

## Budget... Time and Money

By: Mary Love, Procurement Counselor

Now that we have a federal budget approved for the remainder of fiscal year 2017, things could get more interesting this summer for those of you who are looking for government contracts. As you know the government was funded incrementally this year: October thru April, and now, May thru September. The President signed the second portion of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on May 5 for \$1.2 trillion. As you know, that money will need to be obligated by 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

The last quarter of the fiscal year for the federal government is July, August and September. From my own experience I can tell you that the year-end obligation push starts in June. So let's consider the procurement lead time for purchases by the federal government. If the solicitation is a Request for Proposals (RFP) or an Invitation for Bids, the pre-solicitation will need to be issued on [FedBizOpps](#) by the end of July at the latest. It will need to be posted there for at least 15 days before the solicitation is issued. The solicitation is then required to be posted for 30 days prior to the selection for award.

It is possible that may not be the case for a combined synopsis/solicitation. This type of solicitation allows the government to shorten the procurement lead time at the discretion of the contracting officer and based on the complexity of the acquisition. It must include all necessary documents when it is originally posted and typically allows only about 10 days before the response is due. But it might be only two days to respond or maybe as much as 30 days. Many agencies may still don't have all their funding allocations from this recent NDAA, so I predict that we will see a lot of combined synopsis/solicitations this summer.