



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### SALE OF (2) HISTORIC RAIL CARS

in St. Johns, Michigan

1926 Ann Arbor Crew Car

1920 Barney and Smith Sleeper Car

### **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Submit proposals electronically (PDF format) to:

[mseavey@stjohnsmi.gov](mailto:mseavey@stjohnsmi.gov)

Subject Line: "RFP – Historic Rail Car Bid"

Or

submit two (2) hard copies to:

City of St. Johns

#### **RFP – Historic Rail Car Bid**

Attn: Mindy Seavey, City Clerk

100 E. State Street, Suite #1100

PO Box 477

St. Johns, MI 48879

**Deadline:** September 16, 2025, by 2:00 p.m.

### **Request for Sealed Bids: Historic Display Rail Cars**

The City of St. Johns is accepting sealed bids for the acquisition and relocation of two historic display rail cars currently located in the city. These rail cars are offered in *as-is* condition and must be moved at the successful bidder's expense within an agreed-upon timeframe.

The City of St. Johns is open to negotiating the timeline for the removal of the historic rail cars to accommodate bidder needs and logistical considerations. While timely removal is preferred, the City understands that transportation and site coordination may require scheduling flexibility. The successful bidder will be responsible for restoring any damage to the site from related to rail car removal activities.

The City of St Johns reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the bids in the best interest of the City of St Johns and to accept the proposal which, in the opinion of the commission, best serves the interest and needs of the City of St Johns.

The City of St Johns does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability and national origin; nor does it discriminate on the basis of handicap status and activities as to employment or the provisions of services. The City of St Johns is an equal opportunity employer.

### **Rail Cars Available for Bid:**

1. ***1926 Ann Arbor Crew Car***

This car stands as a rare testament to the workaday side of railroading. Originally constructed as a passenger or freight car, it was repurposed for use by the Ann Arbor Railroad as a crew car—providing shelter and utility to the workers who maintained the trains and tracks. The Ann Arbor Railroad (1895–1976) played a significant role in Michigan’s transportation history, operating both freight and passenger services and famously utilizing train ferries to cross Lake Michigan.



2. ***1920 Barney and Smith Sleeper Car***

Manufactured by the Barney & Smith Manufacturing Company of Dayton, Ohio, this sleeper car represents the elegant side of early 20th-century rail travel. The company, founded in 1849, was known for producing beautifully crafted, high-quality passenger and freight cars. The



1920 sleeper car on display is an exceptional example of the company's craftsmanship and reflects the golden era of rail travel, when sleeper cars offered comfort and sophistication to long-distance passengers. This rail car is very unique and rare-with not many remaining with original interior feature.

**Bid Requirements:**

- All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked “**Historic Rail Car Bid**” by 2:00 p.m. on September 16, 2025 or submitted electronically in PDF format to [mseavey@stjohnsmi.gov](mailto:mseavey@stjohnsmi.gov) with a subject line of “RFP – Historic Rail Car Bid”.
- Bidders must provide details of their relocation plan, including the method of transport.



**Contact and Inspection Information:**

To schedule a site visit or request additional specifications or images of the rail cars, please contact Samantha Spinelli at [grants@stjohnsmi.gov](mailto:grants@stjohnsmi.gov) or William Schafer at [bschafer@stjohnsmi.gov](mailto:bschafer@stjohnsmi.gov)

## **BID FORM**

### **City of St. Johns – Historic Rail Cars Bid Submission**

#### **Bidder Information**

- **Name of Bidder/Company:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_
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#### **Bid Amounts**

Bidders may submit a bid on one or both of the following historic rail cars. Please enter your proposed purchase amount for each item you wish to bid on.

<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Individual Bid Amount</b>
Lot 1: 1926 Ann Arbor Crew Car	\$ _____
Lot 2: 1920 Barney and Smith Sleeper Car	\$ _____
Lot 3: Combined Bid for Both Rail Cars	\$ _____

*Note: Bidders submitting a combined bid for both rail cars (Lot 3) should also fill out individual bids for Lots 1 and 2. The City of St. Johns reserves the right to award bids in a manner most advantageous to the City, including awarding individually or as a package.*

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**Proposed Timeline for Removal**

Please indicate your proposed timeline for removal of the rail car(s), including preferred date range and any logistical requirements:

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**Acknowledgments**

- ☐ I understand that this bid is binding and subject to the terms outlined in the Request for Bids.
- ☐ I acknowledge that the rail cars are sold **as-is, where-is**, and transportation/removal will be the sole responsibility of the winning bidder.
- ☐ I confirm that I have reviewed the site location and am capable of meeting removal requirements, pending negotiation with the City.

**Signature of Authorized Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name of Authorized Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_