

**Township of Salisbury
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
AUDITING SERVICES**

**Township of Salisbury
2900 South Pike Avenue
Allentown, PA 18103
(610) 797-4000**

**Cathy Bonaskiewich
Township Manager**

January 22, 2024

Township of Salisbury

Request for Proposal

Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, PA is requesting proposals from qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit its financial records and administrative operations for the three (3) fiscal years ending December 31, 2023; December 31, 2024; and December 31, 2025, with an option of auditing its financial statements and administrative operations for each of the two subsequent fiscal years.

Salisbury Township is a First-Class Township, which operates under a five-member Board of Commissioners. The Township desires the auditor to express an opinion on the fair presentation of its basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The auditor will be required to: (1) Complete the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) audit report and file it with the DCED and Lehigh County by the deadline; (2) Publish the Audit Notice by the required deadline; (3) Prepare Financial Statements of the Township prepared in accordance with the format of GASB 34. The Township does not expect to be subject to the single audit act.

It is expected that the firm retained be available throughout the year for consultation for financial matters as appropriate. The audit firm shall assist as necessary with the implementation of new GASB standards applicable during the term of the audit engagement. The Township may elect to early implement standards at its discretion.

The Township expects that, should matters come to the attention of the firm, a management letter will be issued. The letter should offer suggestions for improvement in financial management and internal controls. Any significant management letter comments must be reviewed with the Township Manager and Director of Finance before issuance of the letter.

There is no expressed or implied obligation for Salisbury Township to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request.

Questions about this Request for Proposals may be directed to Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at pziegenfus@salisburylehighpa.gov or 610-797-4000.

To be considered, Salisbury Township must receive two (2) bound and one (1) unbound copies of a proposal **by 4:30 P.M. on Friday, March 1, 2024**, in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Proposal for Auditing Services” to the attention of Paul Ziegenfus, Finance Director, Salisbury Township, 2900 South Pike Ave., Allentown, PA 18103. Any proposals not received prior to the due date and time will be returned to the proposer unopened. Salisbury Township reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT

Salisbury Township has a total land area of 11.40 square miles with a population of 13,621 residents as of the 2020 Federal census. Salisbury Township is a Township of the First Class in Lehigh County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, established in 1753. The Township's current work force comprises of 59 full-time employees (including 20 uniformed police officers), plus approximately 50 part-time and seasonal employees. The governing body consists of an elected five-member Board of Commissioners serving four-year terms.

The scope of the audit will include all funds, including Capital, of Salisbury Township. The Township presently uses the following funds:

- General Fund
- Fire Fund
- Library Fund
- Water Fund
- Sewer Fund
- Refuse & Recycling Fund
- Debt Service Fund
- State Liquid Fuels Highway Aid Fund
- Developer Escrow Fund

The 2023 approved General Fund Budget is \$9,789,448 for revenue and \$9,789,448 for expenditures. Total budgeted revenue for all funds is \$18,958,685 and total budgeted expenditures for all funds are \$18,958,685. Salisbury Township bills quarterly for sewer and refuse usage based on a flat rate and water based on actual usage. The Township has approximately 5,000 utility accounts. The Township maintains pumping stations.

The Township's accounts are maintained on the modified-accrual basis of accounting. The financial records to be audited are maintained on a networked personal computer system by the Administration Department. Utility billing and payroll is also processed on the same system by Township staff.

Township administration staff is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to the auditing firm and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. The Director of Finance, or designee, will prepare various information schedules as agreed upon. As part of the audit, the auditing firm will prepare a draft of the financial statements and related notes. In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, the Director of Finance and Township Manager will be required to review and approve the financial statements prior to their issuance and have a responsibility to be in a position in fact and appearance to make an informed judgment on the financial statements. The Township will provide copier and fax services, a suitable work area, access to a telephone and wireless internet access.

The audit of financial statements must be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units and would include obtaining an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan the audit and to determine the nature, timing and extent of audit procedures to be performed. An audit would not be designed to provide assurances on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weakness; however, it would be understood the auditor would communicate to management and the Board of Commissioners any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses that became known during the course of the audit.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT (continued)

The auditor would communicate to the Board of Commissioners any: (a) fraud involving senior management and other fraud that caused a material misstatement of the financial statements; (b) illegal acts (unless clearly inconsequential); (c) disagreements with management and other serious difficulties encountered while performing the audit; and, (d) various matters related to the entity's accounting policies and financial statements.

REPORTS TO BE ISSUED

Following the completion of the audit of the fiscal year's financial statements, the auditor shall issue a report on the fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The auditor is required to make an immediate written report of all irregularities or illegal acts of which they become aware to the Township Manager and the President of the Board of Commissioners.

All working papers and reports must be retained, at the auditor's expense, for a minimum of three (3) years, unless the firm is notified in writing by Salisbury Township of the need to extend the retention period. In addition, the firm shall respond to the reasonable inquiries of successor auditors and allow successor auditors to review working papers relating to matters of continuing accounting significance.

QUALIFICATIONS

The following are minimum qualifications for respondents:

- Respondents must currently be licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to practice as Certified Public Accountants.
- Respondents must currently be actively practicing as Certified Public Accountants and must have been actively practicing for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Respondents must currently be actively engaged in auditing governmental units in Pennsylvania (preferably local government).
- The firm must be a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and must adhere to the AICPA and PICPA professional standards of audit practices and conduct.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals submitted will be evaluated under the Township's professional services procurement procedures. The Auditor Selection Committee including but not limited to the Township Manager and Director of Finance will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Township Board of Commissioners, who will make the final decision.

The Township reserves the right to reject any and all proposals; and to waive any immaterial irregularities. The contract will be awarded by formal action at a regularly scheduled public Board Meeting.

REQUIRED PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

All submitted proposals shall conform to the following general format. The Proposer may supplement the format with additional information, but must include the indicated information at a minimum. The order indicated does not have to be followed as long as each requested component is clearly indicated in a table of contents.

- **Transmittal Letter**

Including the signature of a representative of the firm authorized to negotiate and enter into contracts on its behalf.

- **Statement of Qualifications**

Proposers shall present a profile of their firm or entities to include: (1) Description of the firm; (2) A statement of whether the firm is local, regional, national or international; (3) A listing of the firms principals and other project staff anticipated to be assigned to this project, along with an experience statement for each of these individuals to include the appropriate training and/or certifications; (4) The location of the office or facility from which the services will be administered; (5) The extent of experience with audits of Township governments and the extent of experience with audits of other Pennsylvania local municipal entities; (6) The extent of experience conducting reviews in accordance with Federal Single Audit Requirements; (7) A list of references including company, address, telephone number and contact person(s) for organizations for whom the firm has performed audits during the past two (2) years; (8) A listing of any and all subcontractors intended to be used on this project, along with the scope of work expected to be assigned; (9) Indication as to whether the firm has received a positive peer review within the last three (3) years.

- **Work Plan**

Based on the Scope of Services as outlined in this Request for Proposals, the firm shall include a work plan that explains its approach to this project. At a minimum, the work plan shall identify the following key items: (a) an explanation of procedures to be used to conduct the audit; (b) a schedule for completion of the audit, including any assumptions as to the availability of data/assistance from Township staff.

- **Fee Schedule**

The proposal shall include a detailed fee schedule for the audit for each of the three (3) years of the contract, plus two (2) one-year extensions. The price quoted shall be "all-inclusive" and contain projected hours, applicable hourly billing rates and a breakdown of projected costs attributed to each

major task. Any assumptions made relative to the pricing should be clearly stated in the proposal. The proposal shall also include payment terms.

CONTRACT AWARD

Salisbury Township anticipates a contract award at a regularly scheduled Board of Commissioner's Meeting no later than Thursday, March 28, 2024.

VALIDITY OF PROPOSAL

Proposers agree that their proposals will remain valid for a period of sixty (60) days after the above-cited closing date for submission of proposals and may be extended beyond that time by mutual agreement. Proposers agree that the technical portion of their proposals (not including proprietary information) may be released to other proposers upon announcement of an award, if requested by such other proposers. Any proprietary information must be clearly marked as such and the release of proposal information shall be in accordance with provisions of the Right to Know Act.