant shall be evaluated to determine if an adequate number of the key and support personnel are assigned or available to execute the project in a timely manner. The organization structure of the team shall be evaluated to ensure that the appropriate mix of talent and expertise is available for each phase of the project. The consultant's use of, and approach to the team concept as well as contingency planning shall be considered.

3. Cost Controls

- a. The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet established project budgets. Cost cannot exceed the agreed upon State and Federal allowable percentages associated with the project. Consultant's understanding of both hard cost (construction contract items) and soft cost (items outside of the general construction contract) shall be considered. A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).
- b. The construction cost estimating examples provided by the consultant should be from the projects referenced in the specific project experience described in item B.1 above. The consultant should discuss the firm's approach to developing estimates of probable construction costs for the construction phase of small projects of the type normally seen under this type of contract. Include a discussion of the accuracy of firm's estimates on all projects of similar size and complexity over the past 3-years and, if available, provide a discussion of the factors affecting estimates that exceeded plus or minus (+/-) 10 percent of original budget at the start of the design phase.

4. Management Plan

The consultant shall be evaluated on the firm's management approach for contracts of this nature and a demonstrated ability to acquire and disseminate the types of information required in a typical project assignment in an expedient and

efficient manner to all members of the design team and the Agency. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned to this category. Weighted value will be 15 (equivalent to 15%).

The consultant should present an overview of the quality control methods used to document and track the project requirements to ensure compliance with the Owner's project requirements and all regulatory review agency submittal and approval requirements.

- a. The consultant should discuss the firm's use of key personnel during the project for design and construction observation. Describe the primary licensed professionals' and non-licensed designers' roles with regards to budget reviews, code research, production of plans and specifications, attendance at design meetings with the Agency or other consultants, review of others work in peer reviews, review of contractor submittals, review of construction progress, review of proposed changes in scope of the work and review of pricing or payment requests, project observations, and project closeout.
- b. The consultant should identify the primary and secondary points of contact to be used by the Agency. These individuals should be present and make this portion of the presentation. The consultant should describe the proposed organization of team members and support staff as required to meet the design challenges and delivery times for projects under this contract. Emphasis should be placed on the roles and responsibilities of each member of the team. The consultant should describe contingency plans to address the loss of key personnel, delays in production of bid documents and extreme fluctuations in construction cost that may adversely affect the project schedule or budget.

5. Construction Observation and Contract Administration

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet the industry's standard of care as well as the DBA established criteria in this area. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned to this category. Weighted value is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

- a. The consultant's use of the key members of the design team may be considered as well as the proposed frequency of site visits during the construction phase of the project and the proposed methodology for monitoring, documenting and controlling change orders during the construction phase shall be of primary consideration.
- b. The consultant's approach to keeping the Agency and DBA informed as to the progress of construction and major issues as well as the methodology used to track and resolve issues in a timely manner shall also be evaluated. The consultant's past performance with DBA may be considered in this area.

6. Clarification Questions

The evaluation committee may ask questions for clarification of information provided in the written statement of qualifications. Questions will be limited to information provided in the written qualifications only. Consultant's responses should be limited to clarifying the information previously provided and should not contain new information that may have been omitted to add new qualification information not previously submitted. A maximum of five (5) points will be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5%.

C. Summary of Oral Presentation Scoring.

Category	Maximum Points	Weighted Value
1. Experience-Specific	20	30%
2. Schedules	5	20%
3. Cost Controls	5	15%
4. Management Plan	10	15%
5. Construction Observation/Admin.	10	15%
6. Clarification Questions	<u>5</u>	<u>5%</u>
TOTAL	55	100%

VIII. SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR NEGOTIATIONS

- a. The interview scores from each evaluator shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each consultant. These average scores shall be numerically added to the average score for the same consultant's statement of qualifications evaluations. The scores shall be ranked from highest to lowest (i.e.: highest score receives the number 1 rank position and second highest the number 2 position, etc). In the event of a tie score(s), the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the facilitator. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The consultant having the highest total score (ranking) shall be selected for negotiations.
- b. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the facilitator shall notify the affected consultant's and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.
- c. All consultants interviewed shall be notified in writing of the rankings and the name of the consultant initially selected for negotiation.
- d. The consultant selected for negotiation will be instructed to submit a proposed scope of basic services to be provided for this contract along with a copy of all proposed attachments to the contract. Include a schedule of the proposed fees and anticipated reimbursable expenses. If services above and beyond the customary basic services are anticipated, submit a description of the proposed services and the proposed fees. Basic services, allowable reimbursable expenses and additional services shall be as defined in the MSC § 2-106. ADVA will schedule a meeting as soon as possible with the selected

consultant to discuss the details and requirements of the full scope of services and contract budget. All contracts shall be on the forms approved by the Office of State Procurement and DBA. Attachments to this form are permissible and necessary to fully define the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. All attachments shall be edited as required to be in compliance with Arkansas law, MSC § 2-106, Office of State Procurement rules and guidelines governing professional service contracts and DBA's policies.

- e. In the event that ADVA cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the first consultant selected, ADVA may terminate the negotiation process and undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked consultant. If the second negotiation is unsuccessful, ADVA may terminate negotiation and move to the third ranked and so forth. If ADVA is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with any of the consultants interviewed, the selection process shall be terminated. ADVA may re-evaluate the scope of services required under this solicitation and begin the RFQ selection process over or may cancel this solicitation. Under no circumstances shall ADVA undertake negotiations with any of the consultants not selected for the oral presentation and interview phase of this solicitation.
- f. The State of Arkansas nor any of its entities shall be financially obligated for any consultants' expenses associated with the negotiation process whether successful or not. Nothing within this document shall be construed to waive the sovereign immunity of the State of Arkansas or any of its entities.

END