

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of an annual contract with FirstClass Healthcare, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide comprehensive healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail.

FirstClass Healthcare, LLC, will provide services that conform with all applicable standards, including those established by the National Commission of Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC), and applicable administrative rules of the Muscogee County Jail, to include:

- Health history interview, physicals and dental exams
- Triaging of complaints
- Sick call
- Hospital care (15-bed space medical housing at the Jail)
- Specialty services
- Emergency services
- Ancillary services (make provisions for ambulance services, onsite x-ray providers, prescription drugs, laboratory services, and biohazard disposal/providers)
- Referral arrangements with medical specialists for treatment of issues beyond the scope of the onsite services
- Medical records
- Medical and office supplies
- Pharmaceutical services
- Health education
- Appropriate staffing of medical professionals
- Daily and monthly reports
- Program support services

The initial term of the contract will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor.

Annual Contract History:

The previous five-year contract was awarded on March 8, 2022 (Resolution No. 070-22) to Wellpath, LLC. The contract initiated on April 1, 2022, and the first term ran through March 31,

2024. The Muscogee County Sheriff determined the needs of the Jail would be best met by advertising a new RFP for these services. Wellpath, LLC, was notified and has agreed to extend the contract through March 31, 2025, to allow for the advertisement of a new RFP.

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 July 17 2024. This RFP has been advertised, opened and evaluated. Seven (7) proposals were received by the due date of October 25, 2024, from the following vendors:

- FirstClass Healthcare, LLC (Atlanta, GA)**
- Advanced Correctional Healthcare (Franklin, TN)
- Consolidated Medical Staffing (Raleigh, NC)
- CorrectHealth, LLC (Alpharetta, GA)
- MedTrust (Oklahoma, OK)
- Wellpath, LLC (Nashville, TN)
- YesCare (Brentwood, TN)

The following events took place after receipt of proposals:

RFP MEETINGS/EVENTS		
Description	Date	Agenda/Action
Pre-Evaluation Meeting	11/20/24	The Purchasing Manager advised committee members of the RFP rules and process, and the project manager provided an overview. Proposals were disbursed to each committee member to review.
1 st Evaluation Meeting	12/13/24	Committee members discussed the proposals from all vendors. The Committee voted to reject the proposals from Advanced Correctional Healthcare, MedTrust and YesCare due to vendor's exceptions to the RFP specifications deemed unacceptable. Vendors were notified in writing.
Rejection Letters Sent	12/20/24	Three vendors notified that their proposals would not receive further consideration in this RFP process.
Clarifications Requested	02/12/25	After confirming with the Committee the specific clarifications that were requested, letters were forwarded to three vendors.
Clarifications Received	02/14/25	Clarification responses were received and forwarded to the Committee for review. No further clarifications were requested.
Evaluation Forms Sent	02/26/25	Evaluation forms were forwarded to voting committee members. The four vendors remaining in consideration were: FirstClass Healthcare, Consolidated Medical Staffing, CorrectHealth and Wellpath.
Evaluation Results	03/12/25	The final set of evaluation forms were completed and returned to Purchasing. Evaluation results were compiled and tabulated.
Evaluation Results Forwarded	03/14/25	The tabulation of scores and evaluator comments was forwarded to the Committee for review.

Award Recommendation	03/16/25	The voting Committee members unanimously voted to award the contract to FirstClass Healthcare, LLC.
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Evaluation Committee:

The proposals were reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, which consisted of two voting members from the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office and one voting member from the Muscogee County Prison.

Serving as non-voting advisors were one representative from the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office, one representative from the Finance Department and one representative from the City Attorney’s Office.

Award Recommendation:

The voting Committee members recommend award to FirstClass Healthcare, LLC (Atlanta, GA) for the following reasons:

- **FirstClass Healthcare, LLC**
 - This company is within driving distance, which is helpful to the County Jail, and they can handle the inmates currently being held in the jail.
 - They focus on operational efficiencies – utilizing technology to ensure all needs are met and real-time statistics are available. They also focus on reduced hospital transfers and have robust mental health services available.
 - The program support model satisfies the daily operations of the jail. Strengths are there organization structure and diversity in current contracts/sizes of facilities they service.
 - **Qualifications/Experience:**
 - FirstClass Healthcare is a physician owned and operated healthcare entity.
 - FirstClass Healthcare was organized to provide correctional healthcare services in March of 2022. However, they partnered with the Georgia Department of Health as the preferred COVID-19 vaccine and testing provider for prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers, and other confinement-setting facilities throughout the State.
 - The managing partners of FirstClass Healthcare are a team of highly experienced professionals, six (6) of whom are licensed medical professionals (three board-certified emergency medicine physicians and three board-certified physician assistants).
 - The managing partners collectively have over sixty (60) years of experience in clinical operations in large urban healthcare systems – including the Emory Healthcare System, Grady Memorial Hospital, the VA Medical Center and the Orlando Health System.
 - Below are the last three clients for which the contractor has performed similar services, at the time the contractor submitted a proposal:

- Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office 2022 – Present
2900 University Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA
Comprehensive inmate medical, dental and mental health services.
- Cherokee County Sheriff's Office 2023 – Present
498 Chattin Drive, Canton, GA
Comprehensive inmate medical, dental and mental health services.
- Henry County Sheriff's Office 2004 – Present
120 Henry Parkway, McDonough, GA
Comprehensive inmate medical, dental and mental health services..

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 has been submitted to the City Manager in a separate memo for informational purposes.

Funds are available each fiscal year for this ongoing expense: General Fund – Sheriff – Medical – Consulting; 0101 – 550 – 2650 – MEDD – 6315.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH FIRSTCLASS HEALTHCARE, LLC (ATLANTA, GA) TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS INCARCERATED AT THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY JAIL.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 25-0005) and seven (7) proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by FirstClass Healthcare, LLC, met all proposal requirements and was deemed most responsive to the RFP; and,

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

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 FirstClass Healthcare, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide comprehensive healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. Funds are available each fiscal year for this ongoing expense: General Fund – Sheriff – Medical – Consulting; 0101 – 550 – 2650 – MEDD – 6315.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Anker voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor