



May 4, 2023

Mr. Jack Locke
Chairman
Tri-County Airport Authority
1983 Tri-County Airport Road
Bonifay, FL 32425

Reference: Tabulation of Bids and Recommendation of Award
Airfield Electrical Vault Replacement
Tri-County Airport, Florida
FDOT FIN No. 423623-6-94-01, Contract No. G2834
FAA AIP No. TBD.

Dear Mr. Locke:

On Monday, April 24, 2023, at 2:30 pm, bids were received for the Airfield Electrical Vault Replacement Project at the Tri-County Airport. One bid was received, and a tabulation of the bid is enclosed as **Attachment A** for your reference. The respective total bid amounts for the Bid Schedules, including the Base Bid and Bid Alternate 1, are summarized as follows:

| | Base Bid | Additive Alternate No. 1 | Total Bid Amount |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Bill Smith Electric | \$676,265.10 | \$368,307.00 | \$1,044,572.10 |
| Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost | \$494,990.00 | \$280,000.00 | \$774,990.00 |

As stated in the Instructions to Bidders, the contract will be awarded based on the lowest total of either the Base Bid or combination of the total of the Base Bid and Additive Alternate No. 1, as ultimately determined by the owner and FAA and FDOT based on the availability of funding. Based on the anticipated FAA and FDOT funding, it is our understanding the Authority desires to award the Base Bid. The lowest total bid amount was submitted by Bill Smith Electric, Inc. (Bill Smith Electric).

Bill Smith Electric is a construction company based in Gonzalez, Florida. Their bid reflects 100% of the work being performed by Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contractor, as Bill Smith Electric is a DBE. This surpasses the Authority's DBE participation goal of 5.86%. A list of recently completed or ongoing projects was provided with their bid and lists many local construction projects, such as the UWF Tennis Court Lighting Upgrade project in Pensacola.

It should also be noted that an immaterial discrepancy was identified in the Bid Schedule submitted by Bill Smith Electric between the total base bid amount listed and the sum of the extended totals for each pay item. The

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Instructions to Bidders states: "Discrepancies between the indicated sum of any column of figures and the correct sum thereof will be resolved in favor of the correct sum." Accordingly, the attached Tabulation of Bids and summary table provided with this Recommendation of Award reflect the corrected sum of the extended bid item prices. This correction did not change the low bidder.

The base bid amount submitted by Bill Smith Electric is approximately 36.6% higher than the Engineer's Estimate. Based on recent discussions with nearby municipalities and local contractors, it appears the bid price reflects current and volatile construction industry cost trends which are being impacted weekly by labor shortages, supply chain delays, and inflation.

Even though there was only one bid, the project was advertised in the Holmes County Advertiser, as well as construction plan rooms such as Construct Connect and Dodge Construction Network. There were also three contractors at the pre-bid meeting, and multiple others that indicated they were interested in obtaining bid documents for the project.

Notwithstanding the Authority's final legal review of the bid submittal to ensure compliance with grant requirements and assurances, we recommend award of the Base Bid to Bill Smith Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$676,265.10, subject to funding availability and FAA and FDOT issuance of a construction Notice-to-Proceed.

We stand ready to assist the Authority in the implementation of this project based on your determination of the desirability of the award at this time. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

AVCON, INC.



Calvin Palmer, P.E.
Project Manager

Enclosures: Attachment A—Bid Tabulation