

RCW 47.60.824 Design-build ferries—Single best-qualified proposer—Incentives—Proposal negotiations—Compensation. If at any point there is only a single best-qualified proposer participating in the competitive design-build procurement process prior to the submission of bids in phase three, or if there is only a single responsive and responsible bid submitted in phase three, or if the current best-qualified proposers elect to jointly submit a single proposal, the department may negotiate a fair-value contract with the proposer or joint proposers. The negotiations may consider the scope of work as well as contract price. The contract price must be established between the department and the proposer through negotiation based on detailed cost and price information provided by the proposer, the department, and other relevant sources in a format as determined by the department. To achieve efficiencies, the department may negotiate incentives and economic cost sharing between the state and the proposer. In addition to the cost incentives, other incentives may be considered, as determined by the department, to be in the best interests of the state. Such incentives may include, but are not limited to, key schedule milestones, technological innovations, performance efficiencies, constructability, and operational value or life-cycle cost. The department may issue guidelines, requirements, and procedures for all negotiations.

If the department conducts negotiations with a single remaining proposer or joint proposers prior to the submission of bids in phase three, all negotiations must be completed within forty-five days of the department's approval of the final technical proposal. If the department conducts negotiations with a single responsive and responsible phase three bidder, all negotiations must be completed within thirty days of submission of the phase three bids.

If the department reaches an agreement with the proposer or joint proposers, the department shall submit a copy of the contract, the final negotiated price, and supporting information to the office of financial management at least ten days prior to execution of the contract. If the final negotiated price is greater than the legislature's adopted expenditure plan for vessel construction, the department may not execute the contract until the legislature reviews the final proposals and adjusts the expenditure plan accordingly.

If the department is unable within the designated time period to reach an agreement with the proposer or joint proposers that is fair, reasonable, and in the department's budget, or if the proposers initially provide notice of their intent to jointly submit a single proposal but fail to do so, or if any one of the proposers withdraws from a jointly submitted single proposal before entering into a contract with the department, or if both of the current best-qualified proposers withdraw or otherwise fail to proceed with the request for proposals process, the department may issue a new request for proposals or cancel the request for proposals process, to serve the best interests of the state.

The department may pay an honorarium in a specified amount determined by the department to a proposer or joint proposers who has [have] submitted a final, approved technical proposal and with whom the department has engaged in unsuccessful negotiations. The proposer or joint proposers shall not receive any other compensation for attempting to negotiate a contract, except to the extent allowed by the department in a final contract awarded pursuant to the request for proposal. [2007 c 481 s 2.]

Effective date—2007 c 481: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 14, 2007]." [2007 c 481 s 3.]