



Request for Proposal: Dakota County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

RFP Issue Date: May 29, 2025

Proposal Due Date: June 20, 2025

CONTENTS:

1. Purpose of Request
2. Background
3. Scope of Services, Responsibilities, and Deliverables
4. Project Budget
5. Project Management and Communications
6. Project Schedule
7. Proposal Submittal Requirements
8. Evaluation Criteria
9. Questions
10. Submission Deadline
11. Contract
12. Attachments

CONTACT:

Mary Jackson, Office of Planning
Mary.jackson@co.dakota.mn.us
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

1. Purpose of Request

Dakota County, Minnesota, seeks to contract professional services to conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for Dakota County. The consultant will work with County staff to identify the most appropriate methods for the inventory. Several tiers of inventories are envisioned, representing a spectrum of county control, from more control over its operations and services to less control in influencing the public to reduce emissions. The following matrix differentiates between County operations and the county as a geography. For each scope, it includes an emissions inventory and County-led efforts to reduce emissions/sequester carbon. *Please note that the emphasis for this contract will be placed on County operations noted in Tier One (emissions from County operations) and Tier Two (GHG reductions and carbon sequestration within County operations). No services are being requested for Tier Three. A preliminary inventory of Tier Four (County services that enable others to reduce their emissions) is included in the scope of services.*

	County Operations (Internal)	Countywide (External)
Current GHG Emissions	Tier One: Emissions from stationary and non-stationary sources	Tier Three: Emissions from stationary and non-stationary sources <i>(No inventory requested)</i>
Current GHG Reductions (Mitigation Efforts and Sequestration)	Tier Two: County operations	Tier Four: County-sponsored actions implemented by others

Tier One: Current Emissions from County Government Operations: Identify and quantify emissions related to county government operations as a first tier, including but not limited to:

- Stationary sources
 - County-owned buildings (gas, electricity, new construction, and renovation)
- Non-stationary sources
 - County-owned fleet (fuel consumption)
 - County transportation network (streetlights, signal operations, and construction/renovation projects). *A point of discussion will be whether to include emissions from all vehicles driven on the County transportation network in Tier One.*
 - County employee commutes and work-related travel in personal vehicles (fuel consumption)
- County management of waste it generates (including recycling, composting, and remaining materials sent to waste-to-energy facilities)
- Water Use, emissions related to delivery of water consumed in County operations.
- Inclusion of county-purchased materials may be an added item (reflecting production and shipping of office supplies, furniture, and other purchased materials)

Tier Two: County-Provided Offsets: Identify and quantify emissions offsets to County operations, as implemented by Dakota County:

- County building energy improvements (e.g., solar installations, energy efficiency measures) that reduce energy use and GHG emissions for its own operations.
- County road system improvements that reduce emissions (e.g., roundabouts instead of signalized intersections that reduce motor idling, and improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure).

- County owned and managed lands (park system and natural areas) that sequester carbon.

Tier Three: Current Emissions Countywide from All Sources: The County will rely on the [data provided by the Metropolitan Council](#) for emissions generated by institutions, businesses, and housing within the geography of Dakota County:

- Stationary sources
 - Residential buildings
 - Commercial and industrial buildings and sites
 - Manufacturing
 - Energy industries
- Non-stationary sources
 - On road passenger vehicles
 - On road commercial vehicles
 - Aviation
 - Off road
- Solid waste (generated in the County)
- Other sources, as applicable, such as agriculture

Tier Four: County-Promoted Offsets: emissions offsets that the County facilitates, but are implemented by others:

- County-promoted natural resource management options for privately owned natural lands that sequester carbon.
- County-promoted waste reduction and recycling efforts that reduce landfilling.
- Other offsets, as applicable.

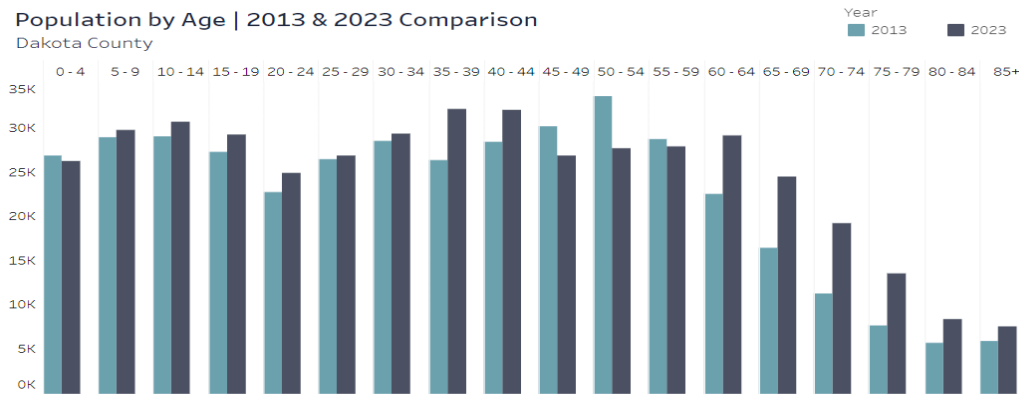
2. Background

A. Population and Land Use

Dakota County encompasses 587 square miles and is roughly one-third urban, one-third suburban, and one-third rural. It is the third most populous county in Minnesota, home to 447,440 residents in 2023. Like much of the Metro Region, major demographic trends in recent decades include increasing racial and ethnic diversity. Data from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) show that school children in Dakota County speak 128 languages other than English as their primary language at home. Another notable demographic trend is the overall aging of Dakota County's population. The following chart shows a marked increase among older age cohorts in Dakota County.

Population by Age | 2013 & 2023 Comparison

Dakota County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

B. County Operations and Facilities

Dakota County currently has more than 2,500 employees and owns and operates the following facilities, which house a broad variety of departments and programs under four divisions.

County Buildings

- ♦ [Administration Center](#)
- ♦ [Burnsville License Center](#)
- ♦ [Empire Maintenance Facility](#)
- ♦ [Extension and Conservation Center](#)
- ♦ [Hastings Transportation Shop](#)
- ♦ [Judicial Center](#)
- ♦ [Juvenile Services Center](#)
- ♦ [Lakeville License Center](#)
- ♦ [Law Enforcement Center](#)
- ♦ [Lawshe Memorial Museum](#)
- ♦ [Northern Service Center](#)
- ♦ [Robert Trail License Center](#)
- ♦ [SMART Center](#)
- ♦ [Western Service Center](#)

Libraries

- ♦ [Burnhaven Library](#)
- ♦ [Farmington Library](#)
- ♦ [Galaxie Library](#)
- ♦ [Heritage Library](#)
- ♦ [Inver Glen Library](#)
- ♦ [Kaposia Library](#)
- ♦ [Pleasant Hill Library](#)
- ♦ [Robert Trail Library](#)
- ♦ [Wentworth Library](#)
- ♦ [Wescott Library](#)

Environmental Facilities

- ♦ [The Recycling Zone](#)

Parks (6,280 acres)

- ♦ [Dakota Woods Dog Park](#)
- ♦ [Lake Byllesby Regional Park](#)
- ♦ [Lebanon Hills Regional Park](#)
 - [Lebanon Hills Visitor Center](#)
- ♦ [Miesville Ravine Park Reserve](#)
- ♦ [Spring Lake Park Reserve](#)
 - [Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center](#)
- ♦ [Thompson County Park](#)
 - [Dakota Lodge](#)
- ♦ [Whitetail Woods Regional Park](#)
- ♦ Park Conservation Areas

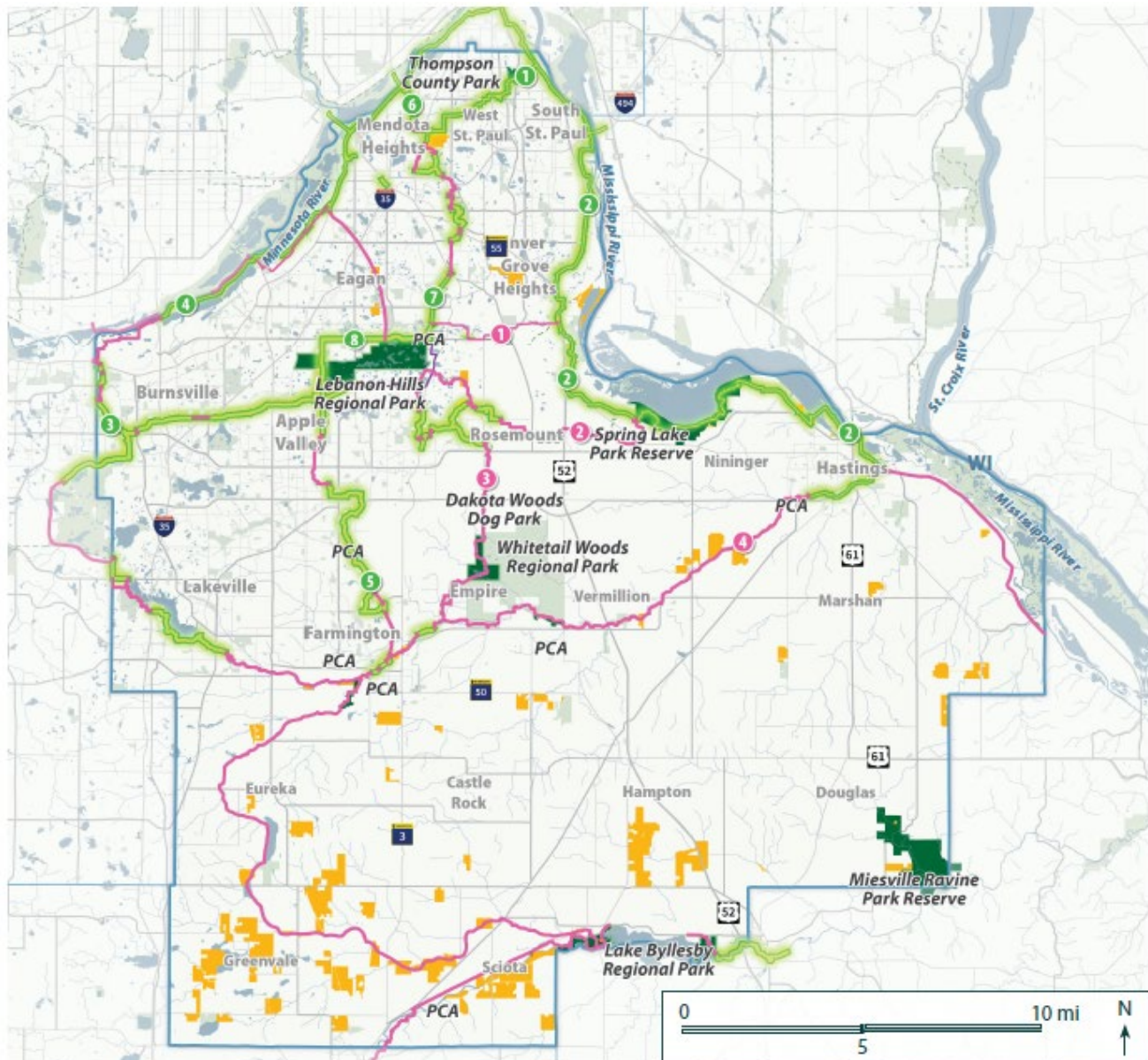
Greenways (48 miles exist, 200+ miles proposed)

- ♦ [Big Rivers Regional Trail](#)
- ♦ [Lake Marion Greenway](#)
- ♦ [Minnesota River Greenway](#)
- ♦ [Mississippi River Greenway](#)
- ♦ [North Creek Greenway](#)
- ♦ [River to River Greenway](#)
- ♦ [Vermillion River Greenway](#)
- ♦ [Veterans Memorial Greenway](#)

County-Protected Lands (11,000+ acres)

- ♦ Easements and Purchase of Natural Areas (4,000+ acres)
- ♦ Conservation Easements on Agricultural Lands (7,800+ acres)

County Parks, Greenways, and Easements



LEGEND

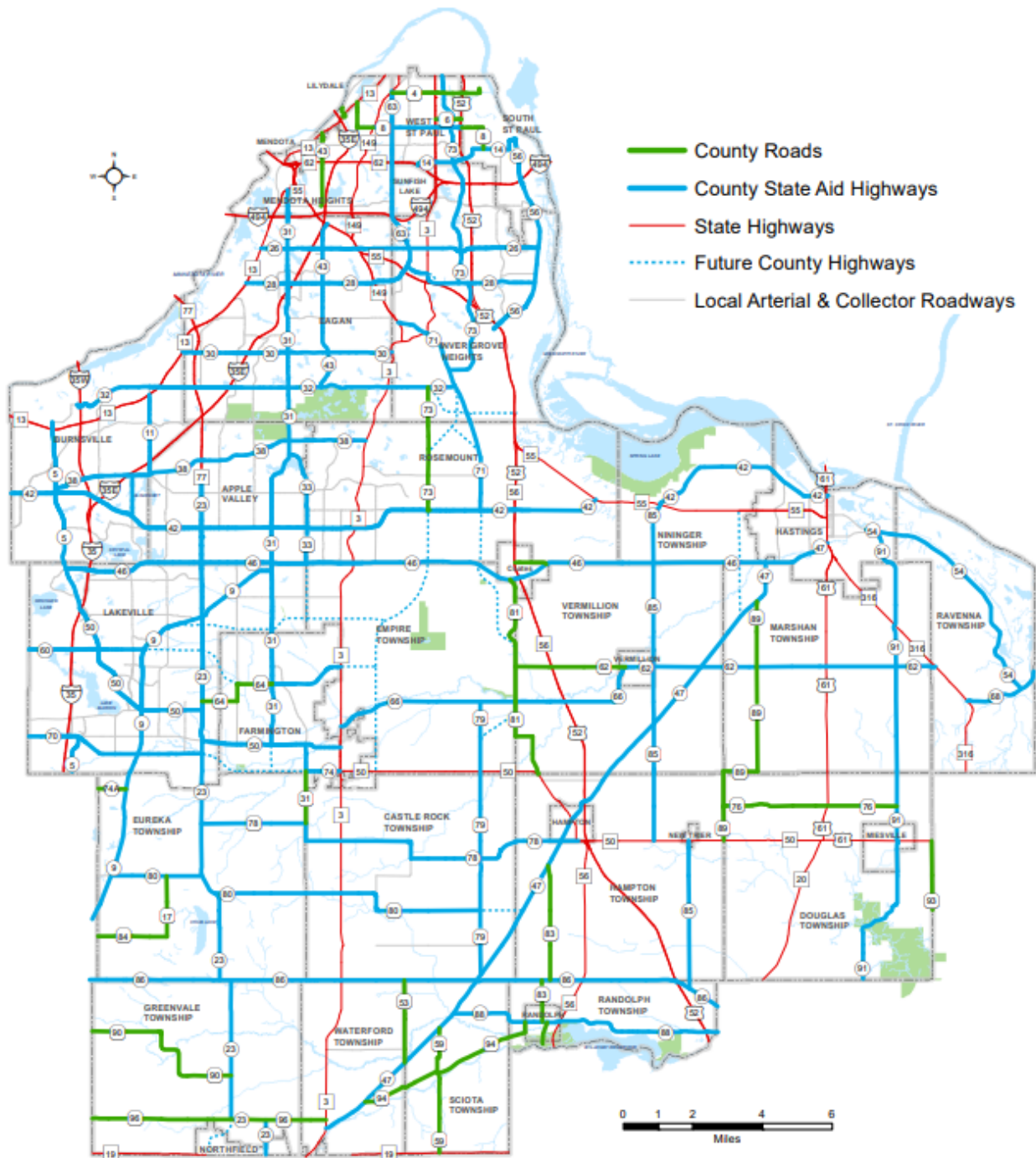
- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Reserves, Regional Parks, and County Park | Existing/In Development County Greenways | 2030 Greenway Vision |
| Park Conservation Areas (PCA) | 1 River to River | 1 Veterans Memorial Greenway |
| Conservation Easements | 2 Mississippi River | 2 Rosemount Greenway |
| Non-County Public Lands | 3 Lake Marion | 3 Vermillion Highlands Greenway |
| Non-County Trails | 4 Minnesota River | 4 Vermillion River Greenway |
| | 5 North Creek | Greenway Linking Route |
| | 6 Big Rivers Regional Trail | |
| | 7 Lebanon Hills | |
| | 8 Greenway Linking Route | |

Transportation

Dakota County operates and manages roughly 414 centerline miles of County State Aid Highways (CSAH, 339 miles) and County Roads (CR, 75 miles). The combined total accounting for multiple lanes is 1,034 miles. Approximately 88 percent of the county system roads are paved. Most paved county highways include pedestrian/bicycle trails on one or both sides.

The county system also includes 83 bridges and 136 traffic signals. While Dakota County has secured funding for and managed projects to improve transit opportunities, services are provided by two regional transit operators, Metro Transit and the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority.

County Highway System, 2020



3. County Plans, Data, and Reporting

Dakota County tracks and prepares reports on the use of energy, fuel, and other resources and on GHG emissions. The County develops plans to reduce emissions and improve climate resilience. Information on the following topics will be provided to the consultant selected for this project.

- **Energy/Greenhouse Gas Report:** [2009 Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Report](#)
- **Buildings:** B3 benchmarking software with County data.
- **Fleet:** Vehicle inventory, fuel use data and reporting.
- **Transportation:** Signals and lights, signal timing, roundabouts constructed and planned, construction materials.
- **Waste Management:** State-mandated reports including county-level and hauler-based data.
[SolidWasteMasterPlan.pdf](#), [Workbook: SCORE report 2022](#)
- **Parks and Natural Areas:** Landscape restoration, land cover types, controlled burns, and wildfires.
- **Emergency Management:** city-county plan to reduce impacts of severe events, [2022 All-Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).
- **Water Resources:** plans to protect water resources in a changing climate. [County Groundwater Plan](#), [Watershed Management Plans](#)
- **Environmentally-Preferred Purchasing:** Policy language.

4. Scope of Services, Responsibilities, and Deliverables

Tasks are shown by the major products in the following tables. Items are indicated as being a County effort, consultant effort, or a joint effort.

Startup	County	Consultant
1. Upon contract award, develop a clear work plan/schedule with roles, deliverables, and dates. Discuss and select methods to be used in the inventories.	X	X
2. Organize the staff team structure and identify potential external information sources.	X	X

Tier 1 – County Operations	County	Consultant
1. Provide consultant with data on county buildings and operations.	X	
2. Inventory GHG emissions from County operations <u>Stationary sources:</u> building energy, natural gas, construction/remodeling <u>Non-stationary sources:</u> County fleet, employee commute, County highway signals, construction/renovation, and potentially all vehicle use on the system <u>Waste:</u> County management of its waste, e.g., recycling, composting, WTE <u>Water Use:</u> emissions related to energy used in receiving water <u>Additional Sources:</u> may be added, such as production and shipping of materials and supplies that the County purchases.		X
3. Analyze and evaluate data.		X
4. Develop report of findings for elected officials and present to staff.		X
5. Present and discuss findings with relevant committees and the County Board.	X	

Major products from Tier 1: inventory of County-generated greenhouse gas emissions, and a consultant-prepared report of findings.

Tier 2 – County-Provided Greenhouse Gas Reductions/Offsets to County Operations	County	Consultant
1. Provide consultant information needed to conduct this inventory.	X	
2. Identify and quantify carbon sequestration from County-owned or -managed natural lands, including parks, greenways, conservation easements, and natural areas.		X
3. Identify and quantify greenhouse gas emissions reductions from County-managed building improvements (e.g., energy efficiency, solar arrays).		X
4. Identify and quantify greenhouse gas emissions reductions from County transportation improvements (e.g., roundabouts, pedestrian-bicycle improvements).		X
5. Analyze and evaluate data.		
6. Develop a report of findings for elected officials and present to staff.		X

Major products from Tier 2: a clear picture of how well the County is reducing emissions and providing carbon offsets in its operations, consultant-prepared report of findings.

Tier 3 – Countywide Emissions (County staff to use Metro Council data)	County	Consultant
1. Extract data for Dakota County's geography from the regional GHG emissions inventory prepared by the Metropolitan Council.	X	
2. Develop report of findings for elected officials and present to staff, as determined.	X	
3. Present findings to County Board, as determined.	X	

Major products from Tier 3: a current picture of greenhouse gas emissions generated on a countywide basis (not just County operations), potential report of findings.

Tier 4 – County-Facilitated Greenhouse Gas Reductions/Offsets by Others	County	Consultant
1. Provide consultant information needed to conduct this inventory.	X	
2. Identify and estimate benefits from county-promoted natural resource management options for privately owned natural lands that sequester carbon.		X
3. Identify and quantify additional greenhouse gas emission reductions from County programs, such as waste management initiatives.		X
4. Analyze and evaluate data.		X
5. Develop a report of findings for elected officials and present to staff.		X

Major products from Tier 4: a clear picture of how well County programs and services support emissions reductions and offset carbon that are implemented by others, consultant-prepared report of findings.

5. Project Budget

The estimated budget is \$50,000 for consulting services identified in this request for proposals. Proposals should outline a base scope of work needed to complete the plans that is within the project budget range. If there are recommended activities over the budget range, they must be identified as optional services for County consideration.

Any allowances for project costs, printing, travel, or direct office costs should be identified and included in the proposed budget. The actual fee will be based on hourly and reimbursable costs with a not-to-exceed maximum contract amount.

6. Project Management and Communications

County Project Management

Mary Jackson from the Dakota County Office of Planning, will be the project manager and point of contact for Dakota County. In addition, a team of County staff will regularly review and comment on the work. The County core team will include staff from Facilities Management, Physical Development, and other departments, as needed.

Consultant Project Management

- ♦ The consultant team will include team members with expertise in all disciplines required to complete the work.
- ♦ The consultant project manager shall ensure that deliverables are on time. The consultant will provide a proposed schedule with associated tasks and deliverables designed to meet the County goals about timing of the project.
- ♦ Consultants are to conduct project team meetings with the internal Staff Core Team as necessary with all involved stakeholders and prepare the agendas and minutes. The consultant can anticipate a high level of coordination and iterative processes with Dakota County.
- ♦ The consultant will provide a schedule of work tasks required with monthly updates. The County shall be billed monthly throughout the duration of the project, no later than ten (10) days after the completion of each the month. All invoices shall clearly define the percentage of project completion and the percentage of project billed to date for each work task and the total project.
- ♦ All project team sub consultants shall comply with **Attachment A** Dakota County Standard Assurances, and **Attachment B** Dakota County Insurance Terms.

Communications

The consultant will conduct bi-weekly (every other week) conference call with client project management staff during project work efforts. The purpose of the 30-minute calls will be to discuss work efforts completed, upcoming work efforts, client and consultant deadlines and needs, and other project-related items.

Document Accessibility

Documents to be posted on the Dakota County website shall meet current Digital Accessibility standards pursuant to Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. The consultant shall have ultimate responsibility for ensuring accessibility standards are met, as and where applicable. For more information, see: www.co.dakota.mn.us/pages/accessibility.aspx.

Project Schedule

Action	Estimated Date
RFP Issued	May 29, 2025
Deadline for RFP questions (4:00 PM CST)	June 6, 2025
Answers to questions posted (4:00 PM CST)	June 9, 2025
Proposals received by Dakota County (email submittal 12:00 PM CST)	June 20, 2025
Notification of interviews (if needed)	June 24-25, 2025
Interviews (if needed)	June 26-27, 2025 or TBD
Consultant selection, on or about	June 27, 2025
Execution of Contract, on or about	July 15, 2025
Initial meeting with staff team to initiate project	July 17-18, 2025
Conduct Tier 1 and Tier 2 inventory and develop report	October 22, 2025
Conduct Tier 4 inventory and develop report	November 30, 2025
Develop findings for Board consideration	January, 2026
Project close-out	6-7 months from contract execution

7. Proposal Submittal Requirements

Proposal Format: Proposals should be submitted in a pdf as an email smaller than ten MB or in an emailed link to an FTP site for download. Proposals should be ready to print on 8-1/2" x 11" paper. Sequentially number all pages in the proposal throughout. Text and exhibits should be succinct and relevant to the RFP requirements. Proposals should be concise and should aim for 30 pages (longer proposals will be considered).

The Letter of Submittal shall include:

1. Name, address, phone number, fax number of the firm;
2. Acknowledgment of receipt of RFP addenda, if any;
3. Name, title, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address (if any) of contact person during period of proposal evaluation;
4. A statement to the effect that the proposal shall remain valid for a period of not less than 60 days from the date of submittal; and
5. Signature of a person authorized to bind the offering firm to the terms of the proposal.

The following information should be provided within the proposal:

- A. General Firm Information: List office location, history of firm, size of firm, number of specialized disciplines, operating officers, and principals.
- B. Describe the project understanding and approach used by your firm. Give a brief description of the issues you believe significant to this project; any unique options to be pursued for this project; and an outline of your project approach. This outline should include:
- C. Key Personnel

- 1) **Project Manager:** Provide a description of the Project Manager and their qualifications for this project and a list of previous projects worked on with the firm that are relevant to this project. If it is possible that more than one project manager will be assigned to various specialty areas, please provide multiple descriptions.
- 2) **Key Support Personnel:** Provide a brief listing of key personnel that will be assigned to this project. Identify their area of expertise and how they have worked with the Project Manager on previous projects.

D. Qualifications and Experience

- 3) **Previous greenhouse gas emission inventories and mitigation experience required.** Sub-consultants: Describe the name and location of other sub-consultants that would be used by the firm in the project. Identify the sub-consultant's areas of expertise, roles in the project, and the approximate percentage of the work that would be performed by each of these firms. List the projects that team members have collaborated on in the past.

E. Fee Estimate: The proposal must identify the budget necessary to perform the services identified in the Project Scope of Services. If service outside of the RFP budget are identified, they should be presented as Add-Alternates with clearly identified fees.

- 1) Provide a breakdown of personnel, hours, and fees for each item in the Scope of Services (i.e., 1,2,3 etc.) for the firm and any subcontractors with an hourly estimate of time required by and hourly rate for each project person.
- 2) Include direct costs only and clearly distinguish between professional fees, contract fees, travel costs, necessary supplies/materials, production costs, and other estimated reimbursable expenses (if applicable, describe).
- 3) Indirect rates or overhead costs – such as rent, utilities, or incidental copying – will not be allowed under this contract.
- 4) Clearly identify the overall proposed “not to exceed” fee inclusive of all costs.
- 5) Owner may elect to award any part in any order to meet budget constraints.

F. Current Hourly Rates: Provide current hourly rates for all project personnel.

G. Project Schedule: Provide a project schedule with major project work tasks and meetings.

H. References: Provide three references for similar projects.

I. Project Examples: Provide 1-3 past project examples with similar scope, with at least one conducted at a county scale preferred. Provide document/primary deliverable from at least one project with similar scope. Electronic copies are preferred (PDF or internet link). Hard copies will be returned.

J. Statement of Compliance: The consultant will need to include a Statement of Compliance to the terms identified for Standard Assurances (Attachment A) and Insurance Terms (Attachment B).

K. Conflict of Interest: The Consultant must identify any potential conflict of interest it may have providing the services contemplated by this RFP.

L. Other information you believe may be valuable in reviewing the qualifications of your firm.

General Information

A. Examination of RFP. By submitting a proposal, the consultant represents that they have thoroughly examined and become familiar with the work required under this RFP and that he/she is capable of performing quality work to achieve the objectives of the County.

B. Addenda/Clarifications. Any changes to this RFP will be made by the County through a written addendum. No verbal modification will be binding.

- C. Pre-Contractual Expenses. Pre-contractual expenses are defined as expenses incurred by the consultant in: 1) preparing its proposal in response to this RFP, 2) submitting that proposal to the County, 3) negotiating with the County on any matter related to this RFP, or 4) any other expenses incurred by the consultant prior to the date of execution of the proposed agreement.

The County shall not, in any event, be liable for any pre-contractual expenses incurred by the consultant in the preparation of their proposals. Consultants shall not include any such expenses as part of their proposals.

- D. Exceptions and Deviations. Any exceptions to the requirements in this RFP must be included in the proposal submitted by the consultant. Segregate such exceptions as a separate element of the proposal under the heading "Exceptions and Deviations."
- E. Contract Award. Issuance of this RFP and receipt of proposals do not commit the County to the awarding of a contract. The County reserves the right to postpone opening for its own convenience, to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP, to negotiate with other than the selected consultant should negotiations with the selected consultant be terminated, to negotiate with more than one consultant simultaneously, or to cancel all or part of this RFP.
- F. County Rights. The County may investigate the qualifications of any consultant under consideration, require confirmation of information furnished by the consultant, and require additional evidence of qualifications to perform the work described in this RFP. The County reserves the right to:
- ♦ Reject any or all proposals if such action is in the public interest;
 - ♦ Cancel the entire Request for Proposals;
 - ♦ Issue a subsequent Request for Proposals;
 - ♦ Remedy technical errors in the Request for Proposals process;
 - ♦ Appoint evaluation committees to review proposals;
 - ♦ Establish a short list of consultants eligible for interview after proposal evaluation;
 - ♦ Negotiate with any, all, or none of the RFP consultants;
 - ♦ Award a contract reflective of the base bid and/or deductive alternates; and
 - ♦ Reject and replace one or more subcontractors.
- G. Independent Contractor Status. The consultant will be an independent consultant, and nothing contained in any contract awarded shall be construed to create the relationship of employer and employee between the County and the consultant. The consultant is not entitled to receive any of the benefits received by County employees and is not eligible for workers' or unemployment compensation benefits. The consultant understands that no withholding or deduction for state or federal income taxes, FICA, FUTA, or otherwise, will be made from the payments due the consultant and that it is the consultant's sole obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of all federal and state tax laws.
- H. Joint Offers. Where two or more consultants desire to submit a single proposal in response to this RFP, they should do so on a prime-subcontractor basis rather than as a joint venture. The County intends to contract with a single firm and not with multiple firms doing business as a joint venture.
- I. Ownership of Proposals. All proposals timely submitted become the property of the County upon submission, and the proposals will not be returned to the consultants. By submitting a proposal, the consultant agrees that the County may copy the proposal for purposes of facilitating evaluation or to respond to requests for public data. The consultant consents to such copying by submitting a proposal and warrants that such copying will not violate the rights of any third party, including copyrights.
- J. Public Records and Requests for Confidentiality.
Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 13.591, the names of all entities that submitted a timely bid/proposal to Dakota County will be public once opened. All other information remains private until Dakota County has completed negotiating a contract with the selected Responder. After a contract has been negotiated, all information received is public information except "trade secret" information as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37. All information submitted by a Responder therefore shall be treated as public information by Dakota County unless the Responder properly requests that information be treated as a confidential trade secret at the time of submitting the bid/proposal.

Any request for confidential treatment of trade secret information in a Responder's proposal must sufficiently describe the facts that support the classification of information as confidential trade secret. The request must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized by the Responder to answer any inquiries by Dakota County concerning the request for confidentiality. This information shall be provided on the Trade Secret Information Form, see Attachment D. Dakota County reserves the right to make the final determination of whether data identified as confidential trade secret by a Responder falls within the trade secret exemption in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

The envelope or mailing container of any documents submitted with the proposal that the Responder believes contain confidential trade secret information must be clearly marked as containing confidential trade secret information. Each page upon which trade secret information appears must be marked as containing confidential trade secret information.

In addition to marking the documents as confidential, the Responder must submit one paper and one digital copy of the proposal from which the confidential trade secret information has been excised. The confidential trade secret information must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed while retaining as much of the document as possible.

The Responder's failure to request confidential treatment of confidential trade secret information pursuant to this subsection will be deemed by Dakota County as a waiver by the Responder of any confidential treatment of the trade secret information in the bid or proposal.

Requests by the public for the release of information held by Dakota County are subject to the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13. Responders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these provisions prior to submitting a proposal.

By submitting this bid or proposal, Responder agrees to indemnify and hold the County, its agents and employees, harmless from any claims or causes of action relating to the County's withholding of data based upon reliance on the representations that the information is a trade secret as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37 and therefore is not public, including the payment of all costs and attorney fees incurred by the County in defending such an action.

K. Digital Accessibility.

Documents to be posted on the Dakota County website shall meet current Digital Accessibility standards pursuant to Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended. The consultant shall have ultimate responsibility for ensuring accessibility standards are met, as and where applicable. For more information, see: www.co.dakota.mn.us/pages/accessibility.aspx

8. Evaluation Criteria

Dakota County will identify proposals that most closely meet the project needs. Upon review of the proposals, top candidate firm(s) may be asked to make a presentation and be interviewed.

Factors to be considered will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Project approach - Conceptual and technical approach in conducting the evaluation and developing recommendations, completeness of detailed work plan, assurance of the consultant's ability to provide deliverables in a timely fashion and with high quality.
2. Understanding the Scope of Work - Completeness of proposal, demonstrated grasp of work to be completed under this contract, and expressed understanding of the project scope, objectives, and complexity.
3. Expertise of technical and professional team members – Team qualifications, specialized experience. Professional competency of members in all project aspects, proven innovative approaches, knowledge of issues and background associated with the project. Successful proposals will include team members with expertise in greenhouse gas emissions inventories and mitigation best practices.
4. Past performance and related experience of firm - Previous experience in performing similar projects, understanding of Dakota County and stakeholder participation.

5. Responsiveness: Compatibility between consultant and the key planning participants, general attitude, and ability to communicate.
6. Best Value Cost Proposal.

9. Questions

Questions regarding this RFP and the project must be received before 4:00 PM Central Standard Time, June 6, 2025 and be directed to Mary Jackson (contact information below).

10. Submission Deadline

Proposals are preferred in a compatible digital format (pdf) and **must be received by 12:00 p.m., local time June 20, 2025**. Please submit proposals to:

Mary Jackson
Dakota County Office of Planning
Mary.jackson@co.dakota.mn.us

Questions regarding this RFP and the project should be directed to Mary Jackson at 952-891-7039 or mary.jackson@co.dakota.mn.us.

11. Contract

The term of the contract to be awarded under this RFP will be from the date executed by all parties until services are complete. The County will prepare a contract with the selected Consultant. The County will use its standard contract terms and conditions, which are available upon request. The selected Consultant must be willing to sign a contract that will incorporate the RFP plus attachments, the response to proposal and any other terms negotiated by the parties.

12. Attachments

A. Standard Assurances

1. **NON-DISCRIMINATION.** During the performance of this Contract, the Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because the person is a member of a protected class under, and as defined by, federal law or Minnesota state law including, but not limited to, race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, familial status, marital status, veteran's status, or public assistance status. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without unlawful discrimination. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices which set forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran's status, or public assistance status.

No funds received under this Contract shall be used to provide religious or sectarian training or services.

The Contractor shall comply with any applicable federal or state law regarding non-discrimination. The following list includes, but is not meant to limit, laws which may be applicable:

A. The Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* which prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

B. Equal Employment Opportunity-Executive Order No.11246, 30 FR 12319, signed September 24, 1965, as amended, which is incorporated herein by reference, and prohibits discrimination by U.S. Government contractors and subcontractors because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

C. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.* and 45 C.F.R. 84.3 (J) and (K) implementing Sec. 504 of the Act which prohibits discrimination against qualified handicapped persons in the access to or participation in federally-funded services or employment.

D. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* as amended, and Minn. Stat. § 181.81, which generally prohibit discrimination because of age.

E. The Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d), which provides that an employer may not discriminate on the basis of sex by paying employees of different sexes differently for the same work.

F. Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A, as amended, which generally prohibits discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

G. Minn. Stat. § 181.59 which prohibits discrimination against any person by reason of race, creed, or color in any state or political subdivision contract for materials, supplies, or construction. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and any second or subsequent violation of these terms may be cause for forfeiture of all sums due under the Contract.

H. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 through 12213, 47 U.S.C. §§ 225, 611, with regulations at 29 C.F.R. § 1630, which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of a disability in term, condition, or privilege of employment.

I. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, *et seq.* and including 45 CFR Part 80, prohibits recipients, including their contractors and subcontractors, of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin which includes not discriminating against those persons with limited English proficiency.

J. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, which amended Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.* which prohibits discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

K. Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-based and Community Organizations-Executive Order No. 13279, signed December 12, 2002 and as amended May 3, 2018. Prohibits discrimination against grant seeking organizations on the basis of religion in the administration or distribution of federal financial assistance under social service programs, including grants and loans.

L. Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212, with regulations at 41 C.F.R. Part 60-250, which prohibits discrimination in employment against protected veterans.

2. **DATA PRIVACY.** For purposes of this Contract, all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by Contractor in the performance of this Contract are subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, ("MGDPA") and the Minnesota Rules implementing the MGDPA. Contractor must comply with the MGDPA as if it were a governmental entity. The remedies in Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the Contractor. Contractor does not have a duty to provide access to public data to a data requestor if the public data are available from the County, except as required by the terms of this Contract. If Contractor is a subrecipient of federal grant funds under this Contract, it will comply with the federal requirements for the safeguarding of protected personally identifiable information ("Protected PII") as required in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR Part 200, and the County Protected PII procedures, which are available upon request. Additionally, Contractor must comply with any other applicable laws on data privacy. All subcontracts shall contain the same or similar data practices compliance requirements.

3. **RECORDS DISCLOSURE/RETENTION.** Contractor's bonds, records, documents, papers, accounting procedures and practices, and other evidences relevant to this Contract are subject to the examination, duplication, transcription, and audit by the County and either the Legislative or State Auditor, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, subd. 5. Such evidences are also subject to review by the Comptroller General of the United States, or a duly authorized representative, if federal funds are used for any work under this Contract. The Contractor agrees to maintain such evidences for a period of six (6) years from the date services or payment were last provided or made or longer if any audit in progress requires a longer retention period.

4. **WORKER HEALTH, SAFETY AND TRAINING.** Contractor shall be solely responsible for the health and safety of its employees in connection with the work performed under this Contract. Contractor shall make arrangements to ensure the health and safety of all subcontractors and other persons who may perform work in connection with this Contract. Contractor shall ensure all personnel of Contractor and subcontractors are properly trained and supervised and, when applicable, duly licensed or certified appropriate to the tasks engaged in under this Contract. Each Contractor shall comply with federal, state, and local occupational safety and health standards, regulations, and rules promulgated pursuant to the Occupational Health and Safety Act which are applicable to the work to be performed by Contractor.

5. **PROHIBITED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT/SERVICES.** If Contractor is a subrecipient of federal grant funds under this Contract, Contractor certifies that, consistent with Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. 115-232 (Aug. 13, 2018) (the "Act"), and 2 CFR § 200.216, Contractor will not use funding covered by this Contract to procure or obtain, or to extend, renew, or enter into any contract to procure or obtain, any equipment, system, or service that uses "covered telecommunications equipment or services" (as that term is defined in Section 889 of the Act) as a substantial or essential component of any system or as critical technology as part of any system. Contractor will include this certification as a flow down clause in any agreement related to this Contract.

6. **CONTRACTOR GOOD STANDING.** If Contractor is not an individual, Contractor must be registered to do business in Minnesota with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State and shall maintain an active/in good standing status with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, and shall notify County of any changes in status within five calendar days of such change. Business entities formed under the laws of a jurisdiction other than Minnesota must maintain a certificate of authority (foreign corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships, and limited liability limited partnerships), or a statement of foreign qualification (foreign limited liability partnerships), or a statement of partnership authority (general partnerships). See Minn. Stat. §§ 303.03 (corporations); 322C.0802 (limited liability companies); 321.0902 and 321.0907 (foreign limited partnership); 321.0102(7) (foreign limited liability limited partnerships); 323A.1102(a) (foreign limited liability partnership); 321.0902 and 321.0907 (foreign general partnerships).

7. **CONTRACTOR DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND RESPONSIBILITY CERTIFICATION.** Federal Regulation 45 CFR 92.35 prohibits the State/Agency from purchasing goods or services with federal money from vendors who have been suspended or debarred by the federal government. Similarly, Minn. Stat. § 16C.03, subd. 2 provides the Commissioner of Administration with the authority to debar and suspend vendors who seek to contract with the State/Agency. Vendors may be suspended or debarred when it is determined, through a duly authorized hearing process, that they have abused the public trust in a serious manner.

By signing this Contract, the Contractor certifies that it and its principals* and employees:

A. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from transacting business by or with any federal, state, or local governmental department or agency; and

B. Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract: 1) been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain,

or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract; 2) violated any federal or state antitrust statutes; or 3) committed embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; and

C. Are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity for: 1) commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction; 2) violating any federal or state antitrust statutes; or 3) committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; and

D. Are not aware of any information and possess no knowledge that any subcontractor(s) that will perform work pursuant to this Contract are in violation of any of the certifications set forth above; and

E. Shall immediately give written notice to the Authorized Representative should Contractor come under investigation for allegations of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, or performing a public (federal, state, or local government) transaction; violating any federal or state antitrust statutes; or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.

*“Principals” for the purposes of this certification means officers; directors; owners; partners; and persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g. general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment and similar positions).

8. **PREVAILING WAGES.** Contractor shall pay wages to its employees at a rate not less than those established by the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry for commercial construction projects. In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 471.345, subd. 7 and Dakota County Board Resolution No. 95-55.

9. **BOND FOR G/HVACR CONTRACTORS.** In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 326B.197, if Contractor will be performing any work having to do with gas, heating, ventilation, cooling, air conditioning, fuel burning or refrigeration, the Contractor must give bond to the State of Minnesota for the benefit of persons suffering financial loss by reason of Contractor’s failure to comply with the requirements of the State Mechanical Code.

Directions for Online Access to Excluded Providers

To ensure compliance with this regulation, identification of excluded entities and individuals can be found on the Office of Inspector General (OIG) website at https://oig.hhs.gov/exclusions/exclusions_list.asp

Attycv/Exh SA (Rev. 1-23)

B. Insurance Terms, with Professional Liability

Contractor agrees to provide and maintain at all times during the term of this Contract such insurance coverages as are indicated herein and to otherwise comply with the provisions that follow. Such policy(ies) of insurance shall apply to the extent of, but not as a limitation upon or in satisfaction of, the Contract indemnity provisions. The provisions of this section shall also apply to all Subcontractors, Sub-subcontractors, and Independent Contractors engaged by Contractor with respect to this Contract, and Contractor shall be entirely responsible for securing the compliance of all such persons or parties with these provisions.

APPLICABLE SECTIONS ARE CHECKED

☒ 1. Workers Compensation.

Workers' Compensation insurance in compliance with all applicable statutes including an All States or Universal Endorsement where applicable. Such policy shall include Employer's Liability coverage in an amount no less than \$500,000. If Contractor is not required by Statute to carry Workers' Compensation Insurance, Contractor agrees: (1) to provide County with evidence documenting the specific provision under Minn. Stat. § 176.041 which excludes Contractor from the requirement of obtaining Workers' Compensation Insurance; (2) to provide prior notice to County of any change in Contractor's exemption status under Minn. Stat. § 176.041; and (3) to defend, hold harmless and indemnify County from and against any and all claims and losses brought by Contractor or any subcontractor or other person claiming through Contractor for Workers' Compensation or Employers' Liability benefits for damages arising out of any injury or illness resulting from performance of work under this Contract. If any such change requires Contractor to obtain Workers' Compensation Insurance, Contractor agrees to promptly provide County with evidence of such insurance coverage.

☒ 2. General Liability.

"Commercial General Liability Insurance" coverage, providing coverage on an "occurrence" basis. Policy shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for Bodily Injury, Property Damage, Personal Injury, Contractual Liability (applying to this Contract), Independent Contractors, "XC&U" and Products-Completed Operations liability (if applicable). An Insurance Services Office "Comprehensive General Liability" policy which includes a Broad Form Endorsement GL 0404 (Insurance Services Office designation) shall be considered to be an acceptable equivalent policy form. Claims-made coverage is acceptable.

A total combined general liability policy limit of at least \$2,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate, applying to liability for Bodily Injury, Personal Injury, and Property Damage, which total limit may be satisfied by the limit afforded under its Commercial General Liability policy, or equivalent policy, or by such policy in combination with the limits afforded by an Umbrella or Excess Liability policy (or policies); provided, that the coverage afforded under any such Umbrella or Excess Liability policy is at least as broad as that afforded by the underlying Commercial General Liability policy (or equivalent underlying policy). Coverage under such policy may be subject to a deductible, not to exceed \$25,000 per occurrence. Contractor agrees to maintain such insurance for at least one (1) year from Contract termination.

☒ Such policy(ies) shall name Dakota County, its officers, employees and agents as Additional Insureds thereunder.

☒ 3. Professional Liability

Professional Liability (errors and omissions) insurance with respect to its professional activities to be performed under this Contract. This amount of insurance shall be at least \$2,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate. Coverage

under such policy may be subject to a deductible, not to exceed \$25,000 per occurrence. Contractor agrees to maintain such insurance for at least one (1) year from Contract termination.

Contractor therefore agrees that it will not seek or voluntarily accept any such change in its Professional Liability insurance coverage if such impairment of Dakota County's protection could result; and further, that it will exercise its rights under any "Extended Reporting Period" ("tail coverage").

☒ 4. Automobile Liability.

Business Automobile Liability insurance covering liability for Bodily Injury and Property Damage arising out of the ownership, use, maintenance, or operation of all owned, non-owned and hired automobiles and other motor vehicles utilized by Contractor in connection with its performance under this Contract. Such policy shall provide total liability limits for combined Bodily Injury and/or Property Damage in the amount of at least \$2,000,000 per accident

☒ Such policy, shall include Dakota County, its officers, employees and agents as Additional Insureds thereunder.

☐ 5. Network Security and Privacy Liability.

Network security and privacy liability insurance, including first-party costs, for any breach that compromises data obtained while providing services under this Agreement. This insurance should to cover claims which may arise from failure of Contractor's security resulting in, but not limited to, computer attacks, unauthorized access, disclosure of not public data including but not limited to confidential or private information, transmission of a computer virus or denial of service. The required limit shall not be less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence with a \$4,000,000 aggregate limit. Claims-made coverage is acceptable. Such insurance shall name Dakota County, its officials, employees, volunteers and agents as additional insureds. The policy shall provide an extended reporting period of not less than thirty-six (36) months from the expiration date of the policy, if the policy is not renewed.

☒ 6. Evidence of Insurance.

Contractor shall promptly provide Dakota County with a Certificate of Insurance prior to commencement of any work. At least 10 days prior to termination of any such coverage, Contractor shall provide Dakota County with evidence that such coverage will be renewed or replaced upon termination with insurance that complies with these provisions.

☒ 7. Insurer: Policies.

All policies of insurance shall be issued by financially responsible insurers licensed to do business in the State of Minnesota by an insurer with a current A.M. Best Company rating of at least A:VII.

☒ 8. Release and Waiver.

Contractor agrees to rely entirely upon its own property insurance for recovery with respect to any damage, loss or injury to the property interests of Contractor. Contractor hereby releases Dakota County, its officers, employees, agents, and others acting on their behalf, from all claims, and all liability or responsibility to Contractor, and to anyone claiming through or under Contractor, by way of subrogation or otherwise, for any loss of or damage to Contractor's business or property caused by fire or other peril or event, even if such fire or other peril or event was caused in whole or in part by the negligence or other act or omission of Dakota County or other party who is to be released by the terms here of, or by anyone for whom such party may be responsible.

Contractor agrees to effect such revision of any property insurance policy as may be necessary in order to permit the release and waiver of subrogation agreed to herein. Contractor shall, upon the request of Dakota County, promptly provide a Certificate of Insurance, or other form of evidence as may be reasonably requested by Dakota County, evidencing that the full waiver of subrogation privilege contemplated by this provision is present; and/or, if so requested by Dakota County, Contractor shall provide a full and complete copy of the pertinent property insurance policy(ies).

SAMPLE

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF DAKOTA

AND SAMPLE

FOR SAMPLE

This Contract (Contract) is made and entered into between the County of Dakota, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, by and through its SAMPLE Department (County) and SAMPLE, SAMPLE ADDRESS, ("Contractor"). Contractor and County are collectively referred to herein as the "parties" and individually as "party."

WHEREAS, the County requires services for SAMPLE, as identified in the County's Request for SAMPLE, dated SAMPLE, attached and incorporated as Exhibit 1; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor represents, covenants, and warrants it can and will perform the services according to the provisions of this Contract and Contractor's SAMPLE ("Contractor's Proposal"), attached and incorporated as Exhibit 2; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. TERM

This Contract is effective and enforceable on the date the last party executes this Contract or a specific future date ("Effective Date") and expires on SAMPLE or the date on which all Services have been satisfactorily performed and final payment is made, whichever occurs first unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Contract.

2. CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATIONS

- 2.1. General Description. Contractor shall provide the services generally described in the SAMPLE and Contractor's Proposal (collectively, "Services").
- 2.2. Conformance to Specifications. Contractor represents, covenants, and warrants it can and will perform the Services in a timely manner according to this Contract.
- 2.3. Substantial Completion. Contractor agrees to substantially complete the work, labor, or services under this Contract on or before SAMPLE.
- 2.4. Standard of Care. In the performance of the Services, Contractor shall use the care and skill a reasonable practitioner in Contractor's profession would use in the same or similar circumstances.
- 2.5. Ability to Perform. Contractor shall maintain staff, facilities, and equipment necessary to perform under this Contract. Contractor shall promptly provide Notice to the County when it knows or suspects it may be unable to perform under this Contract. The County shall determine whether such inability requires amendment or termination of this Contract. No Notice of Default is required to terminate under this section.
- 2.6. Changes in Policy or Staff. The County may terminate this Contract by providing 10 calendar days' Notice if the Contractor makes or proposes significant changes in policies or staffing.
- 2.7. Successors and Assigns. In the event that the Contractor is subject to a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, merger, sale, transfer, reorganization, acquisition, or winding down of the Contractor's business, to continue Services under the Contract the Contractor must receive written consent from the County permitting the Contractor to assign, bind, benefit, and/or ensure the Contractor's successor, legal representatives, trustees assume all rights, duties, liabilities, obligations, and provisions of the Contract.

3. PAYMENT

- 3.1. Total Cost. County will pay Contractor a total amount not to exceed **SAMPLE** and **SAMPLE** /100 Dollars (**\$SAMPLE**) ("Contract Maximum"). The Contract Maximum is not subject to any express or implied condition precedent. The County is not required to pay for any minimum amount of any Services.
- 3.2. Compensation. The County shall pay for purchased Services in the fixed amounts set out in the Contractor's Proposal.
- 3.3. Time of Payment. The County shall pay Contractor within 35 calendar days after the date on which Contractor's invoice is received. If the invoice is incorrect, defective, or otherwise improper, the County will notify Contractor within 10 calendar days after the date on which the invoice is received. The County will pay Contractor within 35 calendar days after the date on which the corrected invoice is received.
- 3.4. Interest on Late Payments. This provision is required by Minn. Stat. § 471.425. The County shall pay interest of 1 ½ percent per month or any part of a month to the Contractor on any undisputed amount that is not paid on time. The minimum monthly interest penalty payment for an unpaid balance of \$100 or more is \$10. For unpaid balances of less than \$100, the County shall pay the actual interest penalty due the Contractor.
- 3.5. Late Request for Payments. The County may refuse to pay invoices received or postmarked more than 90 calendar days after the date that the invoiced Services were performed.
- 3.6. Payment for Unauthorized Claims.
 - A. Payment does not prevent the County from disputing the claim. Payment of a claim is not a waiver, admission, release, ratification, satisfaction, accord, or account stated by the County.
 - B. The County is not responsible for any interest, fee, or penalty if it withholds payment for failure to comply with any provision of this Contract or during the pendency of an audit or inspection.
 - C. If the County requires an audit or inspection, the County does not have to pay any invoices until the audit or inspection is complete. Upon completion of the audit or inspection, the County will pay the Contractor pursuant to the time period for payment after receipt of an invoice.
 - D. The County may offset any overpayment or disallowance of claim by reducing future payments.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS/STANDARDS

- 4.1. General. Contractor shall abide by all Federal, State or local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations now in effect or hereafter adopted pertaining to this Contract or to the facilities, programs, and staff for which Contractor is responsible. This includes, but is not limited to, all Standard Assurances, which are attached and incorporated as **[Exhibit 4]**. Any violation of this section is a material breach of this Contract. No Notice of Default is required to terminate under this section.
- 4.2. Minnesota Law to Govern. The laws of Minnesota govern all matters related to this Contract, without giving effect to the principles of conflict of law. Venue and jurisdiction for any litigation related to this Contract must be in those courts located within Dakota County, State of Minnesota or U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota.
- 4.3. Licenses. At its own expense, Contractor shall procure and maintain all licenses, certifications, registrations, permits, or other rights required to perform the Services under this Contract. Contractor shall furnish copies of the above to the County upon request. Contractor shall provide Notice to the County of any changes in the above within 5 calendar days of the change. Any violation of this section is a material breach of this Contract. No Notice of Default is required to terminate under this section.
- 4.4. Diversity and Inclusion; Prohibited Acts. It is the policy of the County to respect culture and reduce bias in the workplace and service delivery. The County's commitment to inclusion, diversity, and equity requires that the Contractor uphold respectful regard for cultural differences and recognition of individual protected-class status as defined under law.

The Contractor, its managers, officers and employees shall abstain from discrimination, harassment and retaliatory actions in the performance of this Contract. If the County receives a report of non-compliance with this provision, it will share the report with Contractor, conduct an appropriate investigation as warranted by the nature of alleged behavior, and notify Contractor of the findings of the investigation and

any required remedial actions by the Contractor. The Contractor shall inform the County of compliance with any required remedial actions within the time period provided by the County. If the behavior persists, the County may terminate the Contract in accordance with section 12, Termination. The Contractor shall have policies that prohibit retaliation for reporting that is not in compliance with this provision.

5. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS

Contractor is an independent contractor. Nothing in this Contract is intended to create an employer and employee relationship between the County and the Contractor. Contractor is not entitled to receive any of the benefits received by County employees and is not eligible for workers' or unemployment compensation benefits. Contractor also acknowledges and agrees that no withholding or deduction for State or Federal income taxes, FICA, FUTA, or otherwise, will be made from the payments due Contractor, and that it is Contractor's sole obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of all State and Federal tax laws.

6. NOTICES

6.1. Each Notice must be signed by the Authorized Representative. Notices may be signed electronically. Unless otherwise stated in a specific section of this Contract, any notice or demand, (collectively, "Notice") must be in writing and provided to the Authorized Representative by at least one of the following:

- A. Personal delivery, which is deemed to have been provided upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed affidavit; or
- B. Registered or Certified Mail, in each case, return receipt requested and postage prepaid, which is deemed to have been provided upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt, certification, or affidavit; or
- C. Nationally or internationally recognized overnight courier, with tracking service with all fees and costs prepaid, which is deemed to have been provided upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt, certification, or affidavit; or
- D. Except for Notices of Termination and Notices of Default, email, which is deemed to have been provided upon receipt as indicated by the date on a report generated by the outgoing email server indicating that the email was successfully sent, passed, or transmitted to the email server of the Authorized Representative's email address, or upon receiving an email confirming delivery to the Authorized Representative's email address.

6.2. If the Authorized Representative rejects or otherwise refuses to accept the Notice, or if the Notice cannot be provided because of a change in contact information for which no Notice was provided, then the Notice is effective upon rejection, refusal, or inability to deliver.

7. INDEMNIFICATION

7.1. General. To the greatest extent allowed by law, in the performance of or failure to perform this Contract, Contractor shall indemnify, defend (in the case of third-party claims, with counsel satisfactory to County), and hold harmless the County, its officers, agents, and employees, from and against any actual or alleged loss, litigation cost (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney fees and costs and expenses of defense), costs, settlement, judgment, demands, damage, liability, lien, debt, injury, harm, fees, fines, penalties, interest, expenditure, diminution in value, disbursement, action, claim, proceeding, or dispute of any sort (collectively "Losses"), whether or not involving a third party, which are attributable to Contractor's, or Contractor's agents', independent contractors', employees', or delegates', actual or alleged:

- A. Intentional, willful, or negligent acts or omissions; or
- B. Actions or omissions that give rise to strict liability; or
- C. Negligent or intentional misrepresentation, breach of warranty, covenant, contract, or subcontract

whether or not well-founded in fact or in law, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, fixed or contingent and howsoever originating or existing, and whether or not based upon statute, common law, or equity. This indemnity provision survives expiration or termination of this Contract.

The Contractor's duty to defend the County is not contingent upon a finding of liability or wrongdoing on the part of the Contractor. Rather, the Contractor's duty to defend the County arises whenever an allegation is made—whether in a formal lawsuit or otherwise—that the County is liable to a third party as a result of the conduct of the Contractor. The duty to defend includes, but is not limited to, the Contractor retaining and paying directly legal counsel for the County chosen solely and exclusively by the County in the County's sole discretion.

7.2. Limitations. The indemnification, defense, and hold harmless obligations of this section do not apply to the extent that liability is the direct or proximate result of the negligence or fault of the County or any third party for whom the Contractor is not legally liable. This limitation is not a waiver on the part of the County of any immunity or limits on liability under Minn. Stat. Ch. 466, or other applicable State or Federal law.

7.3. Notice. The parties shall promptly provide Notice in writing and in reasonable detail of:

- A. Any demand, action, suit, or proceeding against the party providing Notice; or
- B. Any event or fact that may give rise to indemnification under section 7.1 by Contractor.

7.4. Control of Defense and Settlement. Contractor shall promptly provide Notice to the County of any proposed settlement, and Contractor may not, without County's prior written consent (which the County will not unreasonably withhold, condition, or delay), settle such claim or consent to entry of any third-party judgment. Nothing in this section precludes Contractor from allowing County to undertake control of the defense.

8. INSURANCE

Contractor shall maintain policies of insurance as set forth in [\[Exhibit 3\]](#), and pay all retentions and deductibles under such policies of insurance. Any violation of this section is a material breach of this Contract. This section survives expiration or termination of this Contract. No Notice of Default is required to terminate under this section.

9. SUBCONTRACTING

9.1. Subcontracting Generally Prohibited. Contractor shall not assign or delegate any interest, right, duty, or obligation related to this Contract without the County's prior written consent. The County may void any purported assignment, delegation, or subcontract in violation of this section.

9.2. Permitted Subcontracting. Contractor may subcontract with the subcontractors identified in Contractor's Proposal or as permitted by the County in writing, subject to the following:

- A. Contractor shall be responsible for the performance of its subcontractors.

B. All subcontractors shall comply with the provisions of this Contract.

C. Contractor remains responsible for performing Services under and complying with this Contract, regardless of any subcontract.

9.3. Notice to County. Contractor shall provide Notice to the County of any complaint, demand, action, proceeding, filing, lien, suit, or claim that Contractor has not paid or failed to timely pay any subcontractor. Notice must be provided no later than 10 calendar days after the date on which the Contractor first receives the complaint, demand, action, proceeding, filing, lien, suit, or claim.

9.4. Payment of Subcontractors. This provision is required by Minn. Stat. § 471.425. Contractor shall pay the subcontractor within 10 calendar days after the date on which the Contractor receives payment from the County for undisputed Services performed by the subcontractor. Contractor agrees to pay interest of 1½ percent per month or any part of a month to the subcontractor on any undisputed amount not paid on time to the subcontractor. The minimum monthly interest penalty payment for an unpaid balance of \$100 or more is \$10. For unpaid balances of less than \$100, the Contractor shall pay the actual interest penalty due the subcontractor.

9.5. A violation of any part of this section is a material breach of contract.

10. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither party shall be liable to the other party for any loss or damage resulting from a delay or failure to perform due to unforeseeable acts or events outside the defaulting party's reasonable control, providing the defaulting party gives notice to the other party as soon as possible. Acts and events may include acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, fire, flood, epidemic, acts of civil or military authority, and natural disasters.

11. DEFAULT

11.1. Notice of Default. Unless otherwise stated in a specific section of this Contract, no event or circumstance constitutes a default giving rise to the right to terminate for cause unless and until a Notice of Default is provided to the defaulting party, specifying the particular event or circumstance, series of events or circumstances, or failure constituting the default and cure period, if any.

11.2. Cure Period. The party providing the Notice of Default has the option, but is not required, to give the other party an opportunity to cure the specified default. If an opportunity to cure is given, it must be specifically described in the Notice of Default, including any period in which to comply.

11.3. Withholding Payment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, the County may, after giving Notice of Default, withhold, without penalty or interest, any payment which becomes due after Notice of Default is provided until the specified default is excused or cured, or the Contract is terminated.

12. TERMINATION

12.1. Termination Without Cause. Either party may terminate this Contract without cause by providing 30 calendar days' Notice of Termination to the other party.

- 12.2. Termination for Cause or Material Breach. Either party may terminate this Contract for cause by providing 7 calendar days' Notice of Termination to the other party, unless a different procedure or effective date is stated within the specific section of this Contract under which the default occurs. In addition to other specifically stated provisions of this Contract or as otherwise stated in law, events or circumstances constituting default and giving rise to the right to terminate for cause, unless waived, include but are not limited to:
- A. Making material misrepresentations either in the attached exhibits or in any other material provision or condition relied upon in the making of this Contract;
 - B. Failure to perform Services or provide payment within the time specified in this Contract;
 - C. Failure to perform any other material provision of this Contract;
 - D. Failure to diligently and timely perform Services so as to endanger performance of the provisions of this Contract;
 - E. The voluntary or involuntary dissolution, insolvency, merger, sale, transfer, reorganization, acquisition or winding down of the Contractor's business.
- 12.3. Termination by County – Lack of Funding. The County may immediately terminate this Contract for lack of funding. A lack of funding occurs when funds appropriated for this Contract as of the Effective Date from a non-County source are unavailable or are not appropriated by the County Board. The County has sole discretion to determine if there is a lack of funding. The County is not obligated to pay for any Services that are performed after providing Notice of Termination for lack of funding. The County is not subject to any penalty or damages for termination due to lack of funding. No Notice of Default is required to terminate under this section.
- 12.4. Notice of Termination. The Notice of Termination must state the intent to terminate the Contract and specify the events or circumstances and relevant Contract provision warranting termination of the Contract and whether the termination is for cause.
- 12.5. Duties of Contractor upon Termination. Upon the County providing of the Notice of Termination, and except as otherwise stated, Contractor shall:
- A. Discontinue performance under this Contract on the date and to the extent specified in the Notice of Termination.
 - B. Complete performance of any work that is not discontinued by the Notice of Termination.
 - C. Cooperate with County with any transition of Services.
 - D. Cancel all orders and subcontracts to the extent that they relate to the performance of this Contract.
 - E. Return all County property in its possession within 7 calendar days after the date on which the Contractor receives the Notice of Termination to the extent that it relates to the performance of this Contract that is discontinued by the Notice of Termination.
 - F. Submit an invoice for Services satisfactorily performed prior to the effective date of termination within 35 calendar days of said date.
 - G. Maintain all records relating to the performance of the Contract as may be directed by the County in the Notice of Termination or required by law or this Contract.

12.6. Duties of County upon Termination of the Contract for Cause or Without Cause. Upon delivery of the Notice of Termination, and except as otherwise provided, the County shall make final payment to Contractor in accordance with section 3.3 of this Contract for Services satisfactorily performed.

12.7. Effect of Termination for Cause or without Cause.

A. Termination of this Contract does not discharge any liability, responsibility, or right of any party that arises from the performance of, or failure to adequately, perform the provisions of this Contract prior to the effective date of termination. Termination shall not discharge any obligation which, by its nature, would survive after the date of termination, including by way of illustration only and not limitation, the requirements set forth in **[Exhibit 4]** (Standard Assurances) and the indemnity provisions of section 7.

B. The County shall not be liable for any Services performed after Notice of Termination, except as stated above or as authorized by the County in writing.

13. **CONTRACT RIGHTS AND REMEDIES**

13.1. Rights Cumulative. All remedies under this Contract or by law are cumulative and may be exercised concurrently or separately. The exercise of any one remedy does not preclude exercise of any other remedies.

13.2. Waiver. Any waiver is only valid when reduced to writing, specifically identified as a waiver, and signed by the waiving party's Authorized Representative. A waiver is not an amendment to the Contract. The County's failure to enforce any provision of this Contract does not waive the provision or the County's right to enforce it.

14. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

14.1. The Authorized Representatives of the respective parties for purposes of this Contract are as follows

To the Contractor:

SAMPLE _____

(Name)

SAMPLE _____

(Title)

SAMPLE _____

(Street)

SAMPLE _____

(City, MN Zip Code)

SAMPLE _____

(Telephone)

SAMPLE _____

(Email Address)

To the County:

SAMPLE _____

(Name)

SAMPLE _____

(Title)

SAMPLE _____

(Street)

SAMPLE _____

(City, MN Zip Code)

SAMPLE _____

(Telephone)

SAMPLE _____

(Email Address)

14.2 The Authorized Representative, or his or her successor, has authority to bind the party he or she represents and sign this Contract. The County's Authorized Representative shall have only the authority granted by the County Board. The parties shall promptly provide Notice to each other when an Authorized Representative's successor is appointed. The Authorized Representative's successor shall thereafter be the Authorized Representative for purposes of this Contract.

14.3. In addition, Notices regarding breach or termination shall also be provided to:

Dakota County Attorney's Office

Civil Division

1560 Highway 55

Hastings, Minnesota 55033.

15. LIAISON

15.1. The Liaisons of the respective parties for purposes of this Contract are as follows:

Contractor Liaison: SAMPLE

County Liaison: SAMPLE

Telephone: SAMPLE

Telephone: SAMPLE

Email Address: SAMPLE

Email Address: SAMPLE

15.2. The Liaison, or his or her successor, has authority to assist the parties in the day-to-day performance of this Contract, ensure compliance, and provide ongoing consultation related to the performance of this Contract. The parties shall promptly provide Notice to each other when a Liaison's successor is appointed. The Liaison's successor shall thereafter be the Liaison for purposes of this Contract.

16. OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT

As the County's contractor for hire, the County shall own in perpetuity, solely and exclusively, all rights of every kind and character, in all proceeds, works, drawings, products, plans, and all other materials created by Contractor pursuant to this Contract (collectively referred to as "Works"), and the County shall be deemed the author thereof for all purposes. Such Works are deemed "works for hire," as defined in the U.S. Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101. Contractor shall, upon the request of the County, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to assist the County to obtain and register copyrights on such Works. If, for any reason, any of the Works do not constitute a "work made for hire," Contractor hereby irrevocably assigns to the County, in each case without additional consideration, all right, title, and interest throughout the universe in and to the works, including all copyrights therein.

17. AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this Contract are only valid when reduced to writing, specifically identified as an amendment, and signed by both parties' Authorized Representative.

18. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Contract are severable. If any provision of this Contract is void, invalid, or unenforceable, it will not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Contract unless the void, invalid, or unenforceable provision substantially impairs the value of the entire Contract with respect to either party.

19. MERGER

19.1. Final Agreement. This Contract is the final expression of the agreement of the parties. This Contract is the complete and exclusive statement of the provisions agreed to by the parties. This Contract supersedes all prior negotiations, understandings, or agreements. There are no representations, warranties, or provisions, either oral or written, not contained herein.

19.2. Exhibits. The following Exhibits and addenda, including all attachments, are incorporated and made a part of this Contract:

Exhibit 1 – County's Request for SAMPLE (including Attachments SAMPLE)

Exhibit 2 - Contractor's Response to Request for SAMPLE dated SAMPLE

Exhibit 3 – Standard Assurance

Exhibit 4 – Insurance Terms

19.3. By signing this Contract, Contractor acknowledges receipt of all the above Exhibits and addenda, including all attachments. If there is a conflict between any provision of any Exhibit and any provision in the body of this Contract, the body of this Contract will prevail. To the extent reasonably possible, the Exhibits will be construed and constructed to supplement, rather than conflict with, the body of this Contract. If there is a conflict between any provision of an Exhibit and another Exhibit, the following is the order of precedence: Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2.

20. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 20.1. "Protected Data" has the same meaning as Not Public Data as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.02, subd. 8a. Trade Secret Data as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, subd. 1(b) shall be identified by Contractor to County and included in the definition of Protected Data.
- 20.2. For purposes of this Contract, all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by Contractor in the performance of this Contract is subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act ("MGDPA"), Minn. Stat. Chapter 13 and its implementing rules, as well as any other applicable State or Federal laws on data privacy or security. Contractor must comply with, and is subject to, the provisions, remedies, and requirements of the MGDPA as if it were a governmental entity.
- 20.3. Contractor acknowledges that the County may transmit Protected Data to Contractor in connection with Contractor's performance of this Contract. Contractor shall not, at any time, directly or indirectly reveal, report, publish, duplicate, or otherwise disclose Protected Data to any third party in any way whatsoever, unless required or allowed by law. Contractor agrees to implement such procedures as are necessary to assure protection and security of Protected Data and to furnish the County with a copy of said procedures upon request.
- 20.4. Each party shall provide the other party with prompt Notice of a breach of the security of data as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.055, subd. 1(a) or suspected breach of the security of data and shall assist in remedying such breach. Providing or accepting assistance does not constitute waiver of any claim or cause of action for breach of contract.
- 20.5. Contractor shall cooperate with the County in responding to all requests for data. Contractor does not have a duty to provide access to public data if the public data are available from the County, except as required by the provisions of this Contract. The parties shall promptly notify each other when any third party requests Protected Data related to this Contract or the Services. Contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts contain the same or similar data practices compliance requirements. All provisions of this Section apply to any subcontract or subcontractor.
- 20.6. This section survives expiration or termination of this Contract.

21. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

Each party agrees that the electronic signatures of the parties included in this Contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as wet ink signatures.

22. CONTRACT INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION

This Contract was fully reviewed and negotiated by the parties. Any ambiguity, inconsistency, or question of interpretation or construction in this Contract shall not be resolved strictly against the party that drafted the Contract. It is the intent of the parties that every section (including any subsection), clause, term, provision, condition, and all other language used in this Contract shall be constructed and construed so as to give its natural and ordinary meaning and effect.

23. WAGE WITHHOLDING TAX

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 270C.66, County shall make final payment to Contractor only upon satisfactory showing that Contractor and any subcontractors have complied with the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 290.92 with respect to withholding taxes, penalties, or interest arising from this Contract. A certificate by the Minnesota Commissioner of Revenue (Minnesota Department of Revenue Form IC-134, entitled "Withholding Affidavit for Contractors") satisfies this requirement with respect to the Contractor or subcontractor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Contract on the date(s) indicated below.

COUNTY OF DAKOTA

By: SAMPLE

(Signature line)

SAMPLE

(Name, Title, Department)

SAMPLE

Date of Signature

Contract Number DCA **SAMPLE**

CONTRACTOR

(I represent and warrant that I am authorized by law to execute this contract and legally bind the Contractor.)

By: SAMPLE

(Signature line)

SAMPLE

(Title)

SAMPLE

Date of Signature

D. Non-Collusion and Conflict of Interest Statement

Please print or type (in ink)

CONTRACTOR NAME: _____ FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ email: _____

In signing this bid, proposal or quote, Contractor certifies that it has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of the competition; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a bid, proposal or quote; that this bid, proposal or quote has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other party submitting a bid, proposal or quote, competitor or potential competitor, that this bid, proposal or quote has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of the bids, proposals or quotes to any bid, proposal or quote competitor; that the above statement is accurate under penalty or perjury.

Contractor also certifies that to the best of its knowledge none of its owners, directors, officers or principals (collectively, "Corporate Executive") are closely related to any County employee who has or may appear to have any control over the award, management, or evaluation of the contract. A Contractor's Corporate Executive is closely related when any of the following circumstances exist:

1. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract are related by blood, marriage or adoption; or
2. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract are current or former business partners, co-workers, or have otherwise previously worked closely together in the private or public sector; or
3. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract share a personal relationship that is beyond that of a mere acquaintance, including but not limited to friendship or family friendship.

If one or more of the above circumstances exist, Contractor must disclose such circumstance(s) to Dakota County in writing. Failure to disclose such circumstances invalidates the Contract.

Contractor will comply with all terms, conditions, specifications required by the party submitting a bid, proposal or quote in this Request for Bid, Proposal or Quote and all terms of our bid, proposal or quote response.

Authorized Signature

Title

Date

You are advised that according to Dakota County Board Resolution 18-485 and Policy 2751, if there is a question as to whether there may be an appearance of a conflict of interest, the contract shall be presented to the County Board for approval, regardless of the amount of the contract. Whether a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest exists is a determination made by Dakota County.

Submit this form as part of the Bid, Proposal or Quote response.

Signatures on your Bid/Proposal/Quote Response (Non-Collusion, Trade Secret, Bid/Proposal/Quote Forms, etc.) require a 'WET' signature or DocuSign Electronic signature

V.7 Revised: MMH (06-19)

E. Trade Secret Information

Trade Secret Information Form

The following form must be provided by Responder to assist the County in making appropriate determinations about the release of data provided in Responder's bid or proposal.

All responders must select one of the following boxes:

- ☐ My bid/proposal **does not** contain "trade secret information", as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, Subd. 1(b). I understand that my entire bid/proposal will become public record in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13.591.
- ☐ My bid/proposal **does** contain "trade secret information" because it contains data that:
1. (a) is a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process; **AND**
(b) is the subject of efforts by myself or my organization that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy; **AND**
(c) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.
 2. I have submitted one paper and one digital copy of my bid or proposal from which the confidential trade secret information has been excised. The confidential trade secret information has been excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed while retaining as much of the document as possible **AND** I am attaching an explanation justifying the trade secret designation.

Please note that failure to attach an explanation may result in a determination that the data does not meet the statutory trade secret definition. All data for which trade secret status is not justified will become public in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13.591.

Submit this form as part of the Bid, Proposal or Quote response.

Authorized Signature

Title

Date

Signatures on your Bid/Proposal/Quote Response (Non-Collusion, Trade Secret, Bid/Proposal/Quote Forms, etc.) require a 'WET' signature. Digital signatures are NOT accepted.

Revised: 6/28/2018

Language to be inserted in ALL SOLICITATIONS

Public Records and Requests for Confidentiality

Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 13.591, the names of all entities that submitted a timely bid/proposal to Dakota County will be public once opened. All other information remains private until Dakota County has completed negotiating a contract with the selected Responder. After a contract has been negotiated, all information received is public information except “trade secret” information as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37. All information submitted by a Responder therefore shall be treated as public information by Dakota County unless the Responder properly requests that information be treated as a confidential trade secret at the time of submitting the bid/proposal.

Any request for confidential treatment of trade secret information in a Responder’s proposal must sufficiently describe the facts that support the classification of information as confidential trade secret. The request must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized by the Responder to answer any inquiries by Dakota County concerning the request for confidentiality. This information shall be provided on the Trade Secret Information Form, see **Attachment or Exhibit ____**. Dakota County reserves the right to make the final determination of whether data identified as confidential trade secret by a Responder falls within the trade secret exemption in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

The envelope or mailing container of any documents submitted with the proposal that the Responder believes contain confidential trade secret information must be clearly marked as containing confidential trade secret information. Each page upon which trade secret information appears must be marked as containing confidential trade secret information.

In addition to marking the documents as confidential, the Responder must submit one paper and one digital copy of the proposal from which the confidential trade secret information has been excised. The confidential trade secret information must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed while retaining as much of the document as possible.

The Responder’s failure to request confidential treatment of confidential trade secret information pursuant to this subsection will be deemed by Dakota County as a waiver by the Responder of any confidential treatment of the trade secret information in the bid or proposal.

Requests by the public for the release of information held by Dakota County are subject to the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13. Responders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these provisions prior to submitting a proposal.

By submitting this bid or proposal, Responder agrees to indemnify and hold the County, its agents and employees, harmless from any claims or causes of action relating to the County’s withholding of data based upon reliance on the representations that the information is a trade secret as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37 and therefore is not public, including the payment of all costs and attorney fees incurred by the County in defending such an action.