



Posting Language

Recommend approval to negotiate and execute a contract for a residential rate advocate for Austin Water with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. d/b/a Raftelis, for a term of two years in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

MBE/WBE

This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the services required for this solicitation, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Lead Department

Austin Water

Client Department

Austin Water Assistant Director for Financial Services, Joseph Gonzales

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Water. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Qualification Statements (RFQS) 2200 EAD4010 for these services. The solicitation was issued on June 19, 2023, and closed on July 25, 2023. Of the four offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the best-evaluated responsive offer. A complete solicitation package, including a tabulation of the bids received, is available for viewing, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services, website, Austin Finance Online. Link: [Solicitation Document](#).

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action

October 11, 2023 - To be reviewed by the Water & Wastewater Commission

Additional Backup Information

The contract will provide rate advocacy services for Austin Water (AW) residential customer classes during the performance of the water, wastewater, and reclaimed water utility cost of service study.

The rate advocate will participate in the cost-of-service study, review current cost-of-service and rate design methodologies, discuss and analyze alternative methodologies, and participate in the public involvement and community engagement process. The rate advocate will also present to the Water and Wastewater Commission and Council as necessary and identify any conflicts of interest that may interfere with or call into question the ability to effectively represent the AW ratepayers.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. as the best to provide these services based on personnel qualifications and demonstrated applicable experience, company experience, and references. This request allows for the development of a contract with a qualified offeror that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in



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negotiating a satisfactory contract with the selected offeror, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so Council may select another qualified offeror and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

If the City is unable to enter into a contract, AW will not be able to perform outreach efforts and address customer concerns or incorporate customer feedback in the cost-of-service rate study.