



INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

FIRE APPARATUS TOWN OF LAKE LURE, NORTH CAROLINA

1. INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Lake Lure ("Town"), on behalf of the Lake Lure Fire Department ("LLFD"), invites sealed bids from qualified fire apparatus manufacturers for the design, engineering, manufacture, testing, delivery, training, warranty support, and acceptance of one (1) new fire apparatus.

Sealed bids will be received until:

August 13, 2026 at 1:00PM
at:
622 Memorial Highway
Lake Lure, NC 28746

Bids received before the stated deadline will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter.

This procurement is being conducted as a formal sealed bid pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-129 and the Town of Lake Lure Procurement Policy. Bid documents may be obtained from the Town contact identified herein.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities and technical irregularities, request additional information from bidders, and award a contract in the best interest of the Town as permitted by law.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town seeks to procure a fire apparatus capable of supporting municipal structural firefighting, emergency response, rural water supply operations, wildland-urban interface incidents, and emergency operations within the mountainous terrain and weather conditions common to the Lake Lure area. The apparatus shall be delivered as a complete turnkey unit and shall include all labor, materials, equipment, testing, certifications, documentation, and services necessary to place the apparatus into operational service upon acceptance by the Town.

The apparatus shall be designed and manufactured in accordance with applicable industry standards and shall meet or exceed all minimum requirements contained within this Invitation to Bid. At a minimum, the apparatus shall incorporate a water tank with a nominal capacity of not less than 1,000 gallons, a fire pump rated at not less than 1,500 gallons per minute, seating for a minimum of five personnel, four SCBA-ready seating positions, a rear direct tank dump valve, a large diameter hose discharge, an automatic on-spot tire chain system, and all safety features, testing, certifications, and documentation specified herein.

The successful bidder shall furnish a complete and operational apparatus together with all labor, materials, equipment, testing, certifications, documentation, training, and services necessary to meet the requirements of the contract documents and the operational needs of the Lake Lure Fire Department.

3. PROJECT DELIVERY METHOD

This project will be procured in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 143-129. The Town intends to award a single purchase contract to one responsive and responsible bidder for the complete design, manufacture, testing, delivery, and acceptance of the apparatus. The successful bidder shall be solely responsible for furnishing all labor, materials, services, transportation, equipment, inspections, quality control activities, certifications, and support services necessary to provide a completed apparatus meeting the requirements of the contract documents.

4. PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

The anticipated procurement schedule is as follows:

Issue Date: July 16, 2026

Deadline for Questions: August 6, 2026 by 12:00PM

Final Addenda Issued: August 7, 2026 by 5:00PM

Bid Opening: August 13, 2026 at 1:00PM

Notice of Award: August 26, 2026 by 5:00PM

Contract Execution: September 2, 2026

The Town reserves the right to modify the schedule at any time.

5. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

5.1 Examination of Documents

Bidders shall carefully review all bid documents before submitting a proposal.

Submission of a bid constitutes acknowledgment that the bidder fully understands the requirements of this solicitation.

5.2 Bid Format

Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "SEALED BID – FIRE APPARATUS PROCUREMENT"

To be considered responsive, each bidder shall submit a completed bid package that includes a bid form signed by an authorized representative, detailed apparatus proposal, specification compliance statement, list of exceptions or deviations, complete pricing proposal, manufacturer qualifications information, delivery schedule, warranty information, references, and all attachments required by this solicitation.

5.3 Bid Opening

Bids received by the stated deadline will be publicly opened and read aloud at the location specified in the Advertisement for Bids. Formal bid procedures shall comply with applicable North Carolina statutes and Town policy.

5.4 Late Bids

Late bids shall not be accepted and may be returned unopened.

6. BID SECURITY

Bid security shall not be required for this procurement.

The Town reserves the right to require satisfactory evidence of financial capability, manufacturing capacity, or other assurances necessary to protect the public interest prior to contract execution.

7. BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS

The bidder shall be a regularly engaged fire apparatus manufacturer with demonstrated experience in the design and production of fire apparatus comparable to the unit specified herein. The bidder shall possess the personnel, facilities, technical resources, manufacturing capability, and financial capacity necessary to successfully perform the contract.

As evidence of qualifications, the bidder shall provide information regarding company history, manufacturing operations, service support capabilities, warranty service availability, and recent deliveries of similar apparatus. The Town reserves the right to investigate the qualifications and performance history of any bidder and to reject any proposal if such investigation reveals deficiencies affecting the bidder's ability to successfully perform the contract.

8. QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

All questions must be submitted in writing to:

Dustin Waycaster, Emergency Services Director
dwaycaster@townoflakelure.com

Questions must be received by the deadline identified in the Procurement Schedule.

Responses to questions, interpretations, and modifications to the solicitation shall be issued by written addendum. Only information contained within an official written addendum shall be binding upon the Town. Oral statements, interpretations, and explanations shall not be binding. It is the bidders responsibility to ensure receipt of all addendum.

9. BID SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered responsive, each bidder shall submit a complete bid package that includes a signed Bid Form, detailed apparatus proposal, specification compliance statement, list of exceptions or deviations, complete pricing proposal, manufacturer qualifications information, delivery schedule, warranty information, references, and all attachments required by this solicitation.

Failure to provide the information requested may result in the bid being deemed non-responsive.

10. MANUFACTURER QUALIFICATIONS

The bidder shall be a regularly engaged fire apparatus manufacturer with demonstrated experience in the design and production of fire apparatus comparable to the unit specified herein. The bidder shall possess the personnel, facilities, technical resources, manufacturing capability, and financial capacity necessary to successfully perform the contract.

As evidence of qualifications, the bidder shall provide information regarding company history, manufacturing operations, service support capabilities, warranty service availability, and recent deliveries of similar apparatus. The Town reserves the right to investigate the qualifications and performance history of any bidder and to reject any proposal if such investigation reveals deficiencies affecting the bidder's ability to successfully perform the contract.

11. CONTRACT TIME

The bidder shall provide a proposed production schedule and identify the number of calendar days required from contract execution to final delivery of the apparatus.

The schedule shall identify major milestones of the project, including engineering review, drawing approval, construction, testing, final inspection, delivery, and acceptance.

Delivery schedule shall be considered in determining bidder responsibility and responsiveness.

12. PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

Following contract award, the successful bidder shall participate in a pre-construction conference with representatives of the Town and Lake Lure Fire Department. The purpose of the conference shall be to review design requirements, production schedules, communication procedures, inspection requirements, and delivery expectations.

13. EVALUATION AND AWARD

Award shall be made in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §143-129 to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

A responsible and qualified bidder is one that substantially conforms to the specifications of design, quality, timeline of production and delivery, warranty, and qualifications.

The Town reserves the right to request clarification of any bid, verify references, conduct investigations regarding bidder qualifications, and obtain additional information deemed necessary to evaluate responsiveness and responsibility.

14. DESIGN DOCUMENTS

Following contract award, the successful bidder shall prepare and submit complete engineering and approval drawings for review by the Town. Construction shall not commence until approval drawings have been reviewed and returned by the Town.

Approval of drawings by the Town shall not relieve the manufacturer of responsibility for compliance with the contract requirements.

Prior to final acceptance, the manufacturer shall provide complete engineering drawings, electrical schematics, plumbing schematics, weight analysis information, operating manuals, maintenance manuals, NFPA compliance documentation, and all other documentation required by the contract documents.

15. MATERIALS AND QUALITY

All materials, components, assemblies, and equipment incorporated into the apparatus shall be new, current production, and free from defects. The

apparatus shall be manufactured in accordance with recognized industry standards and accepted fire apparatus manufacturing practices.

Workmanship shall be of the highest quality and suitable for severe-duty emergency service applications. The Town reserves the right to reject any materials, components, or workmanship determined to be defective, substandard, or inconsistent with the requirements of the contract documents.

16. PREAUDIT COMPLIANCE

Contract award and execution are contingent upon compliance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and that no contract is valid until it bears the required preaudit certificate under NCGS §159-28.

17. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The successful bidder shall execute a purchase agreement, contract, purchase order, or combination thereof acceptable to the Town.

The final contract documents shall consist of this Invitation to Bid, all addenda, the bidder's proposal, the technical specifications, the purchase agreement, purchase order, and any additional documents incorporated by reference.

The successful bidder shall furnish all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, services, testing, documentation, certifications, training, and support required to provide a complete apparatus ready for service.

The contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina.

18. INSPECTION RIGHTS

the Town reserve the right to inspect the apparatus during manufacture, witness testing, and reject deficiencies before acceptance. At agreed upon times throughout the manufacturing process, the Town may make on-site visits to the manufacturing facility to observe design and production.

19. ACCEPTANCE TESTING

The bidder shall be responsible for all costs associated with delivery of the Apparatus from the manufacturing facility to the Town of Lake Lure. Final acceptance shall occur only after delivery and successful completion of witnessed road testing, verification of compliance with all ITB specifications, required pump and weight certifications, operational testing of all equipment

and systems, review of required documentation, and completion of any punch-list items. Any deficiencies identified during acceptance testing shall be corrected by the bidder at no additional cost to the Town, and final acceptance and payment may be withheld until all requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

20. WARRANTY REQUIREMENTS

The bidder shall provide complete warranty information for the chassis, body, pump, electrical system, corrosion protection systems, communications systems, and all major components.

Warranty terms shall be clearly identified within the proposal and shall become part of the contract documents upon award.

21. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The successful bidder shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, codes, and standards governing the manufacture and delivery of the apparatus.

The apparatus shall comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, National Fire Protection Association standards, Environmental Protection Agency requirements, Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements, and all procurement requirements applicable to the Town of Lake Lure.

The successful bidder shall further comply with North Carolina General Statute §133-32 regarding gifts and favors and all other applicable public contracting requirements.

22. MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

The apparatus shall have an overall length not exceeding thirty (30) feet or three hundred sixty (360) inches. The apparatus shall be equipped with a minimum one thousand (1,000) gallon water tank and a minimum one thousand five hundred (1,500) gallon-per-minute fire pump. The apparatus shall comply with the current edition of NFPA 1900 and all other applicable NFPA standards in effect at the time of manufacture and delivery.

22.1 Water Tank and Plumbing

The apparatus shall include a rear-mounted direct tank dump valve designed for rapid discharge of the onboard water supply. The dump assembly shall include all controls, valves, plumbing, and components necessary for reliable operation.

22.2 Pump and Plumbing

The apparatus shall include a minimum one thousand five hundred (1,500) gallon-per-minute fire pump certified in accordance with applicable standards. The pump shall include a manual pressure relief valve and a properly plumbed large diameter hose discharge capable of supporting water supply and relay pumping operations.

22.3 Cab and Seating

The cab shall provide seating for a minimum of five personnel. Four seating positions shall be SCBA-ready and shall consist of one officer seat and three rear crew seats configured to accommodate firefighters wearing self-contained breathing apparatus.

22.4 Communications

The apparatus shall include an integrated crew communications system with five wireless, noise-canceling communication headsets capable of providing clear communication among seated personnel during operation of the apparatus.

22.5 Winter Operations

The apparatus shall include an automatic on-spot tire chain system installed on the rear drive axle or axles. The system shall be capable of deployment and retraction by the driver while the vehicle is moving at low speed.

22.6 Stability and Safety

The manufacturer shall perform a completed vehicle tilt test to determine center of gravity and rollover threshold characteristics. The results of the test shall be used to verify or calibrate the electronic stability control system. Documentation of the tilt test and calibration shall be provided at delivery.

23. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities and technical irregularities, cancel or reissue the solicitation, issue addenda,

request additional information, verify references, investigate bidder qualifications, determine responsiveness, determine responsibility, and make an award that is determined to be in the best interest of the Town and consistent with applicable law.

The Town's determination regarding responsiveness, responsibility, and award shall be final.

BID PROPOSAL FORM

Project: Fire Apparatus

Owner: Lake Lure Fire Department, Town of Lake Lure, North Carolina

Bidder: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

To the Town of Lake Lure:

The undersigned, having carefully examined the Invitation to Bid, drawings, and all other Contract Documents, hereby proposes to furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary to complete the Project in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Base Bid Amount:

\$ _____ (Written)

\$ _____ (Numeric)

The Bidder agrees to final delivery within _____ calendar days from execution of the contract.

The Bidder acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda:

Addendum No. _____ Date _____

Addendum No. _____ Date _____

Addendum No. _____ Date _____

The Bidder agrees that this bid shall be valid for 90 days from the bid opening date.

Respectfully submitted:

Signature: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION FORM

Vendor Name: _____

Federal Tax ID Number: _____

Years in Business: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

List three similar projects completed:

1. Project Name: _____

Owner: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

2. Project Name: _____

Owner: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

3. Project Name: _____

Owner: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned bidder hereby certifies that this bid is genuine and not made in the interest of or on behalf of any undisclosed person, firm, or corporation, and that the bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other bidder to submit a false or sham bid.

The bidder further certifies that they have not colluded, conspired, or agreed with any other bidder to fix pricing or otherwise compromise the competitive bidding process.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____