

City working toward getting out of trash business

By Jim Thaxton

FALMOUTH — The concept of possibly “getting out of the trash business” has been a topic of discussion during recent City Council meetings. Council viewed outsourcing as potentially saving the city money, freeing up employees to attend to other city needs, saving maintenance costs and reducing other costs.

To check this theory, the council sent out a request for bids.

Rumpke waste hauling services was the only company to respond. Rumpke’s bid contained several favorable proposals, not the least was their monthly fee would be the same or less than what the city’s predicted rate increase, council members stated.

Rumpke’s proposal outlined an “easy transition to commercial customers.” The city would continue to add the trash collection to residential utility bills and reimburse Rumpke for their services.

Rumpke offered to bid on existing city dumpsters and the city’s garbage truck. The Rumpke bid also included picking up trash at the various city departments.

Council recognized that there were a few more details to work out. If Coun-

cil is satisfied with a final agreement and votes to accept it, Rumpke will take over trash collection in the city Jan. 1.

Council turned its attention to possibly replacing the city’s diesel dump truck with a gas powered one. The new diesel dump truck is having diesel particulate filter issues. DPF issues in diesel trucks include clogging that reduces engine power, decreases fuel economy and lights up the dashboard with warning lights.

The truck is still under warranty and the problem can be fixed at no cost, the problem would persist.

One of the major causes of DPF is short trips and long idles. This is exactly the kind of use the city dump truck gets, hence the decision to replace it with a gas-powered dump truck.

Council decided to make good use of the warranty and explore the most cost-effective way to replace it with a gas-powered dump truck to avoid the DPF repairs and downtime.

Council tabled the discussion until after the DPF problem is fixed while the vehicle is still under warranty.

In other council business:

- City Attorney Steve Doan conducted the first reading of Ordinance

2025-12 setting the 2025 tax rate providing for the annual assessment of all real estate and personal tangible property, including motor vehicles. The tax assessment would apply to fiscal year 2025-26.

Section 1 gives authority to the Pendleton County property valuation administrator to conduct the annual assessment.

Section 2 levies .6 dollars per \$100 valuation on all real property, and an ad valorem tax of .704 per \$100 valuation on all personal/tangible property and motor vehicles will be taxed at .204 of \$100 valuation.

Section 3 lets the city place a lien and cover any expenses incurred on properties delinquent in tax payments.

Section 4 all taxes collected will be placed and used according to the purposes of the General Fund of the city.

Section 5 states that if anything above is invalid by law that which is legal will still remain effective.

Section 6 states that provisions or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Since this was the first reading, Council did not vote on the Ordinance.

- Council addressed res-

olution 08.21.25.1 giving the mayor the authority to execute and submit an application through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

Mayor Sabrina Hazen has been working closely with the Northern Kentucky Area Development District identifying potential sources of grant money available to help Falmouth maintain and improve the city’s infrastructure. This resolution authorizes her to

apply for one of the identified grants.

- The Kentucky Emergency Management: State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement was tabled until the next meeting as was addressing the Utility Extension Policy.
- Council approved applying to the Adam R. Scripps Foundation Grant to cover infrastructure and sending out a Request for Qualifications for engineering firms to help the

city identify infrastructure priorities.

For a better understanding of the details of foundation grant opportunity the mayor set a special meeting of council for 6 p.m. Sept. 4.

- Council discussed surplus items and how best to dispose of them. No action was taken.
- Sept. 29 — the last Monday of the month — is set aside for large garbage item pickup.

CITY OF FALMOUTH

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Issue Date: August 21, 2025

Proposal Due Date: September 5, 2025, 4:30 p.m. EST

INVITATION TO SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Falmouth, Kentucky (the “City”) hereby requests qualifications for General Engineering Services specific to infrastructure projects.

This invitation is restricted to services for the City’s infrastructure needs and proposals with respect to other agencies or projects shall not be submitted. Proposals are invited from licensed Professional Engineers or engineering firms that can comply with all requirements.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) contains specific submission requirements, general scope of service requirements, as well as terms, conditions, and other pertinent information necessary for submitting a proposal. Interested firms can obtain the Request for Qualifications package beginning August 25, 2025, on the City website www.cityoffalmouth.com or by calling (859) 654-6937 to request a copy to be mailed.

Questions and inquiries should be directed via email only to: Sabrina Hazen at shazen@cityoffalmouth.com. Proposals must be received by the City on or before September 5, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. (EST). Proposals will only be accepted electronically.

The successful firm will have a working knowledge of the City’s infrastructure programs, policies, procedures, and funding sources, enabling them to provide recommendations on infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, water systems, sewer systems, and stormwater management. The firm should also have a working knowledge of state and federal regulations governing municipal infrastructure, including but not limited to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) standards, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines.

CITY FORMATION AND DESCRIPTION

The City of Falmouth in Pendleton County is accepting qualifications for engineering services to support the City’s infrastructure projects. The selected engineer or firm will be responsible for providing professional engineering services related to the planning, design, and oversight of infrastructure improvements.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The City intends to award a contract to a qualified Professional Engineer or engineering firm to provide the services below necessary for the operation and improvement of the City’s infrastructure. The selected engineer or firm should, at a minimum, be able to provide the following services:

1. Planning, design, and engineering for infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, water distribution systems, wastewater treatment facilities, and stormwater management systems;

2. Preparation of technical specifications, construction drawings, and bid documents in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations;

3. Project management, including cost estimation, scheduling, and coordination with contractors and regulatory agencies;

4. Compliance with all reporting and permitting requirements pursuant to KRS 83A.085, KYTC standards, EPA regulations, and other applicable statutes;

5. Performance of construction oversight, inspections, and quality assurance for infrastructure projects;

6. Provision of recommendations for infrastructure maintenance and capital improvement planning.

A contract for services shall be for 1 year with the option to renew for additional one-year contracts if it is determined to be mutually beneficial to both parties.

It is essential that the engineer or firm selected has the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to implement all aspects of the work. All work is to be performed with the highest degree of professional standards, in compliance with City procedures, criteria, and requirements, and federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

SUBMISSION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Proposals must be received by the City on or before September 5, 2025, at 4:30 PM EST. Submit by email to shazen@cityoffalmouth.com

RESPONSES SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. Geographic Location and Accessibility

State the full name and address of your organization and, if applicable, the branch office that will perform the work on this project. Thoroughly explain what steps will be taken to enhance accessibility and to minimize potential problems in the areas of availability for meetings, general communications, coordination, and sharing of information to meet performance requirements, supervision, and expenses.

2. Past Performance on Similar Assignments

The City seeks an engineering firm with extensive experience working on municipal infrastructure projects. List your organization’s previous experience with public agencies and infrastructure-related engineering services. Provide an overview of governmental entities that your firm has served and what services were provided, with an emphasis on roads, bridges, water, wastewater, and stormwater projects.

3. Lead Engineer, Key Personnel, and Cost

Identify the “Lead Engineer” and describe their experience with similar public agency/infrastructure projects. Identify other key personnel with your firm who will work on the contract along with their experience. The City anticipates entering into an agreement based upon a fee-for-service model. Candidates are required to submit current hourly fees for the parties who will be providing services.

4. References

Include a list of references pertaining to the engineer or firm’s performance in projects of a similar type, scale, and complexity. Candidates must submit at least three (3) references. The Candidate’s risk of nonperformance or poor performance will be evaluated based on reference checks. The evaluation will take into account the currency, context, and relevancy of information examined, as well as general trends in the Candidate’s performance.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by the City Council/Mayor.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject in part, or reject all proposals, to waive any informalities, or to re-solicit new proposals. The City may also reject any proposals that are incomplete or non-responsive and any proposals that are submitted after the deadline.

The Mayor shall make the selection based upon the following criteria:

1. Ability of the engineer or firm to perform the required tasks in a timely manner;

2. Experience of the candidate in municipal infrastructure projects;

3. Engineering services performed for other governmental units, particularly related to infrastructure;

4. A brief profile of the engineer or firm’s history, principals, and staff;

5. Understanding of the City’s infrastructure needs and operations;

6. Schedule of Fees/Costs;

7. Availability and accessibility by the City Executive Director and senior staff, especially during key project phases;

8. References.

On-site interviews may or may not be conducted. Upon completion of scoring all responses, the review committee may determine the need for project-specific discussions to be conducted. Should this occur, formal notification will be issued to the affected parties. All candidates will be notified of the outcome of this process.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Candidate warrants that to the best of their knowledge and belief and except as otherwise disclosed, they do not have any organizational conflict of interest. Conflict of interest is defined as a situation in which the nature of work under this contract and the Candidate’s organizational, financial, contractual, or other interests are such that:

1. Award of the contract may result in an unfair competitive advantage; or

2. The Candidate’s objectivity in performing the contract work may be impaired.

In the event the Candidate has an organizational conflict of interest as defined herein, they shall disclose such conflict of interest fully in the proposal submission.

The Candidate agrees that if after award they discover an organizational conflict of interest with respect to this contract, they shall make an immediate and full disclosure in writing to the Executive Director, which shall include a description of the action which the Candidate has taken or intends to take to eliminate or neutralize the conflict. The City may, however, terminate the contract if it is in its best interest.

In the event the Candidate was aware of an organizational conflict of interest before the award of this contract and intentionally did not disclose the conflict to the Executive Director, the City may terminate the contract for default.

The provisions of this clause shall be included in all subcontracts and consulting agreements wherein the work to be performed is similar to the service provided by the Candidate. The Candidate shall include in such subcontracts and consulting agreements any necessary provisions to eliminate or neutralize conflicts of interest.

No elected official shall be allowed to share any or part of this contract or to derive any benefit to arise therefrom. This provision shall be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

The City reserves total discretion to determine the proper treatment of any conflict of interest disclosed under this provision.

AWARDS

A contract shall be awarded based upon the criteria stated herein. The City reserves the right to negotiate and award any element of this RFQ, to reject any or all proposals, or to waive any minor irregularities or technicalities in proposals received as the best interest of the City.

CONTRACT/AWARD

The Contract for General Engineering Services as requested in this RFQ document will be subject to the approval of the City Council.

This RFQ will result in a fixed-fee-per-hour contract, the terms of which will be negotiated between the City and the selected Candidate. The contract shall commence on the date specified therein and shall terminate upon completion of all services required pursuant to the contract unless terminated as provided therein.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

As an equal opportunity employer, the City prohibits all forms of illegal discrimination. The City will implement its policies and practices in accordance with laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination based on or because of age, race, religion, national origin, disability, HIV or AIDS, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, voting, political affiliation, veteran or military status, gender identity, gender-nonconformity, or any other legally protected classification. These policies are also followed with regard to hiring of contractors for professional services.

Firms are required to include proof of insurance coverage for errors and omissions and professional liability insurance. The insurance must be from a company rated A or better according to A.M. Best. The minimum coverage shall be \$1,000,000. The candidate selected will be required to submit an original certificate of insurance as evidence of such coverage listing both the owner and project manager as additional insureds.

School board gives congrats; reports growing attendance

By Burton Cole

BUTLER — The Pendleton County Board of Education greeted its new student board member while also bidding farewell to district retirees during its Aug. 18 meeting at Sharp Middle School.

Ava Wood, a senior from Butler, is this school year’s student representative to the Board of Education.

She is a member of the Young Scholars Program and intends to study occupational therapy next year at Northern Kentucky University.

Wood said accepted the post as student board member because it is a good opportunity and for a new experience.

Board President Cheri Griffin said, “I want to welcome Ava. I look forward to all her contributions to the board this year.”

Wood joined board members in recognizing district employees retiring this year: Andrea Smith, 30 years; Lisa Hart, 27 years; Gena Lea, 26 years; Karen Beagle, 26 years; Phillip Dewald, 22.5 years; Cindy Cummins, 16 years; Steve Harper, 13 years; Rhonda Crockett, nine years; and Dea Hackett, five years.

“That’s a combined 174.5 years of service,” Su-

perintendent Joe Buerkley said, as he thanked retirees.

In other business:

- Buerkley told the board that district enrollment as of Aug. 18 is 2,046 students, which is more than the projected enrollment of 2,033.
- “That is good news,” Buerkley said. “That stops the bleeding.”
- He noted that enrollment had been declining the last few years, so the upturn is good.
- Buerkley also told board members, “This has been an amazing start to the school year, from morning arrivals to afternoon dismissal.”
- The board approved a real estate tax of 61 cents per \$100 of assessed value, a decrease from the 61.6 cents rate from last year. Last year’s rate also was a decrease from the previous year, Buerkley said.
- “It’s amazing that we can do that and still do all that we do,” Griffin said.
- Buerkley said, “We’re always pleased when we can enhance opportunities for our students and staff while also reducing costs for our community.”
- He noted that the commonwealth will add .02 cents to the rate to recover prior year losses.

- The board approved drawing up bid documents to install tennis courts behind the middle school cafeteria. The district is considering building its own tennis courts rather than using the ones on Woodson Road in Falmouth.
- Shonda Justus, president of the teachers union, reviewed highlights of Kentucky Education Association activities of the last school year, including campaigning for the defeat of State Issue 2, celebrating American Education Week, attending leadership conferences and marking Teacher Appreciation Week.
- The board congratulated members of the Sharp Middle School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America team for their showings at state and national competitions.

Members were Jackson Jacobs, state winner and Top 10 finalist at nationals; Kenzie King, Abigail Patton and Levi Wolfe, state winners and national competitors; Madeline Buerkley, Power of One achievement; and Kendal Cummins, Anna Hegyi, River Tucker, Elias Biddle, Zoey Smith, Xavier Blackburn and Shiloh Williams, state competitors.

Fire chief appointed Butler risk manager

By Nila Harris

BUTLER — City Council met in a special meeting Aug. 11 to discuss the city risk manager position and consideration for a loan/grant funding opportunity for the city.

The council appointed North Pendleton Fire Department Chief Adam Fuller as the city risk manager to oversee emergency management strategies and recovery within all relevant departments.

His job will include the development of a city emergency plan, identify-

ing risks and mitigating them, serving as a liaison to city council, managing emergency situations, coordinating agencies, and overseeing emergency communications and protocols.

Fuller has five-plus years working in emergency management. His appointment will help reduce safety and liability risks, Mayor Mason Taylor said.

Also during the meeting, Tami Vater, county economic and tourism development director, informed Taylor about a loan/grant funding opportunity.

An anonymous donor has offered a \$1.9 million funding opportunity to be used for public safety, community development and/or infrastructure.

The city would be required to maintain a \$900,000 loan with the entity at an interest rate of 2.5%.

Loan repayments will be reinvested into the fund, facilitating future grant opportunities for Butler.

The council gave executive authority to the mayor to explore options of this grant opportunity.

Kincaid plans Boston Steele Day Craft Fair

FALMOUTH — The Partners of Kincaid Lake State Park will host their annual Boston Steele Day Craft Fair 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 20 in the park Conference Center.

Crafty people looking to sell their treasures may call Gail Farwell at 859-427-5277 for an application or to answer questions.

Boston Steele Day is a craft fair the Partners started in 1980. All proceeds go to the Park Enhancement Fund.