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## State Purchasing Director's Determination of Pilot Program Closeout

In 2021, the Central Purchasing Division ("CP") of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services ("OMES") in conjunction with the Information Services Division of OMES responded to frequent requests to get new suppliers, especially technology suppliers, available to readily serve state agencies. As a result, and as allowed by law [74 O.S. Section 85.5(H) (1)] CP initiated a Pilot Program termed "Rolling RFPs." The concept was to create a statutorily authorized statewide contract [74 O.S. Section 85.2 (30)] that remains open and available for bids. CP then identified specific portfolios that would benefit from the pilot program. The pilot was utilized in four contracts: 1) SW0132 Non-IT Staffing, 2) SW0133 Non-IT Consulting, 3) SW1025 IT Staff Augmentation, 4) SW1050 IT Deliverables.

Typically, statewide contracts are awarded pursuant to solicitations that are open only for a defined period before the bids are evaluated. Once awardees are identified through the bid evaluation process the states terms and awardees' bid responses are negotiated and a contract is executed and awarded. The term of the contract is generally one (1) year with four (4) options to renew. Once the contracts have been awarded, no additional suppliers are eligible for the contract for potentially up to five years. Under the pilot program, a supplier can submit a bid at any time. The bid then follows the same process described above and the appropriate bidders are awarded a contract. The Rolling RFP contract is merely a contract making suppliers available to do business with the state and ensuring all suppliers meet minimum qualifications to do business with the state.

Upon review, CP found this pilot program increased efficiency and velocity by awarding indefinite quantity contracts with qualified suppliers and leveraged the State's buying power to obtain the best prices for commodities and services. The pilot program dramatically increased competition amongst suppliers.

Upon further analysis CP also found the constant nature of the solicitation created an unforeseen problem. The solicitation was constantly open so bidders could be instantly added. But the sheer number of bidders being added was so drastic the administrative process could not be streamlined. As a result, the internal process became burdensome and slow. This was an untenable administrative situation.

CP is analyzing the need to supplement all statewide contracts. A supplement to a statewide contract usually occurs when there are too few qualified suppliers or agencies have expressed the need for additional options. CP would issue a supplemental RFP to allow additional suppliers to bid, be evaluated, and potentially awarded the right to do business with the State. Unlike the Rolling RFP which remained constantly open, supplementing a statewide contract would only occur for a specified limited time.

During this specified time additional suppliers could be added. The suppliers who are already on the statewide contract would not need to rebid but could if they wanted to offer more competitive pricing. Historically, supplements to a statewide contract have been made sporadically. Going forward, CP will determine which statewide contracts might benefit from being supplemented. The frequency of the supplemental RFP's will be published on the CP website. The four contracts in the pilot program will be referred to as statewide contracts. If need be, these contracts can be opened, i.e. "supplemented" to add suppliers at a specific time during the calendar year.

The concept of being able to supplement an existing statewide contract is already available with the standard statewide contracting process. No legislative changes or further pilot program is necessary. The pilot program known as Rolling RFP's will be closed effective July 1, 2024.

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