



City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023
From: Randy Frazer, City Manager
Item: Cowley First Interlocal Agreement for County-Wide Economic Development Services

Purpose: An Ordinance authorizing the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, in conjunction with other participating governmental entities, to enter into a new interlocal agreement for the provision of Cowley First, a county-wide economic development service. **(Roll Call Vote)**

Background:

The primary purpose of this Agreement is to establish the legal framework for the "Cowley First: Cowley County Economic Development Partnership," hereinafter referred to as "Cowley First." Cowley First is a collaborative economic development program aimed at enhancing the economic vitality of Cowley County, Kansas, and its communities. The Agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party in supporting and promoting economic development within the county.

This will provide you with an overview of the key points and provisions outlined in the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Countywide Economic Development Services, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement." This Agreement is made between Cowley County, Kansas, the City of Arkansas City, the City of Winfield, and various agencies collectively referred to as "Business Partners."

Key Highlights:

Section One - Retention of County for Cowley First Program:

- County is designated to maintain and coordinate the Cowley First program.
- The program involves paid staff and collaborative efforts with participating member organizations.
- The objectives of Cowley First include retaining and expanding existing businesses, promoting entrepreneurship, supporting workforce development, and attracting new businesses.
- County will engage in activities like business climate maintenance, business recruitment, entrepreneurship education, and rural development support.

Section Two - Program Governance:

- A Coordinating Council consisting of representatives from different entities will serve as the Executive Committee for Cowley First.
- An Economic Development Advisory Committee, including members from various participating organizations, will assist County in maintaining and coordinating the program.

Section Three - Reports and Funding:

- County will provide quarterly and annual reports on Cowley First activities and expenses.
- An annual budget will be developed and approved by the Coordinating Council, with costs shared equally between County, Arkansas City, Winfield, and Business Partners.
- In-kind support and contributions may also be considered as part of each party's financial commitment.

Section Four - Term and Termination:

- The Agreement is valid from the specified date to December 31, 2027, with the option to extend for an additional three years.
 - Parties can withdraw from the Agreement by giving written notice, with financial obligations outlined based on the withdrawal date.
- Termination of the Agreement would involve identifying and distributing assets and liabilities of Cowley First among the parties.

Section Five through Nine:

- The Agreement is acknowledged to be legally binding and approved by the governing bodies of each participating entity.
- Specifies the addresses for sending notices, communications, or demands related to the Agreement.
- The Agreement may be amended with the agreement of all parties, following the requirements of the Kansas Interlocal Cooperation Act.
- The Agreement is binding on the parties involved, their representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns.
- The Agreement is subject to the laws of the State of [Kansas].

Fiscal Impact:

Amount: \$45,000.00

Fund: 01-General Department: 201- City Commission Expense Code: 6217-Contribution

Included in budget Bonds Other Not Budgeted

Approved for Agenda by:



Randy Frazer, City Manager