

Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: December 2, 2014

Date Submitted: November 19, 2014

To: Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Board

From: Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Arthur Lawson, Sr., Assistant County Administrator

Subject: Approval of Contract for State Lobbying Services for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 With Lawson & Associates

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item seeks Board approval of a contract with Lawson & Associates to provide State Lobbying Services for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. This item also seeks authorization for the Chairperson to execute the contract.

Background:

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners has retained the services of a lobbyist to represent the County's interest for eight years to assist in developing and implementing a State Legislative effort to enhance state-level funding and services to Gadsden County. At the November 18, 2014 meeting, the Board voted to approve a contract with Chris Doolin and Associates to continue representing the County's interest before the Legislature. The Board also requested staff to bring back a contract for approval to add Lawson and Associates as a second lobbying firm. It is the Board's desire to utilize the insight and experience of Former Senator Lawson in order to provide the County the best opportunity to effectively enhance the lobbying efforts for the purpose of increasing favorable consideration of the County's Legislative agenda.

Analysis:

Staff seeks approval of Lawson & Associates to provide lobbying services for the County for the 2015 Legislative Session. Since the Board desires to utilize the specific expertise of this particular firm, it is within their authority to waive the requirements to seek additional quotes.

The Board requested \$15,000.00 for the additional lobbying contract.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact will be \$15,000 which will be taken from the reserve for contingency if approved by the Board.

Options:

1. Approve the Lobbying Services Contract with Lawson & Associates for \$15,000.00 and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract.
2. Do not approve the Lobbying Services Contract.
3. Board Direction

County Administrator's Recommendation:

Option 1

Attachment:

1. Lobbying Services Contract with Lawson & Associates

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

This contract is entered into between Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (“the Client”), Edward J Butler Governmental Complex, 9-B East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL 32353, and Lawson & Associates (“the Firm”), 400 North Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Recitals

Whereas, the Client wishes to retain the services of the Firm in order that the Firm may represent the Client’s interests before the Florida Legislature and executive agencies; and

Whereas, the Firm wishes to provide such representation as the Client may from time to time require; and

Whereas, the parties have agreed to the terms under which the Firm will represent the Client and wish to memorialize their agreement in writing.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Term of Agreement.** This agreement shall become effective on December 1, 2014 and shall remain effective until September 30, 2015. This agreement shall automatically renew for successive one-year periods on the anniversary of the effective date of the agreement unless either party terminates the agreement. Upon renewal this agreement may be terminated within thirty (30) days written notice by either party.

2. **Duties of The Firm.** It shall be the Firm’s duty to advocate the interests of the Client before the Florida Legislature and executive agencies of Florida government. Included within the scope of the Firm’s duties is the advocacy for passage or defeat of legislation that is relevant to the Client. It shall further be the Firm’s duty to inform the Client of developments in legislation and policy relevant to the Client’s operations.

3. **Duties of The Client.** It shall be the Client’s duty to inform the Firm of its wishes with regard to legislative and executive advocacy and to provide the Firm the information necessary to best represent the Client in Florida. It shall also be the Client’s duty to timely compensate the Firm for its services.

4. **Compensation.** The Firm shall receive from the Client \$15,000 for this agreement, plus the reasonable costs associated with the representation, including but not limited to, lobbyist registration fees, excluding costs typically associated with the operation of an office,

such as overhead, staff, and equipment. The fee shall be paid in five (5) equal installments of \$3,000 a month, beginning January 1, 2015 and continuing to be due on the first of each month until the termination of the agreement. The firm will bill costs monthly.

Gadsden County
Board of County Commissioners

Lawson & Associates, Inc.

By: _____
Title: _____

By: Alfred "Al" Lawson, Jr.
Title: President

Date: _____

Date: 11-19-14