

# **Request for Proposal Wage Classification and Compensation Study**



**Issue Date: April 10, 2023  
Submittal Date: May 10, 2023 – 2:00 PM**

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## **Introduction**

The City of Cordele requests qualified Consultants with proven experience in Municipality Wages and Salaries Compensation Study to submit proposals for a Wage Classification and Compensation Study. The city is seeking a qualified consultant to provide a full range of services to include but not limited to vetting, recommending, consulting, and evaluating compensation of wages and salaries of all City employees with the City of Cordele

## **Background Information**

Cordele is known as the “Watermelon Capital of the World” and is located in South Central Georgia. Cordele is two (2) hours from Atlanta and 1 ½ hours from the Florida state line.

Cordele is also a major transportation hub served by three major railroads, Interstate 75, Georgia Highway 300, and Georgia Highway 280. The Heart of Georgia and CSX interchange provides easy access to/from the Cordele Inland Port. Additionally, the City of Cordele has two industrial parks and major commercial corridors throughout the city.

Cordele is a full-service city, with a five member City Commission operating under the Council/Manager form of government. City departments include Administration (City Manager, Executive Assistant/City Clerk, Assistant City Clerk, IT Manager), Public Works (Cemetery/Parks, Engineering, Gas, Street, Water/Sewer), Finance, Utility Control & Treatment, Community Development, Human Resources, Police, Municipal Court, & Fire.

The City’s current Classification and Compensation plan was approved by the Cordele City Commission December 19, 2000 and became effective January 4, 2001. Since the plan was adopted, inequities and compression have developed, and the criteria and weighting of various factors of the system need to be updated.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The purpose of the Classification and Compensation Study is to address changes in City operations and staffing since the last Study, which may have affected the type, scope, and level of work being performed.

The City’s objectives are to:

1. Attract and retain qualified employees;
2. Ensure positions performing similar work with essentially the same level of complexity, responsibility, and knowledge, skills, and abilities are classified together;
3. Provide salaries commensurate with assigned duties;
4. Clearly outline promotional opportunities and provide recognizable compensation growth;

5. Provide justifiable pay differential between individual classes; and
6. Maintain a competitive position with other comparable government entities and private employers within the same geographic areas.

All work will be done with regular involvement of the City Manager and Human Resource Department. Department Heads and other key personnel will be involved as necessary. Regular presentations and meetings with these individuals or groups, incorporating their input into the process, are expected. Presentation to the City Commission upon completion of the project is also expected.

The study shall evaluate the present salary structure as compared to the specific job market for comparable positions in the public sectors. The consultant shall perform or provide the following:

#### **A. Scope of Services**

1. Provide for a comprehensive evaluation of every job within the City to determine relative worth within the organization for internal equity and for the establishment of pay ranges and step progressions within the ranges or provide an alternative to step progressions.
2. Review all current job classifications, confirm, and recommend changes to hierarchical order of jobs using your evaluation system.
3. Establish appropriate benchmarking standards and conduct salary surveys as needed for similar positions with comparable Georgia municipalities as required.
4. Identify potential pay compression issues and provide potential solutions.
5. Analyze and recommend changes to the present compensation structure to meet market analysis. This recommendation may include recommendations for individual positions as well.

#### **B. Information Meetings**

1. Consultant to schedule an initial meeting with City Manager and HR, to discuss the process and tasks to be performed in the study to include reasonable dedication of key personnel.
2. Consultant to meet with department heads to explain study and process to be used.
3. Consultant to provide frequent updates to City Manager.

#### **C. Classification Study**

1. Consultant to review current classification grade methodology, and propose recommended strategies for the City.

2. Consultant to conduct interviews and/or job audits as appropriate. Interviews and/or job audits may be conducted individually or in groups based upon classification.
3. Consultant to update job descriptions to uniformly reflect the distinguishing characteristics, essential job functions, minimum qualifications (education/experience and knowledge/skills/abilities), working conditions (physical demands, work environment, and travel requirements), and certification/licenses/registrations requirements for classification as needed.
4. Consultant to identify employees according to fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) status (exempt/non-exempt).
5. Consultant to present proposed recommendations to the City Manager for review prior to making any final classification determinations.
6. Consultant to finalize class specifications and recommend appropriate classification for each employee, including correction of identified discrepancies between existing and proposed classifications.
7. Consultant to identify career ladders/promotional opportunities as deemed appropriate.
8. Consultant to submit recommendations for appropriate implementation measures that the Human Resources staff will need to take.

#### **D. Compensation Study**

1. Consultant to review current compensation plan (salary grade levels and steps) and understand current challenges in recruiting and retaining employees.
2. Consultant to recommend and identify a consistent and competitive market position that the City can strive to maintain.
3. Consultant to recommend comparable labor markets, including both private and public sector employers for compensation survey.
4. Consultant to develop and conduct a comprehensive compensation and benefits survey,
5. Consultant to recommend appropriate salary range for each position based on the classification plan, the compensation survey results, and the internal relationships and equality. Prepare a new salary structure based on the results of the survey and best practices.
6. Consultant to develop guidelines to assist City staff with determining the starting pay for new employees based on knowledge and experience above the minimum requirements of the position, how difficult the position is to fill, and market competitiveness.

7. Consultant to recommend implementation strategies including calculating the cost of implementing the plan.
8. Consultant to identify any extreme current individual or group compensation inequities and to provide a recommended corrective action plan and process to remedy these situations.
9. Consultant to make recommendations and to provide implementation strategies related to other key compensation practices, based on market demands, including pay for performance, skill pay, special assignment pay, certification pay, bilingual pay, promotional pay, and acting assignment pay.
10. Consultant to conduct a compression analysis to include any recommendations for implementation.
- 11.

### **City Resources**

The City will provide copies of all pay ranges, job classifications, and any other available in-house information requested by the selected consultant that may be required to complete the study.

### **Proposal Format and Requirements**

The Consultant shall submit one original (marked “ORIGINAL”), five complete copies, and one USB/Flash drive of their written proposal that presents their qualifications and understanding of the work to be performed. Include all information requested, organized in tabbed sections clearly identified in a table of contents as described in the paragraphs that follow. Any other information thought to be relevant, but not applicable to the enumerated categories, may be provided as a separate appendix to the proposal. The following information/documents shall be included in the proposal package to be considered **responsive** to the Request for Proposals:

#### **A. Agents and Address**

Identify who will be the project manager and key staff assigned if awarded. Provide resumes summarizing the qualifications and experience of the individuals who will be conducting the study. Include specific information on the staff’s experience with public sector compensation including public safety. Describe successful outcomes. List the address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the office from which the services are to be provided. Promotional literature and other public relations documents should NOT be included.

#### **B. Statement of Methods and Procedures**

Provide a statement describing the scope of work as you understand it. Describe the approach, means, methods, and procedures to be used to gather the data, analyze findings, and develop recommendations as requested. Provide a sample of reports and/or other correspondence.

### **C. Management Synopsis**

Provide a synopsis prepared for management review, covering the significant features of the proposal including overall costs and term of work.

### **D. Structure and Content of Work Product**

Provide a detailed breakdown and description of the specific steps, services, and study products that will be provided. Describe how the final product will be structured and presented upon completion. Include any computer/software compatibility information. Firms may elect to include in the section any innovative methods or concepts that might be beneficial to the City of Cordele as long as the minimum requirements set out in this RFP are met.

### **E. Work Schedule**

Provide a timeline indicating tasks required and the start and completion dates for each. It is expected that the work will commence as soon as possible after the contract is awarded.

### **F. References**

Include the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address for contact persons at five (5) other public entities for which comparable services have recently been rendered.

### **G. Cost of Services**

Provide a total cost estimate, including travel expenses, and “not to exceed” amount for the work described in scope of work; a rate schedule for computing any extra work not specified in the contracted scope of work; and an amount to be deducted from total cost estimate because Consultant is conducting (or has conducted in the past six (6) months) salary surveys of comparable jurisdictions, the data from which can be shared rather than independently gathered.

### **H. Final Product**

Provide a statement that the Consultant agrees to:

- a. Deliver at least one (1) original, five (5) copies, and a flash drive of the final report to the City Manager.
- b. Provide the final report, tables, schedules, job descriptions, charts, spreadsheets, salary surveys, and other materials necessary for the implementation and maintenance of the compensation/classification system in an electronic medium (flash drive); and
- c. Appear at a scheduled City Commission meeting to discuss the recommendations and final report.

### **I. Additional Services (Optional)**

Provide any other related and recommended products or service not specified in the RFP which may be considered essential or benefitted by the firm. These services should be priced separately from “G” above and shown here.

## **J. Other**

The complete (all pages) Request for Proposal documents with any addenda acknowledgements filled out, initialed, and signed as required. The person that signed the RFP shall have the authority to negotiate the full scope of services on behalf of the organization and shall be authorized to bind the contract to the terms and conditions of this RFP.

The classification and compensation system to be recommended as responses to this RFP must adhere to the following basic elements and characteristics: (a) the system must meet all legal requirements, (b) be totally nondiscriminatory and provide for compliance with all pertinent federal, state, and local requirements (e.g., ADA, FLSA, EEO, etc.).

1. The recommendations must be easy for management to administer, maintain, and defend.
2. The recommendations must easily accommodate organizational changes and growth.
3. The recommendations should be based on sound compensation principles in which internal and external equity are considered within the pay structure, as well as, the concepts of equal pay for equal work, equal pay for similar work, and equal pay for comparable work.
4. The recommendations should provide for new positions to be incorporated into the compensation plan, as well as, regular adjustments to maintain the plan's competitiveness.
5. The City requests that all information submitted by the successful consulting firm be in Microsoft Word format on flash drive, and in hard copy. The City further requests the complete use of the material developed for the ability to update or change it as needed. All work provided by the consultant under contract with the City of Cordele shall belong exclusively to the City.

### **Cost Proposal**

This request for information does not, under any circumstance, commit the City to pay any costs incurred by any consultant in the submission of qualifications. The consultant is responsible for all costs associated with response to this request.

### **General Information**

The City's website is [www.cityofcordele.com](http://www.cityofcordele.com).

### **Questions**

Questions pertaining to this document should be submitted via e-mail with "Questions about Salary Survey" in the subject line, at least two days prior to the due date to David Wade, HR Director at [davidwade@cityofcordele.com](mailto:davidwade@cityofcordele.com).

### **Addenda**

It is the consultant's responsibility to check with David Wade for any addenda.

**Criteria and Selection**

After city staff has reviewed the proposals, final selection will be determined. The successful consultant will be required to enter into an agreement for professional services with the City of Cordele.

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Quality and thoughtfulness of the proposal. 20%
- Related experience of the firm and key staff with similar studies. 20%
- References, credentials and/or recommendations from past clients. 15%
- Costs associated with developing, preparing, and presenting the study. 25%
- Ability of the firm and the firm’s subcontractors to provide the services requested as well as financial stability and availability. 20%

**Submittals**

All proposals must be delivered to the City no later than 2:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. Proposals must be delivered to the City of Cordele City Hall, Attn: Angela Redding, City Manager, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 569, Cordele, GA 31015. Consultants will be responsible for delivery of their proposals to the City before the deadline. **Any proposal received after the deadline will not be considered.**

The City of Cordele reserves the right to reject any or all proposals at any time with no penalty and to waive immaterial defects and minor irregularities in proposals.

The evaluation of proposals will be done by City personnel who will then forward a recommendation to the City Commission for consideration. Fee proposals, which are to be submitted with the qualification proposal will also be taken into consideration.

The duration of this consultant agreement has not been determined.

The City of Cordele does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, age or marital status.

**NON COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT**

1. Vendor fully understands the preparation and contents of the attached offer and of all pertinent circumstances respecting such offer;
2. Such offer is genuine and is not a collusive or sham offer;
3. Neither the said consultant nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees or parties interest, including this affiant, has in any way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other responder, firm, or person to submit a collusive or sham offer in connection with the contract or agreement for which the attached offer has been submitted or to refrain from making an offer in connection with such contract or agreement, or collusion or communication or conference with any other firm, or, to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the offer price or the offer price of any other firm, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the City of Cordele or any person interested in the proposed contract or agreement; and
4. The price or prices quoted in the attached offer are fair and proper and are not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement on the part of the firm or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees, or parties in interest, including this affiant.

**AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY**

1. The consultant is not ineligible for employment on public contracts as a result of a conviction or guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere to violations of the Sherman AntiTrust Act, mail fraud or state criminal violations with a contract let by the State of Georgia or any political subdivision of the State of Georgia.
2. No one on the City Commission or officer of the City of Cordele or other person whose duty it is to vote for, let out, overlook or in any manner superintend any of the work for the City of Cordele has a direct interest in the responder.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION**

No employee, officer or agent shall participate in the selection, or in the award or administration of a contract if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when:

- The employee, officer or agent,
- Any member of immediate family
- An organization which employs, or is about to employ, any of the above, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award.

Officers, employees or agents will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from consultant, potential consultants, or parties to sub-agreements. By submission of this form, the consultant is certifying that no conflicts of interest exist.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the above applicable laws and verifies that the bid submitted in response to this solicitation is in full compliance with the listed requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

NOTARY:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this date: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

My Commission Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

