REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Pre-bond Planning, Public Outreach and Polling Law & Justice Facilities

Project Overview

Skagit County owns six buildings providing approximately 125,000 SF of assigned space in downtown Mount Vernon. An assessment in 2022 identified a 20,000 SF shortfall in assignable space for the downtown campus with a requirement that will grow to 75,000 SF in the next 30-50 years. Additionally, a cost benefit analysis conducted on the 68,000 SF Public Safety Building containing 34,000 SF of abandoned jail space suggests greater value in replacement over repurposing, resulting in plans to demolish the building for parking. Based primarily on volume of court visitors and security requirements, the County determined a new courthouse on the downtown campus would provide the greatest benefit. The Sheriff's Department will need to be relocated prior to demolishing the Public Safety Building, and retrofitting the historic courthouse and administration buildings are the desired final steps to make the largest buildings more accessible and aligned with current energy, fire, and structural codes.

The Skagit County Facilities Management Department is the assigned coordinator for this project, with support anticipated from a yet to be established Law & Justice Downtown Campus Committee. Proposed project timeline and estimated costs during the 2022 assessment were as follows:

Building Site	Year Completed	Sq Ft	Cost
New Courthouse	2029	80,000	\$60,000,000
Retrofit Historic Courthouse	2030	35,758	\$16,800,000
New Sheriff Headquarters	2032	34,000	\$17,750,000
Retrofit Administration Building	2034	57,240	\$30,100,000
Demolish Public Safety Building	2036		\$ 6,000,000

Note: Cost of Sheriff headquarters was based on repurposing an existing building

Description of Facilities

Most significant Law and Justice Campus facilities:

- Public Safety Building, 600 S. 3rd St, Mount Vernon, WA
 - o 68,871 SF and constructed in 1983
 - 2-story building with 3rd story mezzanines in old jail pods
 - Fully sprinkled and generally ADA compliant
 - 34,000 SF of jail space vacated in 2017 and difficult to utilize
 - Largest County building downtown with worst utilization rate
 - Structural assessment identified multiple concerning seismic deficiencies

- Administration Building, 700 S. 2nd St, Mount Vernon, WA
 - o 57,240 SF and was constructed in 1977
 - 3-story building with multiple entrances
 - No fire suppression and has some ADA deficiencies
 - Structural assessment identified some seismic deficiencies
- Courthouse, 205 W. Kincaid St. Mount Vernon, WA
 - 31,458 SF and was constructed in 1924
 - 3-story building rooftop mechanical space
 - Historic building with significant seismic vulnerabilities
 - Partially sprinkled and lacks ADA compliance

Current Law & Justice Campus space allocations by department:

•	Superior Court	16700 SF (includes 5 Courtrooms)
•	Sheriff	15255 SF
•	Prosecuting Attorney	14680 SF
•	District Court	8105 SF (includes 2 Courtrooms)
•	Public Defender	8070 SF
•	Facilities Management	4745 SF
•	Youth/Family Services	4380 SF
•	County Clerk	3935 SF
•	Law Library	1210 SF
•	Assigned Counsel	1025 SF
•	Records Management	1000 SF

Other departments on the downtown campus:

•	Auditor	6965 SF
•	Assessor	5445 SF
•	Treasurer	3490 SF

Scope of Work

A five-story court facility has been proposed to house Superior Court, District Court, Clerk, Juvenile Probation, and a Sheriff detachment, with secure parking on the ground level that will meet the calculated space needs. The County has two locations adjacent to the downtown campus that will accommodate a building of this size. An internal staff survey on the plan was completed with feedback that will be shared with contracted Consultant.

Skagit County seeks pre-bond planning services and public outreach essential to obtain voter support and approval in a major capital campaign. The project scope is anticipated to include public work sessions and communications prior to polling designed to establish messaging and scope of work that will earn public support and

approval. Work will start in 2025 and primarily be performed throughout 2026 with initial phase complete via voter approved funding no later than Nov 2027.

- Gain knowledge of the County's plan and desired project scope to fully understand current infrastructure and operational deficiencies. Available sources include:
 - Department relocations history from Facilities Management Department.
 - Identified court deficiencies from Facilities Management or Courts.
- 2. Pre-bond planning to develop a project funding strategy capable of meeting project requirements with highest probability of passing a voter approved ballot initiative. This may include selection of a public finance advisor and a communications consultant for community engagement and pre-election polling. The funding strategy may be modified following public feedback.
- 3. Community engagement services from a communication consultant may include:
 - Guide Law & Justice Downtown Campus Committee discussions to obtain desired output and statements to benefit external communications.
 - Development of a communications strategy for public outreach.
 - Establishment of a communications plan and associated messaging.
 - Online, mail, in person, and group engagement interviews.
 - Polling via individual or group engagements
- 4. Present options and recommended plan to the Skagit Board of County Commissioners for approval to submit a ballot initiative seeking voter approval of a bond measure. Presentation shall include the probability of success based on polling and proposed scope of capital investments.

Following success in the pre-bond phase, a follow-on phase will be required to pursue construction via a design-build or progressive design build model. Consultant would act as a project manager to assist in Request for Qualifications or Request for Proposals development, procurement assistance, preconstruction services, and construction management. Consultant qualifications and experience in these services will be considered when reviewing submitted proposals, although the cost of the second phase should **not** be included in this proposal and will be negotiated later.

Specific Areas of Expertise Required

- Strategic planning and public workshops for capital improvement projects
- Large capital project funding strategies
- Cost estimations of facility construction and retrofit efforts
- Communication strategies and public outreach
- Generation of public support for large projects
- Polling to establish probability of voter approval
- Alternative delivery process and procurement

Selection Criteria

Experience with large capital projects	25 points
Experience conducting public work sessions and polling	20 points
Past performance in gaining public support for levies	20 points
Experience in managing alternative delivery and construction projects	20 points
Cost of proposed services	15 points
Total	100 points

Submittal Requirements

Proposals shall not exceed twenty (20) total pages of content using 8 ½ x 11" (Letter) size sheets. Interested firms should submit a proposal coversheet that includes the firm name, address, phone; and name of Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager. The submittal shall also include:

- Cover letter with executive summary of proposal.
- Resumes or qualifications of key personnel who will actually be performing the work, including descriptions of similar projects they have been involved with.
- Past performance obtaining voter funding approval on similar projects.
- Detailed budget by numbered tasks outlined in the Scope of Work.
- A minimum of three (3) references with general scope of services provided.

Skagit County is accepting only electronic submittals, which shall be emailed to Ken Hansen, Facilities Management Director, khansen@co.skagit.wa.us by Wednesday, Nov 12, 2025 @ 3pm.

Minimum Qualifications

The proposing firm shall have been in business for a minimum of five years from the date of issuance of this RFP and a minimum of three years in projects related to courtroom design and construction.

Skagit County will review all proposals and may request interviews. The County will select the qualified applicant in a priority ranking and establish the actual scope of work based on proposed professional services and work outlined in the proposal. If agreement with the top-ranking applicant is not reached, the County may negotiate with the next ranked applicant, or reopen the RFP process.

Skagit County encourages disadvantaged, minority, and women-owned consulting firms to respond.

All costs for proposal preparation and negotiation incurred by the proposer, whether or not they lead to execution of a contract and agreement with Skagit County, must be borne entirely and exclusively by the proposer.

Skagit County reserves the following rights for acceptance, modification, and/or

rejection of submitted proposals such as:

- Rejection of any or all proposals.
- Rejection of any proposal not in compliance with proposal requirements.
- Providing of addenda, amendments, supplementary material or other modifications to the proposal specifications.
- Cancellation of this Request for Proposals without issuance of another Request for Proposals.
- Issuance of subsequent requests for new proposals.
- Request for submission of further information by the proposer in order to complete evaluation by Skagit County.
- Determination to select one or more proposers for attempted negotiation of a final contract(s). Decisions made by Skagit County will be final.

Skagit County further reserves the sole right to determine which proposal best serves the County's interest or to reject any or all proposals.

Addenda to this Notice

This solicitation and any changes will be posted on the County's webpage at https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/rfp/main.htm. All addenda will also be sent via email to vendors listed on the MRSC roster, unless you request otherwise.

Last opportunity for proposers to submit questions is midnight on Nov 4, 2025. A final addendum, if necessary, will be distributed no later than Thursday, Nov 6, 2025.

For questions specific to the project must be submitted in writing via email to Ken Hansen, Director, Facilities Management, khansen@co.skagit.wa.us. The subject line must state "RFP Questions" and be succinct.

Contract

The following is a sample of the Personal Services Contract template that will be entered into between Skagit County (the "County") and the successful proposer (the "Consultant") with incomplete information to be added based upon the final negotiations between the County and the successful proposer.

PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

NO:
(General Conditions); Exhibit A (Scope of Work); Exhibit B (Compensation); Exhibit C (Proof of Insurance).
copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as fully as if set forth herein.
The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date of execution and continue until Any party may terminate this Contract by giving 30 days' notice in writing either personally delivered or mailed postage-prepaid by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the party's last known address for the purposes of giving notice under this paragraph.
The County has established the following GL expenditure code(s) for this Agreement: which shall be included on all billings or correspondence in connection therewith.
Consultant acknowledges and by signing this contract agrees that the Indemnification provisions set forth in Paragraphs 4 (Independent Consultant), 6 (Taxes), 12 (Defense and Indemnity Agreement), 18 (Patent/Copyright Infringement) and 21 (Confidentiality), are totally and fully part of this contract and have been mutually pegotiated by the parties

(Consultant)
Signature & Title of Signatory (Date)
Print Name of Signatory
Mailing Address:
Telephone #: Fed. Tax ID #: WA UBI #:

DATED this	_ day of	, 2025.	
			BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON
			Lisa Janicki, Chair
			Ron Wesen, Commissioner
Attest:			Peter Browning, Commissioner
Clerk of the Board			For contracts under \$5,000: Authorization per Resolution R20030146
Recommended:			County Administrator
Department Head			
Approved as to for	rm:		
Civil Deputy Prose	ecuting Attorney		
Approved as to inc	demnification:		
Risk Manager			
Approved as to bu	ıdget:		
Budget & Finance	Director		

Personal Services Agreement - Project Page 3

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Scope of Consultant's Services:

The Consultant agrees to provide to the County services and any materials set forth in the project narrative identified in Exhibit "A" during the agreement period. No material, labor, or facilities will be furnished by the County, unless otherwise provided for in the Agreement.

2. Accounting and Payment for Consultant Services:

Payment to the Consultant for services rendered under this Agreement shall be as set forth in Exhibit "B". Where Exhibit "B" requires payments by the county, payment shall be based upon billings, supported unless otherwise provided in Exhibit "B", by documentation of units of work actually performed and amounts earned, including where appropriate, the actual number of days worked each month, total number of hours for the month, and the total dollar payment requested. Unless specifically stated in Exhibit "B" or approved in writing in advance by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners, the County will not reimburse the Consultant for any costs or expenses incurred by the Consultant in performance of this Contract.

Where required, the County shall, upon receipt of appropriate documentation, compensate the Consultant, no more often than monthly, through the County voucher system, for the Consultant's service pursuant to the fee schedule set forth in Exhibit "B".

3. Assignment and Subcontracting:

No portion of this contract may be assigned or subcontracted to any other individual, firm or entity without the express and prior written approval of the County.

4. Independent Consultant:

The Consultant's services shall be furnished by the Consultant as an independent Consultant and nothing herein contained shall be construed to create a relationship of employer-employee or master-servant, but all payments made hereunder and all services performed shall be made and performed pursuant to this Agreement by the Consultant as an independent Consultant.

The Consultant acknowledges that the entire compensation for this Agreement is specified in Exhibit "B" and the Consultant is not entitled to any county benefits including, but not limited to: vacation pay, holiday pay, sick leave pay, medical, dental, or other insurance benefits, or any other rights or privileges afforded to Skagit County employees.

Consultant will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers, agents or employees from any loss or expense, including but not limited to settlements, judgments, setoffs, attorneys' fees or costs incurred by reason of claims or demands because of breach of the provisions of this paragraph.

5. No Guarantee of Employment:

The performance of all or part of this contract by the Consultant shall not operate to vest any employment rights whatsoever and shall not be deemed to guarantee any employment of the Consultant or any employee of the Consultant or any subconsultant or any employee of any subconsultant by the County at the present time or in the future.

6. Taxes:

The Consultant understands and acknowledges that the County will not withhold Federal or State income taxes. Where required by State or Federal law, the Consultant authorizes the County to make withholding for any taxes other than income taxes (i.e. Medicare). All compensation received by the Consultant will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service at the end of the calendar year in accordance with the applicable IRS regulations. It is the responsibility of the Consultant to make the necessary estimated tax payments throughout the year, if any, and the Consultant is solely liable for any tax obligation arising from the Consultant's performance of this Agreement. The Consultant hereby agrees to indemnify the County against any demand to pay taxes arising from the Consultant's failure to pay taxes on compensation earned pursuant to this Agreement.

The County will pay sales and use taxes imposed on goods or services acquired hereunder as required by law. The Consultant must pay all other taxes including, but not limited to: Business and Occupation Tax, taxes based on the Consultant's gross or net income, or personal property to which the County does not hold title. The County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax.

7. Regulations and Requirement:

This Agreement shall be subject to all laws, rules and regulations of the United States of America, and State of Washington, and political subdivisions of the State of Washington and to any other provisions set forth herein or in the attached exhibits.

8. Right to Review:

This contract is subject to review by any Federal or State auditor. The County or its designee shall have the right to review and monitor the financial and service components of this program by whatever means are deemed expedient by the County. Such review may occur with or without notice, and may include, but is not limited to, on-site inspection by County agents or employees, inspection of all records or other materials which the County deems pertinent to the Agreement and its performance, and any and all communications with or evaluation by service recipients under this Agreement. The Consultant shall preserve and maintain all financial records and records relating to the performance of work under this Agreement for 3 years after contract termination, and shall make them available for such review, within Skagit County, State of Washington, upon request.

9. Modifications:

Either party may request changes in the Agreement. Any and all agreed modifications shall be in writing, signed by each of the parties.

10. Termination for Default:

If the Consultant defaults by failing to perform any of the obligations of the contract or becomes insolvent or is declared bankrupt or commits any act of bankruptcy or insolvency or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, the County may, by depositing written notice to the Consultant in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid, terminate the contract, and at the County's option, obtain performance of the work elsewhere. If the contract is terminated for default, the Consultant shall not be entitled to receive any further payments under the contract until all work called for has been fully performed. Any extra cost or damage to the County resulting from such default(s) shall be deducted from any money due or coming due to the Consultant. The Consultant shall bear any extra expenses incurred by the County in completing the work, and all damage sustained, or which may be sustained by the County by reason of such default.

If a notice of termination for default has been issued and it is later determined for any reason that the Consultant was not in default, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the

notice of termination had been issued pursuant to the Termination for Public Convenience paragraph hereof.

11. Termination for Public Convenience:

The County may terminate the contract in whole or in part whenever the County determines, in its sole discretion that such termination is in the best interests of the County. Whenever the contract is terminated in accordance with this paragraph, the Consultant shall be entitled to payment for actual work performed at unit contract prices for completed items of work. An equitable adjustment in the contract price for partially completed items of work will be made, but such adjustment shall not include provision for loss of anticipated profit on deleted or uncompleted work. Termination of this contract by the County at any time during the term, whether for default or convenience, shall not constitute a breach of contract by the County.

12. Defense & Indemnity Agreement:

The Consultant agrees to defend, indemnify and save harmless the County, its appointed and elective officers and employees, from and against all loss or expense, including but not limited to judgments, settlements, attorney's fees and costs by reason of any and all claims and demands upon the County, its elected or appointed officials or employees for damages because of personal or bodily injury, including death at any time resulting therefrom, sustained by any person or persons and on account of damage to property including loss of use thereof, whether such injury to persons or damage to property is due to the negligence of the Consultant, its subconsultants, its elected officers, employees or their agents, except only such injury or damage as shall have been occasioned by the sole negligence of the County, its appointed or elected officials or employees. It is further provided that no liability shall attach to the County by reason of entering into this contract, except as expressly provided herein. Consultant's insurance shall be primary. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers shall be excess of Consultant's insurance and shall not contribute to it.

Consultant's initials	acknowledging	indemnity terms:	

- 13. Survival of Indemnity Obligations. The parties agree all indemnity obligations shall survive the completion, expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 14. Participation by County No Waiver. The County reserves the right, but not the obligation, to participate in the defense of any claim, damages, losses or expenses and such participation shall not constitute a waiver of Consultant's indemnity obligations under this Agreement.
- 15. Indemnity by Subconsultants. In the event the Consultant enters into subcontracts to the extent allowed under this Agreement, the Consultant's subconsultants shall indemnify the County on a basis equal to or exceeding Consultant's indemnity obligations to the County.

16. Industrial Insurance Waiver:

With respect to the performance of this Agreement and as to claims against the County, its officers, agents and employees, the Consultant expressly waives its immunity under Title 51 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Industrial Insurance Act, for injuries to its employees and agrees that the obligations to indemnify, defend and hold harmless provided in this agreement extend to any claim brought by or on behalf of any employee of the Consultant. This waiver is mutually negotiated by the parties to this Agreement.

17. Venue and Choice of Law:

In the event that any litigation should arise concerning the construction or interpretation of any of the terms of this Agreement, the venue of such action of litigation shall be in the Superior Court of the State of Washington in and for the County of Skagit. This Agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of Washington.

18. Withholding Payment:

In the event the Consultant has failed to perform any obligation to be performed by the Consultant under this Agreement within the time set forth in this Agreement, then the County may, upon written notice, withhold all monies due and payable to Consultant, without penalty, until such failure to perform is cured or otherwise adjudicated.

19. Future Non-Allocation of Funds:

If sufficient funds are not appropriated or allocated for payment under this contract for any future fiscal period, the County will not be obligated to make payments for services or amounts incurred after the end of the current fiscal period. NO penalty or expense shall accrue to the County in the event this provision applies.

20. Consultant Commitments, Warranties and Representations:

Any written commitment received from the Consultant concerning this Agreement shall be binding upon the Consultant, unless otherwise specifically provided herein with reference to this paragraph. Failure of the Consultant to fulfill such a commitment shall render the Consultant liable for damages to the County. A commitment includes, but is not limited to any representation made prior to execution of this Agreement, whether or not incorporated elsewhere herein by reference, as to performance of services or equipment, prices or options for future acquisition to remain in effect for a fixed period, or warranties.

21. Patent/Copyright Infringement:

Consultant will defend and indemnify the County from any claimed action, cause or demand brought against the County; to the extent such action is based on the claim that information supplied by the Consultant infringes any patent or copyright. The Consultant will pay those costs and damages attributable to any such claims that are finally awarded against the County in any action. Such defense and payments are conditioned upon the following:

- a. Consultant shall be notified promptly in writing by County of any notice of such claim.
- b. Consultant shall have the right, hereunder, at its option and expense, to obtain for the County the right to continue using the information, in the event such claim of infringement is made, provided no reduction in performance or loss results to the County.

22. Disputes:

General

Differences between the Consultant and the County, arising under and by virtue of the Contract Documents shall be brought to the attention of the County at the earliest possible time in order that such matters may be settled or other appropriate action promptly taken. Except for such objections as are made of record in the manner hereinafter specified and within the time limits stated, the records, orders, instructions, and decisions of the Skagit County Commissioners shall be final and conclusive.

b. Notice of Potential Claims

The Consultant shall not be entitled to additional compensation which otherwise may be payable, or to extension of time for (1) any act or failure to act by the County, or (2) the happening of any event or occurrence, unless the Consultant has given the County a written Notice of Potential Claim within 10 days of the commencement of the act, failure, or event giving rise to the claim, and before final payment by the County. The written Notice of Potential Claim shall set forth the reasons for which the Consultant believes additional compensation or extension of time is due, the nature of the cost involved, and insofar as possible, the amount of the potential claim. Consultant shall keep full and complete daily records of the work performed, labor and material used, and all costs and additional time claimed to be additional.

c. Detailed Claim

The Consultant shall not be entitled to claim any such additional compensation, or extension of time, unless within 30 days of the completion of the portion of the work from which the claim arose, and before final payment by the County, the Consultant has given the County a detailed written statement of each element of cost or other compensation requested and of all elements of additional time required, and copies of any supporting documents evidencing the amount or extension of time claimed to be due.

23. Ownership of Items Produced

All writings, programs, data, public records or other materials prepared by the Consultant and/or its consultants or subconsultants, in connection with performance of this Agreement shall be the sole and absolute property of the County.

24. Confidentiality:

The Consultant, its employees, subconsultants, and their employees shall maintain the confidentiality of all information provided by the County or acquired by the Consultant in performance of this Agreement, except upon the prior written consent of the Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney or an order entered by a court after having acquired jurisdiction over the County. Consultant shall immediately give to the County notice of any judicial proceedings seeking disclosure of such information. Consultant shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officials, agents or employees from all loss or expense, including, but not limited to settlements, judgments, setoffs, attorneys' fees and costs resulting from Consultant's breach of this provision.

25. Notice:

Except as set forth elsewhere in the Agreement, for all purposes under this Agreement, except service of process, notice shall be given by the Consultant to the department head of the department for whom services are rendered, and to the Skagit County Commissioners, 1800 Continental Place, Suite 100, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Notice to the Consultant for all purposes under this Agreement shall be given to the address reflected on the signature page. Notice may be given by delivery or by depositing in the U.S. Mail, first class, postage prepaid.

26. Severability:

If any term or condition of this contract or the application thereof to any person(s) or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other terms, conditions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid term, condition or application. To this end, the terms and conditions of this contract are declared severable.

27. Waiver:

Waiver of any breach or condition of this contract shall not be deemed a waiver of any prior or subsequent breach. No terms or conditions of this contract shall be held to be waived, modified or deleted except by an instrument, in writing, signed by the parties hereto.

28. Survival:

The provisions of paragraphs 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 24, shall survive, notwithstanding the termination or invalidity of this Agreement for any reason.

29. Entire Agreement:

This written contract represents the entire Agreement between the parties and supersedes any prior oral statements, discussions or understandings between the parties.

EXHIBIT "A"

SCOPE OF WORK

Title: Location:

EXHIBIT "B"

COMPENSATION

Pricing for the	services is based on _	,
Total compensation	on shall not exceed \$	

EXHIBIT "C"

PROOF OF INSURANCE

The Consultant shall provide proof of insurance for Commercial General Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to cover Consultant's activities during the term of this Contract. Consultant's insurance coverage shall be primary. Any insurance proceeds in excess of the limits and coverage required in this agreement and which is applicable to a given loss will be available to the County. Proof of insurance shall be in a form acceptable and approved by the County.

Insurance is a condition of Payment. Payments due to the Consultant under this Agreement are expressly conditioned upon the Consultant's strict compliance with all insurance requirements under this Agreement. Payment to the Consultant shall be suspended in the event of non-compliance. Upon receipt of evidence of full compliance, payments not otherwise subject to withholding or set-off will be released to the Consultant.

The type of insurance required by this Agreement is marked below.

✓ 1) Commercial General Liability Insurance

Certificate Holder - Skagit County

The Certificate must name the County as additional insured: Skagit County, its elected officials, officers and employees are named as additional insured.

Thirty (30) days written notice to the County of cancellation of the insurance policy.

√ 2) Professional Liability

Certificate Holder – Skagit County Thirty (30) days written notice to the County of cancellation of the insurance policy

Any policy inception date, continuity date, or retroactive date must be before the effective date of this agreement and Consultant agrees to maintain continuous coverage through a period no less than three years after completion of the services required by this agreement.

NOTE: No contract shall form until and unless a copy of the Certificate of Insurance, properly completed and in the amount required, is attached hereto.

3)	Insurance is waived
Date	
	Risk Manager