

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL/ CONTRACT #2074

FURNISHING FIRE AND SECURITY ALARM MONITORING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS TOWN & SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Questions about this RFP should be directed to Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works Department, by email only to dryniewicz@vernon-ct.gov, no later than Friday, December 11, 2020 at 3:30 pm. Answers to inquiries will be posted by Monday, December 14, 2020 on the Town's website at www.vernon-ct.gov/legal-notices and at the Connecticut State Department of Administrative Services (DAS) at <https://portal.ct.gov/das> by referencing Contract #2074 - 12/17/2020.

1	Alarm Location #6 (375 Hartford Turnpike): Picture shows a residential FBI panel with 1 telephone line for fire. Item 2, Scope of Services states must comply with NFPA 72. Is the Fire Marshal waiving the requirement for a commercial fire panel? Do we quote an upgrade to bring this site into compliance? or bid as is?	Please quote fire alarm monitoring service per RFP on the current system and please give us a proposal for upgrading the system in this location.
2	Alarm Location #11 (Police Substation): Picture shows Vista panel with 1 telephone line. Zones indicate security and fire. Item 2, Scope of Services states must comply with NFPA 72. Is the Fire Marshal waiving the requirement for a commercial fire panel? Do we quote an upgrade to bring this site into compliance? or bid as is?	Please quote fire alarm monitoring service per RFP on the current system and please give us a proposal for upgrading the system in this location.
3	Alarm Location #19 (Maple Street School), #20 (Northeast School) & #21 (Rockville High School) do not show pictures of security panels.	Please see Revised Alarm Locations document emailed on 12/9/20.
4	Alarm Location #22 (Rockville Learning Center): Picture shows a radio communicator. Are we to upgrade to 4G-LTE?	Please provide a separate quote to upgrade.
5	Do we assume all sites other than the Rockville Learning Center have telephone lines as required?	A site visit with vendor once the contract has been awarded will be arranged.
6	Fire monitoring can be: Alarm and Trouble only OR Specific point in alarm	Price optional if additional cost or systems require upgrade. Current systems are a mix of general and point ID.
7	What is desired by the town? General or point ID? If point-ID, all zones must be tested. Will this be done outside the scope of the bid by the existing fire alarm vendor as part of their annual test and inspection? Can we get a zone list for these sites?	Some locations are general and some are point ID. All locations will remain as current. All alarms are tested on annual test and inspection. No current zone list.
8	Alarm Location #23 (Skinner Road School): No picture of the fire panel.	Please see Revised Alarm Locations document emailed on 12/9/20.
9	From looking at the pictures, it appears that there is at least 1 radio transmitter for fire and maybe several direct wire circuits. Could Tolland Aid tell us any systems that have direct wire or radios? This is important as equipment	Tolland County Mutual Aid has no direct wire circuits or radio communicators from Vernon.

	would need to be provided for communication of signals for any radio or direct wire circuit.	
10	Or, I could show an option for a fire radio if required?	Price optional if additional cost or systems require upgrade.
11	In reviewing the pictures of the various locations, we noticed several buildings have proprietary equipment in them that not every company is able to procure replacement parts to service certain systems. Is the Town possibly going to entertain bids for just the buildings that do not have this type of equipment?	No. The Town will not entertain separate bids for buildings that do not have this type of equipment. The Town will entertain proposal for replacements.
12	Does the town have a list of how each building currently communicates either through phone lines or cellular?	No
13	If locations have cellular communications, are any of the locations 3G that would need to be updated to 4G?	New Senior Center has had a recent 4G upgrade.
14	Will the town be supplying preexisting zone descriptions and call lists for each location?	No
15	Do any of the locations have any leased equipment?	No, not to our knowledge.
16	If the company that is awarded the contract finds that they are "locked out" of some of the panels, are they going to be able to replace the panels in question and invoice the town?	No, repairs or replacements would need to be quoted and approved prior to any work.
17	If the company that is awarded the contract finds service issues with certain locations, will they be able to repair those issues and invoice the town?	No, this is a monitoring bid only – repairs or replacements would need to be quoted and approved.
18	If the company that is awarded the contract finds communication path issues of certain panels not being up to code, will they be able to rectify those communication path issues and invoice the town?	No, repairs or replacements would need to be quoted and approved.
19	Were 100% of these locations part of the Tolland Mutual monitoring or are some currently using central station monitoring?	No, only some of the locations were monitored by Tolland County Mutual Aid. Others were central station.
20	We did notice that the bid documents did state that both fire and burglar systems were to have daily tests performed. Is that true or are just the fire systems daily and the burglar systems weekly?	Fire systems daily. Security/burglar systems per industry standards.
21	Our company has all of the insurance listed in the bid documents with the exception of an umbrella policy. Would that be an issue?	Yes
22	Would the town be willing to sign our companies monitoring contract agreement if awarded contract #2074? Our central station and insurance company requires end users to sign our agreement limiting our company's liability.	The Town can not respond to this question without prior review of documents.
23	I noticed the following discrepancies with your system identification per location:	a. Center 375 – see Revised Alarm Locations document emailed on

	<p>a. Center 375 – only security system shown</p> <p>b. Police Substation – only security system shown</p> <p>c. Senior Center – only fire system shown</p>	<p>12/9/20.</p> <p>b. Police Substation – fire detection done through security panel</p> <p>c. Senior Center – see Revised Alarm Locations document emailed on 12/9/20.</p>
24	<p>Requiring a daily test of your security system’s communication path would increase each systems’ monthly monitoring by \$3.00 This is usually not a requirement for security systems.</p>	<p>Security system tests would follow industry standards.</p>
25	<p>The systems at the following locations appear to be monitored by cellular communication. Is this the type of communication you would like to continue to use?</p> <p>a. Vernon Center Middle School</p> <p>b. Rockville Learning Center</p>	<p>Yes</p>
26	<p>Would you prefer to use cellular communication to monitor your fire and security systems? This would eliminate the need for phone lines, two for each fire system and one for each security system. The additional monthly monitoring cost for cellular communications would be \$18.00 for each fire system account and \$12.00 for each security system account.</p>	<p>Only in buildings where cellular is already being used. Alarm system monitoring as currently set up.</p>
27	<p>Does the town have possession of the programming passwords for all alarm panels?</p>	<p>Town Buildings – unknown</p> <p>School Buildings - Yes</p>
28	<p>Are these going to cellular monitoring or phone lines?</p>	<p>System will remain as currently set up.</p>
29	<p>Just fire? Not security correct, please confirm?</p>	<p>Fire and security</p>
30	<p>If phone lines, will the vendor be required to add a dialer?</p>	<p>Monitoring as currently set up.</p>
31	<p>Will the awarded vendor be required to sub-in contractors if programming is needed? I already see we would need Simplex, Siemens, ITS.</p>	<p>TBD on a case by case basis.</p>
32	<p>Some of the pictures are too small to see the model numbers. Is there a list of Panel and Dialer types available for each building?</p>	<p>No</p>
33	<p>As an owner operator I do not carry business auto insurance or workers compensation. I have no employees, I work mostly on my own but I do have licensed electricians I use as subcontractors when the need arises and for coverage. Does this exempt me from bidding for the town of Vernon?</p>	<p>No</p>
34	<p>I currently provide similar services to a local municipality (alarm monitoring and service). While I have hundreds of other clients I do not have 3 similar accounts as the bid documents request. Does this exempt me from bidding?</p>	<p>Bid documents state “A list of three (3) current accounts of similar size within the last three (3) years shall be provided with the bid to allow the Town to evaluate the bidder’s service record.</p>
35	<p>Can you clarify when the bid bond will be returned to the bidder awarded the contract?</p>	<p>Upon request after the contract has been awarded.</p>
36	<p>This is no information on the Police Substation</p>	<p>Fire detection is done through the security</p>

	Fire Alarm at 21 Ward Street.	alarm at this location.
37	There is no mention of the required annual fire alarm testing. Are annual fire alarm inspections being performed for all locations? Is there a contract in place that will remain for the 3 year term of this contract?	Fire alarm inspections are being performed regularly. Inspections will continue as required.
38	Is it known if all of the systems are unlocked and able to be reprogrammed as is necessary to connect to a new Central Station?	Uncertain. We do have passwords.
39	Does the town have in its possession the programming codes for each alarm system?	Default codes are still used.
40	Are current zone lists available for each location?	No current zone list.
41	It appears that all systems with the exception of Rockville Learning Center and VCMS are using phone line dialers. Is this correct?	The Rockville Learning Center, VCMS and Senior Center are using cellular. All others are phone line dialers.
42	Should upgrades to cellular or Internet/Cellular communicators (such as Starlink Communicators) be provided in this bid? If so, has the Fire Marshal approved these upgrades for each location?	Please bid with current equipment and submit a quote for any and all upgrades.
43	Proprietary panels such as Edwards and Notifier may require an authorized service representative of the company to program new Central Station information. Will the town provide a list of the current authorized service representatives so bidders can obtain quotations for these services or will the town bear the cost outside of the scope of this contract?	Our understanding is a programmer is not necessary.
44	Will the current vendor release the current Napco Starlink Communicators to the new Vendor?	Some may be released. This will have to be discussed with individual companies.

END OF QUESTIONS