

ALC Report For Emergency Review of Professional Consultant Services Contracts

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October 26, 2020

On October 23, 2020, Senator Cecile Bledsoe and Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chairs of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) and Senator Scott Flippo and Representative Andy Davis, Co-Chairs of ALC Review Subcommittee received written notification from Amy Fetcher, Secretary Department of Transformation and Shared Services (TSS) requesting review of a contract for Arkansas Public Broadcasting System (PBS).

The contract is for engineering, design, and repair services on broadcasting towers to expand broadcasting range. As noted in the attached letters from DTS and PBS, the project will be funded by 2020 CARES Act funds and must be used by December 30th, 2020.

Under Rule 16 of the Rules of ALC - Emergency Action Procedures, on October 26, 2020 the Co-Chairs of ALC and the ALC Review Subcommittee unanimously determined that emergency review of the contract was essential to enable the agency to perform essential services. Following is a summary of the contract that was given emergency review and copies of letters from DTS and PBS.

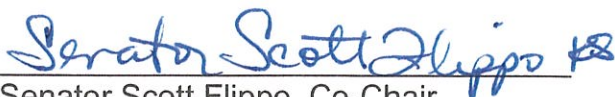
Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council



Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council



Senator Scott Flippo, Co-Chair
ALC Review Subcommittee



Representative Andy Davis, Co-Chair
ALC Review Subcommittee

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF STATE AGENCY CONTRACTS
FOR ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REVIEW

Out-of-State Contracts

1. Agency: Education-Educational TV	Contractor: VERTICAL STRUCTURES INC	State: KY
	Location: RICHMOND	
Service Type: Professional Consultant Services (PCS)		
Total Authorized: \$0.00	Org. Term: 10/28/2020 - 12/31/2020	Procurement: SSJ
Total After Review: \$164,500.00	Funding: Federal - 100% - [Grant]	
Total Projected: \$164,500.00	MOF:	Contract Number: 1501981334
Org Amt:	Amount	Paid To Date
Objective:		New Exp Date
Original:	164,500.00	Structural analysis, geotechnical and foundation studies for State Police tower sites, along with design packages. These towers are being proposed for sharing with AWIN as part of the Arkansas PBS Cares funded extension project.



Department of Transformation and Shared Services
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Secretary Amy Fecher
Director Edward Armstrong

October 23, 2020

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chairperson
The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chairperson
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

The Arkansas Public Broadcasting System (PBS) is requesting emergency review of a contract for engineering, design, and repair services on broadcasting towers so that it can extend its reach into rural areas of the State. This will allow Arkansas PBS to deliver distance learning to areas of the State that previously were beyond its broadcasting range. Distance learning is a valuable resource for school districts planning how best to respond to the risks COVID 19 may pose to their students and staff in a traditional school setting. It becomes a matter of critical importance if there is a school closure.

The contract will be funded by CARES Act funds. These funds must be expended before the end of this year or they will be lost to the State. The Building Authority Division (DBA) of the Department of Transformation and Shared Services (TSS) has approved Vertical Structures, Inc. as the contractor to provide the required services because of its prior work on and familiarity with the broadcasting towers. Because of the importance of this effort, TSS respectfully requests that the Co-Chairpersons convene for emergency review of this Arkansas PBS contract.

Should you have any questions, we will do our best to see that they are answered.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Fecher".

Amy Fecher

cc: Ann Purvis
Chief of Staff, TSS

Anne Laidlaw
Director, TSS DBA

Office of State Procurement
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 300 • Little Rock, AR 72201 • 501-324-9112

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October 23, 2020

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas Legislative Council
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw,

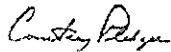
Arkansas PBS was provided revenue from the 2020 CARES Act to extend our broadcast coverage in Arkansas. These funds must be used by December 30th of this year.

Several of the towers that are suitable for our use require some structural work for us to proceed. Vertical Structures has been approved as a sole source provider of evaluation and design services to draw plans for the required repairs. Once these plans are prepared then the Division of Building Authority must approve the design before we can then bid the repair work. This work is on a very tight timeline to maximize the amount of work that can be completed within the spending period. We have prepared a Professional Services Contract with Vertical Structures that has been approved by OSP and DBA.

With the approaching deadline of using the CARES Act funds, and the work that will remain upon the completion of the work by Vertical Structures, it is imperative that we move forward without delay. We are asking for you to approve an emergency review and approval of this contract. To wait until the next scheduled meeting of ALC would cause delays that would jeopardize our entire project.

We appreciate your rapid consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Courtney Pledger
Executive Director and CEO