



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry / PFAS Fund	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Melissa Hamlin	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 24,364.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 01A 20241115*1238
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	1/3/2025	Proposed End Date: 2/28/2025
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Archipelago Law, LLP, Portland, ME	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Escrow Funds for Real Estate Purchase with Closing Costs for Parcel in Palermo, ME	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The purpose of this Contract is the PFAS Fund's purchase of a parcel of PFAS-impacted real property in Palermo, ME. The amount includes the purchase price and closing costs with minor contingency, to be held in escrow by vendor for distribution at/after closing.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

Vendor is escrow agent for these funds in order to carry out its duties as closing attorney pursuant to DOT contract # CTM20240228*452. DACF utilizes closing services through DOT as authorized by Maine's Office of the Attorney General.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The real estate purchase price was established by appraisal in accordance with 01-001 C.M.R. ch. 405 §6 (2024); the closing costs are standard. Funds for this purchase are available through a financial order that allots Other Special Revenue funds dedicated to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Fund To Address PFAS Contamination to purchase agricultural land found to be contaminated by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) according to the terms of 7 M.R.S.A. § 320-K(4)(D) and 01-001 C.M.R. c. 405. The funds will be used for all acquisition expenses, including the cost of the real estate and all transaction and due diligence fees (e.g., legal services, appraisals, surveys, environmental consultants).

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

The purchase of real property by the PFAS Fund is specified in 7 M.R.S. § 320-K(4), pursuant to rules including acquisition criteria (01-001 C.M.R. ch. 405 (2024)), and subject to program implementation procedures such as an advisory panel evaluation.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

The requesting department signatory understands and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes.

PART VI: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>Aimee Carlton</i>		
Typed Name:	Aimee Carlton	Date:	1/30/2025
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>Martha Verhille</i> 891CE7A1493D45B...		
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date:	1/31/2025