Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

INVITATION FOR BIDS 2026-01

2027 TREE WORK:

LINE CLEARING AND TREE REMOVALS

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Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
978.827.4423 | 24 Williams Rd., Ashburnham, MA 01430 | PO Box 823 | www.amlp.org

INVITATION FOR BIDS

November 9, 2026

IFB No. 2026-01
2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals

To All Interested Bidders:

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant (AMLP), located at 24 Williams Road, Ashburnham, Massachusetts, invites sealed bids for **2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals** with the specifications included in this Bid Package.

Sealed bids must be received by 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at the AMLP office, 24 Williams Road, Ashburnham, MA 01430. Bids will be publicly opened at that time. Bidders shall submit two (2) copies in a sealed envelope clearly marked "**IFB 2026-01 – 2027 Tree Work**." Bids submitted by email or facsimile will not be accepted.

All bids must comply with the requirements outlined in the Bid Package. AMLP reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive minor informalities or irregularities, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

Questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be directed to the AMLP General Manager using the contact information provided in the Bid Package.

Signed,
For the Board of Commissioners

Brooke Czasnowski

Brooke Czasnowski
General Manager
Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

INVITATION FOR BIDS DETAILS

DATE: November 9, 2026

SERVICE: 2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals

IFB NUMBER: 2026-01

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM EST

PUBLIC BID OPENING: December 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM EST

BID SUMBMISSION ADDRESS:

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
ATTN: Brooke Czasnowski, General Manager
24 Williams Rd
Ashburnham, MA 01430

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

1. **Bid Submission:** Bids shall be sealed, marked with the IFB number, and submitted in two (2) copies to AMLP by the deadline specified in the Invitation for Bids.

2. **Bid Preparation:** Bids shall be typewritten or completed in ink and signed by an authorized representative. Corrections shall be initialed, and evidence of signing authority shall be provided when applicable.

3. **Bid Evaluation and Award:** The AMLP General Manager shall serve as the awarding authority. AMLP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities or irregularities as permitted by law, and postpone the award with timely notice to Bidders. Bids shall be evaluated in accordance with the requirements and criteria established in the bid documents. AMLP reserves the right to determine the roads and quantities of work to be awarded based on available funding and operational priorities, as provided in the bid documents. AMLP may award less than the total work identified in the bid package. For purposes of bid comparison, bids shall be evaluated based on the Total Price All Roads identified in the Bid Proposal and Pricing Schedule, subject to the Bidder meeting all applicable qualification and bid requirements.

4. **Bid Preparation Costs:** Issuance of this Invitation for Bids does not obligate AMLP to award a contract or reimburse Bidders for costs incurred in preparing or submitting bids.

5. **Contract Term and Pricing:** The initial contract term shall commence upon execution and continue through December 31, 2027. AMLP may extend the contract for up to two (2) additional one-year periods, covering calendar years 2028 and 2029, by mutual written agreement. Prices shall remain fixed during the initial term. Any increase for an extension year shall not exceed five percent (5%) over the rates in effect during the preceding year. Bid prices shall include all transportation and related costs necessary to perform the work. Pricing adjustments or escalator clauses other than those expressly permitted under the contract extension provisions will not be accepted.

6. **Contractor Qualifications:** Bidders shall have a minimum of five (5) years of direct experience performing tree trimming and removal near energized electric lines and equipment. Bidders shall provide a summary of relevant experience and three (3) business references, preferably municipal electric utilities, including each reference's name, title, address, and telephone number. AMLP reserves the right to investigate Bidder qualifications and request additional supporting information. AMLP may reject a bid if the Bidder fails to demonstrate the experience, equipment, personnel, or capabilities necessary to satisfactorily perform the required work.

7. **Specifications and Exceptions:** Bidders shall carefully review all specifications and conditions affecting the work and identify and explain any proposed deviations. If a Bidder discovers any discrepancies, omissions, or unclear requirements in the bid documents, they shall promptly notify the AMLP contact identified below and request clarification prior to submitting their bid. Clarifications affecting bid requirements shall be issued through written addenda. Conditional bids that materially alter the requirements of the bid documents will not be accepted.

8. **Addenda:** Addenda issued before the bid opening shall become part of the bid documents and must be acknowledged by Bidders.

9. **Bid Validity:** Bids shall remain valid for ninety (90) days after opening. Extensions require the Bidder's written agreement.

10. **Bidder Information:** Bidders shall provide the name, title, telephone number, and email address of a knowledgeable contact person, along with their primary business location, supporting office or shop locations, and normal operating hours.

11. **Certifications and Documentation:** Bidders shall include all certifications and supporting documentation specifically required with the bid submission. Documentation required before commencement of work, including insurance certificates, personnel qualifications, safety certifications, and training records, shall be provided in accordance with the Terms and Conditions.

12. **Communications:** All questions and correspondence regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be directed to the AMLP contact identified below. Clarifications affecting bid requirements shall be issued through written addenda.

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
Attn: Brooke Czasnowski
General Manager
24 Williams Rd.
PO Box 823
Ashburnham, MA 01430
Phone: (978) 827-4423

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The meanings of the following terms used in this specification are as follows:

Term	DEFINITION
Bidder	Vendors of merchandise receiving this specification with an invitation to tender a bid or proposal.
Seller	Successful Bidder.
Vendor	Successful Bidder.
Contractor	Same as Seller and Vendor. Is a Successful Bidder.
Owner	Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant (AMLP)
Purchaser	Same as Owner.
Department	Same as Owner.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 1 - AGREEMENT

The successful Bidder (herein referred to as the Contractor) shall enter into a written Contract with Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant (AMLP). No Agreement shall be binding until signed by authorized representatives of both parties. The bid documents, including the specifications, the Contractor's accepted bid, pricing schedule, and any agreed-upon exceptions, shall become part of the Agreement.

Following execution of the Contract and satisfaction of all pre-work requirements, AMLP shall issue a Notice to Proceed. No work shall commence without AMLP authorization.

ARTICLE 2 - ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between AMLP and the Contractor. Modifications, releases, waivers, or termination must be documented in writing by authorized representatives of both parties. Any additional or different terms proposed by the Contractor shall be clearly identified in the Contractor's bid and evaluated in accordance with the bid documents.

ARTICLE 3 - CONTRACT TERM AND SCOPE OF WROK

The initial contract term shall commence upon execution of the Contract in 2027 and continue through December 31, 2027. AMLP may extend the Contract for up to two (2) additional one-year periods, covering calendar years 2028 and 2029, subject to mutual written agreement.

All rates and pricing shall remain fixed throughout the initial contract term. For each extension year, any increase in rates or pricing shall not exceed five percent (5%) over the rates in effect during the preceding contract year.

AMLP shall determine the roads, work locations, and quantities of work to be performed based on operational priorities and available funding. The estimated annual budget for 2027 is $150,000–$200,000. AMLP does not guarantee any minimum quantity of work or total contract expenditure.

The Contractor shall perform only work authorized by AMLP and shall coordinate scheduling and work assignments with AMLP's designated representative. Prior to commencing work, a meeting shall be held with the assigned crew or crews to review the applicable trimming specifications, work expectations, and safety requirements.

ARTICLE 4 - COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws, regulations, permits, and safety requirements governing the work, including applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, Massachusetts prevailing-wage requirements, and environmental regulations.

The Contractor shall obtain and maintain permits, licenses, and approvals required for its operations, except those expressly identified in the Contract as AMLP's responsibility. The Contractor shall promptly notify AMLP of any condition that may prevent lawful or safe performance of the work.

The Contractor also agrees to indemnify and hold AMLP harmless, with AMLP’s choice of counsel,

from any and all damages and liabilities assessed as a result of the Contractor's failure to comply with the Act, any law and the standards and regulations issued hereunder and for the failure of the items furnished under this Contract to so comply.

ARTICLE 5 - APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall govern the rights and obligations arising from this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6 - TAXES

AMLP will provide appropriate documentation of its Massachusetts sales-tax-exempt status upon request. Bid prices shall exclude sales tax not legally payable by AMLP and shall include all taxes, transportation charges, and other costs legally imposed on or incurred by the Contractor in performing the Agreement. The Contractor remains responsible for its own tax obligations.

ARTICLE 7 - ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTING

The Contractor shall not assign this Agreement, its right to payment, or subcontract any portion of the work without AMLP's prior written consent.

AMLP reserves the right to approve or reject proposed subcontractors. Approval of a subcontractor shall not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for the subcontractor's work, conduct, qualifications, insurance, or compliance with the Contract.

Should the Owner agree to an assignment, the Contractor shall remain fully responsible for the acts and omissions of the Contractor's assignee and the Contractor shall indemnify and hold the Owner harmless from any and all loss and expense arising out of the assignment.

ARTICLE 8 - WAIVER

Failure by AMLP to insist on strict performance or exercise a right under this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of that right or any other right.

ARTICLE 9 - PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

The Contractor shall continuously maintain adequate protection of AMLP facilities, public and private property, existing aboveground and underground utilities, roadways, structures, landscaping, fences, walls, culverts, and other improvements from damage, injury, or loss resulting from its operations.

The Contractor shall not enter public or private property without obtaining the required permission or authorization. Work shall be confined to authorized work areas, easements, and rights-of-way and shall comply with the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction. All operations shall be conducted to minimize disturbance and damage to surrounding property.

The Contractor shall be responsible for damage caused by its operations and shall promptly repair, replace, or restore affected property at its own expense to a condition substantially equivalent to its condition before the work, satisfactory to AMLP and the affected property owner or authority.

Work areas shall be maintained in a safe and orderly condition, with debris removal and cleanup

performed in accordance with the Technical Specifications. Restoration and cleanup shall be completed promptly as work progresses.

If the Contractor fails to complete required restoration or cleanup, AMLP may provide written notice requiring corrective action within five (5) days. If the Contractor fails to comply, AMLP may arrange for the necessary work and recover the reasonable costs from the Contractor, including through deductions from amounts otherwise due under the Contract. AMLP may require immediate corrective action when necessary to address an unsafe condition.

ARTICLE 10 - CREW STRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

The standard tree-trimming crew shall consist of the following personnel and equipment:

- One (1) aerial lift truck with minimum working height of at least 65 feet with chip box
- One (1) engine-powered, trailer-mounted woodchipper with winch and a minimum 12-inch capacity.
- One (1) Tree Trimmer Foreman with a minimum of three (3) years of experience in electrical utility line clearance and tree removal.
- One (1) Tree Trimmer Groundman

Each crew will be composed of at least a Tree Trimmer Foreman and Tree Trimmer Groundman. Under no circumstances will the crew consist of only one person.

If the required crew or equipment is unavailable, work for that day may be canceled by AMLP without charge. If a police detail has been scheduled and cannot be canceled due to the Contractor's failure to provide the required crew or equipment, the Contractor shall be responsible for the applicable minimum police-detail charge.

The Contractor shall maintain all equipment in safe operating condition and provide sufficient personnel and equipment to perform authorized work efficiently and in accordance with the specifications.

ARTICLE 11 - PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

Personnel performing line-clearance tree work near energized electric lines shall possess the training, qualifications, and demonstrated skills required by applicable OSHA regulations, including 29 CFR 1910.269, and other applicable safety standards.

The Contractor shall provide qualified line-clearance personnel and ensure that all employees are trained in the safe operation of equipment used in their assigned duties, including aerial lifts, woodchippers, chainsaws, and related equipment.

All drivers shall possess the appropriate valid commercial driver's license for the vehicles they operate. All aerial lifts shall have current required inspections and dielectric testing.

Prior to commencing work, the Contractor shall provide AMLP with copies of applicable licenses, training records, qualifications, equipment inspection records, and safety certifications. Updated

documentation shall be provided as licenses, certifications, or inspections are renewed or upon AMLP's request.

ARTICLE 12 – SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

The Contractor shall be responsible for the safety of its employees, subcontractors, and operations and shall take appropriate precautions to protect AMLP employees, the public, and surrounding property.

All work shall comply with applicable OSHA regulations, recognized utility line-clearance safety practices, and applicable federal, state, and municipal requirements.

The Contractor shall provide and require the proper use of personal protective equipment, fall protection, safety devices, signs, barricades, and other protective measures appropriate to the work being performed.

Temporary traffic-control arrangements shall comply with applicable requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the authority having jurisdiction. The Contractor shall provide adequate warning signs, cones, barricades, flaggers, and other traffic-control measures as necessary.

The Contractor shall conduct operations to minimize obstruction to traffic and inconvenience to residents. No road or street shall be closed without required advance authorization from AMLP and the appropriate public authorities.

AMLP may direct the Contractor to stop work when unsafe conditions or practices are observed. Such direction shall not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for maintaining a safe workplace.

ARTICLE 13 - PREVAILING WAGES

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable Massachusetts prevailing-wage laws, including M.G.L. Chapter 149, Sections 26 and 27, and the prevailing-wage schedule included in the Appendix of this bid package.

All employees performing work under this Contract shall be paid in accordance with the Laborer classification identified in the prevailing-wage schedule included in the Appendix.

The Contractor shall maintain all required payroll records and submit certified payroll reports and statements of compliance to AMLP in accordance with applicable law. The Contractor shall also be responsible for ensuring that any approved subcontractors comply with these requirements.

ARTICLE 14 - EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

During storms, severe weather, and other electric-system emergencies, AMLP may request emergency tree-trimming and removal services under the Contract.

The Contractor shall maintain a telephone contact available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, for emergency-related work and shall provide a means of direct communication with assigned crews.

The Contractor shall be capable of responding to AMLP emergency work requests within four (4) hours, subject to conditions beyond the Contractor's reasonable control.

When crews are assigned to AMLP during emergency conditions, AMLP shall determine their work priorities and authorize their release from emergency assignments. The Contractor shall coordinate with AMLP before reassigning crews committed to AMLP.

The Contractor shall identify its ability to provide additional qualified personnel and equipment during major storms or emergencies, including the advance notice required for standby arrangements.

Emergency work, overtime, standby arrangements, and additional equipment shall be compensated only in accordance with the accepted pricing schedule or other written authorization from AMLP.

ARTICLE 15 - INSURANCE

The Contractor shall purchase from and maintain in a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts such insurance as will protect the Contractor from claims set forth below which may arise out of or result from the Contractor's operations under the Contract and for which the Contractor may legally be liable, whether such operations are by the Contractor or by a Subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them, or by anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable. The following shall be the **MINIMUM COVERAGE** for all policies.

Worker's Compensation/Employer's Liability - $1,000,000/statutory

Commercial General Liability: With the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and the Town of Ashburnham named as additional insureds.

$4,000,000 Each Occurrence ; $4,000,000 General Aggregate

Commercial Automobile Liability

Combined Single Limit $4,000,000.00 Each Occurrence All Risk LL

All Risk Property - Repair/Replacement Cost

Example Coverage:

Commercial General Liability + Umbrella/Excess Liability
= $4,000,000

Commercial Automobile Liability + Umbrella/Excess Liability
= $4,000,000

1.) All liability insurance policies shall name the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and the Town of Ashburnham as an Additional Insured.

2.) All insurance policy "other insurance" provisions must be endorsed to state that primary coverage will be afforded to the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and the Town of Ashburnham.

3.) All policies shall contain a waiver or subrogation in favor of the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and the Town of Ashburnham.

4.) All insurance policies must contain a provision that they will not be canceled, changed, or non-renewed until after thirty (30) days written notice of such cancellation, change, or non-renewal has been delivered to the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and the Town of Ashburnham.

5.) Upon execution of the contract, Contractor must provide certificates of insurance including the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and the Town of Ashburnham as an “Additional Insured” and certified copies of all policies referenced above in accordance with all insurance requirements as established in this contract. Thereafter, the Contractor must provide certificates of renewal insurance and certified copies of all renewal policies (and applicable considerations/requirements) referenced above no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of each above referenced policy.

6.) The insurance companies issuing the policy or policies shall have no recourse against AMLP for payment of any premiums or for assessment under any form policy. The Contractor will be liable for any and all insurance policy deductibles required in their entirety.

ARTICLE 16 – INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless AMLP, the Town of Ashburnham, and their respective officials, employees, board members, and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, lawsuits, investigations, damages, losses, and liabilities, including all associated costs and expenses, reasonable attorneys' fees, and experts' fees, arising out of or resulting from bodily injury, death, or property damage caused by the negligent acts, omissions, or wrongful conduct of the Contractor, its employees, or subcontractors in connection with the performance of the Contract.

ARTICLE 17 – RECORDS, REPORTING, AND INVOICING

The Contractor shall maintain complete and accurate daily records of work performed, including roads and locations, applicable pole numbers or spans, personnel and equipment assigned, hours worked, and completed work quantities.

Weekly timesheets and work records shall be submitted to AMLP for review and verification by the Working Foreman or other designated representative.

Invoices shall identify the work performed, applicable contract rates or unit prices, authorized quantities, and supporting documentation. Invoices shall be consistent with the approved work records.

The Contractor shall maintain required payroll and prevailing-wage records and provide access to records reasonably necessary for AMLP to verify contract performance and charges.

AMLP may dispute charges that are unsupported, unauthorized, or inconsistent with the Contract.

ARTICLE 18 - INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

AMLP reserves the right to inspect work in progress and completed work to determine compliance with the Contract and Technical Specifications. The Contractor shall promptly correct deficiencies identified by AMLP, including incomplete trimming, inadequate cleanup, property damage, or work not performed in accordance with the specifications, at no additional cost when attributable to the Contractor's failure to meet contract requirements.

Inspection, approval of timesheets, or payment shall not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for work that fails to comply with the Contract. Final acceptance of authorized work shall occur upon AMLP's determination that the applicable work requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

ARTICLE 19 – SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

AMLP may suspend work when necessary for safety, operational requirements, weather conditions, or other reasonable circumstances affecting the performance of the Contract.

If the Contractor fails to comply with material contract requirements, including safety, qualifications, performance, or quality standards, AMLP may provide written notice identifying the deficiency and requiring corrective action within a reasonable period.

If the Contractor fails to correct a material deficiency within the specified period, AMLP may terminate the Contract for cause. AMLP may require immediate cessation of work when necessary to address an imminent safety hazard or other serious condition.

Upon termination, the Contractor shall be compensated for authorized work satisfactorily performed through the effective termination date, less applicable deductions or amounts owed to AMLP. No payment shall be due for unperformed work or anticipated profits on work not performed.

Force Majeure: Neither party shall be responsible for delays in performance caused by circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including extraordinary weather events, natural disasters, or other events that could not reasonably have been prevented. The affected party shall promptly notify the other party of the circumstances and anticipated impact and make reasonable efforts to minimize the delay. The parties shall confer regarding appropriate schedule adjustments or other necessary modifications, which shall be documented in writing.

ARTICLE 20 - MODIFICATIONS

Changes to the specifications, pricing, contract term, or other material provisions of the Agreement must be documented in a written amendment signed by authorized representatives of both AMLP and the Contractor.

AMLP may issue work assignments and authorize quantities or locations within the scope and pricing established by the Contract without requiring a formal contract amendment. No verbal modification of material contract terms shall be binding.

ARTICLE 21 - PAYMENT

The Contractor shall submit invoices for authorized work performed in accordance with the accepted pricing schedule and verified work records.

AMLP shall make payment for satisfactorily completed and properly documented work following review and approval of a correct invoice, subject to applicable law and the terms of the Agreement.

AMLP shall not be obligated to pay for unauthorized work, unsupported charges, or work that does not comply with the Contract. Disputed amounts may be withheld pending resolution, while undisputed amounts shall be processed for payment in accordance with applicable requirements.

TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVAL TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE:

The sole purpose of this Invitation for Bid (IFB 2026-01) is for 2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals which meets or exceeds the technical specifications described herein and offers the best value to the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

IFB 2026-01 2027 TREE WORK: LINE CLEARING AND TREE REMOVALS

PROJECT CONTACTS

General Manager	Technical Project Contacts
Brooke Czasnowski	Jeff Schrecke
General Manager	Working Foreman
Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant	Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
24 Williams Rd	24 Williams Rd
Ashburnham, MA 01430	Ashburnham, MA 01430
Phone: 978-827-4423	Phone: 978-827-4423
Fax: 978-827-3370	Fax: 978-827-3370

2027 TREE WORK: LINE CLEARING AND TREE REMOVALS BID SPECIFICATIONS:

Number of Tree-Trimming Workers:	2
Number of Wood-Chippers (12” minimum capacity with winch):	1
Number of Tree-Trimming Trucks (with chip body):	1
Minimum Tree-Trimming Truck Working Height:	65'
(see Article 11 – Crew Structure)	

Please Submit:

1. Bid Proposal and Pricing Schedule
    a. Identify specification compliance
    b. Price per road and total price for tree trimming for the following roads in the Town of Ashburnham.
    c. Hourly rates for tree removals that are over 8 inches in diameter (measured 5 feet up the trunk)
    d. Hourly rates for tree trimming for roads that are not listed in the “Road Listing”
    e. Hourly rates for storm standby
    f. Hourly rates for emergency work (first right of refusal) for duration of services (2027). This should be an all-inclusive price and include all labor, equipment, fuel, and materials.
    g. Notice required to put crew(s) on standby for storms
2. Certificate of Insurance with Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant and Town of Ashburnham named as additionally insured
3. All documentation of current safety, certification, and other necessary training for electric line-clearance trimming

4. A qualifications and experience summary statement including the name, title, address, and phone number of three (3) business references (preferably municipal utility references)

Contractor must pay Chapter 149 Section 26D prevailing wage per M.G.L. Applicable wage sheet can be found in Appendix.

Road Listing

AMLP highly recommends that bidders drive the actual roads and sections to be trimmed and not bid strictly on the number of sections per road. Some roads have been trimmed in recent years and will need less attention than others.

Road	Pole Sections	Qty	Phase*	Town
Dunn Rd	0-49	49	Single & Three	Ashburnham
Young Rd	0-26	26	Single	Ashburnham
Winchendon Rd	22-132	110	Three	Ashburnham
Depot Rd	0-27	27	Single	Ashburnham
High St	0-19	19	Single	Ashburnham
Cushing St	0-19	19	Single	Ashburnham
East Rindge Rd	0-86	86	Single	Ashburnham
Tuckerman Rd	0-11	11	Single	Ashburnham
Hastings Rd	0-23	23	Single	Ashburnham
Stowell Rd	0-69	69	Single	Ashburnham

***Single phase is 7,980 volts and three phase is 13,800 volts**
****Scenic road - requires advanced approval from the Town of Ashburnham Tree Warden**

- AMLP will arrange for police details when field conditions warrant. AMLP is also responsible for police detail payments. However, Contractor will be held responsible for police detail payments when such payments are a result of Contractor's scheduling conflicts or other delays/cancellations that the Contractor has caused. Cancellations for all details must be received by Ashburnham Police Department a minimum of two (2) hours before the intended start time of the detail to avoid charges. Police details are scheduled in four (4) or eight (8) hour blocks. Tree work should be scheduled to utilize the full police detail block.

- Normal working hours are defined as Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm. If work is being performed for payment by the hour, all time should be worked at straight time rate and should not exceed eight hours per day, and/or 40 hours per week. **Work on AMLP holiday closure dates that are listed below requires prior approval and should only be done on roads that do NOT require a police detail.**

AMLP 2027 Holiday Closure Dates

New Year's Day	January 1, 2027	Labor Day	September 6, 2027
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 18, 2027	Indigenous Peoples' Day	October 11, 2027
President's Day	February 15, 2027	Veterans Day	November 11, 2027
Patriots' Day	April 19, 2027	Thanksgiving Day	November 25, 2027
Memorial Day	May 31, 2027	Day After Thanksgiving	November 26, 2027
Juneteenth	June 18, 2027	Christmas Day	December 24, 2027
Independence Day	July 5, 2027		

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Electric line clearing and tree pruning shall be performed in accordance with recognized and accepted utility arboricultural practices, including applicable ANSI A300 pruning standards, and all applicable federal, state, and municipal requirements.

All trimming shall be performed with consideration for tree health, natural growth characteristics, and the safe and reliable operation of the AMLP electric system.

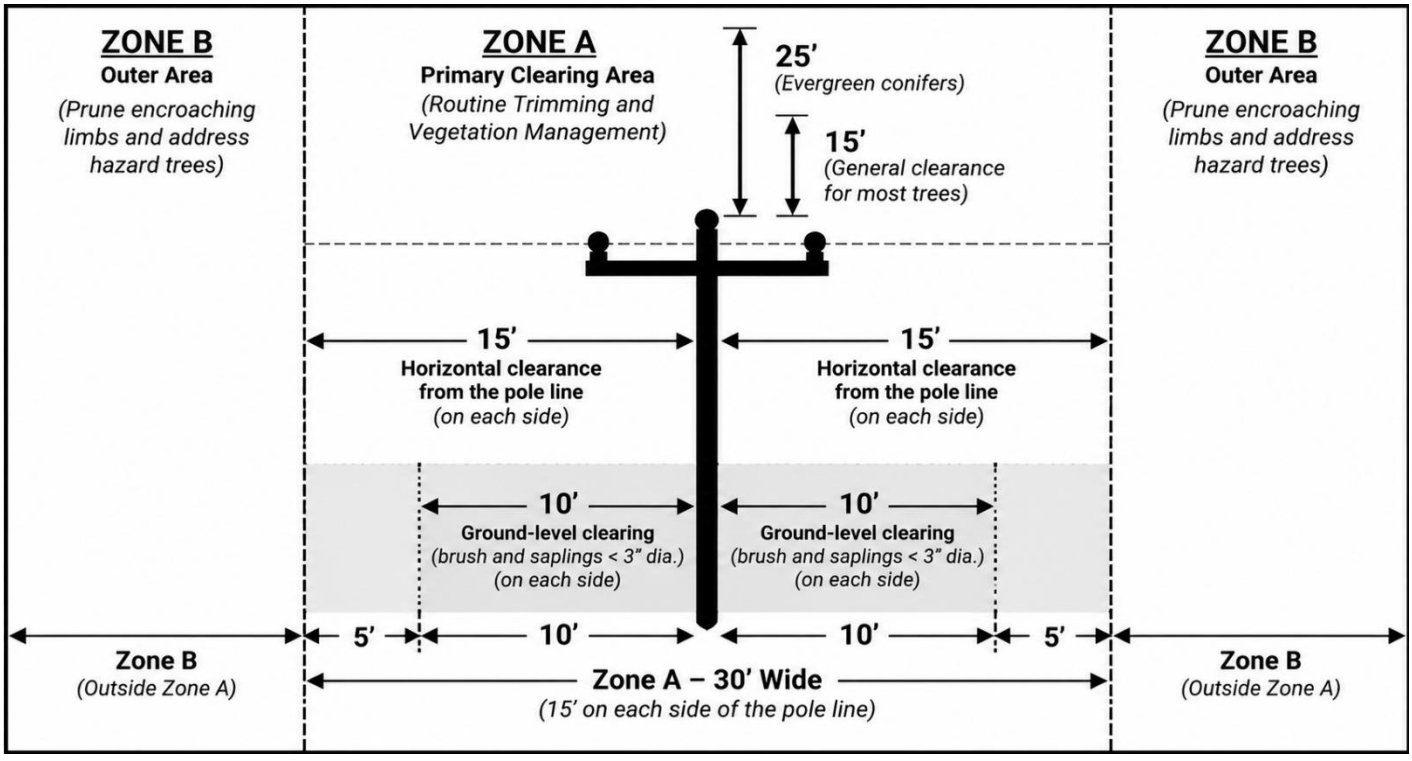
Directional pruning shall be utilized whenever practicable to encourage future growth away from electrical facilities. Trees shall be left as naturally shaped as reasonably possible while achieving the required clearances.

Trees not designated for removal shall be trimmed with the objective of maintaining at least a five-year "no-contact" period with AMLP electrical facilities.

Additional trimming or other tree care beyond the requirements specified herein shall be performed only as directed or approved by AMLP.

All routine trimming and vegetation management necessary to meet these specifications shall be included in the Contractor's bid price for each designated road, except for work expressly identified in the Contract as separately compensated.

The following diagram illustrates AMLP's vegetation management clearing areas and required clearances.



Clearing Areas and General Clearances

The following clearing areas and clearances shall generally apply to AMLP's overhead electric facilities. Actual trimming shall consider tree species, growth characteristics, condition, location, and exposure to wind, snow, and ice loading.

Zone A – Primary Clearing Area

Zone A is defined as the area extending 15 feet horizontally from each side of the pole line for overhead trimming, with a general vertical clearance of 15 feet above primary conductors and 25 feet for evergreen conifers, as specified below. Ground-level clearing in wooded or naturally vegetated areas shall extend 10 feet horizontally from each side of the pole line. Zone A does not require the removal of all trees within its boundaries. Tree removals shall be performed in accordance with the requirements specified herein.

Tree Trimming & Vegetation Management:

- **Vertical Clearance:** Trees shall generally be trimmed to provide 15 feet of vertical clearance above primary conductors.
- **Coniferous Trees:** Evergreen conifers, including spruce, hemlock, cedar, pine, and fir, shall be trimmed to provide 25 feet of vertical clearance above primary conductors due to their growth characteristics and potential for branch movement or failure under snow, ice, and wind conditions.
- **Horizontal Clearance:** Limbs extending into Zone A from either side of the pole line shall be pruned to provide a horizontal clearing distance of 15 feet from the pole line, measured on each side. Pruning shall be performed to suitable lateral branches or parent stems in accordance with accepted arboricultural practices.
- **Ground-Level Clearing:** All brush and saplings less than 3 inches in diameter, measured 5 feet above ground level, within 10 feet of either side of the pole line in wooded or naturally vegetated areas shall be cut as close to ground level as practicable. Stumps shall be left as low as practicable. Such clearing shall be included in the Contractor's bid price for the designated road.
- **Small Tree Removal:** Trees 3 inches through 8 inches in diameter, measured 5 feet above ground level, growing within 10 feet of either side of the pole line and reasonably expected to interfere with electrical facilities during the five-year trimming cycle shall be removed, subject to applicable approvals and property rights. Such removals shall be included in the Contractor's bid price for the designated road.
- **Dead, Dying, or Damaged Limbs:** Dead, dying, broken, or damaged limbs within or extending into Zone A that present a foreseeable risk to electrical facilities shall be removed.
- **Equipment Access:** Limbs or vines that interfere with access to poles, guy wires, or electrical infrastructure shall be removed. A minimum clear climbing space of 36 inches around poles and equipment shall be maintained where applicable. Brush and other vegetation obstructing access to electrical equipment shall also be cleared as necessary.
- **Additional Clearance:** Where tree condition, branch structure, or other circumstances

present an increased risk to AMLP electrical facilities that cannot be adequately addressed within the specified clearances, the Contractor shall notify the AMLP Working Foreman for further direction.

Special Considerations

The Contractor shall consult with AMLP and obtain approval before performing substantial trimming of ornamental, decorative, or specimen trees, including Japanese maples, ornamental red maples, concolor firs, and large pine trees.

Routine ground-level clearing shall not apply to maintained lawns or landscaped areas. Trees and other vegetation within these areas that interfere with AMLP electrical facilities shall remain subject to the applicable trimming and removal requirements.

Zone B – Trees Outside the Primary Clearing Area

Zone B is defined as the area outside the horizontal and vertical limits of Zone A.

Tree Trimming & Vegetation Management:

- Trees growing in Zone B with limbs extending into Zone A shall be pruned back to the trunk or a suitable lateral branch to achieve the required clearances established for Zone A. Such trimming shall be included in the Contractor's bid price for the designated road.
- Selective branch reduction, including reduction to suitable lateral branches, may be permitted where consistent with ANSI A300 pruning standards and the five-year no-contact objective.
- Limbs within Zone B that do not extend into Zone A but present a foreseeable risk to AMLP electrical facilities due to wind, snow, ice, or structural weakness shall be reported to the AMLP Working Foreman for evaluation. Any additional trimming shall require prior AMLP authorization and shall be compensated in accordance with the Contract.
- Where appropriate pruning cannot achieve the required clearances without substantially compromising tree health or structure, the Contractor shall notify the AMLP Working Foreman and obtain direction before proceeding.

High Risk Tree Removals

Trees identified by the Contractor as potentially endangering AMLP electrical facilities, whether located in Zone A or Zone B, shall be reported to the AMLP Working Foreman.

High-risk trees exceeding 8 inches in diameter, measured 5 feet above ground level, including dead, diseased, decayed, structurally compromised, or otherwise hazardous trees, shall be documented on a Recommended Tree Removal form identifying the tree's location, approximate diameter, and reason for recommended removal, and submitted for AMLP review.

No such tree shall be removed without prior AMLP approval and any required property owner or governmental authorization.

Approved high-risk tree removals exceeding 8 inches in diameter shall be compensated at the applicable contract rates for authorized removal work. No additional compensation shall be provided without prior written authorization from AMLP.

Other Tree Removals

AMLP may identify additional diseased, dead, or structurally compromised trees for removal.

Where authorized, the Contractor shall cut designated trees as close to ground level as practicable, chip and remove brush, and remove and dispose of logs unless otherwise directed by AMLP.

Such removals shall require prior written authorization from AMLP and shall be compensated at the applicable contract unit prices.

Pruning and Cutting Standards

All cutting shall be performed to protect tree health to the extent reasonably practicable while maintaining electrical safety and reliability.

- Pruning cuts shall comply with applicable ANSI A300 standards.
- Cuts shall be made to avoid unnecessary injury to the branch collar, bark, and cambium.
- Bark tearing, stripping, and unnecessary damage to remaining branches shall be avoided.
- Directional pruning shall be used wherever practicable.
- Climbing spikes or irons shall not be used on trees intended to remain standing unless specifically approved by AMLP.
- Topping, excessive pruning, and unnecessary removal of healthy limbs shall be avoided unless specifically approved by AMLP.

Disposal of Brush

Brush, twigs, and small debris shall be promptly and completely cleared from streets and private property. All brush and other chippable debris shall be chipped, cleaned up, and transported to an approved disposal area daily. The Contractor shall be responsible for identifying and arranging a suitable disposal area.

The work area shall be left in a clean and orderly condition upon completion of work. Tree debris shall not be permitted to accumulate on roadways, obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or create unsafe conditions.

Large limbs and wood that cannot be chipped may initially be left in manageable lengths, no less than 4 feet, for the public to take, provided they are placed in a safe location. Any wood remaining after seven (7) calendar days shall be removed and disposed of by the Contractor, unless otherwise directed by AMLP.

All costs associated with the disposal of wood debris, brush, and wood chips resulting from this Contract shall be included in the Contractor's bid price, with no additional disposal charges assessed to AMLP.

Scenic Roads

The following roads have been designated as ‘scenic’ and no trimming shall commence unless approved in advance by the Town of Ashburnham Tree Warden:

Main Street	Lashua Road
Bush Hill Road	Packard Hill Road
Cashman Hill Road	River Styx Road
Corey Hill Road	Wilker Road
Cushing Street	Willard Road
East Rindge Road	Young Road
Hastings Road	

Additional Tree Trimming Details:

Bidder shall furnish a list of equipment available for use during the course of the contract. All equipment will include all fuel, lubricants, additives, repairs, and parts without cost to AMLP.

Line clearing shall follow best-recognized and accepted industry standards, and must comply with all requirements of Municipal, County, and State authorities in locality involved.

Time and pricing to trim a road shall include trimming primary and secondary along the roadway and all primary services.

Trees not subject to removal shall be trimmed in such a manner to achieve a five-year “no contact” period with all wires on the pole. Trees will be trimmed back to the trunk or a major limb.

PRE-BID TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Pre-Bid discussions are available by phone and may be set up with the AMLP to discuss any questions any Bidder may have up to three (3) days prior to Bid Opening.

BID PROPOSAL AND PRICING SCHEDULE

This form shall be completed and submitted by the Bidder as part of the Bid Package.

IFB 2026-01 2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals
Bid Submitted By: _____

We, the undersigned Bidder, hereby propose to furnish 2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals for Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant (AMLP) in accordance with IFB 2026-01, its specifications, Terms and Conditions, and any exceptions expressly identified in our bid.

SPECIFICATION COMPLIANCE — CHECK ONE

☐ The bid as submitted complies with all required specifications.

☐ The bid as submitted includes deviations from the specifications. All deviations are identified and explained in the bid submission.

BASE BID

Road	No. Sections	No. Days to Trim	Price Per Day	Total Price
Dunn Rd	49			
Young Rd	26			
Winchendon Rd	110			
Depot Rd	27			
High St	19			
Cushing St	19			
East Rindge Rd	86			
Tuckerman Rd	11			
Hastings Rd	23			
Stowell Rd	69			
			Total Price All Roads	

The roads listed above are provided for bidding purposes only. AMLP reserves the right to determine which roads will be trimmed based on operational priorities and available funding. No minimum quantity of work is guaranteed.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES - HOURLY RATE SCHEDULE

Type	Price Per Hour
Tree Removals Over 8 Inches in Diameter	/hour
Aerial Lift Crew	/hour
Storm Standby	/hour
Emergency Work	/hour

Notice required to put crew(s) on standby for storm: _____

REQUIRED BID ATTACHMENTS

Bidders shall attach a qualification and experience summary, including three (3) business references (preferably municipal electric utilities), and an explanation of any proposed specification deviations.

BID PROPOSAL AND PRICING SCHEDULE

CONTINUED – BIDDER INFORMATION

IFB 2026-01 – 2027 Tree Work: Line Clearing and Tree Removals

Company Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City/Town: _____**State:** _____**Zip:** _____

Federal Tax Identification Number: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Primary Business/Operations Location: _____

Addenda Acknowledged (if any): _____

BIDDER CERTIFICATIONS

1.) **Good Faith and Non-Collusion:** The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this bid or proposal has been made and submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud with any other person.

2.) **Massachusetts Tax Compliance:** Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 62C, Section 49A, the undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that the Bidder has complied with all applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relating to taxes, reporting of employees and contractors, and withholding and remitting child support.

BIDDER AUTHORIZATIONS

The undersigned certifies that they are authorized to submit this bid on behalf of the company identified above and that the information and pricing provided constitute the Bidder's offer in accordance with the bid documents.

Authorized Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____