

To: Steve Rapson

From: Ted L. Burgess 

Date: July 25, 2024

Subject: Contract #2409-B: Heavy Rescue Truck

The voter-approved 2023 SPLOST project plan includes replacement of the Fire/EMS Department's heavy rescue unit. There is no reserve apparatus, necessitating a high level of reliability. The unit carries extrication equipment, specialty access tools, hazardous material mitigation supplies, portable scene lighting, and serves as the SCBA refill station at emergency scenes.

The Purchasing Department issued Invitation to Bid #2409-B to procure the heavy rescue truck. Notice of the opportunity was emailed to nine companies. Another 67 were contacted through the web-based Georgia Procurement Registry, who had registered under commodity code #07207(Class 7 Trucks [26,001 – 33,000 lb.]) and #07208 (Class 8 Trucks [33,000 lb. & Over]). The offer was also advertised through Fayette News, Georgia Local Government Access Marketplace, the county website, and Channel 23.

Seven companies submitted bids. Four of the bids were disqualified (Attachment 1), as follows:

- **HME Aherns Fox (Brackett):** This vendor offered a truck that has previously been built, and is sitting on their lot. The truck does not meet a number of the material requirements.
- **Spencer Manufacturing:** Spencer did not provide an E-Verify Affidavit. In their Exceptions to Specifications section, they said "Spencer does not participate in these programs, we have 35+ years operating a family owned business with a quality team of experienced and certified employees." O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(b)(1) says a public employer cannot contract with someone who does not use the federal E-Verify program, and that "Before a bid for any such service is considered by a public employer, the bid shall include a signed, notarized affidavit from the contractor." In addition, Spencer's offered truck does not have the minimum horsepower required by the Invitation to Bid.
- **Custom Truck & Body Works, Inc:** The offered truck, a Spartan Metro Star, does not meet minimum requirements of a number of components that would materially affect

performance and truck life. This includes a lower horsepower rating (380 – 450 HP offered vs. minimum 500 HP required), and a smaller transmission and alternator.

- **Emergency Vehicles, Inc:** The offered truck, a Spartan Metro Star, does not meet minimum requirements of a number of components that would materially affect performance and truck life. This includes a lower horsepower rating (380 – 450 HP offered vs. minimum 500 HP required), and a smaller transmission and alternator. In addition, they would provide a ladder to access the top compartments of the truck, instead of the “staircase” that was required. The Specifications said “Ladder access to the roof shall not be accepted.” This is a safety concern.

The other three bids meet all material requirements that were contained in the Invitation to Bid.

Fire/EMS recommends awarding to the lowest responsive bidder, North America Fire Equipment Co., Inc. (NAFECO) in the amount of \$1,145,135.00. The county has purchased supplies or other off-the-shelf products from NAFECO in the past (e.g. turnout gear, fire hose, safety supplies, etc.). However, they have not been awarded a contract to manufacture a vehicle or other service, so a Contractor Performance Evaluation is not available.

Specifics of the proposed contract are as follows:

Contract Name	#2409-B: Heavy Rescue Truck	
Contractor	North America Fire Equipment Co., Inc. (NAFECO)	
Contract Amount	\$1,145,135.00	
Budget:		
Fund	327	2023 SPLOST
Org Code	327305580	Fire Service SPLOST
Object	542200	Vehicles
Project	P23AC	Fire/EMS Heavy Rescue Vehicle Repl.
Available	\$1,899,635.05	As of 7/2/2024 ,

Tally Sheet
ITB 2409-B: Heavy Rescue Truck

	HME Ahrens Fox/Brackett's Fire Equipment	Custom Truck & Body Works	Spencer Manufacturing	Emergency Vehicles, Inc.
Heavy Rescue Apparatus				
Contingency Fund	Disqualified	Disqualified	Disqualified	Disqualified
Total Bid				

	Ten-8 Fire & Safety	Fireline, Inc.	NAFECO
Heavy Rescue Apparatus	\$1,178,700.00	\$1,111,791.00	\$1,095,135.00
Contingency Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Total Bid	\$1,228,700.00	\$1,161,791.00	\$1,145,135.00

HME Ahrens Fox: Previously built truck; does not meet various material specs.

Spencer Manufacturing: Vendor does not participate in the federal E-Verify program.

Custom Truck & Body Works, Inc: The offered truck, a Spartan Metro Star, does not meet minimum requirements.

Emergency Vehicles, Inc: The offered truck, a Spartan Metro Star, does not meet minimum requirements.