Questions:

1. We believe the walk through needs to be allowed prior to the proposal deadline. This is in the best interest of both the proposers and the city. Without a lot more detailed information on the exact systems and status of those systems it is not possible to predict future support costs. It also does not allow a determination of any remediation requirements that are needed prior to starting management of the cities complex systems. Without accurate information, the proposers will be forced to either guess or to "buffer" their proposals to anticipate worst case and cover themselves from a cost standpoint. The city stands have a lot of additional support costs added from each of the proposers and would most likely result in wildly different proposed costs due to the proposer's interpretation or "guesses".

   Secondly, having the walk throughs earlier would give each of the proposers a much better understanding of your environment, including vulnerabilities and possible best practice improvements. Having each proposer with this information in advance will give them an opportunity to give the city feedback during the proposal on what, if any changes, they would propose and how they would manage such systems. In essence, your IT manager would get the opportunity to basically have several professional evaluations of the cities IT strategy and proposed direction at no cost. This would be valuable for the city and would provide for much better presentation questions to determine which candidate really understands your entire enterprise architecture and has the ability to best support it.

   We will be accepting best and final offers from those selected for the interview process.