



COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

From: The Office of the City Manager

Date: 6-24-2013

Subject: Agenda Item No. F.1
Award Professional Services Agreement for Audit Services to BKD, LLP

Presenter: Laury Fiorello, Assistant Finance Director

Summary:

The City Council is being asked to award a professional services agreement for Audit Services to BKD, LLP.

General Description:

Deloitte, LLP has performed the audit for the City of North Richland Hills for the last four years. While the City does not have a policy mandating the periodic rotation of auditors, management believes that it is good practice to request proposals periodically to ensure the City is receiving the best possible audit services. Prior to this occasion, the last time the City requested proposals for auditing services was in 2009.

On April 5, 2013 the City requested proposals for Professional Auditing Services from local, regional, and national accounting firms by direct mail, and newspaper advertisement. The proposal specifications were prepared by staff to ensure conformance with nationally accepted governmental auditing standards while promoting and protecting the interests of the City of North Richland Hills. The proposal described relevant aspects of the audit process from start to finish.

The term of the engagement will be for fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015 with two optional one-year renewals. Services to be provided include, but are not limited to, the annual audit of the City's financial statements (including bond official statement documents), review of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, State and Federal Grant auditing and reporting, compliance testing of the requirements of the Texas Public Funds Investment Act as amended, internal control review of various city departments, and payroll tax consultation.

The following firms submitted proposals (listed in alphabetical order):

- BKD, LLP
- Crowe Horwath
- Deloitte, LLP
- Grant Thornton
- KPMG, LLP
- Patillo, Brown, and Hill, LLP
- Weaver, LLP
- Whitley Penn, LLP

The proposals were evaluated using these major criteria:

- 1) Mandatory elements such as independence and audit quality.
- 2) Expertise and Experience
- 3) Audit Approach
- 4) Ability to meet stated deadlines.

The proposals were reviewed by a six member Proposal Review Committee:

- Karen Bostic, Assistant City Manager
- Larry Koonce, Director of Finance
- Caroline Waggoner, Assistant Director of Public Works
- Cameron Rowland, Assistant Director of Human Resources
- Laury Fiorello, Assistant Director of Finance
- Amy Stephens, Accountant II

Interviews were held with four of the firms: BKD, LLP, Patillo, Brown, and Hill, LLP, Weaver, LLP and Whitley Penn, LLP. After careful review and consideration of all the critical elements involved, the committee concluded the best proposal was submitted by the accounting firm of BKD, LLP of Dallas. The firm's proposal offered support that their firm has the best qualifications when combining all critical elements of the evaluation criteria. As such, the committee recommends award of the engagement to BKD, LLP. The firm has extensive experience in municipal auditing and ranked high in all technical areas of evaluation. They are currently serving over 150 municipal governmental clients. Their references include, but are not limited to, the City of Bedford, City of El Paso, City of Lubbock, City of Lancaster, The Colony, and City of Kerrville, Texas.

BKD, LLP has proposed the following costs for services (Audit, Bond Official Statement Review, and Payroll Tax Consultation) for 2013 (\$98,650), 2014 (\$101,200), and 2015 (\$104,225).

This engagement gives the City the right to review the auditor's performance each year. Acceptable performance reviews will be necessary to continue auditing services the following year.

Recommendation:

Award Professional Services Agreement for Audit Services to BKD, LLP.

June 13, 2013

Honorable Oscar Trevino, Mayor
and Members of City Council
Mr. Mark Hindman, City Manager
Mr. Larry Koonce, Finance Director
City of North Richland Hills, Texas
7301 NE Loop 820
North Richland Hills, Texas

We are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement and the nature of the services we will provide to the City of North Richland Hills, Texas.

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

We will audit the basic financial statements of the City of North Richland Hills, Texas as of and for the year ended September 30, 2013, 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 Circular A-133 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.

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 U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Nonprofit Organizations*. 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. 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 fraud or error. 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.
- ✓ The audit of compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB Circular A-133 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.

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.

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.

Kevin Kemp 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 of North Richland Hill's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the mayor and members of city council of the City of North Richland Hills. 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 combining financial statements and various budget and actual schedules ("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 and, where appropriate, those charged with governance 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
- 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 and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, 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

OTHER SERVICES

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 functions 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

Our fees will be \$93,350 (\$80,150 for financial statement audit and \$13,200 for Single Audit) which includes an administrative fee 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.

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. Interest will be charged on any unpaid balance after 30 days at the rate of 10% per annum.

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.

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. We will consult with you in the event any other regulations or standards are issued that may impact our fees.

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

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 permitted by the laws of the State of Texas, 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.

To the extent permitted by the laws of the State of Texas, 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.

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. 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 will be \$4,000 per offering document.

You agree to notify us if you desire to place these financial statements or our report thereon 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.

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.

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

Acknowledged and agreed to on behalf of

City of North Richland Hills, Texas

BY _____
(Name & Title - Member of Those
Charged with Governance)

DATE _____

BY _____
(Name & Title - Member of Management)

DATE _____