



Legislation Text

File #: 1853-2023, Version: 1

This ordinance will authorize the City Auditor to enter into an agreement for auditing services with the Auditor of State of Ohio for the calendar year 2023, for the City of Columbus and the Office of the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk, and to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$408,000.00.

All political subdivisions of Ohio are required to be audited by the Auditor of the State of Ohio or his designee (AOS). The United States Office of Management and Budget through the Single Audit Act of 1996, as amended, has made it possible for all federal grants to be audited via one comprehensive audit. The AOS has determined that the most appropriate way to meet all such requirements is to conduct an independent audit of the City's accounting records, including federal and state grants.

Pursuant to Section 117.09 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the AOS is responsible for audits of all public offices. Prior to 2022, the AOS allowed the City to participate in the selection of an independent certified public accountant to perform the required audit through the AOS competitive bidding process. The AOS has determined that his office will perform the 2023 independent audit of the City of Columbus. If required, the AOS will also perform an audit of the Office of the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk.

ORC 117.13 governs how the AOS charges public offices for the cost of audit services. The total costs of audits, both direct and indirect, are to be recovered by the AOS through charges to their clients. The AOS has traditionally recovered its cost using an hourly rate based on the type of service. For local governments, these costs are offset by resources available in the Local Government Audit Support Fund and the state General Revenue Fund. AOS Bulletin 2022-012 establishes the audit rate for local governments for the state Fiscal Year 2023 or until the AOS publishes a subsequent bulletin, at \$41 per hour. The total fee for the City's 2023 audit, including the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk, is not to exceed \$408,000.00.

It should be noted that 15% of this contract will be subcontracted to a minority firm selected by the AOS. This has been a subcontracting requirement in the City's audit contract since 1985. The subcontractor may be paid directly by the City upon AOS approval of invoices.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are currently budgeted in the City Auditor department's 2023 General Fund for this expenditure.

To authorize the City Auditor to enter into an agreement for auditing services with the Auditor of State for the calendar year 2023, for the City of Columbus and the Office of the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk, and to authorize the expenditure of up to \$408,000.00 from the General Fund. (\$408,000.00)

WHEREAS, all political subdivisions of Ohio are required to be audited by the Auditor of the State of Ohio or his designee; and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Management and Budget through the Single Audit Act of 1996, as amended, has made it possible for all federal grants to be audited via one comprehensive audit; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor of the State of Ohio has determined that the most appropriate way to meet all such requirements is to conduct an independent audit of the City's 2023 accounting records including federal and state grants; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the City not be delayed in issuing its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, maximum efficiencies can be achieved by including the Office of the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor of the State of Ohio is responsible for audits of all public offices pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 117.09; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor of State of Ohio determines hourly rates to be charged to local public offices for recovering the costs of audits of local public offices pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 117.13(C)(4); **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the City Auditor is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Auditor of the State of Ohio to conduct an audit of the City's 2023 accounting records and financial statements and to render an opinion thereon as required by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 117.

SECTION 2. That this agreement includes the audit of the Office of the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk.

SECTION 3. That the sum of \$408,000.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized to be expended from the General Fund 1000, Department 22-01, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

See Attached File: Ord 1853-2023 Legislation Template.xls

SECTION 4. The City Auditor is hereby authorized to prorate the costs of this audit to the various funds of the City.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.