



**RFP #26-3927**

**City of North Little Rock Requests Proposals**

For

**Battery Storage Project Development for the Electric Department**

**Issue Date: June 20, 2026**

**Due Date: July 20, 2026 , 10:00 am**

Amy Smith, Purchasing Manager  
Sheila Harper, Purchasing Agent  
Commerce Department  
**CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK**  
700 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street,  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
501-975-8881 Telephone  
asmith@nlr.ar.gov

City of North Little Rock requests proposals from interested and qualified Providers for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project. City of North Little Rock is interested in contracting turnkey services from one (1) qualified Provider.

City of North Little Rock intends to select the most qualified Provider to perform the services in accordance with Arkansas statutes. The objective of the issuance of this RFP is to solicit proposals from Providers that have the experience, capability, and proven track record to provide battery storage to City of North Little Rock.

City of North Little Rock's selection of a Provider to provide these services will be made in accordance with the policies and administrative directive of City of North Little Rock and applicable statutory provisions. Responses must be received by 10:00 am on July 20, 2026 , after which time and date they will no longer be accepted by City of North Little Rock. Submissions made after this date and time will not be considered. Responses must be mailed or delivered to:

City of North Little Rock  
ATTENTION TO: Amy Smith, Purchasing Manager  
700 W 29th Street (PO Box 5757)  
North Little Rock, AR 72114 (72119)

It is the sole responsibility of the responding firm to ensure their RFP response is received by City of North Little Rock on or before the due date and time.

This solicitation does not commit City of North Little Rock to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal, or to procure or contract for the articles of goods or services. City of North Little Rock reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this proposal if it is in the best interest of City of North Little Rock. Failure to furnish all information may disqualify a vendor.

# SECTION 1 – General Information

1. **Scope.** City of North Little Rock (herein “NLR”) is issuing this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to enter a partnership with a BESS developer. The system will be located at 900 Riverfront Dr, North Little Rock, AR 72114.

NLR is requesting proposals for a BESS project for cost savings and energy resiliency. The primary use cases for this system will be resiliency, firm capacity, and ancillary services. The selected developer will be responsible for design and construction of the system. See Appendix A - General Specifications for detailed system information.

2. **Cash Purchase and Financing.** NLR is most interested in a cash purchase which includes the price for the system. All aforementioned options are to take into consideration the federal Investment Tax Credits (“ITCs”) in the form of direct pay. NLR would also look to the developer for reasonable assistance in pursuing grants and other incentives as NLR may be eligible to receive based upon the Project. The preferred respondent would design and construct the Project. The developer will also be responsible for all equipment, materials, and services required for construction and operation of a complete operating facility.
3. **Interconnection.** NLR will supply the step-up transformer and all connections between the step-up transformer and the distribution grid. The Provider will be responsible for all equipment and connections between the step-up transformer and BESS.
4. **Submission Format.** Proposals must be submitted in the format outlined in this solicitation. Each proposal will be reviewed to determine if it is complete prior to actual scoring. Providers shall use the prescribed format to clearly indicate their experience and qualifications and describe their technical approach to this project. Submissions not containing the information requested, or in the format prescribed herein, will not be considered. Proposals will be evaluated in light of the material submitted and substantiating evidence presented in the written submission, and not on the basis of what is inferred.
5. **Contract Responsibility.** The selected provider will be required to assume total responsibility for all services offered in their submission and noted herein. The selected Provider will be considered the prime contractor and the sole point of contact with regard to all contractual matters with City of North Little Rock.
6. **Contract Insurance and Bond Requirements.** The selected Provider must conform to the following requirements. Proof of insurance coverage will be required and must be provided to City of North Little Rock at the levels indicated below before commencing any work.

- a. Auto Liability – a minimum of \$2,000,000 CSL (including owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.
- b. Commercial General liability - a minimum of \$10,000,000 limit per occurrence/aggregate; City of North Little Rock to be included as additional insured as respects this Agreement as follows: " City of North Little Rock including its current and former trustees, officers, directors, employees, volunteer workers, agents, assigns and students."
- c. Workers Compensation - Per Statue
- d. Employers Liability - \$1,000,000
- e. If applicable, City of North Little Rock will require a performance and payment bond equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the project's installation contract price.
- f. The PROVIDER shall be responsible for filing a copy of the performance and payment bond with the county after the contract has been approved by City of North Little Rock and before any work commences on the project.

**7. Taxes, Fees, Code Compliance, Licensed Contractors & Professionals.** The Provider shall be responsible for payment of any required taxes or fees associated with the execution of the work. The Provider shall be responsible for compliance with all applicable local and state codes, statutes, and licensing requirements. Engineering, design, installation and construction work shall be performed by contractors and professionals licensed to do work in Arkansas, whether said work is performed directly by employees of the Provider, or subcontractors of the Provider.

**8. References and Proprietary Information.** Submission of a response deems permission to make inquiries concerning the respondent and its officers and to any persons or firms deemed appropriate by City of North Little Rock. Proprietary information that the Provider does not want disclosed to the public shall be so identified on each page in which it is found within the submission and will be treated as such to the extent allowed by state law. Data or information so identified may be used by City of North Little Rock for the purpose of evaluation and contract negotiations.

**9. Inquiries.** Questions that arise from interested Providers prior to the submission date shall be submitted via email to ElectricRFP@nlr.ar.gov. City of North Little Rock point of contact for this project is Purchasing Manager Amy Smith. Email inquiries submitted to City of North Little Rock must contain this RFP name in the subject line. All inquiries must be received by 10:00 am on July 20, 2026 .

**10. Schedule of Events.** City of North Little Rock expects to undertake the provider selection process according to the following schedule although this is subject to change at the sole discretion of City of North Little Rock:

Request for Proposals Issued by City of North Little Rock:  
**June 20, 2026**

Statement of Qualifications Due to City of North Little Rock:  
**July 20, 2026**

City of North Little Rock's Evaluation of Provider Proposals:  
**July 20, 2026 – August 3, 2026**

Provider Selection and Notice of Intent to Award by City of North Little Rock:  
**August 10, 2026**

## Section 2 - SOQ Format Requirements

Responses must be submitted in the format outlined in this section. The intent of City of North Little Rock is that all responses follow the same format in order to evaluate each response fairly. City of North Little Rock reserves the right to eliminate from further consideration any response which is deemed to be substantially or materially unresponsive to this request.

- No later than 10:00 am on July 20, 2026 **provide three (3) printed copies of the bid response. The vendor must also provide the bid response in electronic form on a flash-drive.**

Please address all submissions accordingly:

City of North Little Rock  
ATTENTION TO: Amy Smith, Purchasing Manager  
700 W 29th Street (PO Box 5757)  
North Little Rock, AR 72114 (72119)

Proprietary information or information which, if disclosed, would give advantage to competitors or bidders ("Proprietary Information") submitted in response to this RFP will be processed in accordance with applicable Arkansas procurement procedures. Documents pertaining to the RFP become the property of City of North Little Rock and shall be open to public inspection subsequent to proposal opening. It is the responsibility of the respondent to identify all Proprietary Information. The vendor should submit one complete electronic copy of the proposal from which any Proprietary Information has been removed. The redacted copy should reflect the same pagination as the original, show the empty space from which information was redacted, and should be submitted on a flash drive, preferably in a PDF format. Except for the redacted information, the redacted copy must be identical to the original hard copy. The respondent is responsible for ensuring the redacted copy on CD/flash drive is protected against restoration of redacted data. The redacted copy will be open to public inspection under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) without further notice to the respondent. If a redacted copy is not received the entire proposal will be open to public inspection. If Arkansas deems redacted information to be subject to the FOIA, the vendor will be contacted prior to sending out the information.

- The cover page shall indicate the name, number, and due date of the City of North Little Rock RFP and the name and address of the Provider submitting the SOQ.
- Begin each section described with the appropriate heading and section number as noted below.

- Each page shall have the name of the Provider indicated clearly in the upper right corner.
- Each page shall contain City of North Little Rock RFP name and RFP number in the footer of each page.

## **Table of Contents**

Provider shall include a table of contents properly indicating sections and page numbers of requested content.

### **1. Executive Summary**

Responses shall include an abstract of no more than five (5) pages of the information presented in the Provider's proposal.

### **2. Proposed Solution**

- For each section of Appendix A - General Specifications, provide how the Respondent's solution complies with the specified requirements.
- State how much space would be required for the installation.
- Provide capabilities to expand solution if additional capacity is needed in the future.
- Detail current availability of product.
- For the selected BESS solution, provide, in GWh, the number of successful installations.
- Describe the completion and acceptance process of the installed measures and the process used to transition to operation.

### **3. Firm and Team Expertise**

- Provide a general description of the firm, including company history, pre-qualifications, and number of employees local to the Little Rock metropolitan area.
- Provide detailed information on the roles and responsibilities, degree of pertinent experience, and similar project history of each member of the respondent's team that would be working on the project with the City of North Little Rock.
- Provide information to assure City of North Little Rock that the project will survive in the event of Provider insolvency, bankruptcy, or closure.
- Detail the Respondent's ability to comply with Davis Bacon wages and BABA requirements.
- Detail the Respondent's experience successfully attaining tax credits for public entities.
- Describe your firm's experience in serving as construction manager or general contractor.
- Provide Respondent capabilities to right-size the solution after selection.

### **4. Pricing**

- Provide a lump sum price to implement the Respondent's solution. Pricing should include:
  - all necessary design and engineering,
  - supply and delivery of equipment,
  - installation of systems,

- iv. AC wiring between system and NLR-supplied step-up transformer,
  - v. commissioning,
  - vi. testing, and
  - vii. applicable taxes
- b. Specify anticipated tax credits.
- c. Provide pricing for the minimum 15-year and optional extended 20-year warranty.
- d. Provide pricing for on-going O&M and customer support.

## Section 3 – Evaluation and Selection

- 1. Evaluation Process.** City of North Little Rock will formally evaluate the submissions. Responses shall be reviewed for completeness and adherence to format requirements as indicated in this solicitation. Failure to adhere to the required format may result in disqualification. The evaluation process will objectively grade the responses on their merit and responsiveness. Responses will be evaluated considering the material and substantiating evidence presented in the response, and not on the basis of what is inferred.
- 2. Scoring of Provider's Proposal.** Each section of the Provider's proposal will be evaluated and scored according to the weights shown below. All scores will be summed to give the grand total score for the submission.
  - a. Proposed Solution - 30%**
  - b. Firm and Team Expertise - 30%**
  - c. Pricing - 40%**

## Section 4 – General Terms and Conditions

1. To be considered, proposals must be received by 10:00 am on July 20, 2026 in the number and format set forth in this solicitation. Non-responsive or incomplete submissions will not be considered. Provider submissions shall be mailed or delivered to the address listed below.

City of North Little Rock  
ATTENTION TO: Amy Smith, Purchasing Manager  
700 W 29th Street (PO Box 5757)  
North Little Rock, AR 72114 (72119)
2. The outside of all delivered documents must be labeled with the name of this RFP "RFP 26-3927 FOR BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT."
3. It shall be clearly understood that any costs incurred by the Provider in responding to this request are at the own risk and expense as a cost of doing business, and that City of North Little Rock is not liable for reimbursement to the Provider for any expense so incurred, regardless of whether the submission is accepted.

4. Any information provided herein is intended to assist the Provider in the preparation of submissions necessary to properly respond to this RFP. The RFP is designed to provide qualified Providers with sufficient information to provide a proposal but is not intended to limit a RFP's content or to exclude any relevant or essential data.
5. Respondents are required to be thoroughly familiar with the requirements herein and applicable state statutes before submitting their proposals to City of North Little Rock for consideration.
6. City of North Little Rock reserves the right to reject any and all submissions and to waive any informality if deemed in the best interest of City of North Little Rock to do so.

## Appendix A – General Specifications

The battery energy storage system (BESS) is composed of the battery module(s) and the inverter. While some specifications may apply only to the battery module(s) and some only to the inverter, these specifications are intended to apply to the energy storage system as a whole.

### 1. Size

- a. City of North Little Rock has plans to deploy a system with the following output:

Year	Minimum Power Capacity (continuous peak power)	Minimum Energy Capacity (rated energy)
15	2,700 kW	10,800 kWh

- b. City of North Little Rock is not requesting custom battery modules or inverters, but wishes to use standard vendor products to achieve the size listed above.
- c. Vendor standard products may approximate the size listed above but should be as close as possible.
- d. Any combination of standard battery modules and standard inverters to achieve this size may be submitted

### 2. Battery

- a. Containment of any potentially hazardous materials
- b. Minimum round-trip efficiency > 90%
- c. Chemistry: Lithium Iron Phosphate
- d. Capable of operating at nameplate rating for four (4) hours.

### 3. Inverter

- a. Three Phase
- b. 60Hz, 480Vac Interconnect (four- wire, 3-phase, grounded neutral)
- c. Harmonics: <5% THD



- d. Four Quadrant Control to provide or absorb real and reactive power
- e. Must provide frequency regulation capability with external references provided
- f. Must provide voltage regulation capability with external references provided
- g. Must continuously operate with Vac-rated  $\pm 10\%$  during grid-connected mode
- h. Must support custom design application profile
- i. Prefer a power ramp rate  $\geq 50$  kVA/s
- j. Must be able to sustain grid fault for a certain period (preferred time: >10 cycles) and higher than rated output current (e.g. 1.5 pu) is preferred to be generated.
- k. Must support remote operation mode selection and remote shutdown
- l. Must protect itself properly during fault and/or abnormal conditions
- m. Must deliver lifetime charge/discharge cycles greater than 4,000 for depth of discharge of 100%
- n. Must be within NEMA 3R certified enclosure for outdoor use
- o. Minimum operating temperature range -10 degrees to 120 degrees Fahrenheit

#### **4. Codes & Standards**

- a. Energy Storage System must meet the latest version of the following standards:
  - i. UL 1741
  - ii. UL 1973
  - iii. IEEE 693
  - iv. National Electric Code NFPA70
  - v. IEEE 1547

#### **5. Auxiliary Equipment**

- a. Proposals should indicate what (if any) auxiliary equipment items are included. For auxiliary equipment not integrated into the device but available for separate purchase from the vendor, provide pricing as an alternate.
- b. Proposals should also include any other device features that contribute to less costly installation.
- c. City of North Little Rock will supply the step-up transformer and all connections between the step-up transformer and distribution grid.

#### **6. Protection and Control Requirements**

An electronic controller with programmable/configurable software must be provided by the vendor.

## 7. Communication Requirements

### a. SCADA

- i. The device must support full SCADA integration using DNP 3.0 or Modbus Protocol. The following requirements must be met.
- ii. Certified to DNP3 Level 2 Conformance:
- iii. Fully customizable DNP or Modbus map (status and analogs)
- iv. Required analog points: three-phase current, three-phase voltage (both sides), total wattage, total VAR, total VA, three-phase power factor, phase angle, battery voltage, AC power, active settings profile, SoC, and a feedback value or analog output status for each setpoint and analog output required for operation of the device.
- v. Required status points – all conditions which affect operation of device, including, but not limited to, manually-controllable lockouts, hot-line tags, etc.
- vi. Any analog controls required for operation of the device must be able to be sent to the device from the SCADA master as DNP3 or Modbus analog outputs or setpoints.
  1. Setpoints sent individually to the device through SCADA point control dialog are acceptable where only a small number of operational settings are required to be sent to the device.
  2. The ability to accept groups of analog and status output controls is required where multiple operational settings must be sent to the device within a short period of time.
- vii. Configurable – analog deadbands per point
- viii. Configurable – analog scaling per point
- ix. Configurable – event class – per point or per point type (status, analog)
- x. The device must provide its own GPS time source. GPS is required for 1 milli-second sequence-of-events time stamping and for operational event analysis. A status is required to report GPS sync errors.
- xi. The device must additionally provide for configuration of NTP and DNP3 time servers as backup time sources in the event of loss of GPS time signal.
- xii. The device must be able to function as a DNP3 slave/server to a minimum of two (2) DNP3 SCADA masters.

### b. Network Communications

- i. The device must be IP addressable and capable of communicating over City of North Little Rock's fiber optic network.
- ii. The required physical interface is Ethernet which is configured as 1Gbps full duplex. City of North Little Rock would accept 100 Mbps full duplex as an alternate configuration.

### c. External upper-level controller

- i. The device must support communication with upper-level controllers using standard Protocols, e.g. CAN, RS-232, RS-485 or DNP3.0. The following requirements must be met.
  1. Provided standard communication ports.
  2. Required analog points: battery SoC, active and reactive power.
  3. Required status points – converter operating status (e.g. Run, Fault, Shutdown) and converter fault diagnosis.

## **8. Sound Requirements**

The maximum sound level generated by the BESS and any associated equipment supplied by the BESS under any output level within the BESS operating range, shall be limited to 65 dBA at 50 feet in any direction from the substation fence.

## **9. Customer Support**

- a. City of North Little Rock requires technical support from the vendor for equipment purchased and installed under this contract. Complete system functionally tests with SCADA oversight must be performed to confirm all use cases are realized. Each vendor should submit their offering for technical support.
- b. The vendor must assume responsibility for ensuring that the device interfaces efficiently and robustly with City of North Little Rock's SCADA, and communications systems. The vendor must work with City of North Little Rock personnel and with City of North Little Rock's SCADA and communications systems vendors to diagnose and resolve any failure to perform as expected.
- c. Proposals should also include whether future software / firmware upgrades are included in the cost of the equipment. If not, costs of future upgrades should be included.

## **10. Warranty**

- a. The equipment shall include, at a minimum, a fifteen-year (15) factory warranty after successful commissioning signed off by City of North Little Rock for the BESS equipment and hardware and a three-year (3) warranty after successful commissioning signed off by City of North Little Rock on control and communication equipment.
- b. The warranty must include control and communication equipment and all other accessories or auxiliary equipment purchased under this contract.
- c. Option: City of North Little Rock would like the option to purchase an extended warranty. Include the cost adder for the system to operate at nameplate rating for twenty (20) years.

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR

### 1. REJECTION

- A. The City reserves the right to reject any or all RFP's, to waive any minor informality or irregularity in any RFP, to negotiate changes and/or modifications with the lowest responsible Respondent and to make award to the response deemed to be the most advantageous to the City. Respondents shall be required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws.
  - B. The City reserves the right to cancel RFP's without penalty with it is in the best interest of the City. Notice of Cancellation shall be inserted on the City's website ([www.nlr.ar.gov](http://www.nlr.ar.gov)).
  - C. Any RFP not conforming to the specifications or requirements set forth by the City in this request may be rejected.
  - D. RFP's may be also rejected if they are made by a Respondent that is deemed un-responsible due to lack of qualifications, capacity, skill, character, experience, reliability, financial stability or quality of services, supplies, materials, equipment or labor.
  - E. The City of North Little Rock reserves the right to reject any and all RFP's, to accept in whole or in part, to waive any Informalities in RFP's received.
2. Quality, time and probability of performance may be factors in making an award.
  3. RFP's submitted will remain firm for 120 calendar days from RFP opening date.
  4. Respondent must submit a completed signed copy of the front page of the RFP and must submit any other information required in the RFP.
  5. In the event a contract is entered into pursuant to the RFP, the Respondent shall not discriminate against any qualified employee or qualified applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, creed, national origin or ancestry. The Respondent must include in any and all subcontracts a provision similar to the above.
  6. RFP's will not be considered if they are:
    1. Submitted after the RFP's opening time.
    2. Submitted electronically or faxed (unless authorized by Purchasing Manager).
  7. **AMBIGUITY IN BID** - Any ambiguity in any bid as the result of omission, error, lack of clarity or non-compliance by the Respondent with specifications, instructions, and all conditions of bidding shall be construed in the light most favorable to the City.
  8. The RFP number should be stated on the face of the sealed bid envelope. If it is not, the envelope will have to be opened to identify.
  9. The City of North Little Rock will follow procedures to check Respondent's eligibility through the federal System for Award Management (S.A.M.) as outlined in 2 C.F.R. § 200. This will be completed prior to the award of any contract in which federal grant funds will be expended.

10. Respondents acknowledge and understand that upon award of the winning RFP, the Respondent will be required to review and sign a contract with the City of North Little Rock, which will contain additional terms and conditions, prior to providing any services to the City. In the event of any discrepancy or contradiction between the RFP documents, Terms and Conditions or other such documents, the provisions in the contract shall take precedence.
11. Additional information or bid forms may be obtained from:

COMMERCE DIVISION, 700 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 5757 (72119), North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114  
(501) 975-8881 [www.nlr.ar.gov](http://www.nlr.ar.gov)

**Documents must be submitted on or before the RFP's opening date and time. Unless noted, proposals must be sealed and mailed or delivered to:**

**Amy Smith, Purchasing Manager  
Commerce Division  
700 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
North Little Rock, AR 72114**

The City of North Little Rock is committed to fair and equal opportunity in employment and service delivery regardless of race, color religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, or veteran status. This policy statement reinforces and communicates that commitment to employees.