

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Multi-Purpose Dog Handler Packages (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0018
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of an annual contract with Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, GA), to provide multi-purpose dog handler packages for the Columbus Police Department.

The vendor will provide quality and healthy canines, handler training, equipment, vehicle upfitting and full support for the Police Department. The trained canines and handlers will provide added Public Safety in apprehension, drug detection and tracking. An initial purchase of two packages is anticipated. Additional packages will be purchased on an “as needed” basis.

The contract term shall be for one (1) year with the option to renew for four (4) additional twelve-month periods. The contract renewals shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractors.

Annual Contract History:

This is a new annual contract.

RFP Advertisement and Receipt of Proposals:

RFP specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry and DemandStar on January 8, 2024. This RFP has been advertised, opened and evaluated. Three (3) proposals were received by the due date of February 16, 2024, from the following vendors:

Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, GA)

Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officer's Training Center (Northport, AL)

Von Der King Kennels and Training (Jasper, GA)

The following events took place after receipt of the proposals:

RFP MEETINGS/EVENTS		
Description	Date	Agenda/Action
Pre-Evaluation	3/6/2024	The Purchasing Manager advised evaluation committee of the RFP rules and process. The proposals were distributed to committee members for review.

1 st Evaluation	3/28/2024	Committee members discussed the proposals from all vendors. The Committee requested clarifications from the vendors.
Clarification Request Sent	5/1/2024	Clarification letters were forwarded to all vendors.
Clarifications received and Forwarded to Committee	5/7/2024	Clarification responses were received and forwarded to the Committee. No further clarifications were requested.
Committee Ready to Evaluate	5/30/2024	After reviewing the clarifications, all members of the Committee indicated they were ready to evaluate.
Evaluation Forms Sent	5/31/2024	Evaluation forms forwarded to the voting committee members.
Evaluation Forms Completed	8/16/2024	Final set of evaluation forms completed and returned to Purchasing.
Evaluation Results Forwarded	8/28/2024	The Evaluation Results were compiled, completed and forwarded to Committee members for review.
Recommendation	8/30/2024	It is the pleasure of the Committee to recommend award to the highest scoring vendor, Custom Canine Unlimited.

Evaluation Committee:

The proposals were reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, which consisted of three voting members from Columbus Police Department, one voting member from Columbus Fire and EMS, one voting member from Public Works.

A member of the Department of Homeland Security served as an alternate voter.

Serving as a non-voting advisor was a representative from the Columbus Police Department.

Award Recommendation:

The voting Committee members recommend award to Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, GA), for the following reasons:

- **Custom Canine Unlimited**
 - The owner was a Law Enforcement K-9 handler, with qualification both in the United States and internationally.
 - Over 245 agencies served, to include previous work with Columbus Police Department.
 - Lots of experience with both the canines, as well as the type of training required.
 - Overall proposal is organized, and goals are clear, to include post-graduation training.
- **Qualifications/Experience:**
 - Custom Canine Unlimited is a reputable Law Enforcement K9 Training provider headquartered and licensed in the State of Georgia since 2007.

- Custom Canine Unlimited is owned and operated by law enforcement officers.
 - Custom Canine Unlimited has provided services and products to clients both nationally and internationally.
- Below are the last three clients for which the contractor has performed similar services, at the time the contractor submitted a proposal:
- Greene County Sheriff Office 2012 – Present
Greensboro, GA
Services include dog training, handler training, and equipment. Also provides ongoing training for their teams, to include certifications.
 - Walker County Sheriff Office 2014 – Present
Lafayette, GA
Services include Multi-Purpose Dog and Handler training.
 - North Augusta Department of Public Safety 2023 – Present
North Augusta, SC
Provides dog, handler training, full handler equipment package, vehicle equipment and upfitting.

The City’s Procurement Ordinance Article 3-110 (Competitive Sealed Proposals for the procurement of Equipment, Supplies and Professional Services) governs the RFP Process. During the RFP process, there is no formal opening due to the possibility of negotiated components of the proposal. In the event City Council does not approve the recommended offeror, no proposal responses or any negotiated components are made public until after the award of the contract. Therefore, the evaluation results and cost information have been submitted to the City Manager in a separate memo for informational purposes.

Funding for the various components of the initial purchase are available in the FY25: Multi-Government Project Fund – Finance – 23 EMB Justice Assistance Grant – Various; 0216 – 200 – 4128 - 6728, 6601, 6699, 6339, 7761.

Funding for additional packages will be budgeted in the appropriate fiscal year: VICE/Special Operations Forfeiture Fund – Police – Intelligence/Vice – Operating Materials; 0225-400-2100-VICE-6728.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH CUSTOM CANINE UNLIMITED (GAINESVILLE, GA) TO PROVIDE MULTI-PURPOSE DOG HANDLER PACAKGES FOR THE COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTENT.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 24-0018) and three proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, an initial purchase of two (2) packages is anticipated. Additional packages will be purchased on an “as needed” basis. The multi-purpose dog handler packages include training of canines and handlers in apprehension, drug detection and tracking.; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by Custom Canine Unlimited met all proposal requirements and was evaluated responsive to the RFP; and,

WHERAS, the initial term of the contract shall be for one (1) year with the option to renew for four (4) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewals will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute an annual contract with Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, GA) to provide multi-purpose dog handler packages. Funding for the various components of the initial purchase are available in the FY25: Multi-Government Project Fund – Finance – 23 EMB Justice Assistance Grant – Various; 0216 – 200 – 4128 - 6728, 6601, 6699, 6339, 7761.

Funding for additional packages will be budgeted in the appropriate fiscal year: VICE/Special Operations Forfeiture Fund – Police – Intelligence/Vice – Operating Materials; 0225-400-2100-VICE-6728.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____

Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Thomas voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor