

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – Architectural Services

Barton County 911 Center/Emergency Operations Center

Notice of Intent to Solicit Qualifications

Pursuant to Sections 8.285 through 8.291 of the Missouri Revised Statutes governing the selection of architectural, engineering, and land surveying services, the Barton County Emergency Services Board hereby solicits Statements of Qualifications from qualified architectural firms for professional design services related to a new Barton County 911/Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Selection of the architectural firm shall be based on qualifications and demonstrated competence. No fee information shall be submitted at this stage. The County may conduct interviews and will negotiate a contract with the firm determined to be the most qualified. If negotiations are unsuccessful, the County reserves the right to proceed with the next most qualified firm.

The Board will evaluate Statements of Qualifications in accordance with Sections 8.285 through 8.291, RSMo, and any applicable Board procurement policies. The Board may shortlist and interview firms. Following evaluation, the Board will identify the firms determined to be most highly qualified and will first attempt to negotiate a professional services agreement with the firm determined to be best qualified and capable of performing the required services.

The Board will prepare or approve a written scope of services as the basis for negotiations. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the highest-ranked firm, the Board will formally terminate negotiations with that firm and may proceed to negotiate with the next highest-ranked qualified firm, in order of ranking, until an agreement is reached or the Board elects to cancel or reissue the solicitation.

Firms shall not submit fee proposals, hourly rates, cost proposals, or other price information with their Statements of Qualifications. Fee information

may be requested only after the Board selects a firm for contract negotiations.

Project Description

The project consists of the design and construction of a new Emergency Operations Center to support 911 emergency communications and emergency management operations. The facility shall function as a mission-critical public safety building capable of operating continuously during emergencies and disasters.

The facility shall include, at a minimum, the following functions and spaces:

- 911 Director's office and a 911 Emergency Communications Center with dispatcher workstations
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordination space
- Emergency Management Director's office and workspace for additional staff members
- Secure server rooms and technology spaces
- Training, briefing, and conference rooms
- Support areas including restrooms, break rooms, janitorial spaces, bunk rooms, quiet rooms, and storage

The selected firm shall confirm and refine the required program, space needs, operational adjacencies, security zones, staffing assumptions, technology requirements, and continuity-of-operations needs in consultation with the Board, 911 leadership, emergency management personnel, technology vendors, communications providers, and other stakeholders identified by the Board.

Security, Hardening, and Resiliency Requirements

The EOC and 911 facility shall be designed as a hardened, mission-critical essential facility. The architectural design shall incorporate nationally recognized standards and best practices for life safety, security, survivability, and continuity of operations.

- Design features consistent with ICC 500 storm shelter provisions, where applicable
- Structural hardening for resistance to severe weather, wind, and debris impact

- Redundant electrical, data, and communication systems to support uninterrupted operations
- Emergency generator systems with protected fuel storage and critical-load distribution
- Controlled access and secure separation of public, administrative, and operational areas
- Design solutions capable of supporting extended emergency operations

The design shall consider and incorporate, as applicable, current editions of nationally recognized standards and guidance relevant to 911, emergency communications, emergency operations, essential facilities, life safety, storm sheltering, physical security, technology resilience, cybersecurity-supportive infrastructure, and continuity of operations, including applicable provisions of the International Building Code, International Fire Code, ICC 500, FEMA safe-room or shelter guidance where applicable, NFPA standards applicable to emergency communications and life safety, and other standards adopted by the authority having jurisdiction or required by the project funding source.

The design shall address, at a minimum, dispatch operations, radio and communications infrastructure, technology rooms, cable pathways, redundant power and HVAC for critical systems, emergency generator and fuel systems, grounding and bonding, access control, video surveillance, ballistic or forced-entry-resistant design where appropriate, acoustic control, lighting, ergonomics, sleeping and rest areas, staff wellness, maintainability during 24/7 operations, and continuity of operations.

The selected firm shall coordinate with the Board, technology consultants, communications vendors, and applicable public-safety agencies to support secure technology infrastructure. The design shall include appropriate physical and environmental protections for server rooms, network rooms, communications equipment, dispatch systems, access-control systems, and other sensitive infrastructure. Where applicable, the design and documentation shall support compliance with Criminal Justice Information Services security requirements, cybersecurity best practices, and applicable data-security requirements of participating agencies and funding sources.

Accessibility and Code Compliance

The facility shall be designed to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local building, fire, life-safety, accessibility, energy, emergency communications, and public-safety requirements adopted by the authority having jurisdiction or required by the project funding source.

The facility shall be designed to comply with all applicable accessibility requirements, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act where applicable, the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, applicable Missouri accessibility requirements, and applicable building-code accessibility provisions. Accessible design shall be integrated into public, administrative, operational, training, rest, restroom, parking, site-access, communication, and emergency-egress areas.

Anticipated Project Delivery Method

Barton County Emergency Services anticipates utilizing a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) delivery method to facilitate early cost input, constructability review, and schedule coordination. The County reserves the right to utilize a traditional Design-Bid-Build delivery method if deemed to be in the Board's best interest. The selected architectural firm must demonstrate experience working successfully under both delivery methods.

If the Board elects to use the Construction Manager at Risk delivery method, the Board will comply with Section 67.5050, RSMo, and any other applicable Missouri law. The Board's selection of the architectural firm under this RFQ is separate from any selection of a Construction Manager at Risk. The selected architect shall prepare or be responsible for the construction documents for the project and shall not serve, alone or in combination with another entity, as the Construction Manager at Risk for the project.

If CMAR is used, the Board will publicly disclose, at a regular meeting and at least one week before publication of any CMAR request for qualifications or proposals, its intent to use the CMAR method and the applicable CMAR selection criteria, as required by Section 67.5050, RSMo.

Selection Criteria

1. Experience with similar emergency operations, 911, or public safety facilities
2. Qualifications and experience of proposed project personnel
3. Knowledge of Missouri public procurement requirements
4. Experience with secure and resilient facility design
5. Past project performance and client references
6. Experience with federally or state-funded public projects, including grant documentation, reimbursement support, recordkeeping, and required contract provisions
7. Experience coordinating technology, communications, security, emergency power, and mission-critical infrastructure for 24/7 public-safety operations

The criteria are not listed in order of importance unless expressly stated. The Board reserves the right to consider the criteria as a whole and to give such weight to each criterion as the Board determines is in the best interest of the project and consistent with applicable law.

Submittal Requirements

Firms shall submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of their Statement of Qualifications. Submittals shall be limited to ten (10) pages, excluding cover letter, resumes, insurance documentation, litigation history, and certificates.

Firms shall identify the Missouri-licensed architect who will serve as architect of record and shall identify key engineering and specialty consultants, including structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, civil, technology, security, acoustical, and communications consultants, as applicable.

The prime architectural firm and all professional consultants shall be properly licensed, registered, and authorized to provide their respective professional services in the State of Missouri.

Firms shall provide evidence of current professional liability/errors and omissions insurance, commercial general liability insurance, automobile liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and any other coverage customarily maintained for similar public projects. Final

insurance requirements, limits, endorsements, and certificates will be addressed in the professional services agreement and shall be subject to approval by the Board.

By submitting a Statement of Qualifications, each firm certifies that it has disclosed any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest that could affect its ability to provide independent professional services to the Board. The selected firm shall not have any financial interest or undisclosed business relationship that would impair its professional judgment or create an unfair competitive advantage in connection with the project. The Board reserves the right to disqualify a firm or terminate negotiations if a conflict of interest is identified that cannot be resolved to the Board's satisfaction.

By submitting a Statement of Qualifications, each firm certifies that its submission is genuine, independently prepared, and not made in the interest of or on behalf of any undisclosed person, firm, or entity, and that the firm has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other firm to submit a false or sham submission or to refrain from submitting qualifications.

Submissions may be subject to disclosure under applicable Missouri public records laws. Firms should not include proprietary or confidential information unless necessary for evaluation and clearly marked as such. Marking material as confidential does not guarantee that it will be withheld from disclosure if disclosure is required by law. The Board reserves the right to make all final determinations regarding disclosure in accordance with applicable law.

Interview and Selection Timeline

The Board anticipates the following schedule; all dates are subject to change:

- First RFQ Advertisement: Thursday, May 14, 2026
- Second RFQ Advertisement: Saturday, May 16, 2026
- Statements of Qualifications Due: Monday, June 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
- Evaluation of Submittals: Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- Interviews (if conducted): Early July or early August 2026
- Selection and Commission Approval: 2026

The Board reserves the right to amend the schedule, extend deadlines, request supplemental information, conduct or waive interviews, reject any or all submissions, or cancel and reissue this RFQ, subject to applicable law.

Submission Information

All responses must be received by the Barton County Emergency Services Board no later than 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, 2026. All late responses will be rejected.

Submittals shall be delivered to:

Barton County Emergency Services Board

1010 Cherry Street
Lamar, MO 64759

Statements of Qualifications shall be submitted in hard copy only. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Questions may be directed to the Barton County Emergency Services c/o Director of 911 at (417) 682-5541x4911 or jbrand@bartoncountymo911.gov.

Questions must be submitted no later than ____, 2026. The Board may issue written addenda if necessary. Oral statements or interpretations shall not modify the RFQ unless confirmed by written addendum issued by the Board.

Legal, Procurement, and Funding Compliance

The Board will conduct this procurement in accordance with Sections 8.285 through 8.291, RSMo, and other applicable Missouri law. Firms shall not submit fee proposals, hourly rates, or other price information with their Statements of Qualifications. The Board will evaluate firms based on demonstrated competence, qualifications, and project-specific experience, and will negotiate a professional services agreement with the firm determined to be best qualified and capable of performing the required services. If negotiations are unsuccessful, the Board may terminate negotiations and proceed to the next ranked qualified firm.

The project may be funded in whole or in part with federal, state, or local funds. The selected firm shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and

local laws, regulations, grant conditions, procurement requirements, civil-rights requirements, record-retention requirements, and contract provisions, including, where applicable, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, FEMA or Department of Homeland Security requirements, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, applicable equal employment opportunity requirements, Missouri public works requirements, Missouri prevailing wage requirements, and federal Davis-Bacon or Davis-Bacon Related Acts requirements if applicable.

The selected firm shall assist the Board in incorporating applicable public works requirements into the construction documents, bidding documents, and contract documents, including, where applicable, Missouri prevailing wage requirements under Sections 290.210 through 290.340, RSMo, federal Davis-Bacon or Davis-Bacon Related Acts requirements if federally funded, bonding requirements, insurance requirements, and other labor, wage, and contract provisions required by law or by the project funding source.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. Firms submitting qualifications shall comply with all applicable nondiscrimination, equal employment opportunity, and civil-rights laws and regulations.

If the project is funded in whole or in part with federal financial assistance, the selected firm shall comply with all applicable federal civil-rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act, and any related implementing regulations or grant assurances applicable to the project.

Reservation of Rights

The Barton County Emergency Services Board reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, waive informalities, and take any action deemed to be in the best interest of the Board in accordance with Missouri law.

*Request for Qualifications
Barton County 911 Emergency Services*

The Board further reserves the right to request clarification or additional information, conduct interviews, investigate qualifications and references, negotiate contract terms, modify or cancel this RFQ, issue addenda, and take any other action permitted by law and determined by the Board to be in the best interest of the project.