

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS City of Deer Lodge Water Service Line Warranty Program

The City of Deer Lodge, Montana, is seeking proposals from qualified companies to provide warranties for customer-owned water and sewer service lines in Deer Lodge.

**Project Description:** All customers of City of Deer Lodge water and sewer own and are responsible for maintaining the water and sewer lines extending from the point of connection at the water main and sewer into their houses. Repairing or replacing these lines can be a costly endeavor for homeowners, and aging water service lines account for a significant fraction of the leakage from the municipal water system. Thus, the City is working toward a practical, cost effective method to help our customers meet these needs.

**Scope of Services:** The City of Deer Lodge has been contacted by a national firm proposing to provide homeowners with a voluntary warranty program for their residential water and sewer service lines. This provider has been vetted and endorsed by the National League of Cities and Towns, and the City of Deer Lodge is considering allowing the use of its logo in a marketing campaign directed to homeowners connected to the City's water system. The national firm is providing coverage separately for:

- exterior water and sewer service lines
- interior plumbing and drainage.

**Closing Date and Mailing Address for Submittals** Proposals will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, in the City Clerk's Office, City of Deer Lodge, 300 Main St., Deer Lodge, Montana 59722.

**Minimum Requirements** This Request for Proposals affords an opportunity for other businesses who are interested in providing this type of warranty program. As such, the City is soliciting proposals for comparison with the national firm's plan. Below are a few details from the national provider that local firms should consider when developing their proposals:

- Warranty coverage for the exterior water

service lines extends from the water main to the external wall of the house Warranty coverage for the external sewer/septic lines from the sewer line to the external wall of the house • Warranty coverage for interior plumbing and drainage plan.

The provider will establish a network of local contractors who would be available to make repairs on a scheduled or emergency basis; • Claims will be processed and contractors will be hired directly by the provider, not the homeowner; • The provider will provide a hotline available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year for customers to file emergency claims; and • The service agreement for the warranty program can be cancelled by the homeowner at any time. The proposal must provide coverage details, particularly: • Monthly premiums and terms as to how much premiums could increase in any month or year • Deductibles, if applicable • Coverage limits per occurrence • Annual or lifetime benefit caps, if applicable • Specifics as to coverages and exclusions (e.g., what constitutes a leak or low pressure that would be eligible for repairs)

Evaluation of Qualifications: City staff will review and compare all proposals received, but final terms for the plan will be negotiated with the firm deemed most advantageous to the City's water customers. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to select a proposal which, in the City's sole judgement, best meets the needs of the public. Please contact Cyndi Thompson, City Clerk, 406-846-2238 with any questions. Advertisement Published: November 25, 2020.