

City of Fayetteville Staff Review Form

2022-0291

Legistar File ID

4/19/2022

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

Marsha Hertweck

3/25/2022

ACCOUNTING & AUDIT (131)

Submitted By

Submitted Date

Division / Department

Action Recommendation:

Approval of the final year of a five year contract with BKD,LLP for annual audit services for the City's 2021 financial audit.

Budget Impact:

various

Account Number

Fund

Project Number

Project Title

Budgeted Item? Yes

Current Budget

Funds Obligated

Current Balance

\$ -

Does item have a cost? Yes

Item Cost

Budget Adjustment Attached? No

Budget Adjustment

\$ -

Remaining Budget

V20210527

Purchase Order Number: _____

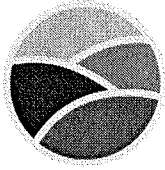
Previous Ordinance or Resolution # _____

Change Order Number: _____

Approval Date: _____

Original Contract Number: _____

Comments:



MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Marsha Hertweck, Accounting Director
DATE: March 25, 2022
SUBJECT: BKD, LLP contract

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the fifth year of a five-year contract with BKD, LLP for annual audit services for the City's 2021 financial audit.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

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. The City's bond indentures require the City to utilize the services of a private CPA firm to audit the financial statements.

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 the 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 nonfederal entities.

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

Staff is recommending approval of the contract with BKD, LLP for auditing services for the 2021 annual audit. The fifth year of the contract with BKD has a maximum fee of \$117,320.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

The cost of the 2021 audit is a maximum of \$117,320. The audit has been budgeted in various funds of the City in the 2022 approved budget.

Attachments:

Staff Review form
City Council Memo
Engagement Letter

March 24, 2022

City Council
Lioneld Jordan, Mayor
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer
CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS
113 W. Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

We appreciate your selection of **BKD, LLP** as your service provider and are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement in this contract. Within the requirements of our professional standards and any duties owed to the public, regulatory, or other authorities, our goal is to provide you **Unmatched Client Service®**.

In addition to the terms set forth in this contract, including the detailed **Scope of Services**, our engagement is governed by the following, incorporated fully by this reference:

- Terms and Conditions Addendum

Summary Scope of Services

As described in the attached **Scope of Services**, our services will include the following:

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

- Audit Services for the year ended December 31, 2021
- Attestation Examination Services for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Engagement Fees

The fee for our services will be \$117,320. Included in this fee are travel costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items.

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 analysis 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 pricing for this engagement and our fee structure are based upon the expectation that our invoices will be paid promptly. Payment of our invoices is due upon receipt.

Additional Costs Related to Implementing New Standards

Assistance and additional time as a result of the adoption of new standards, such as those listed in the attached **New Auditing and Accounting Standards**, are not included within our standard engagement fees. These fees will be based on time expended and will vary based on the level of assistance and procedures required.

Contract Agreement

Please sign and return this contract to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our services including our respective responsibilities.

BKD, LLP



Acknowledged and agreed to as it relates to the entire contract, including the **Scope of Services, and Terms and Conditions Addendum**, on behalf of CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS.

BY _____
Lionel Jordan, Mayor

DATE _____

BY _____
Paul Becker, Chief Financial Officer

DATE _____

Scope of Services

The following apply for all services:

Assistance Our timely completion of services depends on the assistance you provide us in accumulating information and responding to our inquiries. Inaccuracies or delays in providing this information or the responses may result in untimely filings or inability to meet other deadlines.

Responsibility for Outcomes We may perform additional services for you that are not covered by this contract. You agree to assume full responsibility for the substantive outcomes of the contracted services and for any other services we may provide, including any findings that may result.

You also acknowledge these services are adequate for your purposes, and you will establish and monitor the performance of these services to ensure they meet management's objectives. All decisions involving management responsibilities related to these services will be made by you, and you accept full responsibility for such decisions.

We understand you have designated (or will) a management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the performance of these services, and you have determined (or will) this individual is qualified to conduct such oversight.

Additional Costs Related to COVID-19 Our fees do not consider additional efforts driven by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the related COVID-19 (COVID-19) environment. Complexities and uncertainties related to various provisions of new laws and the continued issuance of interpretative and procedural guidance from federal agencies may affect our services. Fees related to COVID-19 activities will be billed based on time expended. Additional efforts or services may include:

- Accounting and auditing issues such as collectability of receivables, inventory valuation, compliance with debt agreements, modification of lease terms, additional major programs subject to Single Audit, etc.

Audit Services

We will audit the basic financial statements and related notes to the basic financial statements for the following entity(ies) with the objective 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; and issuing a report on your schedule of expenditures of federal awards:

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

You have informed us that the audited financial statements are expected to be presented along with the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). Management is responsible for the other information included in the ACFR. The other information comprises the ACFR but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements will not cover the other information, and we will not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or whether the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

We will also express an opinion on whether combining individual fund statements ,and the schedules 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.

We will also provide you with the following nonattest services:

- We will complete the auditee portion of the Form SF-SAC (Data Collection Form) through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. We will not make the submission on your behalf. You will review a draft(s) of the submission prior to transmission and agree that you are solely responsible for approving the final draft for transmission as well as for the auditee submission and certification

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

We will issue a written report(s) upon completion of our audit(s), addressed to the following parties:

Entity Name

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Party Name

City Council

You are responsible to distribute our reports to other officials who have legal oversight authority or those responsible for acting on audit findings and recommendations, and to others authorized to receive such reports.

The following apply for the audit services described above:

**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, and
- 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

We will exercise professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We will obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We will also conclude, based on audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

**Limitations &
Fraud**

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these financial statements.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Our understanding of internal control is not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of your internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify 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.

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 contract to be signed by you and **BKD, LLP**.

Opinion

Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter paragraph or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement.

If we discover conditions that may prohibit us from issuing a standard report, we will notify you. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

**Your
Responsibilities**

Management and, if applicable, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand their responsibility for the following:

- For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (or other basis if indicated in the contract)
- 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
- For identifying and ensuring compliance with the laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to your activities (including your federal award programs)

- To provide us with:
 - Access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including access to information relevant to disclosures
 - Additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence

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.

**Written
Confirmations
Required**

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, if applicable, those charged with governance written confirmation acknowledging certain responsibilities outlined in this contract 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

**Peer Review
Report**

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 contract.

**Supplementary
Information**

With regard to any supplementary information that we are engaged to report on:

- 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

**Implementation of
New Standards**

Unless indicated in our contract, our services and related fees do not include substantive assistance beyond routine advice related to the adoption of new accounting and reporting standards. Should you require assistance, we will bill you at our standard hourly rates.

**Assistance with
Application of
Standards**

Transactions or changes in business may require you to apply existing standards differently each year, such as when business operations create new revenue streams, operations are discontinued, liquidity or operational challenges are encountered, business combinations are executed, etc. We welcome your questions throughout the year and are happy to provide general guidance and routine support; however, our engagement does not include substantive effort to assist you with applying standards to these circumstances, unless otherwise indicated in the contract.

Attestation Examination Services

We will examine the written assertion made by management that the City complied with certain state acts during the year ended December 31, 2021.

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.;
- Improve 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

The following apply for the attestation examination services described above:

**Our
Responsibilities**

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.

If we discover conditions that may prohibit us from issuing a standard report, we will notify you. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

**Limitations &
Fraud**

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.

Report

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.

**Your
Responsibilities**

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.

New Auditing and Accounting Standards

Leases

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87, *Leases*, is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021. Early application is encouraged.

Statement No. 87 establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources. We can assist you with the adoption by providing services which may include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing your readiness by assisting with the evaluation of your:
 - Current controls and policies
 - Current internal resources and system capabilities
- Assisting with changes required to adopt Statement No. 87, including:
 - Assisting with information gathering to develop an inventory of all lease agreements, service contracts, and other arrangements that may contain right-to-use lease assets
 - Recommending enhancements to existing controls and policies or suggesting new controls and policies to address Statement No. 87
 - Documenting any changes from your previous lease recognition and reporting methods
 - Drafting the required disclosures

The time it will take to perform the above assistance and our additional audit procedures relating to the adoption of the Statement, and any time to assist you with the adoption, may be minimized to the extent your personnel will be available to provide timely and accurate documentation and information as requested by us.

BKD, LLP Terms and Conditions Addendum

GENERAL

1. **Overview.** This addendum describes **BKD, LLP's** standard terms and conditions ("Terms and Conditions") applicable to Our provision of services to the Client ("You"). The Terms and Conditions are a part of the contract between You and **BKD, LLP**. For the purposes of the Terms and Conditions, any reference to "Firm," "We," "Us," or "Our" is a reference to **BKD, LLP** ("BKD"), and any reference to "You" or "Your" is a reference to the party or parties that have engaged Us to provide services.

BILLING, PAYMENT, & TERMINATION

2. **Billing and Payment Terms.** We will bill You for Our professional fees and costs as outlined in Our contract. Interest will be charged on any unpaid balance after 30 days at the rate of 10 percent per annum, or as allowed by law at the earliest date thereafter, and highest applicable rate if less than 10 percent.

We reserve the right to suspend or terminate Our work for this engagement or any other engagement for nonpayment of fees. If Our work is suspended or terminated, You agree that We will not be responsible for Your failure to meet governmental and other deadlines, for any penalties or interest that may be assessed against You resulting from Your failure to meet such deadlines, and for any other damages (including but not limited to consequential, indirect, lost profits, or punitive damages) incurred as a result of the suspension or termination of Our services.

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

3. **Billing Records.** If these services are determined to be within the scope and authority of Section 1861(v)(1)(I) of the Social Security Act, We agree to make available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or to the U.S. Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, such of Our books, documents, and records that are necessary to certify the nature and extent of Our services, until the expiration of four (4) years after the furnishing of these services. This contract allows access to contracts of a similar nature between subcontractors and related organizations of the subcontractor, and to their books, documents, and records.
4. **Termination.** Either party may terminate these services in good faith at any time for any reason, including Your failure to comply with the terms of Our contract or as We determine professional standards require. Both parties must agree, in writing, to any future modifications or extensions. If services are terminated, You agree to pay BKD for time expended to date. In addition, You will be billed costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of four (4) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items.

DISPUTES & DISCLAIMERS

5. **Mediation.** Any dispute arising out of or related to this engagement will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted for nonbinding mediation upon written request by either party. Both parties agree to try in good faith to settle the dispute in mediation. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") will administer any such mediation in accordance with its Commercial Mediation Rules. The mediator will be selected by agreement of the parties. If We cannot agree, a mediator shall be designated by the AAA. The mediation proceeding shall be confidential. Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation, but the fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally.
6. **Indemnification.** Unless disallowed by law or applicable professional standards, You agree to hold BKD harmless from any and all claims which arise from knowing misrepresentations to BKD, or the intentional withholding or concealment of information from BKD by Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. You also agree to indemnify BKD for any claims made against BKD by third parties, which arise from any wrongful actions of Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the nature of the claim.
7. **Statute of Limitations.** You agree that any claim or legal action arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder shall be commenced no more than one (1) year from the date of delivery of the work product to You or the termination of the services described herein (whichever is earlier), regardless of any statute of limitations prescribing a longer period of time for commencing such a claim under law. This time limitation shall apply regardless of whether BKD performs other or subsequent services for You. A claim is understood to be a demand for money or services, demand for mediation, or the service of suit based on a breach of this contract or the acts or omissions of BKD in performing the services provided herein. This provision shall not apply if enforcement is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
8. **Limitation of Liability.** You agree that BKD's liability, if any, arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder, shall be limited to the amount of the fees paid by You for services rendered under this contract. This limitation shall not apply to the extent it is finally, judicially determined that the liability resulted from the intentional or willful misconduct of BKD or if enforcement of this provision is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
9. **Waiver of Certain Damages.** In no event shall BKD be liable to You or a third party for any indirect, special, consequential, punitive, or exemplary damages, including but not limited to lost profits, loss of revenue, interruption, loss of use, damage to goodwill or reputation, regardless of whether You were advised of the possibility of such damages, regardless of whether such damages were reasonably foreseeable, and regardless of whether such damages arise under a theory of contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise.

10. **Severability.** If any portion of this contract is deemed invalid or unenforceable, said finding shall not operate to invalidate the remainder of the terms set forth in this contract.
11. **Assignment.** You acknowledge and agree that the terms and conditions of this contract shall be binding upon and inure to the parties' successors and assigns, subject to applicable laws and regulations.
12. **Disclaimer of Legal or Investment Advice.** Our services do not constitute legal or investment advice.

RECORDS, WORKPAPERS, DELIVERABLES, & PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

13. **Maintenance of Records.** You agree to assume full responsibility for maintaining Your original data and records and that BKD has no responsibility to maintain this information. You agree You will not rely on BKD to provide hosting, electronic security, or backup services, *e.g.*, business continuity or disaster recovery services, to You unless separately engaged to do so. You understand that Your access to data, records, and information from BKD's servers, *i.e.*, BKDconnect, can be terminated at any time and You will not rely on using this to host Your data and records.
14. **BKD Workpapers.** 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 (including any State Board) to make certain workpapers available to them pursuant to authority granted by law or regulation. Unless We are prohibited from doing so by law or regulation, BKD will inform You of any such legal process or request. You agree We have no legal responsibility to You in the event We determine We are obligated to provide such documents or information. In addition, You agree to compensate or reimburse BKD for all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, associated with BKD's compliance with requests or demands for its workpapers or other information related to this engagement, and for any testimony required by summons or subpoena.
15. **Use of Deliverables and Drafts.** You agree You will not modify any deliverables or drafts prepared by Us 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.

Our report on any financial statements must be associated only with the financial statements that were the subject of Our engagement. You may make copies of Our report, but only if the entire financial statements (exactly as attached to Our report, including related footnotes and supplementary information, as appropriate) are reproduced and distributed with Our report. You agree not to reproduce or associate Our report with any other financial statements, or portions thereof, that are not the subject of Our engagement.

16. **Proprietary Information.** You acknowledge that proprietary information, documents, materials, management techniques, and other intellectual property are a material source of the services We perform and were developed prior to Our association with You. Any new forms, software, documents, or intellectual property We develop during this engagement for Your use shall belong to Us, and You shall

have the limited right to use them solely within Your business. All reports, templates, manuals, forms, checklists, questionnaires, letters, agreements, and other documents which We make available to You are confidential and proprietary to Us. Neither You, nor any of Your agents, will copy, electronically store, reproduce, or make any such documents available to anyone other than Your personnel. This provision will apply to all materials whether in digital, "hard copy" format, or other medium.

REGULATORY

17. **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and other Regulatory Bodies.** Where We are providing services either for (a) an entity that is registered with the SEC, (b) an affiliate of such registrant, or (c) an entity or affiliate that is subject to rules, regulations, or standards beyond those of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), any term of this contract that would be prohibited by or impair Our independence under applicable law or regulation shall not apply to the extent necessary only to avoid such prohibition or impairment.
18. **Offering Document.** You may wish to include Our report(s) on financial statements in an exempt offering document. You agree that any report, including any auditor's report, or reference to Our firm, will not be included in any such offering document without notifying us. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including providing agreement for the use of the auditor's report in the exempt offering document, will be a separate engagement.

Any exempt offering document issued by You with which We are not involved will clearly indicate that We are not involved by including a disclosure such as, "BKD, LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. BKD, LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document."
19. **BKD Not a Municipal Advisor.** 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 matters with internal or external advisors and experts You deem appropriate before acting on any such information or material provided by BKD.

TECHNOLOGY

20. **Electronic Sites.** You agree to notify Us if You desire to place Our report(s), including any reports on Your financial statements, 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 to review information contained in electronic sites.
21. **Electronic Signatures and Counterparts.** This contract and other documents to be delivered pursuant to this contract may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy and all of which, when taken together, will be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement or document, and will be

effective when counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other parties. Each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Delivery of a copy of this contract or any other document contemplated hereby, bearing an original manual or electronic signature by facsimile transmission (including a facsimile delivered via the internet), by electronic mail in "portable document format" (".pdf") or similar format intended to preserve the original graphic and pictorial appearance of a document, or through the use of electronic signature software, will have the same effect as physical delivery of the paper document bearing an original signature.

22. **Electronic Data Communication and Storage.** In the interest of facilitating Our services to You, We may send data over the internet, temporarily store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the internet, or utilize cloud-based storage. Your confidential electronic data may be transmitted or stored using these methods. In using these data communication and storage methods, We employ measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and electronic data secure in accordance with Our obligations under applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards.

You recognize and accept that We have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or electronic data once it has been transmitted or if it has been subject to unauthorized access while stored, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us. You consent to Our use of these electronic devices and applications during this engagement.

OTHER MATTERS

23. **Third-Party Service Providers.** BKD 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. BKD maintains, however, internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality and security of Your information. In addition, BKD will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of Your information. If We are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, You will be asked to consent prior to BKD sharing Your confidential information with the third-party service provider.
24. **Independent Contractor.** When providing services to You, We will be functioning as an independent contractor; and in no event will We or any of Our employees be an officer of You, nor will Our relationship be that of joint venturers, partners, employer and employee, principal and agent, or any similar relationship giving rise to a fiduciary duty to You.
25. **Use of BKD Name.** Any time You intend to reference BKD's firm name in any manner in any published materials, including on an electronic site, You agree to provide Us with draft materials for review and approval before publishing or posting such information.
26. **Praxity.** BKD is an independent accounting firm allowed to use the name "Praxity" in relation to its practice. BKD is not connected, however, by ownership with any other firm using the name "Praxity." BKD will be solely responsible for all work carried out on Your behalf. In deciding to engage BKD, You acknowledge that We have

not represented to You that any other firm using the name "Praxity" will in any way be responsible for Our work.

27. **BKD Status as LLP.** 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, partners in a registered limited liability partnership do not have individual civil liability, directly or indirectly, 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.
28. **Entire Agreement.** The contract, including this *Terms and Conditions Addendum* and any other attachments or addenda, encompasses the entire agreement between You and BKD and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the parties, whether oral or written. Any modification to the terms of this contract must be made in writing and signed by both You and BKD.
29. **Force Majeure.** We shall not be held responsible for any failure to fulfill Our obligations if such failure was caused by circumstances beyond Our control.



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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 permanent inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2020. 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 the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, audits performed under FDICIA, an audit of a broker-dealer, 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 permanent inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2020, 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
November 2, 2020