

AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: August 18, 2026
DEPARTMENT: Solid Waste
REQUESTER: Rebecca Rodriguez
TITLE: Award Disaster Recovery Services Contracts

I. MOTION REQUESTED

- A. Award Request for Proposal No. RFP260035BJB, Disaster Recovery Services for Lee County to CrowderGulf Joint Venture, Inc. (as primary) and Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. (as secondary) and DRC Emergency Services, LLC (as tertiary) for disaster recovery services, on an as-needed basis, for a term of five years. Individual purchases in excess of \$100,000 will be presented to the Board for approval.
- B. Authorize the Chair to execute the contract documents on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.
- C. Authorize the County Manager or designee to activate and renew the contract(s), and to execute all associated documents, provided such action is determined to be in the best interest of Lee County and does not result in an increase in contract pricing.

II. ITEM SUMMARY

Awards five-year, as-needed disaster recovery services contracts to CrowderGulf Joint Venture as the primary vendor, Ceres Environmental Services as the secondary vendor, and DRC Emergency Services as the tertiary vendor. These prepositioned contracts will provide Lee County with resources to support disaster response, management, tracking, and recovery activities following hurricanes, flooding, and other natural or man-made disasters.

Authorizes the County Manager or designee to activate the primary vendor upon declaration of a State of Local Emergency by the Board of County Commissioners. Secondary and tertiary vendors may be activated if the preceding vendor is unable or unwilling to perform within the required timeframe. Once a subsequent vendor is activated, previously ranked vendors will not be eligible to provide services for that event.

Through negotiations, County staff reduced contract pricing by 9.1% for CrowderGulf, 2% for Ceres, and 6.5% for DRC. Funding will be based on the severity of the event and services required. Funding is not included in the annual adopted budget. Individual purchases exceeding \$100,000 will be presented to the Board for approval.

III. BACKGROUND AND IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

Lee County is subject to natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, and other natural and man-made events. As part of the management of response and recovery efforts, certain prepositioned contracts are required to assist Lee County in the management, tracking, and response. On October 21, 2025 the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to re-solicit the County's existing Disaster Recovery Services contract and incorporate lessons learned from recent storms.

Staff updated the Scope of Work and Fee Schedule to incorporate regulatory revisions and lessons learned from recent storms to maximize reimbursement from FEMA. Reimbursement denial or de-obligation is often due to documentation or eligibility issues, or violations of federal procurement procedures. For the past two major storms (Ian and Milton), Lee County spent over \$180 million of reserve funds on debris removal. Our track record for reimbursement of these funds is 98% for Ian and we anticipate 98% for Milton.

The procurement started in October 2025 to award the new contract before the peak of the 2026 hurricane season and multiple specialists were involved in reviewing the scope of work, including:

- The County's Disaster Management Consultant updated the scope of work & pricing structure – using FDEMS' (Florida Department of Emergency Management) own scope of work for debris services as an example and incorporating new federal requirements.
- A team consisting of County Administration, Solid Waste and Procurement staff updated to the scope of work to incorporate lessons learned, federal regulatory revisions, and review comments from consultants and FDEM and FROC (Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation).

- FDEM reviewed the draft scope of work and pricing fee schedule for compliance with state and federal requirements and guidelines. FDEM responded with very minor revisions.
- FROC reviewed the draft solicitation, as it relates to the County's procurement process and terms & conditions for these types of services. FROC found no discrepancies and approved the solicitation documents.
- The County's Disaster Debris Monitoring Contractor reviewed the scope of work for operational concerns and for compliance with the updated FEMA PAPPG (Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide) v5.

Procurement Management requested proposals for the project known as Request for Proposal No. RFP260035BJB, Disaster Recovery Services for Lee County on February 13, 2026. The advertisement was open for a 45-day period and its title is typical of advertisements for similar services in Florida. The solicitation was automatically distributed to all vendors registered in our system for the commodity code Emergency and Disaster Readiness and Response: Equipment, Supplies, and Services. Only one question about the scope of work was submitted by potential vendors. On the solicitation deadline of March 31, 2026, Procurement Management received seven submittals, of these, six were found to be responsive and moved through the evaluation process in accordance with Lee County Procurement Ordinance 25-11 and Federal Standards under 2 CFR part 200.

An initial evaluation meeting was held on April 15, 2026, during which the Evaluation Committee considered criteria as listed in the solicitation request, including such items as: company resources, company relevant experience and reference, company capabilities, financial stability, and price proposal. Following discussions, the committee motioned to short-list the top five ranked firms to move to the second evaluation meeting. During the second evaluation meeting on April 30, 2026, the five short-listed firms completed presentations for the committee. Following presentations and brief discussions by the committee, the committee independently scored the vendors in a final ranking. The committee approved the final ranking to begin negotiations with Crowder-Gulf Joint Venture, Inc. as the primary vendor, Ceres Environmental Services as the secondary vendor, and DRC Emergency Services as the tertiary vendor for use in the event of an emergency, natural, or man-made natural disaster, on an as-needed basis for a term of five years.

IV. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Current Year Dollar Amount:

Final cost depends upon the quantity of material managed

Included in the Current Budget?:

N/A

Fund:

Solid Waste Operations

Comments:

Is this a revenue or expense item? Expense

Is this Discretionary or Mandatory? Discretionary

Will this item impact future budgets? No

Program: Solid Waste

Project:

Account Strings: OB5340440100

Fund Type? Enterprise

V. RECOMMENDATION

Approve

ATTACHMENTS:

Agreement, Agreement, Agreement, Price Tabulation - RFP260035BJB

REVIEWERS:

Johanne Lugo, Solid Waste

Created/Initiated - 8/5/2026

Mary Tucker, Procurement Management

Approved - 8/7/2026

Rebecca Rodriguez, Solid Waste

Approved - 8/7/2026

Anne Henkel, Budget Services

Approved - 8/7/2026

Peter Winton, County Manager

Approved - 8/7/2026

Amanda Swindle, County Attorney

Approved - 8/10/2026

Christine Brady, County Manager

Final Approval - 8/10/2026