Quote is valid for 90 days

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</tbody>
</table>
Fwd: **Urgent** Request to Use DOH Emergency LPD

Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>
To: Kevin Anderson <kevinmanderson@utah.gov>

FYI

Steven Phillips, CPA
Assistant Finance Director
Utah Department of Health
Cell (801) 558-3697

Forwarded Conversation
Subject: **Urgent** Request to Use DOH Emergency LPD

From: Melissa Corona <melissacorona@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 12:15 PM
To: Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>
Cc: Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov>, Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>

Good Afternoon,
We are requesting the use of the Department's emergency LPD to purchase Pipette tips for multiple areas of the lab for testing including COVID-19 under the Admin Code for emergency procurements R33-8-401-(3)(a)(vi).

Due to the high demand of pipette tips across the country, and the fact that the manufacturers still can't keep up, most vendors are limiting order quantities and giving us long lead times. Some vendors have even stated that they are unable to fulfill an order if you have not ordered from them previously to be able to serve their current customers needs. We have done extensive research to find other vendors to procure pipette tips from. We've placed small orders with multiple vendors. Some of the tips we've received do not work as the vendor described, some work fine but we were only able to order in a very small quantity due to their low inventory, and some vendors just procure their tips from Mettler Toledo Rainin (the main vendor we have always purchased tips from) and they tell us the tips will be on backorder for a long period of time. We were able to identify one vendor that has a large inventory of tips - Veritas. They have a shipment ready of 6 pallets of tips that they can send us immediately. We sent the quote to the lab staff to confirm the tips were the correct type and size of tips that we need - and they have confirmed they are the correct tips. We believe this order, in combination with the allocation of tips we receive from Mettler Toledo Rainin, will be able to keep the lab stocked with pipette tips so that we do not have to slow down operations. Attached is the quote for your reference. Please confirm if you approve this emergency procurement request at promptly as possible.

Best Regards
Melissa Corona - Purchasing Agent I
Unified Public Health Laboratories
4431 South 2700 West
Taylorsville, Utah 84129
Direct Line: (801) 965-2404
melissacorona@utah.gov

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Why didn't we do this earlier if it was such a crisis? I'm not understanding. Why couldn't we go through the PO process? This is very surprising to me that we've gotten this far with this issue.

This is the first time we were able to find a vendor who had tips available in a large quantity.

--
Regards,

Robert Paul
UPHL Finance Manager
(801) 965-3896
rpaul@utah.gov

When did you find the vendor and how long have you been looking?

We found Veritas late last month and didn't get a confirmation from them that they had a big supply of inventory they could send us till last week. We then had to confirm with multiple people throughout the lab that the tips could work for our various testing needs. That took them time because they wanted to do their due diligence since we have been burned in the past with tips that did not end up working.

We have been looking for tips since November - which was the first time we were starting to have a problem with getting enough tips to keep up with testing. Believe me, Shari - we have been working diligently to keep inventory supplies stocked. It has just been very difficult since these types of problems end up having a ripple effect on other areas of the lab that have nothing to do with COVID testing.

Ok, thanks for the info. Just a heads up. State Purchasing is very reluctant to allow an emergency purchase.
Yes- I know this is something that is highly scrutinized and I appreciate your help with this.

Best Regards  
Melissa Corona - Purchasing Agent I  
Unified Public Health Laboratories  
4431 South 2700 West  
Taylorsville, Utah 84129  
Direct Line: (801) 965-2404  
melissacorona@utah.gov

Shari,

I can't tell from your last email if you are saying yes, no or contact state purchasing.

Steven Phillips, CPA  
Assistant Finance Director  
Utah Department of Health  
Cell (801) 558-3697

We have a meeting in 20 minutes with State Purchasing leadership to discuss this and other supply chain management issues. I was hoping we'd have a decision on the request before the meeting. I'd sure appreciate it if this is something you could give us an answer on before then, but I understand if you're not able to.
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 4:17 PM
To: Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov>
Cc: Melissa Corona <melissacorona@utah.gov>, Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>

I'm fine with it if UC and State Purchasing approve.

--------
From: Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 4:24 PM
To: Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>

Yes, it's ok to contact State Purchasing.

--------
From: Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 4:42 PM
To: Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>
Cc: Melissa Corona <melissacorona@utah.gov>, Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>

Are you the one who seeks approval from UC and State Purchasing or is that something I need to do? It isn't something I have done in the past so I am unfamiliar with it.

--------
From: Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 5:01 PM
To: Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov>
Cc: Melissa Corona <melissacorona@utah.gov>, Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>

How are you paying for this?

Sent from my iPhone

       On Jan 25, 2021, at 4:42 PM, Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov> wrote:

--------
From: Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 6:03 PM
To: Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>
Cc: Melissa Corona <melissacorona@utah.gov>, Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>

With PPP funds. It is part of the cost that goes into a COVID test.

--------
From: Shari Watkins <swatkins@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 6:45 PM
To: Robert Paul <rpaul@utah.gov>
Cc: Melissa Corona <melissacorona@utah.gov>, Steven Phillips <stevenphillips@utah.gov>
Then it doesn't have to go through UC again. Let's try not to do any emergency purchases in the future. They just get so much scrutiny.

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2 attachments

- Veritas Quote 1-24-21.pdf
  149K

- Quote 22555 Veritas 01-25-2021.pdf
  254K
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<td>$204,060.89</td>
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To: State Purchasing

From: Shari Watkins

Subject: Emergency Procurement 1/25/2021

The Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) performs multiple tests that require the use of Pipette tips. Due to the high demand nationally of these tips the lab is having a difficult time being able to purchases these pipette tips and many vendors are on backorder. The UPHL was getting to the point where they were low on tips and would have had to slow operations if they couldn’t find more. The UPHL found a vendor with a large quantity – Veritas. The tips were in such high demand that in the time that it took UPHL to verify that the pipette tips were the correct ones Veritas had to reduce the number of tips they could provide. On January 25, 2021 the UPHL asked for authorization to use the Executive Director’s Emergency Procurement LPD to purchase $204,060.89 in supplies to ensure that testing would not be delayed. As a designee of the Executive Director, I reviewed and approved the request that day. I determined that the situation met the requirements of an emergency procurement, specifically R33-8-401(3)(a)(vi):

(3) An emergency procurement may only be used when circumstances create harm or risk of harm to public health, welfare, safety, or property.
   (a) Circumstances that may create harm or risk to health, welfare, safety, or property include:
      (vii) events that impair the ability of a public entity to function or perform required services.

The UPHL is working with State Purchasing to try to source these for future procurements and also is working to complete a contract with Metler Toledo Rainin.