Session Title:
How to bid a million-dollar contract from your phone

Speaker(s) & Professional title:
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Summary:
During the 2020 severe wind storm ("derecho") in Iowa, the City of Des Moines lost many trees in different areas of the City. The Public Works department was soon picking up debris from our 200,000 residents (over 10,000 truckloads in all), and with extensive damage in our Parks & Recreation areas, it was decided to bid out the storm cleanup. Severe weather events are becoming more and more prevalent, so models for bidding out contracted help are very useful for cities small and large. FEMA reimbursement is critical for many of these events, and the model we used has been successfully used in all areas of the FEMA process. With over 70 park areas in Des Moines, 100's of trees damaged, and wanting to abide by FEMA guidelines for reimbursement, this was quite an undertaking. Using our tree inventory system, cell phones, and 3 parks staff, a system was devised to locate and photograph every damaged tree over the course of 3 days. This information was then used to bid out a contract, where any contractor with a cell phone could easily access the location of the 300 plus trees. Once the bid was awarded, the same system was used to document all the work that took place, from extra trees being added, all with photo evidence per FEMA regulations. After completion, we worked with the tree inventory provided to pull all the photos, geo locations and all other data (20 – 30 fields) to provide to FEMA. These records are stored for all time on our system, and I believe we saved 100's (if not 1000's) of personnel hours employing this system. This presentation will involve the contractor, city perspective (public works, finance, procurement, parks and rec etc.), giving a robust perspective from each of them.

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