



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#26-0696

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Christopher Cooper, Acting City Manager

DATE: August 18, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving Final Ranking of Firms, Negotiated Fee Schedule, and Agreement for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 536, Design Services for Emergency Operations Center - H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. - \$928,304.92 - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the final ranking of firms, negotiated fee schedule and agreement, in substantially the form attached, for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 536, Design Services for Emergency Operations Center with H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$928,304.92.

Background

The State of Florida Division of Emergency Management has provided financial assistance to the City of Fort Lauderdale (Sub-Recipient) in the amount of \$1,114,396.85 through the Florida Division of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This program, sponsored by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requires a grant match of \$366,818.25. The grant period began April 18, 2025, and was scheduled to end on July 31, 2026 (Exhibit 1, CAM #25-0666). However, the Florida Division of Emergency Management granted an extension through July 31, 2027.

The grant provides an allocation of funds for Phase I of a new hurricane safe room and upgraded generator. This safe room will be constructed on the same parcel as the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at 2200 Executive Airport Way. Phase I of the project will encompass essential preliminary work, including surveying, engineering, design, plans preparation, permitting, and bidding. This foundational phase is crucial for developing the detailed plans necessary for Phase II approval.

The proposed design for Phase II envisions a stand-alone hurricane safe room engineered to provide near-absolute protection for personnel activated to work during emergency incidents. The safe room will be designed and constructed to provide protection against up to 250 mile per hour (MPH) winds based on the criteria contained in standards set forth by the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

On December 3, 2025, the City, via the Procurement Services Department, issued Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 536, Design Services for the Emergency Operations Center. On January 6, 2026, Addendum No. 1 was issued to extend the proposal submission deadline to January 28, 2026. The extension was intended to provide additional time for interested firms to prepare and submit responsive proposals, thereby enhancing competition and promoting broader participation in the solicitation process. The RFQ closed on January 28, 2026. The extended submission period achieved its intended purpose, resulting in additional firms submitting qualifications for the City's consideration.

On January 28, 2026, the RFQ closed with the following twelve (12) firms submitting proposals in response to the solicitation:

1. CPZ Architects, Inc.
2. Diversified Technology Consultants, Inc.
3. Gurri Matute, P.A.
4. H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc.
5. Justin Architects, P.A.
6. Joseph B. Kaller & Associates, LLC d/b/a Kaller Architecture
7. Ohlson Lavoie Corporation
8. Saltz Michelson Architects, Inc.
9. Stratus Team, LLC
10. The Tamara Peacock Company Architects of Florida Inc.
11. Walters Zackria Associates, PLLC
12. West Architecture + Design, LLC

Of the twelve (12) firms, one (1) firm, Diversified Technology Consultants, Inc., was deemed non-responsive by the Procurement Services Department. In accordance with Submittal Requirements, Section 4.2.5, "Respondents must provide summaries of at least three (3) representative projects completed within the past ten (10) years..." While Diversified Technology Consultants, Inc. provided three (3) references with its submittal, Procurement was only able to verify two (2) of the three (3) references.

On April 14, 2026, the Evaluation Committee (EC) met to evaluate and to shortlist the proposals. The proposals were evaluated and ranked based on the established evaluation criteria shown in the table below:

CRITERIA	WEIGHT (%)
Qualifications and Experience of Firm/Team	20%
Approach to Scope of Work	30%
History and Past Performance of the Firm	25%
Risk Management & Hazard Mitigation Design Approach	25%
TOTAL:	100%

The Evaluation Committee shortlisted the following five (5) firms:

1. H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc.
2. Justin Architects, P.A.
3. Ohlson Lavoie Corporation
4. Saltz Michelson Architects, Inc.
5. Stratus Team, LLC

On May 5, 2026, the shortlisted firms discussed their proposals and delivered presentations before the Evaluation Committee. Presentations were evaluated and scored in accordance with the criteria as shown in the table above.

As a result of the presentations and evaluation process, the Evaluation Committee determined that H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. met the requirements of the solicitation and deemed the firm as the highest ranked, responsive, and responsible firm.

Negotiations have been successfully completed, and staff recommends H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. for award.

Resource Impact

There is a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$928,304.92. Funds for this agreement are available in the FY 2026 Budget/CIP in the accounts listed below.

Funds available as of July 22, 2006					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-529-60-6599-P12996	EOC Safe Room & Generator Grant	Capital Outlay /Construction	\$1,114,396.85	\$1,114,396.85	\$834,396.85
10-129-9400-521-60-6599-P12996A	EOC Safe Room & Generator Grant Match	Capital Outlay /Construction	\$366,818.25	\$366,818.25	\$93,908.07
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$928,304.92

* Includes funds in the amount of \$533,181.75 Committed/Available in Requisition #23144.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2025 *Commission Priority*, advancing Public Safety.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area, Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Ready.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan, specifically

advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area
- The Coastal Management, Community Health, and Safety Element
- Goal 3: Prepare and guide coastal areas, residents, and resources before, during and after hazard and emergency events.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - CAM #25-0666

Exhibit 2 - Solicitation

Exhibit 3 - Final Ranking

Exhibit 4 - H2M Architects & Engineers, Inc. Proposal

Exhibit 5 - Negotiated Fee Proposal and Fee Schedule

Exhibit 6 - Agreement

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