



**Request for Bids**  
**Repair and Staining of all Buildings/Structures**  
**at Grayson Count Recreation Park**

Notice is hereby given that the County of Grayson, VA will be accepting competitive sealed bids from qualified and licensed contractors to complete the repair and staining to the exterior of all structures within the Grayson County Recreation Park. Bids will be received until **September 6, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.**, at the Grayson County Administration Office, located at 129 Davis Street, Suite 204, Independence, VA 24348 and shall be opened and publicly announced at that time. Proposals received after 2:00 P.M. will not be considered. Submittal information can be obtained online at the Grayson County Government website or in the Grayson County Administration Office.

**Grayson County Administration Office**  
**P.O. Box 217**  
**129 Davis Street, Suite 204**  
**Independence, VA 24348**

**Re: Repair & Staining of Structures – Grayson Co Rec Park** (\*note this on the outside lower left corner of the submittal envelope)

**Scope of Work**

Site: County Park Lane  
Independence, VA 24348

Grayson County Parks and Recreation is seeking a licensed and insured contractor to complete the repair and staining to the exterior of all structures within the Grayson County Recreation Park. This includes:

### **Area of Field 1 and 2:**

- 1 press box/concessions stand
- 2 small 10'x6'shelters
- 1 large shelter area
- 1 large maintenance shed

### **Area of Shelters 1 and 2:**

- 2 large shelters
- 1 small shelters

### **Office Area:**

- Office building, including deck
- 1 large maintenance shed

### **Pool Building**

- Exterior of pool building
- Interior of guard space and concessions space
- Interior of restrooms and shower areas.

Appropriate prep of all areas listed above including but not limited to wood repair/replacement, sanding scraping, and priming. All exterior space shall be finished with a latex based stain with a light gray finish and white trim. Interior space shall be finished in a white. **A pre-bid conference to view the areas with requested work will be held on August 22, 2022 at 2:00 pm beginning at 85 County Park Lane, Independence, VA 24348**

**Preservations of Rights:** It is the intent of Grayson County to award this contract based upon the lowest and best proposal that is in the best interest of Grayson County. The County reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and waive all minor technicalities, informalities, and irregularities. In accordance with Va. Code Section 2.2-4302.1 the County will award the contract to the lowest bidder deemed fully responsible and responsive to the Invitation to Bid.

### **Codes & Regulations**

Proposer must comply with all applicable State and Federal Laws. The proposer must have a current Contractor's license for the State of Virginia and is expected to perform all work and provide service with competent personnel. Any building permits will be the responsibility of the contractor. All work is to be performed per current code, law, regulation, manufacture, and trade standards. Proposer shall comply with all the required codes for safety, state, and local building codes. In the case of conflicting codes, regulations, or standards, the more stringent shall be the rule to follow.

**Proposal Format**

Cover Letter- Must include the name, address, and telephone number of the company, and be signed by the person or persons authorized to represent the Contractor. Proposal shall be submitted in the following format and include the following information.

Lump sum prices for each heading in the scope of work, noting any special items that may affect the bid. Pricing must also include a lump-sum bid total for the entire project, and unit prices for particular items if required in the Bid Form.

Proposed construction timeline with anticipated start and end dates. Work must be completed within 90 days after notice to proceed.

Prior to the final selection, proposers may be required to submit additional information that Grayson County deems necessary to further evaluate the proposer's qualifications.

**Copies**

An original proposal and supporting documents must be submitted in response to the RFB.

**Basis of Award**

In accordance with Va. Code Section 2.2-4302.1, all bids will be opened and announced publicly on the date stated herein, at the County Offices.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Award of the contract will be made to the lowest Proposer who is deemed by the County to be fully qualified to provide the services stated herein, and whose bid is responsive in all respects to the requirements of this invitation to bid.
- Proposers shall be required to provide a statement of Proposer's qualifications/experience with similar projects within the last 5 years.
- Proposers shall provide customer and industry references, including a description of any past projects undertaken for the County or any of the County's affiliated entities, such as the public schools, Economic Development Authority or related entities.
- Proposer will be evaluated upon Proposer's ability to mobilize and complete the project in a timely manner

**Right to Reject Lowest Fee Proposal**

Grayson County is under no obligation to award this project to the proposer offering the lowest fee if such offeror is not deemed fully qualified or if the Bid does not conform to the bidding criteria so as to be fully responsive.

**Right of Negotiation**

Grayson County reserves the right to negotiate, where permitted by the Virginia Public Procurement Act, with the lowest and/or best proposer after proposal opening and establishment of the lowest and/or best proposal, before the contract is awarded and/or after contract award. Grayson County reserves the right to negotiate the exact terms and conditions of the contract with the selected proposer. Negotiations will not be made to increase the initial contract price.

**Rights to Submitted Materials**

All responses, inquires and correspondence in reference to this RFP submitted by proposers shall become property of Grayson County when received. All proposals submitted become property of Grayson County, VA.

**Governing Law**

The laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and applicable federal laws for federally-awarded grant recipients shall govern the contractual agreement with the proposer awarded the contract.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of Grayson County government not to discriminate based on race, color, religion sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, status as a service-disabled veteran or any other status prohibited by state law. Grayson County government encourages the consideration of DBE's (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises).

**General Terms and Conditions**

The successful Proposer will be expected to enter into a contract incorporating or generally conforming to the General Terms and Conditions attached hereto.

## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **1. General Provisions**

- A. The work of the Contractor hereunder is performed as an independent contractor. The Contractor is not an employee of the County, and the County will not control the means, methods, techniques or procedures of the Contractor performing the work, and the Contractor is expected to use its own judgment in providing the results called for under this contract. Nothing in any resulting contract shall be construed as authority for either party to make commitments which will bind the other party beyond the scope of service contained herein.
- B. This contract is subject to appropriations by the County.
- C. All bids shall remain valid for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled due date.
- D. Withdrawal of bids due to error shall follow the procedures contained in § 2.2-4330(A) and (B)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.
- E. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids/proposals in accordance with § 2.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.
- F. All procurements by the County will adhere to the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act, §§ 2.2-4300 *et seq.*, of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

### **2. Laws of the Commonwealth**

- A. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this solicitation shall be governed in all respects whether as to validity, construction, performance, or otherwise by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Contractor represents to the County that it will:
  - 1. Conform to the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Virginia Fair Employment Contracting Act of 1975, as amended, and the Virginia Human Rights Act, as amended, where applicable;
  - 2. Not employ illegal alien workers or otherwise violate the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986;
  - 3. Comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations applicable to the performance of the services procured; and

4. Has submitted the bid or proposal in full compliance with the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act.

B. In every contract of over \$10,000, the Contractor agrees during the performance of this contract that:

1. The Contractor (1) will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, status as a service-disabled veteran, national origin or other status prohibited by state law, (2) will post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause, and (3) will state that the Contractor is an equal opportunity employer in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor under this contract. All notices, advertisements, and solicitations placed in accordance with federal law, rule or regulation shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of meeting the requirements of this section; and

2. The Contractor will include the provisions of the foregoing subparagraph 2.(B)(1) in every subcontract or purchase order under this Contract of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

C. In every contract of over \$10,000, the Contractor agrees during the performance of this contract that:

The Contractor shall A) provide a drug-free workplace for its employees; B) post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in its workplace and specify the actions which will be taken against any employee for a violation; C) state in all of its solicitations or advertisements for employees that it maintains a drug-free workplace; and D) include the provisions of this sub-paragraph in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that said provisions shall be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

For purposes of this sub-paragraph, "drug-free workplace" means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a contractor in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

D. In addition to the provisions contained in sub-paragraph C. pertaining to drug-free

place, Contractor shall comply with the federal Drug Free Workplace Act.

- E. Pursuant to Section 2.2-4343.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, in all invitations to bid, requests for proposals, contracts, and purchase orders, the County does not discriminate against faith-based organizations.

"Faith-based Organization" means a religious organization that is or applies to be a contractor to provide goods or services for programs funded by the block grant provided pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193.

If Contractor is a faith-based organization, then Contractor shall give to each individual who applies for or receives goods, services, or disbursements provided pursuant to this Agreement the following notice:

### NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 2.2-4343.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as an applicant for or recipient of goods, services, or disbursements provided pursuant to a contract between the County and a faith-based organization, you are hereby notified as follows:

**Neither the County's selection of a charitable or faith-based provider of services nor the expenditure of funds under this contract is an endorsement of the provider's charitable or religious character, practices, or expression. No provider of services may discriminate against you on the basis of religion, a religious belief, or your refusal to actively participate in a religious practice. If you object to a particular provider because of its religious character, you may request assignment to a different provider. If you believe that your rights have been violated, please discuss the complaint with your provider or notify the County of Grayson, c/o Grayson County Administrator.**

### 3. Certifications

The Contractor certifies that:

- A. The bid or offer (1) is made without prior participation, understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm or person submitting a bid/offer for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services with respect to the allocation of the business afforded by or resulting from the acceptance of the bid or proposal,

(2) is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud, and (3) is or is intended to be competitive and free from any collusion with any person, firm or corporation;

- B. The Contractor has not offered or received any kickback from any other bidder or Contractor, supplier, manufacturer, or subcontractor in connection with the bid/offer on this solicitation. A kickback is defined as an inducement for the award of a contract, subcontracts or order, in the form of any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value is exchanged. Further, no person shall demand or receive any payment, loan, subscription, advance, and deposit of money, services or anything of value in return for an agreement not to compete on a public contract;
- C. The Contractor is not a party to nor has he participated in nor is obligated or otherwise bound by agreement, arrangement or other understanding with any person, firm or corporation relating to the exchange of information concerning bids, prices, terms or condition upon which the contract resulting from the acceptance of his bid proposal is to be performed;
- D. The Contractor understands that collusive bidding is a violation of the Virginia Governmental Frauds Act and federal Law, and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards and agrees to abide by all conditions of this proposal; and
- E. The Contractor or subcontractor has not and will not confer on any public employee having official responsibility for a procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value is exchanged.
- F. The Contractor certifies that the bid or proposal has been submitted, to the best of Contractor's knowledge, in full accordance with the requirements of Virginia Law governing ethics in public contracting, including without limitation the Virginia State and Local Government Conflicts of Interests Act, § 2.2-3100 *et seq.*, of the Code of Virginia, and the Virginia Public Procurement Act § 2.2-4300 *et seq.*, of the Code of Virginia.

#### **4. Warranties**

Any goods or services furnished by the Contractor under the contract shall be covered by the most favorable warranties provided by the Contractor to any customer; the rights and remedies hereby provided are in addition to any and do not limit those otherwise available to the County. The Contractor agrees that if such warranties are in any respect breached, the Contractor will pay to the County the full contract price agreed to by the County to be paid for the supplies, materials, equipment or services furnished under the bid or proposal.



**5. Modifications, Additions or Changes**

Modifications, additions or changes to these terms and conditions may not be made except in writing and agreed to by the County; however, no fixed priced contract may be increased by more than twenty-five (25) percent of the amount of the contract or \$50,000 whichever is greater without the approval of the County. The amount of any contract may not be increased for any purpose without adequate consideration provided to the County. The contract may not be assigned, sublet, or transferred without the written consent of the County.

**6. Termination**

The County may terminate the Contract for its convenience at any time upon written notice to the Contractor. the Contractor shall not be paid for any service rendered or expense incurred after receipt of such notice except such fees and expenses incurred prior to the effective date of termination that are necessary for curtailment of the Contractor's Services under this Contract.

**7. Audit**

The Contractor's (and its authorized agents, state auditors, the grantor of the funds to the County, the Comptroller of Virginia or of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives) records shall be open to inspection and subject to audit and/or reproduction, during normal working hours, by the County to the extent necessary to adequately permit evaluation and verification of any invoices, payments or claims submitted by Contractor of any of its payees pursuant to execution of the contract. Such records subject to examination shall also include, but not be limited to, those records necessary to evaluate and verify direct and indirect costs (including overhead allocations) as they may apply to costs associated with this contract.

For the purpose of such audits, inspections, examinations and evaluations, the County shall have access to said records from the effective date of this contract, for the duration of the work, and until five (5) years after the date of final payment by the County to Contractor pursuant to this contract.

The County shall have access to Contractor's facilities, shall have access to all necessary records, and shall be provided adequate and appropriate work space, in order to conduct audits in compliance with this article. The County shall give Contractor reasonable advance notice of intended audits.

Contractor shall require all subcontractors, insurance agents, and materials suppliers (payees) to comply with the provisions of this article by insertion of the requirements hereof in a written contract agreement between Contractor and payee. Failure to obtain such written contracts which include such provisions shall be reason to exclude some or all of the related payees' costs from amount payable to Contractor pursuant to this contract.

If an audit inspection or examination in accordance with the article, discloses overcharges (of any nature) by Contractor to the County in excess of five percent (5%) of the total contract billings, the actual cost of the County's audit shall be paid by Contractor. In addition, the County shall not be responsible for any overages not approved by change order and will deduct such amounts from the final contract payment.

**8. Ownership of Documents**

Any reports, studies, photographs, negatives, or other documents prepared by Contractor in the performance of its obligations under any resulting contract shall be remitted to the County by the Contractor upon completion, termination or cancellation of this Contract. Contractor shall not use, willingly allow or cause to have such materials used for any purpose other than performance of Contractor's obligations under this contract without the prior written consent of the County. The County shall own the intellectual property rights to all materials produced under this contract.

All data submitted to the County deemed to be confidential or proprietary by Contractor, whether as part of Contractor's proposal or as part of Contractor's work product under a contract with County shall be appropriately marked for protection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

**9. Payment and Performance Bond**

For any Contract for construction, the amount of which exceeds \$500,000, the Contractor shall furnish to the County the bonds required under Sections 2.2-4336 and 2.2-4337 of the Code and shall otherwise fully comply with the requirements of such sections of the Code. The County reserves the right to require payment and/or performance bonds in the amount of the Contract for any other Contracts, whether or not required by such sections of the Code.

**10. Required Payment**

Pursuant to Section 2.2-4354 of the Code, the Contractor covenants and agrees to:

- A. within seven (7) days after receipt of any amounts paid to the Contractor under the Contract, (i) pay any subcontractor for its proportionate share of the total payment received from the County attributable to the work under the Contract performed by such subcontractor, or (ii) notify the County and the subcontractor, in writing, of its intention to withhold all or a part of the subcontractor's payment and the reason therefor;
- B. provide its federal employer identification number or social security number, as applicable, before any payment is made to the Contractor under the Contract; and
- C. pay interest at the legal rate or such other rate as may be agreed to in writing by the subcontractor and the Contractor on all amounts owed by the Contractor that remain unpaid after seven (7) days following receipt by the Contractor of payment from the County for work performed by the subcontractor under the Contract, except for amounts withheld pursuant to subparagraph 12a. above.
- D. include in its contracts with any and all subcontractors the requirements of a, b, and, c above.

**11. Liability Coverage**

Unless otherwise expressly excepted in the procurement announcement documents prepared by the County, the Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of the Contract such bodily injury, liability and property damage liability insurance as shall protect it and the County from claims for damages for personal injury, including death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from its activities under this agreement. Such insurance shall at least have the coverages and be in the amounts set forth in section 12 "Insurance and Bond Requirements" set forth below and shall name the Board of Supervisors and the County as an Additional Insureds. Such insurance must be issued by a company admitted within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Contractor shall provide the County with a certificate of insurance showing such insurance to be in force and providing that the insurer shall give the County at least 30 days' notice prior to cancellation or other termination of such insurance. The County shall be named as a co-insured on all such policies and evidence of such status as a co-insured shall be provided to the County prior to the time the contract is executed by the County.

**12. Insurance and Bond Requirements**

The Contractor shall maintain the following insurance to protect it and County from claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and from any other claims for personal injury, including death, and for damage to property that may arise from operations under the Contract, whether such operations be by itself or by any subcontractor, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them.

The Firm agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County and its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of action against the

County or its officers, agents, or employees, alleging damage or injury arising out of the acts or omissions of Firm or its agents and employees; provided, however, that such provision shall not apply to the extent that the damage or injury is attributable to the sole negligence of the County or its officers, agents, or employees.

<b><u>TYPE OF COVERAGE</u></b>	<b><u>LIMITS</u></b>
Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability including coverage under United States Longshoremen's and Harbor Worker's Act where applicable	Statutory limits
Comprehensive General Liability endorsement coverages.	Including the Broad Form C.G.L.
Premises – Operations Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Combined	\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 Aggregate
Including: Underground Hazard (U) Explosion and Collapse Hazard (XC)	
Independent Contractors – County's Protective Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Combined	\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 Aggregate
Completed Operations - Products Liability Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Combined for five (5) years after payment	\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 Aggregate

Contractual Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Combined in accordance with Agreement between County and Contractor	\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 Aggregate
Personal Injury with Employee's Exclusion C deleted	\$2,000,000 Aggregate
Automobile Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Combined covering all automobiles, trucks, tractors, trailers, or other automobile equipment, whether owned, non-owned, or hired by the Contractor	\$1,000,000 Per Accident
Umbrella/Excess Liability	\$2,000,000 Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 Aggregate
Professional Liability Insurance	\$2,000,000 Limit of Liability (When applicable to the services to be provided under the contract)

- A. The Contractor shall purchase and maintain insurance coverage on his tools, equipment and machinery and shall waive subrogation to the County for damage thereto.
- B. The County reserves the right to require insurance of any Contractor in greater amounts provided notice of such requirements is stated in the Solicitation.

**13. Environmental Management**

The Contractor will be responsible for complying with all federal, state and local environmental regulations relating to transportation, handling, storage, spillage and any other aspect of providing the services specified herein, as applicable. If the County should have to defend any enforcement action against it relating to the services provided by the Contractor under the Agreement, the Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the County for any such actions, including reimbursing the County for all costs associated with defending such actions, attorneys fees and costs, and shall correct without cost to the County any defects or deficiencies found that are directly attributable to the Contractor.

**14. No Waiver**

Any failure of the County to demand rigid adherence to one or more of this Agreement's provisions in the contract, on one or more occasions, shall not be construed as a waiver nor deprive the County of the right to insist upon strict compliance with the terms of this Contract. Any waiver of a term of this Contract, in whole or in part, must be in writing and signed by the party granting the waiver to be effective.

**15. Loss or Damage in Transit**

Delivery by the Contractor to a common carrier does not constitute delivery to County. Any claim for loss or damage incurred during delivery shall be between the Contractor and the carrier. The County accepts title only when goods are received regardless of the F.O.B. point. The County will note all apparent damages in transit on the freight bill and notify the Contractor. Discovery of concealed damages or loss will be reported by the County to the carrier and the Contractor within seven days of receipt and prior to removal from the point of delivery if possible. The Contractor shall make immediate replacement of the damaged or lost merchandise or be in default of the Contract. It shall be the Contractor's responsibility to file a claim against the carrier. If damage is to a small quantity, with the approval of the County, the Contractor may deduct the amount of damage or loss from his or her invoice to the County in lieu of replacement.

**16. Choice of Law**

To ensure uniformity of the enforcement of this Contract, and irrespective of the fact that either of the parties now is, or may become, a resident of a different state, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without regard to her principles of conflicts of law.

**17. Forum Selection**

The parties hereby agree that any claims, causes of action or disputes arising out of, relating to or concerning this Contract shall have jurisdiction and venue only in the Circuit Court of Grayson County, Virginia or if appropriate jurisdiction exists, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

**18. Severability**

If any provision of this Contract is held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, or is found to be against public policy for any reasons, such provision shall be fully severable and this Contract shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision had never been part of this Contract, and the remaining provisions of this Contract shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected by the illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision, or by its severance from this Contract.

**19. Limitation of Liability**

The Contract is subject to annual appropriation by the Board of Supervisors of Grayson County. Neither the Contract nor any amount due or to become due under the Contract shall be deemed to constitute a debt or pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth of Virginia or any political subdivision thereof, including Grayson County, Virginia. Neither the Commonwealth of Virginia nor any political subdivision thereof, including the County of Grayson, shall be obligated to pay any amount due or to become due under this Contract except

from funds annually appropriated by the Board of Supervisors of Grayson County for such purpose.

**20. Notices**

All requests, notices and other communications required or permitted to be given under this Contract shall be in writing and delivery thereof shall be deemed to have been made when such notice shall have been either (a) duly mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or any comparable or superior postal or air courier service then in effect, or (b) transmitted by hand delivery or telegram to the party entitled to receive the same at the address indicated below or at such other address as such party shall have specified by written notice to the other party. Notices to the County shall be sent to:

The County of Grayson, Virginia  
c/o William Shepley, County Administrator  
129 Davis Street, Suite 204  
PO Box 217  
Grayson County Courthouse  
Independence, Virginia 24348

And

Stephen V. Durbin, Esq.  
County Attorney  
150 Peppers Ferry Rd, NE  
P.O. Box 2009  
Christiansburg, VA 24068-2009

**21. Contractual Claims Procedure**

- A. Contractual claims or disputes by Contractor, whether for money or other relief, except for claims or disputes exempted by law from the procedure set forth herein, shall be submitted in writing no later than sixty (60) days after the event giving rise to such claim; provided, however, that Contractor shall give the County written notice of its intention to file a claim or dispute within fifteen (15) days after the occurrence upon which the claim or dispute shall be based. Any written notice of Contractor's intention to file such a claim or dispute need not detail the amount of the claim, but shall state the facts and/or issues relating to the claim in sufficient detail to identify the claim, together with its character and scope. Whether or not Contractor files such written notice, Contractor shall proceed with the work as directed. If Contractor fails to make its claim or dispute, or fails to give notice of its intention to do so as provided herein, then such claim or dispute shall be deemed forfeited.
- B. The County, upon receipt of a detailed claim, may at any time render its decision and shall render such decision within one hundred twenty (120) days of final

payment. Each such decision rendered shall be forwarded to the Contractor by written notice.

- C. If the Contractor disagrees with the decision of the County concerning any pending claim, the Contractor shall promptly notify the County by written notice that the Contractor is proceeding with the work under protest. Any claim not resolved, whether by failure of the Contractor to accept the decision of the County or under a written notice of Contractor's intention to file a claim or a detailed claim not acted upon by the governing body of the County, shall be specifically exempt by the Contractor from payment request, whether progress or final. Pendency of claims shall not delay payment of amounts agreed due in the final payment.
  
- C. The decision on contractual claims by the governing body of the County shall be final and conclusive unless the Contractor appeals within six months of the date of the final decision on the claim by instituting legal action in the appropriate circuit court.