

City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/19/24 M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0221

LOG NAME: 60BICKERSTAFF TCEQ AND PUC OUTSIDE COUNSEL

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Resolution Retaining Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, as Outside Counsel, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$200,000.00 for Legal Services Related to Regulatory Matters, Including, but not Limited to, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or the State Office of Administrative Hearings Involving the Water Department

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution approving the retention of the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, as outside legal counsel, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 to assist and represent the City with regulatory matters, including, but not limited to, matters with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, or the State Office of Administrative Hearings involving the Water Department.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Fort Worth (City) has traditionally hired outside counsel to represent the City in complex matters before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) which involve the Water Department. From time to time, the City needs outside counsel with expertise in regulatory matters, involving, but not limited to, the following agencies: TCEQ, PUC, or the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). The City desires that the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP be retained to assist and represent the City in regulatory matters where such outside legal counsel is needed.

Funding is budgeted in the Water and Sewer Fund for the Water Department.

Legal fees are requested in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the recommendation, funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the Water and Sewer Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Water Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: ALL ACMs 6122

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