

**TOWN COUNCIL  
STAFF REPORT  
Finance & Administration Department**



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	May 12, 2026
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Authorize a Contract with Mauldin & Jenkins for Financial Audit Services beginning on July 1, 2026 for Fiscal Years 2026 through Fiscal Year 2028 (Fiscal Impact: \$104,700)
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	Natalie Majorkiewicz, CGFO, CGFM, Director of Finance & Administration

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC for audit services for fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, 2027, and 2028 at a cost of \$29,900 for FY 2026, \$30,900 for FY 2027, and \$31,900 for FY 2028 with an additional \$4,000 per year for a Single Audit of grant awards, if required. After a thorough evaluation, based on their proposal and experience, Mauldin & Jenkins offers the best value in support of the financial auditing needs of the Town.

**BACKGROUND:**

Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC (M&J) has been providing audit services to the Town of Bluffton since fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. In 2021, the Town of Bluffton solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Financial Audit Services which resulted in an award to M&J for five years.

Best practices recommend governmental entities to undertake a full-scale competitive process for the selection of independent auditors at the end of the term of each audit contract, including the current auditors, assuming the past performance of the current auditors has proven satisfactory. Multiyear agreements are encouraged for greater continuity, to minimize disruption and reduce costs by allowing auditors to recover startup costs over several years.

On March 12, 2026 solicitation 2026-31 was posted to the public for a best value proposition in accordance with the Town of Bluffton's Purchasing Policies and Procedures. The Town of Bluffton solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Financial Audit Services. The objective of the RFP was to contract with qualified and experienced firms to audit its financial statements. To ensure the objective was met, the RFP was issued with evaluation criteria addressed by the requirements of the RFP and questions answered by the Respondents; (1) *Profile and Qualifications*; (2) *Past Performance and References*; (3) *Approach and Methodology*; (4) *Pricing*; and (5) *Local Vendor Preference*.

The RFP closed on April 8, 2026. While twenty (20) distinct IP (Internet Protocol) addresses downloaded the solicitation, only one proposal for services was submitted. That proposal was submitted by M&J.

In an effort to ensure adequate competition, staff reviewed the core capabilities of the twenty (20) firms that downloaded the opportunity documents. Of those twenty, six (6) were qualified CPA firms:

- CKH Consulting, LLC (Atlanta, GA)
- Paterco, Inc. (Washington, DC)
- Perry and Associated (Marietta, OH)
- Premier Group (Lanham, MD)
- Smith + Howard (Atlanta, GA)
- VAAS Professionals, LLC (Atlanta, GA)

Staff sent correspondence to all six firms, plus two additional CPA firms, Robinson Grant and Cherry Bekaert, who are local and perform financial services, but did not download the Town's opportunity. In the correspondence, staff asked why the firm chose not to bid and, if provided additional time, would they submit a bid. Responses generally indicated a lack of adequate resources to support the Town's scope and there was not enough interest in an extension of time to warrant re-opening the solicitation.

The proposal submitted by M&J was evaluated by staff. After careful evaluation M&J was selected based upon their extensive governmental unit experience and expertise, GFOA Certificate of Achievement (COA) preparation experience, staff longevity, flexibility and depth of staff resources, proposed costs, and the detailed proposal response to our RFP.

M&J is committed to meeting the Town's timeline for planning and interim procedures, audit fieldwork, and completion and delivery of all reports by November of each year. M&J is also prepared to hold final exit conferences and presentations with Town Council. In addition, M&J provides free quarterly continuing education for all governmental clients. Each quarter, a couple of significant topics are selected and tailored specific to governmental entities which are offered several times each quarter virtually as well as at client locations encouraging greater networking among governmental clients.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. RFP #2026-31 Financial Audit Bid Solicitation
2. Mauldin & Jenkins LLC Proposal
3. Draft Contract
4. Recommended Motion