THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 14, 2022

Subject: Legislative Liaison Contract

Staff Resource(s): Brad R. Brahmam, City Attorney

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for 1 year with two one year renewal options with Blanchard, Miller, Lewis and Isley, P.A. in the amount of $84,000 per year for government relation services.

Background:

- Approval of the contract will allow the city's lobbyist to continue providing legislative services.
- The current contract will expire on June 30, 2022.
- The City's lobbyist provides valuable services through advocating the City's legislative agenda, lobbying against bills which would be harmful to the City, and providing general counsel to the City and its elected officials on matters dealing with the State legislature..
- In order to maintain these services, it is necessary to initiate a new contract by July 1, 2022.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Goal(s):

- A Well-Planned and Livable Community

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Provide continued legislative services in the General Assembly

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- The previous contract for these services included a monthly rate of $6,000, but has not been adjusted in many years.
- The proposed contract will increase the payment to $7,000 per month, a rate still below other cities contracting for similar services.
- Funding for the contract is included in the General Fund Budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Move to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for legislative liaison services with Blanchard, Miller, Lewis and Isley, P.A. for one year with options to extend for an additional two years at a rate of $84,000 per year..

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BLANCHARD, MILLER, LEWIS AND ISLEY, P.A. FOR GOVERNMENT RELATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S §160A-20.1 to enter into contracts with private entities to carry out any public function which is authorized to engage in by law; and

WHEREAS, the City requires legislative representation and advocacy for 2022, 2023, and 2024 Sessions of the North Carolina General Assembly on matters which are of significant interest to the City; and

WHEREAS, The City's current contract for these services expires on June 30th, 2022.

WHEREAS, The firm Blanchard, Miller, and Lewis has significant experience in providing government relations services, and they have provided this service to the City for several years.

WHEREAS, this contract will allow the selected firm to continue providing government relations services for the fiscal year 2023, as well as two additional one year options;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Asheville, be and is hereby, authorized to enter into an agreement with Blanchard, Miller, Lewis and Isley, P.A. for the provision of the legislative services from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, with two additional one year options to extend the contract for amounts not to exceed $84,000 per year, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

Read, approved and adopted this the 14th day of June, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney