# City Council Agenda Item Request

Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** 3/12/2026

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Becki Ogles, Finance Department

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** 4/14/2026

4. **Subject:** Contract for Auditing the City's Accounts for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

5. **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Cherry Bekaert, LLP for auditing City accounts for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** Need to approve new contract with external auditors to provide time for Local Government Commission (LGC) review which will in turn allow preliminary field work to commence in a timely manner.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** Contract will be approximately $161,500 for fiscal year 2026 audit services. Funding is already included in the adopted General Fund budget.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**
    - Unless services are not provided as required, the City only bids out this contract every five years, so no competitive bid process was conducted this year.
    - When the service was put out to bid in 2023, staff reached out to multiple firms approved by the State Treasurer's office to perform these services.

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** Will make the Audit Committee aware of the contract approval at their next meeting but they will not vote on the recommendation.

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - The contract aligns with City Council's financial policy and will help ensure the timely and successful completion of the annual audit.
    - Execution of this contract complies with the Audit Policy portion of City Council's Financial Policies which states that the City "shall enter into multi-year agreements of not more than five years in duration through a series of single-year contracts as consistent with applicable legal requirements."
    - This is the 4th year of the 5 year proposal from Cherry Beakert, LLC.
    - North Carolina General Statute §159-34 requires that local governments have its accounts audited each fiscal year and submit a copy of the audit report and financial statements to the Local Government Commission.