



Board of County Commissioners

AGENDA ITEM

Meeting: 03/24/2026
Department: Procurement Department
Prepared By: Joseph Goulart
Initiator: Carla Rossiter-Smith
DOC ID: 17188
Legal Request Number: 2025 639-1
Bid/Contract Number: 26-C01237/JG

TITLE

Award of Construction Contract to Wharton-Smith, Inc., for Ridge Manor Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Emergency Operations Structure Construction Projects for Utilities Department and Associated Budget Resolution (Contract No. 26-C01237/JG; Amount: \$91,569,822.50)

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Procurement Department issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. 26-C01237/JG on December 10, 2025, at the request of the Hernando County Utilities Department, to obtain bids for upgrading the Ridge Manor Water Reclamation Facility's capacity and constructing an Emergency Operations Structure.

The Procurement Department placed the legal advertisement in the Hernando Sun on December 12, 2025, and the OpenGov website on December 10, 2025. The bid was sent to three thousand nine hundred thirty-one (3,931) matching vendor/contractors from the eProcurement portal. The bid document was downloaded by one hundred sixty-three (163) vendor/contractors, and three (3) submissions were received.

BIDS RECEIVED:	Main Bid Tab	With Additive Bid Alternate
Wharton-Smith, Inc.	\$85,826,822.50	\$91,569,822.50
Poole & Kent Co., of Florida	\$89,487,000.00	\$98,244,000.00
Archer Western Construction, LLC	\$100,267,000.00	\$110,034,000.00

Bids were reviewed and evaluated by the Procurement Department to determine if bids were responsive and responsible. The bids were then reviewed and evaluated by the Hernando County Utilities Department staff for award recommendation based on price, conformance with specifications and the Bidder's ability to perform the contract in accordance with the terms, conditions and specifications required.

A Notice of Intent to Award the contract to Wharton-Smith, Inc., dated February 16, 2026, was posted to the OpenGov website. No challenges to the Notice of Intent to Award were received.

The Additive Bid Alternate requested vendor pricing to increase the treatment plant's capacity from two (2) million gallons per day to three (3) million gallons per day of treated wastewater in order to accommodate projected growth in the area. The Utilities Department recommends utilizing the Additive Bid Alternate at this time.

The Chief Procurement Officer has reviewed this requirement for conformance to Procurement Ordinance and Purchasing Policies and Procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding in the amount of \$91,569,822.50 will be available from Bond proceeds after issuance

in the following:

Expense:

Fund: 411 - HCUD Water & Sewer Fund, **Department: 200** - HCUD Administration,
Account: 566350 - Capital Improvement Other Than Building

LEGAL NOTE

In accordance with Part II, Chapter 2, Article V of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on the attached construction contract to Wharton-Smith, Inc., for Ridge Manor Water Reclamation Facility & Emergency Operations Structure for Contract No. 26-C01237/JG in the bid amount of \$91,569,822.50 and on the related budget resolution acknowledging additional bond funds required to complete the project.

It is further recommended the Board authorize the Chief Procurement Officer to approve change orders as necessary and required up to budgeted amounts.

REVIEW PROCESS

Brad Smith	Approved	03/03/2026	8:02 PM
Grace Sheppard	Delegated	03/06/2026	6:45 PM
Katrina Tejera	Approved	03/09/2026	9:48 AM
Grace Sheppard	Approved	03/09/2026	10:44 AM
Erin Dohren	Approved	03/17/2026	10:40 AM
Felicia Holmes	Approved	03/17/2026	12:36 PM
Carla Rossiter-Smith	Approved	03/18/2026	5:54 AM
Pamela Hare	Approved	03/18/2026	9:11 AM
Melissa Tartaglia	Approved	03/18/2026	11:58 AM
Heidi Prouse	Approved	03/18/2026	12:03 PM
Toni Brady	Approved	03/18/2026	12:20 PM
Colleen Conko	Approved	03/18/2026	12:29 PM



PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

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March 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Financial Services, Hernando County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

FROM: Carla Rossiter-Smith, MSM PMP, Chief Procurement Officer

SUBJECT: BOCC Agenda Item Approval

Please accept this memorandum as notification of the Board of County Commissioners' approval of the Agenda Items list below at the **03/24/2026** BOCC meeting.

Further evidence of the approval of these items can be found in any relevant executed agreements with the BOCC Chairman's signature on the date of approval, as appropriate and as supplied in relevant requisitions. The BOCC [meeting details](#) for the aforementioned date provides additional evidence of approval.

This memorandum is to be used interchangeably with the BOCC Agenda Item stamped with BOCC adopted as proof of BOCC approval required in the County approval process for requisition, budget resolution or grant related items.

Approved Items:

PROCUREMENT ITEMS

1. **17188** Award of Construction Contract to Wharton-Smith, Inc., for Ridge Manor Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Emergency Operations Structure Construction Projects for Utilities Department and Associated Budget Resolution (Contract No. 26-C01237/JG; Amount: \$91,569,822.50)
2. **17249** Award of Quote and Work Authorization Agreement With Seggie Custom Builders, LLC, for Transport and Installation of Modular Business Unit at Hernando County Sheriff's Office (Contract No. 23-T00040/AP; Amount: \$163,922.67)