

# TOWN OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA

## REQUESTS PROPOSALS

for

## Firearms Broker Services

### Request for Proposals Firearms Broker Services

The Town of Amherst seeks proposals from qualified individuals and companies to assist in the sale of a 1942 Thompson machine gun.

The full Request for Proposals document is available online at [www.amherstva.gov](http://www.amherstva.gov) and in the Amherst Town Hall during normal working hours. Questions should be directed to [townhall@amherstva.gov](mailto:townhall@amherstva.gov); responses will be made by email which will become public information and shared with all potential proposers.

Proposals are due in the Town Hall (174 S. Main Street; P.O. Box 280; Amherst, VA 24521) by 4:00 PM on February 16, 2016.

Issue Date: January 18, 2016

Proposals Due: February 16, 2016 - 4:00 PM

Anticipated Award Date: March 10, 2016

### General Information

The Town of Amherst (Town) hereby solicits proposals from qualified firearms brokers with experience in selling weapons similar to Thompson machine guns.

The Town owns a 1942-vintage Thompson submachine gun as evidenced by the attached "Form 5" certificate from 1961. As the old weapon has no practical use to the Town, the Town desires to dispose of it to (a) eliminate the problem of secure storage and risk of theft and (b) to obtain cash to be used to fund Town services. It is understood that proceeds will be directed to the Amherst Police Department which faces major expenses in the coming years that might include body cameras and the associated data storage, in-car computer systems and hiring and gear for additional personnel.

The Town's goals for this matter would be, in descending order:

- i. Entering into a process that will result in the legal sale of the weapon,
- ii. A sale that is open to all interested purchasers (i.e. auction or other high bid procedure), and then
- iii. Maximizing the Town's net proceeds, far preferably in the form of cash instead of store credit.

The Town of Amherst, population 2,231, is located between Lynchburg and Charlottesville. It serves as the county seat for Amherst County and is the home of Sweet Briar College. The Town provides zoning, water and sewer utility, contract curbside refuse collection, police and economic development services.

### Statement of Expected Qualifications

It is expected that proposers will demonstrate expertise and experience in firearms sales.

The following characteristics of a broker are desired:

- a. A licensed and otherwise qualified firearms dealer with good experience in gun laws and associated processes and paperwork.
- b. Experience in offering firearms for sale and an understanding that the Town envisions an auction/high bid process versus any direct sale/noncompetitive arrangement.
- c. Experience in marketing firearms via the internet, such as posting on web sites and email to known interested purchasers of specialty items.
- d. Understanding the principals of conflict of interest – i.e. auctioneers should not bid on the items they are trying to sell.
- e. Location of the place of business where the weapon would be shown in the following order of preference: inside Region 2000, inside Virginia, a location closest to the Town of Amherst.

### Criteria for Selection

The Town will evaluate each proposal in order to select a firm to enter into a contract for service. All proposals submitted will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Compliance with the RFP,
2. Understanding of the situation,
3. Services to be provided,
4. Ability to complete the work within an agreed-upon time frame,
5. Qualifications and capabilities of the proposer, including but not limited to its experience and personnel assigned to the project,
6. Net proceeds to be directed back to the Town, and
7. Clarity and simplicity of the proposal.

### Cost and Fee Arrangements

The proposer must provide a clear articulation of how proceeds will be split between the Town and dealer, who will pay for advertising costs, etc. Additional recommendations and services or options may be included as additions to the project at hand on an add-on, optional basis. These optional items shall be priced separately from the services envisioned in this Request for Proposals.

### Proposal Content

All proposals submitted in response to this request for proposals should contain the following information:

1. Name, address, telephone number of the proposer;
2. Description of the proposer (corporation, partnership, etc.) and year established, state of incorporation, if any, and type of ownership. Name(s) of all partner(s), principal(s) and/or owner(s) of the firm;
3. Names and biographies of the individuals who will work on this project as well as a brief description of the role each will play;
4. Name, title and business address of person responsible for submitting the proposal;
5. Listing of any subcontractors, if any, and the scope of work they will perform;
6. Description of the scope of involvement of the Town staff;
7. A narrative the approach and techniques the dealer will use in taking possession of the firearm, developing and reviewing promotional materials, where the weapon would be "shown," identifying and promoting the sale process, etc.;
8. A proposed timeline of work tasks showing the final completion of the process;
9. A breakdown of the firm's fees and charges for service and how they would be determined,
10. The proposer must provide proof that he is licensed to provide the services offered in or for the Town of Amherst, Virginia.

### Timetable for Submission

For consideration to be given to any proposal submitted pursuant to this RFP, 4 copies of the submittal materials must be received by the due date and time, and to the location listed, on

the front page of this document. Alternatively, a pdf copy in 8.5x11 format, reproducible on a black and white photocopier may be transmitted to [jack.hobbs@amherstva.gov](mailto:jack.hobbs@amherstva.gov).

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is an invitation by the Town to submit an offer, which may be subject to subsequent discussion. Submittal of a proposal does not create any right or expectation of a contract with the Town. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and further declares that it will incur no financial obligations for any costs by any company in preparation of their proposal.

#### False or Misleading Statements

If, in the opinion of the Town, any proposal contains false or misleading statements or references which do not support a function, attribute, capability or condition as contended by the firm, shall be rejected.

#### Clarification of the RFP

Questions may be addressed to Jack Hobbs, Town Manager, at [jack.hobbs@amherstva.gov](mailto:jack.hobbs@amherstva.gov). Questions and answers will be shared with other potential vendors.

The Town reserves the right to obtain clarification of any point in the firm's RFP or to obtain additional information necessary to properly evaluate a particular RFP. Failure of the firm to respond to such a request for additional information or clarification may result in rejection of the proposal.

#### Attachments:

- A. Form 5
- B. Appraisal
- C. Photographs

1 3 3 2 8 5 2

U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
**NOTICE OF TAX-EXEMPT DOMESTIC TRANSFER OF FIREARM**  
 (Chapter 53, Internal Revenue Code)  
 (Execute in triplicate. Read instructions below before completing form)

FORM 5 (FIREARMS)  
REV. FEB. 1955

TO Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D. C. DATE Jan 9, 1961

The undersigned transferor serves notice that the firearm described herein is being transferred without payment of transfer tax, pursuant to the provision of Section 5812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

1. NAME OF TRANSFEREE (Individual (include trade name if any), trust, estate, partnership, association, company or corporation)  
Town of Amherst, Police Department

2. ADDRESS OF TRANSFEREE (Number and street, city or town, zone, State or territory)  
Amherst, Virginia 137

3. KIND OF FIREARM (Machine gun, submachine gun, shot-gun or rifle, muffler or silencer, etc.) <u>Thompson Submachine Gun MG</u>	4. SERIAL NUMBER <u>127916 Reg</u>	5. MODEL <u>MI</u>	6. CALIBER <u>.45</u>	7. LENGTH OF BARREL (Inches) <u>11"</u>
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8. OTHER MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION  
None

9. DATE OF TRANSFER (Month, day, year)  
Jan. 9, 1961

10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF MANUFACTURER OF FIREARM  
Auto-Ordnance Corp., Bridgeport, Conn. AOD

11. I BELIEVE THAT I AM ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF THE TRANSFER TAX IMPOSED BY SEC. 5811, INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, ON THE FIREARM DESCRIBED ABOVE, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:  
This firearm was acquired under non-willful circumstances with no intentional violation of the laws governing firearms being committed. Exemption from transfer tax permissible under section 5812 (2), IRC.

I declare under the penalties of perjury that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

12. TRANSFEROR (Print or type name of firm or individual)  
V. O. Smith

13. ADDRESS (Number and street, city or town, zone, State or territory)  
Box 12, Amherst, Virginia

14. BY (Signature)  
*V. O. Smith*

15. TITLE OR STATUS (Individual, member of firm, if officer of firm, give title. If special-tax payer, give registry number)  
Va. ABC Board, Supervisor of Enf. Central District of Virginia.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. PREPARATION OF NOTICE OF TAX-EXEMPT DOMESTIC TRANSFER OF FIREARM.—It is preferred that this form be prepared by use of a typewriter, using carbon paper to make exact duplicates. Pen and ink may be used, but under no circumstances may a lead pencil be used. The notice must be executed in triplicate and items 1 to 14, inclusive, completed.

2. DISPOSITION OF NOTICE OF TAX-EXEMPT DOMESTIC TRANSFER OF FIREARM.—The original of the notice must be forwarded to the Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D. C., the duplicate retained by the transferor and the triplicate furnished to the transferee.

3. TRANSFERS EXEMPT FROM TAX.—Under the provisions of section 5812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, firearms, as defined in section 5848 of the Code, may be transferred without payment of tax: (1) to the United States Government, any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or to any political subdivision thereof, or to the District of Columbia; (2) to sheriffs, chiefs of police, commissioners of police, superintendents or other chief officers of State police units, including State highway patrols, and directors of public safety; and (3) if unserviceable (that is, incapable of being restored to a firing condition) and are being transferred as a curiosity or ornament. Transfers under section 5812 of the Code may be made prior to forwarding Form 5 (Firearms) to the Director, but the form should be

executed as soon as possible after the transfer has been made and distributed in accordance with instructions in paragraph 2 above.

4. RESPONSIBILITY OF TRANSFEROR FOR EXEMPT STATUS OF TRANSFEREE.—Before a tax-free transfer is made, the transferor should satisfy himself of the exempt status of the transferee and the bona fides of the transaction. If not fully satisfied, he should communicate with the Director and report all the circumstances and await the Director's advice before making the transfer. If transfers to unauthorized persons, or transfers otherwise unwarranted, are made, tax and criminal liability will be incurred.

5. STOLEN OR LOST FIREARM OR DOCUMENT.—Immediately upon the discovery that a firearm or registration form (this form registers the firearm in the name of the transferee) has been stolen, lost or destroyed, the person to whom the firearm is registered shall make a report of the facts and circumstances involved to the Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D. C.

6. PENALTIES.—Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the requirements of chapter 53 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$2,000 or be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, in the discretion of the court. Moreover, any firearm involved in any violation of the provisions of chapter 53 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any regulations promulgated thereunder shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture.

*The American*  
*Thompson*  
**Association**  
P.O. BOX 8710  
NEWARK, OH 43058-8710

Attachment B

Robert G. Kimbrel, CPS  
Chief of Police  
Amherst Police Department  
174 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 280  
Amherst, Virginia 24521

11/10/15

Dear Chief,

Thank you for the opportunity to see and review your departments Thompson Submachine Gun.

1.) **TSMG S/N 127916 Model M1** - This firearm was produced by the Savage Arms Corp., under contract with the Auto-Ordnance Corp. The marking of the small letter "S" on the bottom side of the receiver just in front of the magazine well is the only markings difference to indicate this manufacturer. Your Thompson's serial number on the receiver also is matching that of the serial number on the trigger frame (bottom side). This is very desirable. This firearm was produced under the Savage/AO contract known as G-15/G-16 signed (12/15/1942 and 1/27/1942 respectively).

The other cart ouches on the receiver are as follows:

**GEG (enclosed in a circle)** - This cartouche is applied twice to the left side of the receiver. Once to the area near the barrel and the other opposite of the ejection port. This marking represents the Auto-Ordnance in house inspector by the name of George E. Goll. Mr. Goll had a very interesting life starting as a driver for Gen. Thompson and by the end of WWII was President of Auto-Ordnance Div., of Maguire Industries (owners of the TSMG at that time).

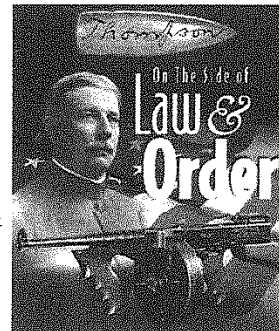
**Crossed Cannons** - This mark is located next to one of the GEG stamps opposite of the ejection port on the left side of the receiver. This is the cartouche for US military inspection and acceptance.

**FJA** - This partially visible cartouche is stamped vertically on the left side of the receiver and is the inspection mark for the US military ordnance district inspector Frank J. Atwood. He was in charge of the Rockester Ordnance District from 1942 to the end of WWII. This stamp was the approval for acceptance to the US military.

The overall description of the departments M1 Thompson is a firearm with the early unprotected "L" rear sight in the M1 configuration. The M1 configuration should have a bolt with a separate firing pin, hammer and hammer pin. With the later M1A1 design these features were eliminated in favor of a one piece firing pin machined into the face of the bolt. All parts appear to be original and correct for the era of your Thompson.

**Value:** Assuming the TSMG is registered transferable, \$18,000- 22,000.

If I can be of any further help to you and your department, please feel free to contact me at the email address or call to 740-345-9777 days.



THANK YOU

TRACIE L. HILL

Photos will be provided at a later date.