

**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
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March 4, 2024

**ADDENDUM #1  
INVITATION FOR BID #24-56**

<b>GRASS CUTTING &amp; TRIMMING, REMOVAL OF LEAVES/BRANCHES, MULCHING &amp; PRUNING OF SHRUBS (24 LOCATIONS)</b>
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THIS ADDENDUM IS TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

**Q1. In the compliance with city ordinance section of contract, it states**

**"Failure to comply with the City's Noise Ordinance and/or failure to pay any fines accrued for violation of the City's Noise Ordinance, shall constitute Contractor's default under this Agreement, and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the City, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract without any costs or penalties to the City."**

**Is this a one strike policy? Are there any warnings given to contractors? Is the policy the same for contractors who have been working these contracts for years vs. new contractors?**

**A1. All contractors (either working for the City of Newton or not) are required to follow the City of Newton Noise Ordinance.**

**Q2. Little league fields are added to the mowings at certain parks. Are these fields to be mowed and bagged?**

**A2. Base Bid (ii) pricing (Athletic Field Mowing) does not require bagging. Option (5) pricing does require mowing and bagging at 2.0 inches.**

**Q3. Since covid - the parks near schools are used more and more throughout the day, Summer time usage is also up with more and more camps.**

**How does the contractor work around this situation?  
Are schedules provided as to camps and park usage and best time to mow?**

**A3. We will provide a schedule for mowing. The contractor should adhere to the mowing schedule. We do not provide a schedule for camps or school activities.**

**Q4. During Holiday weeks, some mowing schedules are altered and it becomes necessary to push some schedules to Saturday morning. What is the allowed start time on these specific Saturday's?**

**A4. Weekday hours of operation are Monday – Friday 7am to 5pm. Saturday hours of operation are 8am to 5pm.**

**Q5. In section ARTICLE 5 – ALTERNATES, 5.4. It states that “The low bidder will be determined on the basis of the sum of the base bid and the accepted alternates.” This contradicts ARTICLE 7 – CONTRACT AWARD, 7.1. “The City is soliciting prices for items set forth in Bid Form #24-56, attached hereto. It is the City’s intent to award one (1) contract to the responsive and responsible bidder offering the lowest Base Bid Total for Items (i) through (v). Item options (vi) though (x) will be the winning bidder’s prices for optional work, but item options will not be considered in determining the lowest price”**

**Can you please clarify what bid items will be used to determine the winning low bid?**

**A5. The Invitation For Bid has no alternates. The bid is awarded on the lowest Base Bid Total (the sum of items i, ii, iii, iv and v) only.**

**Q6. In the SCOPE OF WORK section, under the GRASS CUTTING/TRIMMING REQUIREMENTS section a. “The City of Newton is asking for a base bid price to mow athletic fields only at fifteen (15) sites. There is no string trimming required with this price. The grass is not to be bagged. These sites will be mowed in the same week as the normal 24 sites. The point of mowing these 15 sites in the same week is to reduce the amount of clippings. The height of cut for ALL mowing shall be 2.0 inches, except for field hockey fields. Field hockey fields plus their immediate perimeter are to be mowed at 1.5 inches”.**

**Are these 15 sites for athletic fields part of the 24 sites listed in appendix – A?**

**Is base bid (ii) an additional cut to base bid (i)? In other words is athletic field mowing and trimming included in base bid (i)?**

**A6. Yes, the fifteen sites listed under Base Bid (ii) are part of the locations listed under Base Bid (i). Base Bid (i) and Base Bid (ii) are separate mowings. A Base Bid (i) mowing is one price for a whole site location and includes string trimming. A Base Bid (ii) mowing is a separate price for a smaller part of the Base Bid (i) location and does not require string trimming.**

All other terms and conditions of the IFB remain unchanged.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE ALL ADDENDA ON YOUR  
BID FORM. FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL ADDENDA COULD  
RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR BID AS NONRESPONSIVE.**

Thank you.



Nicholas Read  
Chief Procurement Officer