



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Ballistic Protective Equipment (BPE)

RFP Number	2026-01
Issue Date	8/27/2026
Questions Due	9/17/2026 (4:00 PM Central)
Proposals Due	10/2/2026 (2:00 p.m. Central)
Submit Proposals To	rfp@highridgefire.com or District administrative office — see Section 9. Questions to John Barton, Fire Chief • chief@highridgefire.com • (636) 677-3371 x1259
Anticipated Award	Subject to approval by the Board of Directors

1. Purpose

The High Ridge Fire Protection District ("the District") is soliciting proposals for the purchase of ballistic protective equipment (BPE) for use by fire and emergency medical services personnel. For purposes of this solicitation, BPE means externally worn, multi-threat soft body armor in identified fire/EMS carriers, ballistic helmets, and optional rifle plates. The District seeks equipment purpose-built for the fire and EMS operating environment.

Notice of Solicitation. This Request for Proposals is advertised in accordance with Section 321.600(4), RSMo, which requires published notice for purchase contracts involving an expense of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more. Notice of this solicitation was published in The West County Leader on August 27th, 2026, and posted on the District website at www.highridgefire.com. Copies of this Request for Proposals and all addenda issued are available from the District at no charge upon request.

2. Background and Concept of Operations

Vendors should understand the District's intended use so that proposed equipment is appropriately configured. Proposals that do not account for this concept of operations may be found non-responsive.

- Equipment will be assigned to on-duty personnel.
- Equipment will be donned at a staging area when a scene is determined to be insecure, when personnel are assigned to warm-zone or Rescue Task Force operations, or when directed by Command.
- Equipment will be worn externally over the duty uniform. It will NOT be worn over or under structural firefighting protective clothing.
- Broad adjustability and cleanability are essential.
- The District intends to comply with NFPA 3000, Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program, including its requirement that externally worn protective equipment be identified with the agency and/or responder role.

3. Scope and Estimated Quantities

Quantities are estimates for pricing purposes only. The District reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities, or to award by line item.

Cooperative Participation: High Ridge Fire Protection District is the lead agency for this solicitation. Other Jefferson County fire protection districts may purchase from any resulting award at the proposed prices and terms, pursuant to Section 70.220, RSMo. Participation is optional and is not guaranteed.

Preliminary inquiries indicate potential interest in approximately fifty (50) additional complete rigs beyond the quantities stated below. This is an indication of interest only; no aggregate quantity is guaranteed. Each participating agency contracts, orders, and pays directly with the vendor and is responsible for its own obligations.

Vendors shall state whether they will extend the proposed pricing to other agencies. A vendor may decline to extend pricing without prejudice to its proposal.

Item	Description	Base Qty
1	Complete rig: carrier with soft armor panels (front, rear, and side coverage)	24
2	Rifle plate pair, NIJ RF1 / Level III (optional add)	15
3	Rifle plate pair, NIJ RF2 (optional add)	15
4	Identification placard set (front and rear)	24
5	Ballistic helmet	15

4. Mandatory Technical Requirements

Each requirement below is pass/fail. Vendors shall respond to each item individually, stating "Complies," "Complies with exception (explain)," or "Does not comply." A response of "Complies" without the supporting documentation required under Section 6 may be treated as non-responsive.

Ref	Requirement
M-1	Soft armor panels shall be certified to NIJ Standard-0101.06 at Level IIIA or NIJ Standard-0101.07 at Level HG2, and the specific model shall appear on the current NIJ Compliant Products List. Claims of testing "to NIJ standards" without a Compliant Products List entry do not satisfy this requirement.
M-2	Soft armor shall protect the front, rear, and both lateral sides of the torso. The method of construction is at the vendor's option, provided the side coverage is certified to the same protection level as the front and rear panels. Vendor shall describe the arrangement used.
M-3	The carrier shall be designed for external wear over a duty uniform. Concealable, under-uniform designs will not be considered.
M-4	The carrier shall accommodate identification placards on both the front and the rear. The rear placard shall accept block lettering not less than three (3) inches in height reading EMS, FIRE, or RESCUE. Placards shall be field-removable and replaceable.
M-5	The carrier shall incorporate retroreflective striping visible from the front and rear. Vendor shall state whether the carrier is certified to ANSI/ISEA 107 and, if so, at what performance class.
M-6	The carrier shall have capability of accepting front and rear rifle plates. Vendor shall state the plate cut(s) and size(s) accommodated.
M-7	The carrier shall be adjustable at both the shoulders and the sides and shall accommodate a range of wearers.
M-8	Soft armor panels shall be removable from the carrier, and the carrier shall be cleanable. Vendor shall provide the manufacturer's cleaning, care, and storage instructions. Panels shall carry a warranty of not less than five (5) years; vendor shall state the carrier warranty separately from the panel warranty.
M-9	Carrier must be available in non-black colors. Vendor shall state which colors are available.
M-10	If ballistic helmets are proposed, they shall be certified or independently tested to NIJ Standard-0106.01 Type II or higher, or to an equivalent recognized ballistic helmet standard. Vendor shall state the standard applied, the protection level, the testing laboratory, and the shell cut. Helmets shall include an adjustable retention system and a suspension or pad system.

5. Desirable Features

The following are not mandatory. Where offered, they are preferred and will be considered in the evaluation. Price these separately where they represent an added cost. The District places particular weight on multi-threat panel certification.

- Quick-release capability permitting rapid doffing for medical access to the wearer. Price under Item 5 of the pricing schedule.
- Rear drag handle integrated into the carrier's load-bearing structure and accessible while the carrier is worn. Vendor shall state the rated capacity and any applicable test method, if established.
- Certification to NIJ Standard-0101.07 (HG2) rather than 0101.06, for longer useful listing life.
- Multi-threat panels additionally certified to NIJ Standard-0115.00 (stab resistance) at Level 1 or higher, with the model appearing on the current NIJ Compliant Products List. Vendor shall state each protection class certified — Edged Blade, Spike, or both — and the E1 level for each separately; a combined "stab rating" is not acceptable, and certification documentation shall be provided with the proposal. Edged Blade is of particular interest. Price under Item 9 of the pricing schedule.
- ANSI/ISEA 107 Class 2 or Class 3 certification of the carrier or an outer garment. If an outer garment is offered, price under Item 6 of the pricing schedule.
- Ventilation, cooling liner, or moisture-management features.
- Ballistic helmets available in non-black options. Vendor shall state which colors are available. Helmets are priced under Item 7 of the pricing schedule.
- Documented special-threat testing beyond the certified level.
- Availability under an existing cooperative purchasing contract. Identify the contract and number.

6. Required Submittals

Proposals shall include all of the following. Incomplete submittals may be rejected.

- Completed responses to each mandatory requirement in Section 4, including the documentation each requirement calls for.
- Manufacturer sizing chart and stated fitting range.
- Manufacturer care, cleaning, storage, inspection, and service-life documentation.
- Completed pricing schedule (Section 7).
- Statement of availability of demonstration or evaluation samples, and lead time from purchase order to delivery.

7. Pricing Schedule

All prices shall be quoted delivered to the District.

Volume Pricing. Vendors shall state unit pricing at the quantities listed and may state additional pricing tiers at higher aggregate quantities. Aggregate quantities may increase if other agencies elect to participate under Section 3.

Item	Description	Qty	Unit Price	Extended
1	Complete rig (carrier + front/rear/side soft armor) — BASE BID	24	\$	\$
2	RF1 / Level III plate pair — ADDITIVE ALTERNATE	15	\$	\$
3	RF2 plate pair — ADDITIVE ALTERNATE	15	\$	\$
4	Identification placard set (front + rear) — BASE BID	24	\$	\$
5	Quick-release option, if separately priced — ADDITIVE ALTERNATE	—	\$	\$
6	ANSI/ISEA 107 outer garment, if applicable — ADDITIVE ALTERNATE	—	\$	\$
7	Ballistic helmet — ADDITIVE ALTERNATE	15	\$	\$
8	Freight / delivery — BASE BID	—	\$	\$
9	Multi-threat (stab-resistant) panel upgrade, per rig — ADDITIVE ALTERNATE	24	\$	\$
BASE BID TOTAL (Items 1, 4, and 8 only)				\$

Basis of Award. The Base Bid consists of Items 1, 4, and 8 only. Award will be determined on the Base Bid. All remaining items are priced separately, are excluded from the Base Bid comparison, and may be accepted or rejected by the District at the time of award. Items 2 and 3 are mutually exclusive; the District will purchase one rifle plate configuration, not both. Vendors shall price every line item. A Base Bid line item left blank may be treated as offered at no additional cost.

Additional Quantities. Quoted unit pricing shall remain firm for not less than ninety (90) days from the date of award. Vendors are invited to offer a longer firm-pricing period, and a longer period will be considered in evaluation. During the firm-pricing period, the District reserves the right to purchase additional units of any line item at the quoted unit price, in any quantity, without further solicitation. Vendors shall state the firm-pricing period offered, any minimum order quantity applicable to such purchases, and any sizes subject to extended lead time.

Firm-pricing period offered (days from award): _____

Payment terms: _____

Cooperative contract used, if any: _____

8. Evaluation

Proposals meeting all mandatory requirements in Section 4 will be evaluated on the following factors, which are not assigned fixed weights: Base Bid price; fire/EMS-specific design, identification, and high-visibility features; fit range, adjustability, and suitability for the District's concept of operations; warranty, documentation, references, delivery lead time, and firm-pricing period offered; and any desirable features under Section 5 offered beyond the stated minimums. The District will award to the proposal that represents the best value, which may not be the lowest price.

9. Submission Instructions

- Proposals may be submitted electronically, in PDF format, to rfp@highridgefire.com, or in hard copy to the District administrative office, 2842 High Ridge Blvd., High Ridge, MO 63049, no later than the date and time stated.
- Late proposals will not be considered.
- Questions shall be submitted in writing by the date stated. The District will respond only by written addendum. All addenda will be posted on the District website and provided to each vendor that has requested a copy of this solicitation; verbal responses are not binding. Addenda will be issued not later than seven (7) days prior to the proposal due date. Vendors shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda in their proposal; failure to do so may render the proposal non-responsive.
- Proposals shall remain valid for ninety (90) days from the due date.

10. General Terms and Conditions

- The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive informalities and minor irregularities, and to accept the proposal determined to be in the best interest of the District.
- The District reserves the right to award by line item, to award to multiple vendors, or to make no award.
- Quantities stated are estimates for the District only and may increase if other agencies elect to participate. The District does not guarantee any minimum purchase.
- If the District accepts other than the apparent low proposal, the specific reasons will be stated in writing.
- The District reserves the right to negotiate with one or more offerors and to request Best and Final Offers prior to award.
- Any award is contingent upon approval by the District's Board of Directors and availability of funds.
- Proposals submitted to the District may constitute public records subject to disclosure under the Missouri Sunshine Law, Chapter 610, RSMo. Vendors shall clearly identify any material claimed to be proprietary; such designation does not guarantee confidential treatment.

11. Proposal Certification

This page shall be completed, signed, and returned with the proposal.

Addenda Acknowledgment. The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the following addenda issued for this solicitation. Write "NONE" if no addenda were issued.

Addendum No. _____ dated _____

Addendum No. _____ dated _____

Addendum No. _____ dated _____

Certification. By signing below, the undersigned certifies that:

- The undersigned is authorized to submit this proposal and to bind the offeror.
- The information contained in this proposal is accurate and complete.
- This proposal will remain valid for ninety (90) days from the proposal due date.
- This proposal was prepared independently, without collusion, consultation, or agreement with any other offeror as to price or terms; no attempt has been made to induce any other party to submit or to refrain from submitting a proposal; and this proposal is not a straw or complementary bid.
- Neither the offeror nor any of its principals has any financial or personal interest involving any Director, officer, or employee of the District, except as disclosed here: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Printed name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

End of Request for Proposals