

The Bids are in for Shared Services

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Ed Moorhouse

Staff Writer

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MEDFORD LAKES - The Borough Council has received six bid proposals from consulting firms interested in performing a feasibility study for shared police services.

No contract has been awarded yet as the proposals are being reviewed, officials said during a meeting Wednesday.

The bids range from \$28,000 to \$64,000, Borough Manager Geoffrey Urbanik said Wednesday. He said the contract will not necessarily be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Mayor Paul Weiss said the proposals will first be reviewed by the Borough Council, Urbanik and Police Chief Frank Martine to determine which one best falls in line with their expectations.

"We'll score the proposals and make an award based on who scores the highest," Weiss said Wednesday.

The proposals were submitted to the borough clerk on Tuesday.

The consulting firm that is awarded the contract will perform a study to determine if sharing police services with neighboring Medford would work for the borough.

Officials said the borough has completed an application for a Sharing Available Resources Efficiently grant from the state Department of Community Affairs.

The department's SHARE program provides assistance to local governments to help them study or implement regional service agreements, or coordinate programs and services.

According to the agency's Web site, feasibility study grants of up to \$20,000 provide assistance with planning and developing shared services.

The Borough Council has been exploring ways to share police services as a cost-saving initiative since January. Officials have said they also are exploring various other ways to save money.

Last month, the Borough Council turned down Medford's initial shared-services proposal and instead opted to first do a study.

Bordentown City and Bordentown Township, and North Hanover and Springfield also plan to study a police department merger.

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