A. QUESTIONS: (BSB ANSWERS in Highlighted)

1) How many users would need to have access to this application? What are some of the job designations/titles that they use (for example, editor, analyst, legislative assistant)? Users in all federal agencies will need to access this application. They can be budget analysts, agency legal counsel or other professionals that need to access the MAX tool set for the editing of text.

2) Are you looking for one vendor to provide both tools (Structured Editing and XML Editing), or two different vendors? One vendor can certainly propose to provide 'both' tools if they are capable, else two distinct vendors will be considered.

3) Are there any reasons that you cannot use a COTS tool for Structured Editing purposes, since there is no customization required?
We are requiring a tool that has an API that allows for extending the features of the tool offered without necessitating a change to the source code of that tool.

4) The RFI states that *"This cloud-based technology platform also enables secure government-wide collaboration; agile data collection, analytics, and publishing in support of policy development and reporting activities by OMB and Federal agencies."* Can you provide details on this technology? Would you be open to a vendor provided cloud solution that works in the Amazon GovCloud? No. this information is for RFI context and background reference only. That question is beyond the scope of Q&A for this RFI.

5) Are you intending to use the XML editing functionality for the Appendix only? Is XML editing not used for the rest of the document (main document, historical document, etc.)?
We intend to use the tool in a number of applications not necessarily associated with the Budget Appendix.

6) Is XML editing to be combined with structured editing? That is, in editing Budget Appendix, parts of it are done with structured editing? Not necessarily

7) We can see the size of the completed appendix to be 1400 pages+. However, what are the sizes of the individual files submitted by agencies? Anywhere from 1 to 10 pages

8) Is the compilation of the final budget appendix carried out from the XML version? Or, is it done from some other means and then XML is created?
Yes the Budget Appendix is produced from the XML version

9) Is the final composition of the budget appendix done from the XML source? If so, what composition engine is used?
Yes. A commercial XSL-FO rendering engine is used

10) Are you looking to keep the XML and the DTD exactly as they are today, or you open to changing the DTD and XML?
The DTD and XML are not immutable. However, we are looking for an XML Editing Tool that supports opening and validating against arbitrary XML Schemas (i.e. any defined XML Schema).

11) Can you provide some details on "filtering special characters"? Are there certain characters that need to be filtered? Is it to be done for certain applications (for example, Adobe Acrobat)? Our users cut and paste from a number of different sources (Word files, spreadsheets). We need

the ability to filter out characters that will cause problems when we produce the content in a variety of formats.

12) The requirement *"All components can be installed by users without administrative privileges"* Appears to be contradictory to the web-based requirement. If the software is web-based, what type of installation is required?
The tool must be accessible by users across the government. Most agencies grant only certain administrators the ability to install software on our users' workstations. The tool must be accessible without requiring an administrator to install it on a workstation.

13) Can you provide any screen shots of how the users use the MAX A-11 text editor? Is it used by the support staff, or by authors themselves? What applications do authors use to draft their budget appendix?

See answer to question 1 above.

14) We are interested in responding. Our tool has received certain DoD certifications. However, it has not gone through the Federal Desktop Core Configuration certification. Can you please provide any links for information related to obtaining the FDCC certification?
http://usgcb.nist.gov/usgcb/microsoft_content.html

15) Has budget been defined for this activity? Can you give us some ballpark for the budget for acquisition of tools and acquisition of services? This is a OA Procurement question

16) Is there a vendor providing support services for the MAX A-11 text editor? That question is beyond the scope of Q&A for this RFI.

17) It appears that most of the requirements at this point are quite generic (dealing with XML editing). Have you defined any application specific requirements (for example, users should be able to renumber paragraphs, or import data from sources, etc.)? Does MAX A-11 support such requirements? The tool is not meant to be used for one specific application. We are looking for tool(s) that can provide new and existing applications with added text editing capability.

18) What is the possible timeline on this project? Immediate-Term (4-6 weeks)

19) Are you possibly looking to conduct a pilot phase? If so, will the pilot be with multiple vendors? No, not at this time.

20) What method is used to generate the XML, PDF, eBook and HTML files? A variety of export algorithms are used.

21) Sections on your website (specifically "The Budget", "Analytical Perspective", Overview" and others) are only in web form or PDF. Is there a desire to have all these areas in XML, HTML and eBook files? Eventually.

22) Do the agencies find things of interest and add it to their library or is there a structured method of delivery?
Do not understand the question.

23) What particular security concerns do you have?   No. But all proposed software solutions will be independently assessed for Network Capability by Information Assurance.

24) What type of "government wide collaboration" do they have now? Is this a future goal? This is beyond the scope of Q&A for this RFI.

25) Do they have any automation capabilities now? Not sure what this questions is asking.

26) How often is the content changed or updated? Periodically throughout the Fiscal Year and Budget Season as necessary.

27) Do you want to edit structured documents in XHTML format or have the ability to output to an XHTML format? Both Edit and Output in XHTML? Both Edit and Output in XHTML

28) Is there a particular DTD or Schema that you are looking to use for editing XML documents? No particular XML Schema. The XML Editing Tool should be able to open and validate a document defined by any XML Schema