

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/09/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0443

LOG NAME: 13AUDIT SERVICES FY26

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Forvis Mazars, LLP for External Financial Audit Services in an Amount Up to \$840,000.00 per Year for a Three-Year Initial Term with Two One-Year Renewal Options

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize execution of a professional services agreement with Forvis Mazars, LLP to provide external financial audit services for the City of Fort Worth in an amount up to \$840,000.00 per year for a three-year initial term with two one-year renewal options.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize a professional services agreement with Forvis Mazars, LLP to obtain external financial audit services for the City of Fort Worth (City). Services will include review of the City's financial statements to ensure conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), examination of compliance with requirements established by state law and the City Charter and Ordinances and certain limited procedures involving supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). All services will be provided in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) as set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Government Auditing Standards.

On March 23, 2026, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for external financial audit services was issued by Financial Management Services with a proposal deadline of April 24, 2026. Proposals addressing evaluation criteria that included experience and performance for comparable government engagements, implementation of GASB statements, quality of professional personnel, availability of technical consultation, proposed staffing plan, techniques, analytical procedures, and price. Proposals were received from the following firms:

- Cherry Bekaert
- CLA
- Crowe, LLP
- Forvis Mazars, LLP
- MGO
- RSM
- Weaver & Tidwell, L.L.P. d/b/a Weaver

The proposals were evaluated by the selection committee (Committee), which consisted of key staff from the FMS, Information Technology Solutions and Internal Audit Departments. The proposals were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Firm's Qualifications and Experience (50%)
- Understanding the Needs of the City (20%)
- Reasonableness of Costs (20%)
- Soundness of Approach (10%)

The top two responding firms were invited to give a presentation and participate in an interview process. Based on ratings received in both processes, Forvis Mazars, LLP was ranked the highest. The Committee agrees the recommended firm meets specifications and that its price is fair and reasonable.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER - An administrative change, order or increase may be made by the City Manager in an amount of up to \$100,000.00 and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

Funding is budgeted in the Consultant & Other Prof Service account within the General Fund and will be budgeted in the Consultant & Other Prof Services account within the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Financial Management Services Department.

Agreement Terms

The contract will commence upon execution with an initial three-year term, followed by two optional one-year renewal terms. This action does not require specific City Council approval provided that the City Council has appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the City's obligations during the renewal term.

This will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, and upon adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available in the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as appropriated, in the General Fund to support the approval of the recommendation and execution of the professional services agreement. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Financial Management Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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