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June 25, 2024

Mr. Herbert L. Judon, Jr. A.A.E., IAP
Executive Director
Augusta Regional Airport
1501 Aviation Way
Augusta, Georgia 30906

Subject: Taxiway F Reconstruction

Dear Mr. Judon:

The Augusta Procurement Department has publicly Bid the Plans and Specifications for the proposed reconstruction of Taxiway F (IFB #24-203). Bids were opened and read publicly on June 13, 2024, at 3:00 pm, local time at the Augusta Procurement Department.

Mead and Hunt, Inc. has reviewed the response to the advertisement for bids for the project. Bids were received from C.W. Matthews Contracting headquartered in Marietta, GA, Independence Excavating, Inc. headquartered in Independence, OH, Summers Concrete Contracting headquartered in Hahira, GA, Reeves Construction headquartered in Augusta, GA, ER Snell Contractor headquartered in Snellville, GA, and Precision 2000 headquartered in Atlanta, GA.

All bids received must be reviewed as a whole by the Augusta Procurement Department and compared to the Engineer's estimate. In the event that the apparent responsive and responsible low bid contractor is compliant yet exceeds the allowed 20% overage between the bid and estimate, justification must be provided by the Consultant (Mead & Hunt) to the Augusta Regional Airport and the Augusta Procurement Department prior to recommending award to the apparent low-bid contractor.

Based upon our review of the preferred option (Concrete Taxiway with Asphalt Shoulders), the base bid submitted by CW Matthews (\$8,128,445.19), was 22% higher than the Engineer's estimate (\$6,656,659.90) while also exceeding the original \$7,000,000 budget. The difference between these costs can be attributed to a few items.

Within the Engineer's estimate, the Mobilization and Airfield Safety & Security line items were based on a percentage of the base bid, not the base bid plus bid option 1A/1B and 2A/2B. The engineer's estimate was developed to not have a pre-determined option shown within the estimate itself. When factoring the bid options into the base bid, CW Matthews numbers are accurate compared to the entire cost of the project.

In addition to this factor, within the A/E industry, construction prices are still in flux compared to previous years due to supply chain issues, oils/gas costs, labor shortages, etc. In order to address these concerns, Contractor's must try to account for unknown issues within a climate of uncertainty. These factors are reflected across all bids received for this project and can be seen, for example, directly in the underdrain (PVC) and electrical line items.

After reviewing and evaluating the unit prices associated with the various construction line items, the costs associated seem to fall within the current market averages seen across the region and country in similar projects, with multiple being at or below the engineer's estimate.

Because this project is proposed to be funded via a Federal Grant, it should be noted, that the bids received for this project have been provided to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for their review and comment. In doing so, the two apparent low bids for both options were discussed in additional detail with the FAA prior to grant submittal. The discussion centered on the preferred alternative to consider and if funds were available to cover additional costs exceeding the original \$7,000,000 budget.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

MEAD & HUNT, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin J. Scott, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Edwin J Scott, Jr., P.E.
Project Manager

cc:

Darrell White, City of Augusta Procurement
Nancy Williams, City of Augusta Procurement
Tim Weegar, Augusta Regional Airport
Elizabeth Giles, Augusta Regional Airport