MEETING DATE: December 13, 2022

TITLE:
Consider action to approve Resolution No. R-2022-121 of the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Focused Advocacy to offer Full Service Legislative & Regulatory Consulting Services as Exhibit A; providing for a repealing clause; and establishing an effective date.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:
Trey Job, Assistant City Manager

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:
The City of Bastrop is currently determining the feasibility of a Downtown Boutique Hotel that will connect to the Bastrop Exhibit & Convention Center. As part of our discussions an opportunity has presented itself. A Central Texas based company Focused Advocacy provides Legislative & Regulatory Consulting Services, those services provide representation for the City of Bastrop to our Elected Officials at a state level. In this instance the city is requesting that Focused Advocacy assist the city with the following:

a. Represent the City's general interests before the Texas legislature as guided by the City's publicly adopted legislative positions and agenda.

b. Provide general guidance and assistance to the city to develop a legislative agenda that advances the health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens;

c. Develop strategies to gain public for support the City's legislative and regulatory goals including the passage of legislation to qualify the city for the state's qualified hotel project program and assist with the Comptroller of Public Accounts;

d. Develop strategies to advance the City's legislative and regulatory goals within the legislative process;

e. Work to pass legislation the city deems positive to the public health, safety, or welfare of its citizens;

f. Work to defeat legislation the city deems detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare of its citizens;

g. Provide the City staff and Council with timely updates regarding the status of pending legislation.

h. Utilize proprietary software to help the city monitor the progress of legislation that affects the city;

i. Advise and inform the city of upcoming legislative committee hearings (both during the legislative session and the interim);

j. Assist with the preparation and drafting of legislation and amendments.

k. Assist with the development and drafting of letters, speeches, and other advocacy materials.

l. Assist with the preparation of city officials who testify before legislative bodies; and

m. Attend and monitor on the City's behalf legislative hearings, agency hearings, stakeholder meetings, TML meetings, and interim legislative committee hearings.

n. As directed, represent the City's interests before the regulatory bodies of Texas and various state agencies of the Texas executive branch by informing the city of key state agency hearings; and

o. As directed, engage with state agency staff and personnel to protect, or advance the City's interests during administrative rule-making proceedings.

The scope of service listed above will be used to accomplish a detailed and project specific goal which is a rebate from the State of Texas to the City of Bastrop for the future Bastrop hotel occupancy tax funding collected by the State of Texas. This goal can be reached by adding the City of Bastrop to an existing law that allows specific cities approximately (47) in the State of Texas can receive the State's 6% Hotel Occupancy Tax as a rebate. However, in order to be eligible for these funds you must be listed in the legislation that created the program.

The success rate of Focused Advocacy for this particular program has been 91% successful. If this change in legislation is successful for the City of Bastrop the potential future rebate will be an economic development tool that can be used for future hotels and shorten the return on investment if the City Council chooses to offer this rebate in the future.

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve Resolution No. R-2022-121

ATTACHMENTS:
- Resolution R-2022-121
- Focused Advocacy Agreement
- Proposal