Town of Grafton, Vermont Sale Showing Date: Tuesday October 27, 2020

Contract # GVP 20-1 Bid Due Date: Tuesday November 16, 2020

Date: October 19, 2020

**Notice of Timber Sale Showing**

**1.0** This Notice of Timber Sale Showing provides information on the sale of timber on the **Grafton Village Park, Town of Grafton, Vermont,** and known as the **GVP Stand Improvement Sale.**

THIS PROJECT IS SUITABLE TO LOW IMPACT CUT TO LENGTH SYSTEMS ONLY. NO GRAPPLE SKIDDERS OR WHOLE TREE HARVESTING WILL BE ALLOWED. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**2.0** All persons submitting a bid must attend the Department’s sale tour/showing to examine the conditions of the sale area and all timber designated for cutting. A conducted tour of the sale area will be made on **Tuesday, October 27, 2020**. Interested parties should be at **the end of Fire Pond Road in Grafton Village** at **2:00 p.m.** Bids will be accepted only from parties represented at this official showing. An individual may represent only one entity at any one showing. Persons unable to attend this sale tour may request a special sale tour/showing on another date by contacting the Forester-in-charge at tim.morton@vermont.gov. Any person requesting a special tour/showing shall pay a flat fee of $250/showing/prospective bidder, payable by check or money order to the **State of Vermont**. Payment must be received at the time of the showing. Special showings **will not** be conducted within three (3) business days of the bid opening, in order to allow time to notify those attending the official showing.

Pre-registration is required for all showings. **Interested bidders must pre-register no later than 24 hours prior to showing in order to participate.** To pre-register, you must contact the Forester-in-charge via email at tim.morton@vermont.gov.

Each showing will have a maximum capacity of nine bidders, with a **limit of one person representing each company**. If interest is high, FPR may decide to conduct a second showing.

Pre-registered parties who cannot attend the showing **must notify the Forester-in-charge** **no later than 24 hours in advance**; otherwise any future bids while the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order is in place may not be accepted. This is important to be fair to all interested parties.

Anyone attending the showing **must adhere to recommended social distancing guidelines** as outlined in the Governor’s Executive Order, in place at the time of showing, including wearing a face covering while on site.

To protect the health and safety of all participants, the Forester-in-charge retains the right to halt or terminate the showing if the above measure are not followed.

**3.0** Sale area is 35 acres. Sale is located on Town of Grafton land on Fire Pond Road. Sale access is via a newly constructed truck access and landing off Fire Pond Road. Maximum skid distance is 1500 feet.

**Due to the use of the sale area for recreation, equipment and equipment size are strictly limited (see page 3, Special Sale Conditions).**

**4.0** **All prospective bidders are required to be represented at the official showing and are expected** **to inspect the sale area and the timber marked for cutting**. All acreage estimates, volume estimates, appraisal or pre-bid documentation provided by the State are not guaranteed and should not be used as a basis for bids. The successful bidder will further warrant that they have entered into the timber sale contract without any reliance upon the State’s acreage estimates, volume estimates, appraisal or pre-bid documentation.

**Estimated Volumes**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SPECIES/PRODUCTS** | **MBF/CORD** | **AVG.****BD. FT./****TREES** | **NUMBER****OF****TREES** | **MINIMUM BID****MBF/CD** |
| Hemlock Sawtimber | 41.1 mbf |  | 177 | $35 /mbf |
| White Ash Sawtimber | 28.4 mbf |  | 156 | $150/mbf |
| Mixed upper value Hardwood Sawtimber | 23 mbf |  | 164 | $250/mbf |
| Mixed lower value hardwood sawtimber | 12 mbf  |  | 107 | $50/mbf |
| White Pine Sawtimber | 8.4 mbf |  | 11 | $100/mbf |
| Red Spruce Sawtimber | 2.1 mbf |  | 20 | $50/mbf |
| Hemlock Pulp | 88 cords |  |  | $10/cord |
| Hardwood pulp/firewood/pallet(roundwood) | 39.5 cords |  |  |  |
| Prescription hardwood roundwood | 50 cords |  | 10 acres at 5/cords/acre | $5/cord |

**5.0 All bids must follow the procedure contained in the Timber Sale Prospectus provided at the official showing. ANY BID THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH THIS PROCEDURE WILL BE REJECTED. ALL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE** 4:25 PM on Monday, November 16, 2020.

The minimum acceptable bid is **$14,321.00**. Bids must be submitted on **official bid forms**, in **official** **bid envelopes**, which will be provided at the official showing or from the Forester-in-charge in the event of a special showing. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason.

The successful bidder, within thirty (30) days after notification of the acceptance of their bid, shall execute a contract containing special stipulations concerning the operation of the sale, provide a Certificate of Insurance with coverage requirements listed in the contract, the first payment equal to 10% of the sale bid amount and furnish a cash bond, contract surety bond, or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of approximately 20% of the sale bid amount plus the value of other considerations. **Contract surety bonds and irrevocable letters of credit must be submitted for the effective term of the contract plus sixty (60) days. If the successful bidder fails to execute a contract within thirty (30) days, the bid deposit may be forfeited.** Bid deposits of unsuccessful bidders will be returned following award of bid.

**In recognition of the sensitivity of the harvest and community interest in the outcomes, Town of Grafton reserves the right to select the purchaser based on a combination of factors. Including but not limited to price, expected equipment impacts, expected duration of work, relation to local area and reputation for quality work.**

If the high bid or all bids are rejected or the successful bidder failed to execute a contract, the Town reserves the right to negotiate, withdraw or re-offer this sale in any manner that serves the best interests of the Town. Final decision shall be made by the Grafton Selectboard

Sale Payment Schedule: The first payment of 10% is due as stated above. The remaining payments will be 30% of sale value each. Payment due dates will be based on value (volume) of timber removed or severed according to a schedule devised by the forester-in-charge

The term of the contract will be approximately **20** months, expiring **June 15, 2022**.

Sale may be operated on snow covered or frozen ground only as determined by the Forester in Charge.

The Timber Sale Prospectus will contain additional specifics regarding the followingcontract requirements:

Taxes and Child Support; Subcontracting, Worker’s Compensation, Worker’s Compensation Insurance Checklist for Logging Contactors & Purchasers of Standing Timber in Vermont, General Liability, Property Damage, and Automotive Liability Insurance; OSHA Requirements

**Special Sale Conditions**:

1. **Due to concerns about damage to residual stems and limited landing size and aesthetic considerations, the use of whole tree skidding and chipping will not be allowed.**
2. Because of the area’s high visibility and trail use, the aesthetics of this harvest area are extremely important. To help minimize damage to the residual stand and minimize the aesthetic impacts, the following equipment limitations will be in place:
	1. The use of chippers, high speed cutter/bunchers(dangle-head cutters allowed), stroke de-limbers, and grapple skidders will not be allowed. Main trails are usable by forwarder only. Steeper sections can be cut and bunched by dozer or small skidder to main trails.
	2. The size of cable skidders, and bulldozers will not exceed 24,000 pounds, Forwarders 40,000, and cutters 50,000. (Town can use discretion if slightly larger equipment is in operator’s fleet).
3. Whole tree harvest is not allowed. Tops and stems under 6” dib tip and/or < 8’ long can be left on site to top lopping standard for harvest.
4. Trees can be skidded or hauled perpendicular to hiking trails (minimal) but not on trails unless no other option exists.
5. Town of Grafton reserves the right to prescribe and impose any operating constraints or conditions deemed necessary to prevent damage to the residual stand.
6. The Town shall provide and install signage to warn recreational users of possible hazards. All uses by the public will be closed during the operation except for snowmobiles. It shall be the responsibility of the Purchaser to ensure that the signs remain intact and visible while the sale is operational.
7. A portion of the harvest unit is a secondary snowmobile trail; sale activities cannot block trail.
8. **Due to the proximity to a village, no trucking of forest products will be allowed from 7 PM to 6 AM on weekdays and from 5:00 p.m. on Friday to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday or on any legal holiday.**