

4.7.2 Interlocal Agreements – As provided in Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, and Chapter 271 of the Texas Local Government Code, the City may enter into an agreement with another public entity in the United States for the purposes of pooling resources to obtain favorable pricing for goods and services. A purchase from an approved Interlocal Agreement satisfies the requirement for competitive bidding.

4.7.3 Cooperative Purchasing Programs – The Purchasing Department has established a large number of approved Cooperative Purchasing Agreements with public entities and State cooperatives. These agreements are established for the purpose of maximizing savings to the City through pooling of economic buying power. A purchase from an approved Cooperative satisfies the requirement for competitive bidding.

4.8 Professional and Personal Services

Request for Qualifications – A Request for Qualifications is the approved method for the procurement of professional services. The Professional Services Procurement Act (Chapter 2254, Texas Government Code) defines professional services as: accounting; architecture; landscape architecture; land surveying; medicine; optometry; professional engineering; real estate appraising; and professional nursing. No additional services qualify as professional services under the Act. All other services must be procured through a competitive process, such as Request for Proposal (RFP). The City may not award a Professional Services Contract based on competitive bids, but it shall make the selection and award based on the provider's demonstrated competence and qualifications to perform the services and for a fair and reasonable price.

The same bid notification requirements, advertising requirements, and emergency exemptions apply to Requests for Qualifications.

Personal Service- A contract is for a personal service if a specific individual is required to perform the service. The service must personally be performed by the individual named in the contract. Personal Service agreements are typically made with the following. (1) An individual that has unique business or political associations, (2) an individual that has access to information that is not generally available to others, or (3) An individual whose skills and services are so unique they cannot be duplicated by another individual or firm. Since a specific individual is required to perform the service, a search of HUB vendors, a Request for Qualifications or a Request for Proposals is not required.