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GS 2020.00
Nov 4, 2020

Re: Simpson County Board of Education

This memo is to serve as a written reply of interest in the advertised request for qualifications for the Simpson County Board of Education's planning and design services. We are pleased to offer services for the design of your projects ranging from small remodeling to larger scale additions and alterations.

As a life-long resident of Franklin and a graduate of Franklin Simpson High School I can appreciate the growth and improvement of the facilities throughout the campuses in Simpson County. I can also appreciate the daunting process of developing a schedule of projects to achieve a larger, long-term goal. During my undergraduate career and through my time as an instructor at Western Kentucky University, I was able to participate in the patient practice of campus planning and the contrasting fast-paced design-build projects. These ranged from schematic designs of new buildings, landscaping, and parking structures to hands on renovations of existing spaces such as the graduate library renovation at the Raymond Cravens Library. I was also fortunate to participate in the maintenance and publication of the WKU Campus Master Plan for 7 years.


While earning my Masters of Architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design, I started the design company I have today and began to complete residential and small commercial projects in Franklin and in Savannah, Georgia. When I returned home in 2011, I supplemented Graf Studio with Graf Construction and hired my first employees. Today we design 50-75 projects per year and build 10-15 buildings in an approximate 100 mile radius.

I currently have 10 employees ranging from drafting and design to field supervision. We typically run as the chief design professional of our projects and supplement our design team with engineering services including: civil, mechanical, and structural engineering. We routinely offer bid services and construction administration to see the design through fruition. One such example is the Morgantown City Hall renovation we completed in 2019. For this project we supplied the city with architectural drawings, engineering drawings, bid services to seek out and select the best bid, and our supervision through the construction process. This involvement often includes materials selections, job site inspections, pay request review, and general day-to-day project execution with the general contractor. Similar projects with that structure in the last 12 months are: Compton and Compton Eye Care in Franklin, Franklin Bank & Trust on Lover's Lane in Bowling Green, War Memorial Apartments in Scottsville, and 2 recent fraternity houses at WKU.

We work routinely with large construction firms in Nashville on our hotel and mixed use projects, and we have completed a number of renovation projects to retrofit accessible design for public projects. At the moment we are coordinating building design requirements with the State of Tennessee's Department of Human Services and we are working with Kentucky's Housing, Buildings, and Construction on an International Center in southern Kentucky as well as an educational project in Bowling Green. So, while I'm familiar with local trades in the Franklin area, I feel that I can also provide the Board my experience in coordinating large teams, state jurisdictions, and care to detail for our County's existing facilities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone or email.

Regards,


Lee Ross Dinwiddie, president