

# Request for Proposal (RFP)

## Lump Sum



Title:	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES - LUMP SUM
Open Date:	June 8, 2026
Close Date:	July 3, 2026
Close Time:	Close of Business Day
Contact:	Vegetation Program Manager – Talley Floyd   E: <a href="mailto:TalleyFloyd@mte.com">TalleyFloyd@mte.com</a> Vegetation Management Support Specialist – Ashley Fetzer   <a href="mailto:AshleyFetzer@mte.com">AshleyFetzer@mte.com</a>

### INTRODUCTION

MTE is an electric distribution company providing electric service to residential and commercial/industrial members primarily in the service territory of Rutherford, Williamson, Wilson, and Cannon counties. MTE is a 501(C)(12) non-profit, member-owned cooperative whose mission statement is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electricity and outstanding member service.

#### **A. SCOPE OF SERVICES**

MTE is requesting proposals from contractors with the intent of awarding a contract for **vegetation management services** as defined by the scope of work on the attached **Exhibit A**. The work will be performed in the designated MTE service territory in the counties and regions pursuant to a work plan for each year of the agreement. Maps of the subject areas are available in hard copy upon request. Maps of the subject areas are available in hard copy upon request.

Work Plan Year	County	Region(s)	Estimate Miles
2027			

#### **B. CONTRACT TERMS**

The selected vendor will provide the services on a non-exclusive basis and will enter a Vegetation Management Agreement with MTE pursuant to MTE’s Standard Terms and Conditions, which may be found at [TC](#). The agreement will specify that services must be complete by the end of the designated Work Plan year, as applicable, or the contractor will be required to pay MTE \$500 per day for each and every day that the services are not complete (“Liquidated Damages”). FEMA financial assistance may be used to fund all or a portion of the agreement. Therefore, the selected vendor must agree to comply with the FEMA Emergency and Exigency Contract Requirements as described in 2 CFR §200.321. The selected vendor shall not subcontract any work or assign the agreement to any other party, except on prior express permission by MTE.

#### **C. RESERVATIONS**

MTE reserves the right to:

1. Reject any proposal that is not received by the response deadline or is otherwise nonresponsive to the RFP.
2. Reject any or all proposals submitted in response to the RFP.
3. Withdraw the RFP at any time and for any reason.
4. Make multiple or partial bid awards.
5. Use the contractor on an as-needed, where-needed basis.

**D. EVALUATION & BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT**

1. MTE reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, including without limitations, nonconforming, nonresponsive, or conditional Proposals. MTE will reject the Proposal that (MTE) finds, after reasonable inquiry and evaluation, not to be responsive.
2. If MTE awards the contract for the work, it will be based on a qualitative evaluation process. MTE will award the contract to the bidder responsible whose proposal is most advantageous to MTE, considering price and other factors such as experience and safety record. MTE, in its sole discretion, will accept the proposal that best serves its interests.
3. The Evaluation Committee will evaluate each proposal to determine whether the minimum criterion is met and the degree to which the proposal is responsive to the requirements. The MTE Evaluation Committee will consist of the Vice President of Operations, the Vegetation Program Manager, and other MTE designees.

**E. INSURANCE**

Vendor shall be responsible for worker’s compensation, property damage, and public liability insurance to insure its activities for the entire period when any work is being performed under this agreement pursuant to the terms and minimum limits as set forth below. MTE shall be named as an additional insured on all appropriate policies, and Vendor shall provide a waiver of subrogation on appropriate policies. Certificate of said insurance showing Vendor has retained coverage shall be provided to MTE in writing.

General Public Liability – Bodily Injury and Property Damage	\$5,000,000
Automobile - Bodily Injury and Property Damage	\$5,000,000
Workmen’s Compensation	statutory limits
Employers’ Liability	\$1,000,000

**F. INQUIRIES, SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINE**

1. All inquiries regarding the meaning or the intent of the RFP are to be submitted in writing via email to: Vegetation Program Manager Talley Floyd | Email: [talleyfloyd@mte.com](mailto:talleyfloyd@mte.com) with a copy to Vegetation Management Support Specialist Ashley Fetzer | Email: [ashleyfetzer@mte.com](mailto:ashleyfetzer@mte.com).
2. To submit a proposal, complete and submit the information requested in **Schedules 1 & 2** linked hereto and submit by the deadline.
3. The deadline to submit a proposal is: **July 3, 2026.**

**\*\*Proposals received after the date and time prescribed for the delivery will be rejected.**

## EXHIBIT A

### Scope of Work

#### 1. Work Plan Administration

The Contractor shall prune and/or remove trees in accordance with the Work Plan. MTE's Vegetation Management Specialist shall administer and interpret the Work Plan at their sole discretion.

MTE will determine:

- The geographic work areas
- The sequencing and staging of work
- Specific tree work requirements

The Contractor shall comply with all directions provided within the Work Plan.

#### 2. Vegetation Pruning and Removal Requirements

##### 2.1 Clearance Standards

All tree-pruning and removals shall achieve the following minimum clearances unless otherwise specified in writing by MTE:

- Primary conductors: Twenty feet (20') on both sides of the line, ground to sky
- Open wire secondary: Treated the same as primary conductors
- Service lines: Five feet (5') clearance from service conductors

##### Exceptions:

- Service line clearance may be waived only if the property owner submits an MTE-approved written waiver.
- MTE reserves sole discretion to approve or deny such waivers.

##### 2.2 Pruning Standards

- MTE will determine the appropriate pruning method based on tree health, structure, and system requirements.
- Lateral pruning shall be the primary method, performed in accordance with ANSI standards.
- If MTE determines that additional pruning or removal is required after initial work, the Contractor shall complete such work as directed.

#### 3. Tree Removal and Stump Treatment

- All removed trees shall be cut flush with the ground unless otherwise directed by MTE.
- The Contractor shall treat all stumps with an approved herbicide mixture (e.g., Garlon, Stalker, marker dye, and basal oil), supplied by the Contractor.
- Dead, defective, and fast-growing trees shall be removed as directed by MTE, whether located on or off the right-of-way.

#### 4. Danger Tree Mitigation ("Make Safe" Work)

##### 4.1 Rural Right-of-Way

Danger tree mitigation typically occurs in the rural ROW, involving trees that may be outside MTE's 40' easement and may include:

- Use of mechanical side trimmers, bucket trucks, or similar equipment
- Removal of upper portions of trees that pose a risk to overhead lines

All cuts shall ensure:

- The tree can no longer fall into or contact power lines
- The remaining portion will not reach conductors upon eventual failure

##### 4.2 Non-Rural / Yard Trees

- Danger trees located in residential or developed areas shall be fully removed under standard removal pricing.
- Stump grinding is typically required for these removals.

## 5. Non-Rural Area Work

MTE may require work in urban, residential, or commercial areas (“non-rural areas”).

- Work in these areas may be scheduled during leaf-off conditions at MTE’s discretion.
- MTE will provide a detailed Work Plan identifying trees to be pruned or removed.
- The Contractor shall strictly adhere to the Work Plan.

## 6. Equipment Requirements and Restrictions

- All equipment must be maintained in safe, operable, and presentable condition.
- Acceptable equipment includes, but is not limited to: bucket trucks, Jarraff units, skid mowers, and hand tools.
- Use of Jarraff, skid mowers, or similar mechanical equipment in non-rural areas requires prior written approval from MTE.

Additional requirements:

- Any stub created by mechanical equipment must be cut flush to the ground and removed.
- The Contractor shall provide reliable communication (radio or telephone) between crews and MTE at all times.

## 7. Crew Requirements

- Each crew or working unit, including those operating mechanized equipment, shall include at least one (1) fluent English-speaking individual.

## 8. Debris Disposal and Site Restoration

The Contractor shall:

- Remove and dispose of all debris daily, including brush, limbs, logs, wood, and leaves
- Cut wood into firewood lengths, logs, or posts when directed by MTE

## Stump Grinding and Cleanup

- All stumps and associated debris shall be removed within one (1) week of tree removal, weather permitting
- This requirement primarily applies to residential or maintained areas
- Stump grinding in rural ROW shall only occur when explicitly designated by MTE

## 9. Work Progress and Scheduling

The Contractor shall maintain consistent production throughout the contract term.

### 9.1 Progress Tracking

- MTE will track work completion based on completed work packets
- Lump sum contract progress must align with the contract timeline

### 9.2 Performance Standard

- Work completion shall be within  $\pm 5\%$  of the elapsed contract time
- Failure to meet this requirement may result in MTE assigning additional resources to meet schedule demands

### 9.3 Work Distribution

- Work shall be evenly distributed throughout the year
- Accelerated completion is not permitted without prior written approval
- MTE reserves the right to reject early completion requests if deemed detrimental