



Commission Meeting

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

AO State Lobbyist Contract Extension for 2026

Department:	Administrator's Office
Presenter:	Tameka Allen, Administrator
Caption:	Motion to approve extension of State Lobbying and Legislative Representation Services agreement with Holland & Knight LLP for one year, through December 31, 2026 (awarded under RFP #25-300).
Background:	Augusta engages lobbying firms to advocate for Augusta's interests at the State and Federal levels. The State lobbyist assists Augusta in drafting local legislation, developing and pursuing an annual legislative policy agenda, and monitoring emerging legislation with local impacts. Holland & Knight LLP was selected as the State lobbyist under RFP #25-300. Holland & Knight's current contract was approved by the Commission on January 7, 2025 and will expire December 31, 2025. It includes two one-year extension options.
Analysis:	The proposed contract extension would retain Holland & Knight's services through December 31, 2026. During the 2025 legislative year, the lobbyist successfully assisted Augusta in achieving its legislative goals, including an increase in Augusta's hotel-motel tax rate, an increase in County per diem revenue for State prisoners, implementation of a 911 fee study, and a local homestead exemption authorization for Augusta. (See attached presentation from April 29, 2025 for further detail.) Staff recognize that the lobbyist has been very instrumental in these efforts and recommend that services be retained for the 2026 legislative session.
Financial Impact:	Holland & Knight LLP's fee would remain at \$96,000.00 per year. Funds are included in the Administrator's Office 2026 proposed budget.
Alternatives:	Do not extend the contract and proceed without a State lobbyist for the 2026 session.
Recommendation:	Approve extension of State Lobbying and Legislative Representation Services agreement with Holland & Knight LLP for one year, through December 31, 2026 (awarded under RFP #25-300).
Funds are available in the following accounts:	101013210-5211120
<u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u>	N/A