

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/26/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0777

LOG NAME: 17FY2026 FWCC CONTRACT AGREEMENT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Contract with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce in an Amount Up to \$185,000.00 to Assist Small Businesses

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the execution of a contract with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce in an amount up to \$185,000.00 to assist small businesses.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize an agreement with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) in light of recent changes at the City.

During the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget process, the City Council approved contracts with the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FWHCC) and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC) to provide business development assistance, construction assistance, and outreach programs to minority and women business enterprises located in the City's six-county marketplace (Denton, Parker, Wise, Tarrant, Dallas, and Johnson counties) (M&C 24-1052).

Because of City Council's August 5, 2025 suspension of the City's Minority and Women Business Enterprises ordinance and the enactment of a Small Business Program ordinance, the nature of the services provided by FWMBCC and FWHCC will change and focus on assisting small businesses. The change in services is anticipated to involve serving a much larger number of businesses. Therefore, in addition to amending those agreements, City staff is also recommending entering into a new contract with the FWCC to provide similar services.

To align with the effective date of the small business ordinance, the term of the agreement will be from September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 and the authorized spending authority will be an amount up to \$185,000.00.

The scope of services is anticipated to include the following deliverables:

1. Facilitating Relationships Between Prime, Subs, Vendors

- Convene monthly forums, seminars, meetings, workshops to foster partnership agreements, joint-venture, and mentor/protege opportunities.
- Conduct Quarterly Small Business Expo Events and Industry-Specific Forums for construction, tech, food services, and logistics with partner chambers.

2. Outreach and Communications

- Partner with other chambers and City of Fort Worth Chief Communications Officer to expand the reach of opportunity announcements, small business success stories, goal achievement, and innovation.

3. Exit Planning Strategy Advisory

- Connect business owners seeking exit strategies with a goal of retaining small business enterprise in the local market.

The FWCC will work with the FWHCC and the FWMBCC to help small businesses with various needs to help them become successful and viable businesses within the five-county marketplace (Denton, Parker, Wise, Tarrant, and Johnson). Each Chamber will be responsible for producing an annual report on each deliverable they are responsible for under the terms of their respective agreement.

Funding is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget in the General Operating & Maintenance category in the General Fund.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendation(s) funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, and upon adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available in the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget, as appropriated, in the General Fund. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Economic Development department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Jessica McEachern 5804

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Expedited