



## Staff Report

April 1, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

### CFM LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Presenter: Doug Quinn, City Administrator

Time Estimate: 10

Phone	Email
360.834.6864	DQuinn@cityofcamas.us

**BACKGROUND:** In recent years, Camas has not sought federal-level representation for its legislative and infrastructure needs. While we have employed a contract lobbyist at the state level, notably former City Administrator Lloyd Halverson, we now recognize the necessity to enhance our federal engagement. This strategic shift aims to tap into significant funding opportunities made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, both offering unprecedented funding avenues. The Finance Committee has evaluated and supports this Agreement.

**SUMMARY:** Entering into this Agreement with CFM Advocates marks a pivotal step for Camas, setting the stage for a robust strategic federal agenda. CFM Advocates will extend comprehensive support in research, communication, and access to our federal delegates as the decision-makers in Washington, D.C. This collaboration is designed to represent our voice in Congressional committees and to streamline the acquisition of grants via Congressional Directed Spending. Further specifics are detailed in the staff report packet. This partnership entails a monthly retainer fee of \$8,000.

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** This initiative is a strategic investment ensuring Camas's prosperous future. It leverages our substantial federal contributions to enhance the city's infrastructure across multiple sectors, including utilities, transportation, parks, library services, and other facilities. CFM Advocates boasts a remarkable average return on investment of 62:1 for their clients, with notable success in engagements with the Army Corps of Engineers, an aspect of direct relevance to our community's environmental conservation efforts.

**POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Grant or loan awards through this program will likely require a local match and enhanced tracking to demonstrate compliance with federal requirements.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** The collaboration with CFM Advocates is anticipated to significantly bolster our efforts to fulfill the capital program goals outlined in the city's capital planning documents. The ongoing cost of \$8,000 per month is accommodated within the current

allocations of the adopted General Fund budget, affirming the financial viability of this strategic endeavor.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This report is for Council's information only. Staff recommends this item move to the April 15, 2024 Consent Agenda for Council's review and approval.