

City of Fayetteville Staff Review Form

2017-0672

Legistar File ID

12/5/2017

City Council Meeting Date - Agenda Item Only
N/A for Non-Agenda Item

Marsha Hertweck

11/16/2017

ACCOUNTING & AUDIT (131)

Submitted By

Submitted Date

Division / Department

Action Recommendation:

Approval of the first year of a five year contract with BKD,LLP for annual audit services for the City's 2017 financial audit.

Budget Impact:

various funds

Account Number	Fund
Project Number	Project Title
Budgeted Item? <u>Yes</u>	Current Budget \$ -
	Funds Obligated \$ -
	Current Balance \$ -
Does item have a cost? <u>Yes</u>	Item Cost \$ -
Budget Adjustment Attached? <u>No</u>	Budget Adjustment \$ -
	Remaining Budget \$ -

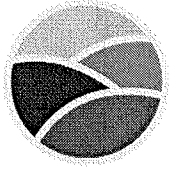
V20140710

Previous Ordinance or Resolution # _____

Original Contract Number: _____

Approval Date: _____

Comments:



MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2017

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Marsha Hertweck, Accounting Director
DATE: November 16, 2017
SUBJECT: BKD, LLP contract

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the first year of a five year contract with BKD,LLP for annual audit services for the City's 2017 financial audit.

BACKGROUND:

The City is required by Arkansas statutes to have an annual financial audit by either Legislative Audit or a Certified Public Accounting firm licensed in Arkansas. Because of the requirements of the City's bond indentures, the City has utilized the services of a private CPA firm to perform these mandated financial audits.

BKD,LLP was selected by the City, following the applicable rules and regulations concerning the procurement of auditing services, for a five year contract beginning with the 2017 audit. Under the contract BKD will provide an annual audit of the City's financial statements and a review of the City's internal control system as required by state law. In addition, BKD will issue a report on compliance for the City's major federal awards programs and on internal controls over compliance as required by the Uniform Guidance. The Uniform Guidance program is the primary mechanism used by federal agencies to ensure accountability for federal awards to non-federal entities.

Finally, BKD will also provide technical assistance to the City in producing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR includes the City's financial statements as well as statistical information.

DISCUSSION:

Staff is recommending approval of the contract with BKD,LLP for the first year of auditing services for the 2017 annual audit. The first year of the contract with BKD has maximum fees of \$99,000.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

The cost of the 2017 audit is \$99,000. The audit has been budgeted in the various funds of the City in the 2018 budget.

Attachments:

Staff Review form
City Council Memo
Original Contract

November 3, 2017

Board of Directors
Lionel Jordan, Mayor
Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
113 W. Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

We are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement and the nature of the services we will provide to the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas (the City).

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

We will audit the basic financial statements of the City as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Our audit will be conducted with the objectives of:

- ✓ Expressing an opinion on the financial statements.
- ✓ Issuing a report on your compliance based on the audit of your financial statements.
- ✓ Issuing a report on your internal control over financial reporting based on the audit of your financial statements.
- ✓ Expressing an opinion on your compliance, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements described in the *U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement* that are applicable to each of your major federal award programs.
- ✓ Issuing a report on your internal control over compliance based on the audit of your compliance with the types of compliance requirements that are applicable to each of your major federal award programs.
- ✓ Issuing a report on your schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 2

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards require that we plan and perform:

- ✓ The audit of the financial statements to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.
- ✓ The audit of compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* applicable to each major federal award program to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether noncompliance having a direct and material effect on a major federal award program occurred.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance having a direct and material effect may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Also, in the future, procedures could become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in design or operation. Two or more people may also circumvent controls, or management may override the system.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 3

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention at your request, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The actual terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate letter to be signed by you and BKD.

Andy Richards, Partner is responsible for supervising the engagement and authorizing the signing of the report or reports.

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the City's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis of matter or other matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If we discover conditions that may prohibit us from issuing a standard report, we will notify you as well. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

We will also express an opinion on whether the City's combining and individual fund statements and schedules, and the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards ("supplementary information") are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- c. for identifying and ensuring compliance with the laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to your activities including your federal award programs; and

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 4

- d. to provide us with
- i. access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - ii. additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
 - iii. unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management written confirmation acknowledging certain responsibilities outlined in this engagement letter and confirming:

- The availability of this information
- Certain representations made during the audits for all periods presented
- The effects of any uncorrected misstatements, if any, resulting from errors or fraud aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole

The results of our tests of compliance and internal control over financial reporting performed in connection with our audit of the financial statements may not fully meet the reasonable needs of report users. Management is responsible for obtaining audits, examinations, agreed-upon procedures or other engagements that satisfy relevant legal, regulatory or contractual requirements or fully meet other reasonable user needs.

With regard to supplementary information:

- Management is responsible for its preparation in accordance with applicable criteria
- Management will provide certain written representations regarding the supplementary information at the conclusion of our engagement
- Management will include our report on this supplementary information in any document that contains this supplementary information and indicates we have reported on the supplementary information
- Management will make the supplementary information readily available to intended users if it is not presented with the audited financial statements

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 5

OTHER SERVICES

The City's Compliance with Certain State Acts

We will examine management's written assertion that the City complied with certain state acts during the year ended December 31, 2017.

The objective of our examination is the expression of an opinion in a written report about whether the responsible party's assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects, with the applicable criteria against which it is measured or evaluated.

The criteria to be used consist of the requirements of Arkansas Act 15 of 1985 and the following Arkansas statutes:

- Arkansas Municipal Accounting Law of 1973, § 14-59-101 et seq.;
- Arkansas District Courts and City Courts Accounting Law, § 16-10-201 et seq.;
- Improvement contracts, §§ 22-9-202 – 22-9-204;
- Budgets, purchases, and payments of claims, etc., § 14-58-201 et seq. and § 14-58-301 et seq.;
- Investment of public funds, § 19-1-501 et seq.; and
- Deposit of public funds, §§ 19-8-101 – 19-8-107

We will conduct our examination in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the subject matter as measured or evaluated against the criteria is free of material misstatement.

Because of the inherent limitations of an examination engagement, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the examination is properly planned and performed in accordance with the attestation standards.

Our engagement will not include a detailed examination of every transaction and cannot be relied on to disclose all errors, fraud or illegal acts that may exist. However, we will inform you of any such matters, if material, that come to our attention.

We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or withdraw from the engagement. If we discover conditions which may prohibit us from issuing a standard examination report, we will notify you. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 6

To facilitate our engagement, management is responsible for providing a written assertion about the measurement or evaluation of the subject matter against the criteria, supplying us with all necessary information and for allowing us access to personnel to assist in performing our services. It should be understood that management is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of these items, for the subject matter and the written assertion(s) referred to above and for selecting and determining the appropriateness of the criteria.

At the conclusion of our engagement, management will provide to us a letter confirming these responsibilities, whether it is aware of any material misstatements in the subject matter or assertion, and that it has disclosed all known events subsequent to the period (or point in time) of the subject matter being reported on that would have a material effect on the subject matter or assertion.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and setting the proper tone; creating and maintaining a culture of honesty and high ethical standards; and establishing appropriate controls to prevent, deter and detect fraud and illegal acts. Management is also responsible for identifying and ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations applicable to your activities and for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance.

Other

We may perform other services for you not covered by this engagement letter. You agree to assume full responsibility for the substantive outcomes of the services described above and for any other services that we may provide, including any findings that may result. You also acknowledge that those services are adequate for your purposes and that you will establish and monitor the performance of those services to ensure that they meet management's objectives. Any and all decisions involving management responsibilities related to those services will be made by you, and you accept full responsibility for such decisions. We understand that you will designate a management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the performance of those services, and that you will have determined this individual is qualified to conduct such oversight.

ENGAGEMENT FEES

The fee for our services will be \$99,000.

Our pricing for this engagement and our fee structure are based upon the expectation that our invoices will be paid promptly. We will issue progress billings during the course of our engagement, and payment of our invoices is due upon receipt.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 7

The following new accounting standards are effective for your fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

- *GASB Statement No. 73 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That are Not within the Scope of GASB 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*
- *GASB Statement No. 74 – Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*
- *GASB Statement No. 80 – Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*
- *GASB Statement No. 81 – Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements*

The impact of these standards on your financial statements will depend on your facts and circumstances. You should evaluate the effect of these standards well in advance of your fiscal year to obtain any additional information necessary and effectively implement them. Our fees do not include time to assist you with implementing these standards. Should you require assistance, our fees will increase.

Our fees are based upon the understanding that your personnel will be available to assist us. Assistance from your personnel is expected to include:

- Preparing audit schedules to support all significant balance sheet and certain other accounts
- Responding to auditor inquiries
- Preparing audit confirmation and other letters
- Pulling selected invoices and other documents from files
- Helping to resolve any differences or exceptions noted

We will provide you with a detailed list of assistance and schedules required and the date such assistance and schedules are to be provided before the audit begins. All schedules should be provided in electronic form unless indicated otherwise.

Our timely completion of the audit depends on your timely and accurate schedule and analyses preparation and on the availability of your personnel to provide other assistance. If there are inaccuracies or delays in preparing this material, or if we experience other assistance difficulties that add a significant amount of time to our work, our fees will increase.

Our engagement fee does not include any time for post-engagement consultation with your personnel or third parties, consent letters and related procedures for the use of our reports in offering documents, inquiries from regulators or testimony or deposition regarding any subpoena. Charges for such services will be billed separately.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 8

Our fees may also increase if our duties or responsibilities are increased by rulemaking of any regulatory body or any additional new accounting or auditing standards.

If our invoices for this or any other engagement you may have with BKD are not paid within 30 days, we may suspend or terminate our services for this or any other engagement. In the event our work is suspended or terminated as a result of nonpayment, you agree we will not be responsible for any consequences to you.

OTHER ENGAGEMENT MATTERS AND LIMITATIONS

BKD is not acting as your municipal advisor under Section 15B of the *Securities Exchange Act of 1934*, as amended. As such, BKD is not recommending any action to you and does not owe you a fiduciary duty with respect to any information or communications regarding municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities. You should discuss such information or communications with any and all internal or external advisors and experts you deem appropriate before acting on any such information or material provided by BKD.

Our workpapers and documentation retained in any form of media for this engagement are the property of BKD. We can be compelled to provide information under legal process. In addition, we may be requested by regulatory or enforcement bodies to make certain workpapers available to them pursuant to authority granted by law or regulation. You agree that we have no legal responsibility to you in the event we provide such documents or information.

To the extent allowed by law, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless BKD and its personnel from any claims, liabilities, costs and expenses relating to our services under this agreement attributable to false or incomplete representations by management, except to the extent determined to have resulted from the intentional or deliberate misconduct of BKD personnel without, however, waiving any governmental immunity available to the City under Arkansas law and without waiving any defenses of the parties under Arkansas law.

The parties hereby agree that any litigation arising under this agreement will be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Washington County, Arkansas. The parties consent to the personal jurisdiction of these courts, and waive any objection that such venue is inconvenient or improper.

You agree that any dispute regarding this engagement will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted to mediation upon written request by either party. Both parties agree to try in good faith to settle the dispute in mediation. The American Arbitration Association will administer any such mediation in accordance with its Commercial Mediation Rules. The results of the mediation proceeding shall be binding only if each of us agrees to be bound. We will share any costs of mediation proceedings equally.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 9

Either of us may terminate these services at any time. Both of us must agree, in writing, to any future modifications or extensions. If services are terminated, you agree to pay us for time expended to date. In addition, you will be billed travel costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of 4% to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as computer processing, software licensing, research and library databases and similar expense items.

If any provision of this agreement is declared invalid or unenforceable, no other provision of this agreement is affected and all other provisions remain in full force and effect.

This engagement letter represents the entire agreement regarding the services described herein and supersedes all prior negotiations, proposals, representations or agreements, written or oral, regarding these services. It shall be binding on heirs, successors and assigns of you and BKD.

We may from time to time utilize third-party service providers, *e.g.*, domestic software processors or legal counsel, or disclose confidential information about you to third-party service providers in serving your account. We remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information. In the event we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider.

We will, at our discretion or upon your request, deliver financial or other confidential information to you electronically via email or other mechanism. You recognize and accept the risk involved, particularly in email delivery, as the internet is not necessarily a secure medium of communication as messages can be intercepted and read by those determined to do so.

You agree you will not modify these documents for internal use or for distribution to third parties. You also understand that we may on occasion send you documents marked as draft and understand that those are for your review purpose only, should not be distributed in any way and should be destroyed as soon as possible.

If you intend to include these financial statements and our report in an offering document at some future date, you agree to seek our permission to do so at that time. You agree to provide reasonable notice to allow sufficient time for us to perform certain additional procedures. Any time you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce these financial statements and our report and make reference to our firm name in any manner in connection therewith, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing or other reproduction. You will also provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed. Our fees for such services are in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this letter.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 10

You agree to notify us if you desire to place these financial statements or our report thereon along with other information, such as a report by management or those charged with governance on operations, financial summaries or highlights, financial ratios, etc., on an electronic site. You recognize that we have no responsibility as auditors to review information contained in electronic sites.

Any time you intend to reference our firm name in any manner in any published materials, including on an electronic site, you agree to provide us with draft materials for our review and approval before publishing or posting such information.

Nothing contained herein is intended to restrict the City's ability to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Therefore, the notification and approval requirements applicable to the distribution of our report do not apply to the City's response to a Freedom of Information Act, or to the posting of our reports, in their entirety, on the City's website.

BKD is a registered limited liability partnership under Missouri law. Under applicable professional standards, partners of **BKD, LLP** have the same responsibilities as do partners in a general accounting and consulting partnership with respect to conformance by themselves and other professionals in BKD with their professional and ethical obligations. However, unlike the partners in a general partnership, the partners in a registered limited liability partnership do not have individual civil liability, directly or indirectly, including by way of indemnification, contribution, assessment or otherwise, for any debts, obligations or liabilities of or chargeable to the registered limited liability partnership or each other, whether arising in tort, contract or otherwise.

HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

We agree not to use or disclose Protected Health Information of your employees (hereinafter referred to as "PHI") obtained or produced in any form of media during the course of our work in a manner prohibited by HIPAA, as amended. We may use or disclose PHI for purposes of (a) performing our engagement, (b) management and administration of BKD, or (c) carrying out legal responsibilities of BKD. We will not further disclose information except as permitted or required by this contract or as required by law. When using or disclosing PHI in relation to this engagement, we will limit disclosures as required by HIPAA. We will not use PHI in any marketing activities in a manner that would violate HIPAA. We represent to you that we have implemented what we consider to be appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of your PHI as required for us as a business associate to comply with HIPAA.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 11

With respect to your PHI, we will report to you any breach (as defined in 45 CFR 164.402), material security incident or use or disclosure not authorized by this agreement and, to the extent practical, assist you in mitigating any harmful effects caused by breaches, material security incidents or unauthorized uses or disclosures of which we become aware. To assist you in fulfilling your responsibility to notify impacted individuals and others of a breach involving unsecured PHI (as required under 45 CFR 164.400 et seq.), in this report we will identify to you, to the extent reasonably possible:

1. Each individual whose unsecured PHI was subject to the breach.
2. Any other available information you are required to include in your notification to such individual(s) or others under 45 CFR 164.404(c).

We agree that any material violation of these confidentiality provisions by us entitles you to terminate this engagement. Similarly, if we become aware of a violation of HIPAA by you that cannot be or is not timely cured, we may be obligated to terminate this engagement.

BKD agrees to:

1. Upon their request, make available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) our internal practices and books and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI for purposes of determining your compliance with the Security and Privacy Rule, subject to any applicable legal privileges.
2. Make available information necessary for you to make an accounting of disclosures of PHI about an individual.
3. To the extent we maintain information that is part of a Designated Record Set, make available information necessary for you to respond to requests by individuals for access to PHI that is not in your possession but is considered part of a Designated Record Set.
4. Upon receipt of a written request from you, incorporate any amendments or corrections to PHI contained in our workpapers in accordance with the Security and Privacy Rule to the extent such PHI is considered part of a Designated Record Set.

For purposes of this agreement, the term "Security and Privacy Rule" refers to the final rules published to implement the Administrative Simplification provisions of the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996*, specifically 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164. The terms "Protected Health Information" and "Designated Record Set" have the same meaning as defined in the Security and Privacy Rule.

At the conclusion or termination of this engagement, any PHI retained by us will be subject to the same safeguards as for active engagements.

Board of Directors
Honorable Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Mrs. Sondra Smith, City Clerk
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas
Page 12

We will obtain from any agents, including subcontractors, to whom we provide PHI received from you, or created or received by us on behalf of you, an agreement to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to us with respect to such PHI.

To the extent that any relevant provision of HIPAA is eliminated or held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the corresponding portion of this agreement shall be deemed of no force and effect for any purpose. To the extent that any relevant provision of HIPAA is materially amended in a manner that changes the obligations of business associates or covered entities that are embodied in term(s) of this engagement, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith appropriate amendment(s) to this engagement to give effect to such revised obligations. In addition, the terms of this engagement should be construed in light of any interpretation and/or guidance on HIPAA issued by HHS from time to time.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Our most recent peer review report accompanies this letter.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities. If the signed copy you return to us is in electronic form, you agree that such copy shall be legally treated as a "duplicate original" of this agreement.

BKD, LLP

BKD, LLP

Acknowledged and agreed to on behalf of

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

BY _____
Lioneld Jordan, Mayor

DATE _____

BY _____
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer

DATE _____

Enclosure



8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001 - Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-922-4600 Phone - 225-922-4611 Fax - pncpa.com

Postlethwaite & Netterville and Associates, L.L.C.

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

To the Partners of
BKD, LLP
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of BKD, LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2017. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, audits performed under FDICIA, an audit of carrying broker-dealers, and examinations of service organizations [SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements].

As part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated to the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of BKD, LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2017, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. BKD, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Postlethwaite & Netterville

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 6, 2017