June 1, 2026

City of Columbus

Proposal for audit services

To conquer a challenging landscape, you have to understand it.

Contents

"We really appreciate your support through our journey and ALL that we were able to learn with you coaching and guiding us.

Vice president | Baker Tilly client

bakertilly

This Proposal is contingent upon the execution of a mutually agreeable contract. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the RFP or any separate certifications or terms and conditions, if selected, we propose utilizing our existing agreement with the City of Columbus for this engagement. If the existing contract cannot be utilized due to scope variations, expiration, or other reasons, we will require the ability to negotiate mutually acceptable terms and conditions in accordance with previously executed service agreements with the City of Columbus, to ensure compliance with professional standard obligations and to properly reflect the scope of services, prior to executing a final contract.

As of June 3, 2025, Baker Tilly and Moss Adams have merged. Combined statistics are based on data currently available. Actual counts may vary slightly and will be finalized during the integration process.

June 1, 2026

Ms. Kendra Riddle, Finance Director
the CITY OF COLUMBUS

Delivered electronically

Dear Kendra:

The City of Columbus requires an independent audit that meets applicable professional and regulatory standards while supporting transparency, accountability and informed decision-making for City leadership and stakeholders. Baker Tilly understands the importance of delivering a high-quality audit that is technically sound, efficiently executed and aligned with the City's requirements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026.

Our public sector audit practice is dedicated exclusively to governmental organizations. We bring extensive experience serving Wisconsin municipalities similar in size and complexity to the City of Columbus, including significant experience with utilities, TIF districts and governmental financial reporting.

We are confident Baker Tilly is well qualified to continue serving as the City's independent auditor and appreciate the opportunity to present this proposal. Amanda Blomberg, managing director for the City funds audit, has worked with the City of Columbus since 2000. She retains a wealth of historical knowledge of the City's significant projects, accounting strategies, and financial policies that have been critical to City personnel performing financial functions that cannot be matched by other audit providers. In addition, Baker Tilly currently serves as the auditor for the Columbus Utilities, which roll up into the City's financial statements. We work closely with the Utilities team to ensure we are not duplicating any efforts, and both teams stay on track.

We have carefully reviewed the requirements of the solicitation and confirmed our ability and commitment to perform the requested audit services in full compliance with all applicable standards and the City of Columbus's timing.

Our approach emphasizes thoughtful planning, efficient execution and clear communication throughout the engagement. We work collaboratively with management to support a smooth audit process and timely completion of required reports, while also providing practical insights related to financial reporting, internal controls and emerging accounting and compliance matters, as appropriate. Clients that have explored other auditor options have re-hired us after a short time because they appreciate our collaborative approach.

Baker Tilly appreciates the opportunity to serve as the City of Columbus's independent auditor and to continue a professional relationship characterized by responsiveness, consistency and value. We appreciate your consideration of our proposal and welcome the opportunity to discuss our qualifications and approach in more detail.

Sincerely,

Justin Hoagland

Justin Hoagland, CPA, Principal
+1 (608) 240 2497 | Justin.Hoagland@bakertilly.com

Amanda Blomberg

Amanda Blomberg, Managing Director
+1 (608) 240 2386 | Amanda.Blomberg@bakertilly.com

Industry specialization

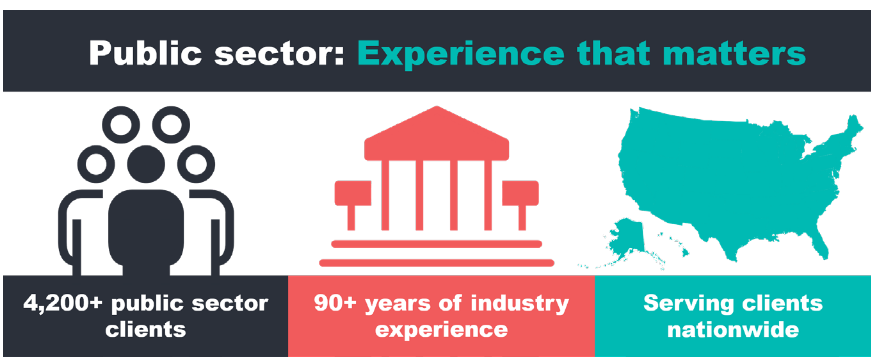
Delivering specialized expertise to our public sector clients

Baker Tilly has served state and local governments since our establishment nearly a century ago. We are one of the few advisory, tax and assurance firms with a practice dedicated entirely to serving governmental clients.

Unlike many other firms, Baker Tilly is organized by sector, not service line. What does this mean for the City of Columbus? It means you will be served by a carefully selected team that blends our government-focused professionals with experienced specialists in the activities of the City of Columbus. The City of Columbus will work with a knowledgeable team that understands your specific challenges and provides innovative solutions to help you overcome them.

State and local government is a complex, unique environment shaped by fiscal, regulatory and operational considerations not found in other sectors. Recognizing this complexity and eager to serve as a true valued advisor to the public sector, more than 550 Baker Tilly professionals — including more than 50 principals — focus directly on serving governments and provide hundreds of thousands of client service hours annually to organizations like the City of Columbus.

Nationwide, our public sector practice serves more than 4,200 state and local governmental entities, including municipalities, counties, school districts, utilities, transit organizations, airports and special authorities. Several of these client groups are now served by dedicated specialists in distinct sub-practices.



COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Baker Tilly has been in business for nearly a century, and public sector entities were some of our first clients.

The City of Columbus will benefit from our public sector specialization in several specific ways:

- Dedication to the public sector: Your engagement team members live and breathe government and work exclusively with the public sector year-round. This translates into insights only experience can bring, as well as an understanding of the best ways to communicate and collaborate with public-sector entities.
- Specialized training and continuing education: the City of Columbus can be assured of an engagement team with the necessary skills and timely knowledge to effectively perform your engagement.
- Sector involvement: Members of our public sector practice are leaders in key sector organizations, including the AICPA and its Governmental Audit Quality Center (GAQC) as well as the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Because of our work with these groups, we know about dynamic trends and consequential developments in state and local government — and are equipped with leading practices to help the City of Columbus best respond to them.
- Knowledge sharing with the City of Columbus: At Baker Tilly, serving governments goes beyond delivering services – we also supply our clients with crucial thought leadership in the form of webinars, workshops, articles and our regular newsletter, CommuniTIES.
- Year-round consultation: Throughout our relationship, we will be available for routine calls and technical questions, connecting you with recommendations and ideas to address the inevitable operational issues that arise. We can also alert you to new opportunities for us to collaborate and create value for the City of Columbus.

Your team is ready to help you find solutions to overcome the obstacles that stand between you and your goals. We provide a full range of service offerings for state and local governments, including those listed below.

OUR FULL RANGE OF KEY SERVICE OFFERINGS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS INCLUDES:	
Accounting services and assurance	Housing and economic development
Arbitrage/rebate regulatory compliance	Human capital services
Attestation services	Investment services**
Capital planning	Organizational management advisory
Cybersecurity consulting	Post-issuance compliance
Economic development	Public finance/bond issuance*
Efficiency studies	Process improvement
Federal funding advisory	Rate and user fee studies
Financial management services	Risk advisory and internal audit
Financial reporting and GAAP services	Strategic planning

* Services provided by Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, a registered municipal advisor and controlled subsidiary of Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP, a tax and advisory firm.
** Services provided by Baker Tilly Investment Services, a division of Baker Tilly Wealth Management, LLC, which is a registered investment advisor and controlled by Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP.

Serving local governmental entities

Baker Tilly will bring the City of Columbus deep experience serving similar local governments in southern Wisconsin. The following is a representative list of our recent audit clients of similar governmental entities.

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF SIMILAR PUBLIC-SECTOR CLIENTS		
• City of Juneau, WI • City of Sun Prairie, WI • Village of DeForest, WI • Village of Cottage Grove, WI • City of Waterloo, WI • City of West Bend, WI	• City of Portage, WI • Village of Waunakee, WI • City of Horicon, WI • City of Waupun, WI • City of Fox Lake, WI • Village of Kewaskum, WI	• City of Watertown, WI • City of Stoughton, WI • Village of Theresa, WI • Village of North Fond du Lac, WI • City of Edgerton, WI

Implementing new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards

We routinely assist our government clients with implementing new accounting standards. To keep our clients up to date on the latest government accounting issues, Baker Tilly provides leadership to public sector organizations through our involvement as authors, speakers, trainers and promoters of government accounting and auditing advancement.

We will continuously monitor GASB pronouncements — both issued and proposed — to evaluate how they impact the City of Columbus. We will discuss these impacts with the City of Columbus through various audit phases, from planning to fieldwork and audit completion.

We provide educational resources as well as tools and templates to help our clients with implementation at bakertilly.com.

Baker Tilly is prepared to assist the City of Columbus with new GASB standards, as applicable. This will include providing preliminary insights and guidance on the newest standards to be implemented, such as GASB 103, Financial Reporting Model Improvements and GASB 104, Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets.

In addition to recently issued GASB Statements, other GASB standards and exposure drafts outstanding are expected to significantly impact current reporting practices. Baker Tilly follows these developments closely and often prepares comment letters to GASB on behalf of the profession to raise items of potential concern before the standards are finalized.

Prioritizing sector involvement and knowledge sharing

To help the City of Columbus prepare for and respond to change, we are actively involved in local and national associations. This keeps us on the leading edge of developments in our industry that may impact the City of Columbus. Our memberships in professional organizations and our involvement as authors, speakers, trainers and promoters of governmental accounting and auditing equip us to actively assist you with implementing new regulations and adopting new standards. Our active involvement enables us to provide the City of Columbus with timely and relevant sector information. It also allows us to serve as your resource as complex or routine accounting and auditing issues arise.

BAKER TILLY TEAM MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED WITH THE FOLLOWING SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS:		
• American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) • American Public Power Association • American Water Works Association • American Women's Society of Certified Public Accountants • Association of Certified Fraud Examiners • Association of Government Accountants	• Government Finance Officers Association • Information Systems Audit and Control Association • Institute of Internal Auditors • League of Wisconsin Municipalities • Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin • Municipal Treasurers Association of Wisconsin	• Wisconsin Counties Association • Wisconsin Government Finance Officers Association • Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants • Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association • Wisconsin Public Utility Institute • Wisconsin Rural Water Association • Wisconsin Section of American Water Works

Baker Tilly does not just belong to these organizations. We are active members who serve on committees and support the organizations with our time and funds. For example:

- Baker Tilly Principal Jason Coyle is currently serving a term on the AICPA State and Local Government Expert Panel.
- Baker Tilly Principal Blaine Jasper serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Government Audit Quality Center (GAQC)

We are often called upon by local government associations to analyze proposed changes, provide recommendations for improvements and identify elements within proposed changes that impact our clients and their operations. In recent years, Baker Tilly has conducted training and developed educational programs on Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, budgeting, taxation, local income taxes and other legislative impacts, as well as various other topics related to significant changes.

Contributing to AICPA committees and initiatives important to governments

To help the City of Columbus respond to and prepare for change, Baker Tilly professionals are actively involved in various AICPA committees and initiatives. Our professionals are among the most influential in the accounting and advisory industry, and our thought leaders are directly involved with issues shaping our industry.

The following are a few of the AICPA boards and committees we are involved in that are relevant to the City of Columbus.

AICPA INITIATIVE	PURPOSE	DATES
Governmental Audit Quality Center (GAQC)	Promotes the importance of quality governmental audits, serves as a resource to member firms, provides members with online tools for sharing ideas and recognizes certified public accountant (CPA) firms that demonstrate a commitment to governmental audit quality	Since its inception

GAQC Executive Committee	Governs the GAQC, develops its policies and oversees its activities, participates in advocacy and regulatory reviews; also meets twice annually in conjunction with the Single Audit Roundtable (SART), which includes federal inspectors general, federal agencies and CPA firms	2021 — present 2012 — 2015
Technical Issues Committee (TIC)	Committee of CPA practitioners that represents the views of local firms and small-to-medium-size governments in the standards-setting process	2013 — 2019
State and Local Government Expert Panel	Serves the needs of AICPA members regarding financial and business reporting and audit and attest matters; protects the public interest by bringing together knowledgeable parties in the state and local government sector to deliberate and come to agreement on key issues	2021 — present 2012 — 2020 2004 — 2008
Auditing Standards Board (ASB)	The AICPA's senior committee for auditing, attestation and quality control applicable to the performance and issuance of audit and attestation reports for non-issuers	2015 — 2019 2010 — 2013
Peer review oversight reviewers for single audits	Monitor the quality of peer reviews performed on OMB Uniform Guidance single audits	2014 — present
Peer Review Board	Promulgates the peer review standards and oversees the administration of the peer review program	2017 — present
National Peer Review Committee (NPRC)	Administering entity for all firms that are required to be registered and inspected by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) or for firms that perform work under PCAOB standards	2025 - present 2011 — 2019

Sharing complimentary educational resources to keep the City of Columbus informed

Baker Tilly's position of leadership, significant involvement in the accounting profession and deep public sector and service specialization translate into knowledge we will share with the City of Columbus. We are committed to delivering additional value by informing and educating your staff and supporting your operations. Complimentary educational opportunities include:

- Meaningful, timely and realistic guidance and responses to routine questions throughout the year at no additional charge.
- Regular webinars on topics such as fraud, understanding financial reports, new GASB reporting standards, grant-related topics and cost reduction/revenue maximization. These webinars are free to our clients and qualify for continuing professional education (CPE) credits. Webinar recordings are available on our website and can be viewed anytime.
- Web-based resources, including our Inflation Reduction Act resource center, are available to Baker Tilly clients and feature educational materials, tools and resources on topics important to governments.
- Our CommuniTIES Connection newsletter features public sector and accounting updates.

- Timely alerts provide updates on laws, regulations or decisions with an immediate or near-future impact on local government clients.

Our team members will share complimentary webinars, alerts, perspective papers, articles, case studies, events, resources and insights year-round to empower you in achieving your goals. Click the images below to view our most recent resources designed to address trending topics for local governments. Additional webinars and on-demand videos are available at bakertilly.com/industries/state-and-local-government.

Additional resources and thought leadership

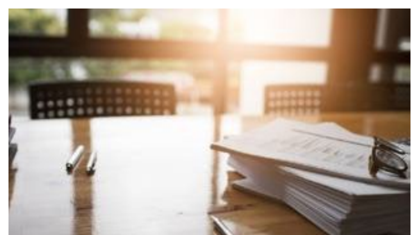
GASB update for public sector organizations
article

Tax-exempt organizations have a new cash flow opportunity
article

Navigating the basics of internal controls
article

Chart your financial path for the future
article

Streamlining IRA prevailing wage and apprenticeship compliance
webinar



IIJA at the midway point: Act now to secure funding opportunities
article

INFUSING VALUE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP THROUGH COMPLIMENTARY RESOURCES
We will provide meaningful insights that support the City’s success by sharing educational resources and timely, industry-specific guidance.

The right team

We assemble the right team with the right experience for the City of Columbus to serve you year after year and take you further than anyone thought possible.

Leading the City of Columbus's audit services and uncovering opportunities along the way

Meet the audit team we've assembled to achieve everything you envision. Selected intentionally for your goals and backed by our specialized resources, these individuals are collaborative and multidisciplinary. Their passion for the public sector will make them an unstoppable force on your behalf. Complete resumes in the Appendix.

THE TEAM TO ACHIEVE THE CITY OF COLUMBUS'S GOAL		
Your engagement leadership team orchestrates our services to bring the right people with the right experience together to move you forward		
	Justin Hoagland, CPA	
	Engagement role: Engagement principal	Experience: More than 14 years serving Wisconsin municipalities and governmental entities.
	Leading your carefully selected team on the track to achieve the City of Columbus's goals, Justin will keep your engagement moving forward, guiding a seamless and well-planned process. His depth of Public Sector experience and perspective will bring you thoughtful collaboration and accurate, on-time final deliverables.	• Village of Waunakee • City of Fox Lake • City of Waterloo
	Amanda Blomberg, CPA	
	Engagement role: Project Director	Experience: More than 25 years serving Wisconsin municipalities and governmental entities.
	Consider Amanda your connection to quality on every level. She will perform the detailed review of the City of Columbus audit file, making sure our team has performed the audit in accordance within the appropriate scope. Amanda will be there, connecting you to our firm's specialists and facilitating all the support you need, with seamless collaboration every step of the way.	• City of Juneau • Village of Cottage Grove • Village of Kewaskum

	Ryan Shavlik, CPA	
	Engagement role: Project Manager	Experience: More than 6 years serving Wisconsin municipalities and governmental entities.
	The City of Columbus is an important client of our firm and Public Sector practice, and we care deeply about your business. Ryan will oversee the day-to-day details of the audit as well as the team to ensure the project stays within the timeline.	• Village of Cottage Grove • City of Waupun

AN INTEGRATED TEAM WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS
Each professional on your team was selected for a reason, but it's our collective brainpower and collaboration that will ultimately make a difference for the City of Columbus.

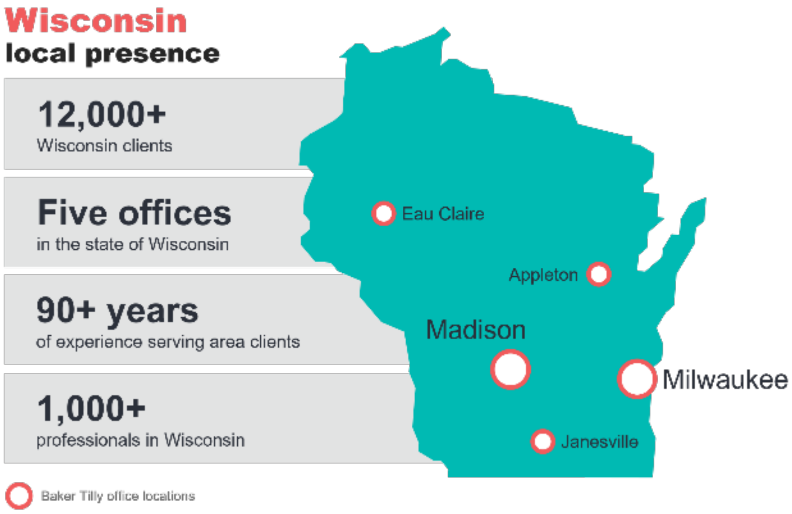
Walking with you every step of the way — starting right here in Columbus

The first step to commitment is showing up. That is why your team will be there for you, leading the City of Columbus's engagement from our Madison office. This will minimize travel costs, maximize efficiency and fulfill a deeply held tenet of serving our clients: working closely with you in every sense of the word.

Investing our resources in Wisconsin

No matter how far you go, your heart always remains in the place you call home. That's Wisconsin. Baker Tilly understands Wisconsin, its businesses and its governments because we've been a part of your state's fabric for more than 90 years. We were founded here, and it is home to our largest business unit.

Baker Tilly has more than 1,000 professionals across five Wisconsin locations who are here for you. For the City of Columbus, that means exceptional service from a local team passionate about protecting and enhancing your value, with the ability to draw on our firm's broad national resources as your goals or needs evolve.



WE'RE HERE, ACROSS THE WISCONSIN LANDSCAPE TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
When the City wants a team with an in-depth understanding of economic conditions, knowledge of regional and state regulations and local assistance, you won't have to go far.

Growing an award-winning culture in Wisconsin

Being a part of Wisconsin means more than just being open for business. Our team members here share a deep commitment to building an inclusive, collaborative and value-driven culture, and their efforts are consistently being recognized. The workplace honors we've received point to a commitment to staff continuity (and a dedicated team to serve the City of Columbus for the long term). Beyond national awards, Baker Tilly has been recognized by Madison Magazine as a Best Place to Work for eight years in a row.

Making a difference for Wisconsin communities

There is power in community. During our firm's latest annual Stewardship Week, Baker Tilly team members participated in 7,100 hours of volunteer activities in 54 communities to help build community in Wisconsin and nationwide.

Service approach

We blend technology with the wisdom of our team members to deliver quality and insights. Our audit offerings unravel the complexities of the public sector to reveal opportunities waiting to be explored.

Designing a collaborative audit approach tailored to the public sector

What we do in terms of our audit approach is designed to deliver a high-quality audit. How we do it is what distinguishes our firm. To help the City of Columbus adapt to and benefit from change, Baker Tilly works hard to be a consultative assurance ally that proactively manages risk.

Tailoring our approach to meet your needs

An overview of our collaborative, public sector-focused and advisory-based audit approach is detailed below.

1 Listen and define audit objectives	2 Develop customized plan	3 Perform audit	4 Conclude and report
• Introduce team • Co-develop service expectations • Design shared timetable • Outline client service plan	• Intimately understand your business • Perform industry comparison • Identify risk areas • Develop customized plan	• Perform preliminary audit procedures • Perform substantive tests of details • Perform final audit procedures	• Conclude the audit and issue final report • Present audit findings and insight • Revisit service plan • Assess our performance
Key benefits	***Key benefits***	***Key benefits***	***Key benefits***
• Trust established • Reduced burden on your staff • Shared vision • Time saved	• Audit focus aligned with risk level to gain efficiencies • Potential audit issues identified early • Personalized approach • Audit rooted in analytics and data	• Testing focused on unique risk areas • Technology-enabled audit support for real-time communication • Challenges resolved at the team level	• Work completed on time or early • Deliverables and audit opinions from a firm with documented reputation for quality • Increased satisfaction • File built for future years

Ongoing project management and communication

TAILORED AUDIT APPROACH

A high-touch audit service model assures the City of Columbus of accessibility, reliability and a tailored approach. We will work hard to gain your trust and solve problems through open, engaging dialogue and frequent communication.

Tailoring the segmentation of your engagement to the City of Columbus

The City of Columbus will receive a customized audit based on our proven approach, which includes nine work segments. These segments, along with the anticipated audit procedures for each, are discussed below.

1. Engagement planning and administration

- Prepare client information forms, obtain signed engagement letters and complete independence procedures
- Review previous audit reports and internal control reports
- Prepare memorandum regarding overall the City of Columbus operations for permanent file records
- Complete staffing and scheduling summary
- Hold planning conference with engagement principal and in-charge auditors
- Hold planning and progress conferences with the City of Columbus as needed
- Obtain all documents and information required for permanent file
- Read minutes of the City Council meetings
- Develop and approve audit programs
- Perform various testing of compliance with laws and regulations
- Accumulate points to be included in management letter and draft letter
- Review working papers for completeness
- Undergo principal-level working paper reviews
- Hold exit conference with key the City of Columbus personnel
- Present to the City Council

2. Risk assessment and internal controls

- Perform entity-wide risk assessment procedures
- Conduct fraud interviews
- Determine major transaction cycles
- Perform evaluations of internal controls over major transaction cycles
- Complete information technology risk assessment
- Test internal controls as applicable
- Determine reliance on internal controls and resulting substantive audit procedures

3. Cash and investments

- Review ledger account entries and compare cash account balances
- Confirm year-end cash and investment balances with depositories
- Obtain bank reconciliations and substantiate reconciling items
- Substantiate cash cut-offs and interbank transfers
- Test investment transactions and interest earned
- Test market values of applicable investments
- Audit financial statement disclosures

4. Revenue

- Compare revenues to prior-year actual, current budget or other expectations
- Analyze accounts with significant variations
- Confirm or otherwise validate accounts receivable and taxes receivable
- Confirm and reconcile state aid
- Reconcile other revenues to claims and invoices filed
- Perform a search for unrecorded receivables
- Review functional classifications of revenues for government-wide financial statements
- Test capital contributions
- Analyze allowances for uncollectibles

5. Expenditures

- Compare expenditures to prior years, budgeted amounts or other expectations
- Analyze accounts with significant variations
- Review accounts payable listings, determine proper cut-offs and test for unrecorded liabilities
- Validate prepaid items
- Verify vested compensated absence liabilities
- Test insurance-related accruals or incurred but not reported claims (IBNRs)
- Determine the appropriateness of other liability accounts, including accrued payrolls and related withholdings, retainages and other liabilities
- Test pension information and disclosures
- Test other post-employment liabilities

6. Property

- Obtain capitalization policy for capital assets and infrastructure
- Obtain summary schedules of capital assets and infrastructure, including additions, retirements and accumulated depreciation
- Test capital assets and infrastructure additions and deletions
- Test capital assets and infrastructure depreciation/amortization calculations

7. Inventories

- Observe physical inventories, if material
- Test pricing, quantities and extensions of final inventories

8. Financing/equity

- Verify bond and note balances owed
- Obtain information on new issues, if any
- Trace transactions to the general ledger
- Re-compute interest expense
- Determine the nature and appropriateness of net position and fund balance categories

9. Financial reporting

- Ascertain that all items of audit significance contained in the minutes have been considered and cross-referenced to the work papers
- Obtain a working trial balance
- Propose adjusting entries and obtain adjusted trial balance
- Draft the financial statements
- Perform subsequent events review to the date of completion of fieldwork
- Obtain management and attorney representation letters
- Finalize required reports

Understanding the City of Columbus's internal controls

Our audit process stresses the importance of evaluating internal controls, especially under the risk assessment standards. We will perform a thorough evaluation of the City of Columbus's internal controls' effectiveness to inform risk assessments and design a risk-based audit plan.

During preliminary work, we will update our understanding of your internal controls and evaluate and test internal controls over your significant accounting and reporting systems. These evaluations will enable us to determine how much reliance we can place upon the systems for audit purposes and gauge the amount of systems testing and account verification work required.

In addition, we will discuss all significant suggestions, questions or other comments resulting from these evaluations with appropriate the City of Columbus personnel.

Once we have evaluated the internal controls, we will test the flow of data through your systems to determine whether the data follows the prescribed procedures and controls. We will also examine the degree of clerical accuracy achieved in recording and summarizing the data.

Determining sample sizes and performing statistical sampling

We may use audit sampling throughout the phases of the City of Columbus's audit because this allows us to perform an audit that is more cost-beneficial to you. We have identified the following audit sampling tests that may be used on the City of Columbus's audit:

- Substantive tests of details of balance sheet accounts
- Tests of controls
- Tests of compliance with laws and regulations

After reviewing and evaluating the City of Columbus's internal controls, we will decide on the internal control procedures we intend to test. We will set the expected error rate, audit risk and tolerable error rate parameters to determine the sample size we will generate. We may perform these procedures in the following areas:

- Cash receipts
- Cash disbursements
- Payroll
- Journal entries

We also plan to use audit sampling to perform substantive tests of certain balance sheet accounts, including accounts receivable and recorded vouchers payable. Our firm has customized statistical sampling tools that are in full compliance with all professional standards.

We expect to use the following sample ranges. However, these may increase or decrease based on the results of our understanding of the City of Columbus's internal controls:

TESTS OF CONTROLS	SAMPLE RANGES
Cash disbursements/expenditures	<<20–80>> documents
Payroll	<<20–80>> documents

Audit conducted according to GAAS requirements

Our dedicated team is immersed in the public sector and brings substantial knowledge of laws and regulations dealing with government accounting, budgeting, financing and reporting. With this knowledge, we have developed our own audit work program, which we will use for your audit. The work program covers such areas as:

- Authorization of depositories and types of allowable investments
- Arbitrage compliance and rebate requirements
- Budgeting procedures and reporting requirements
- Restrictions on expenditures and matching requirements
- Taxing and debt limits

In addition, we will obtain information from the City of Columbus's management on other significant laws and regulations that could materially affect your basic financial statements in the event of noncompliance.

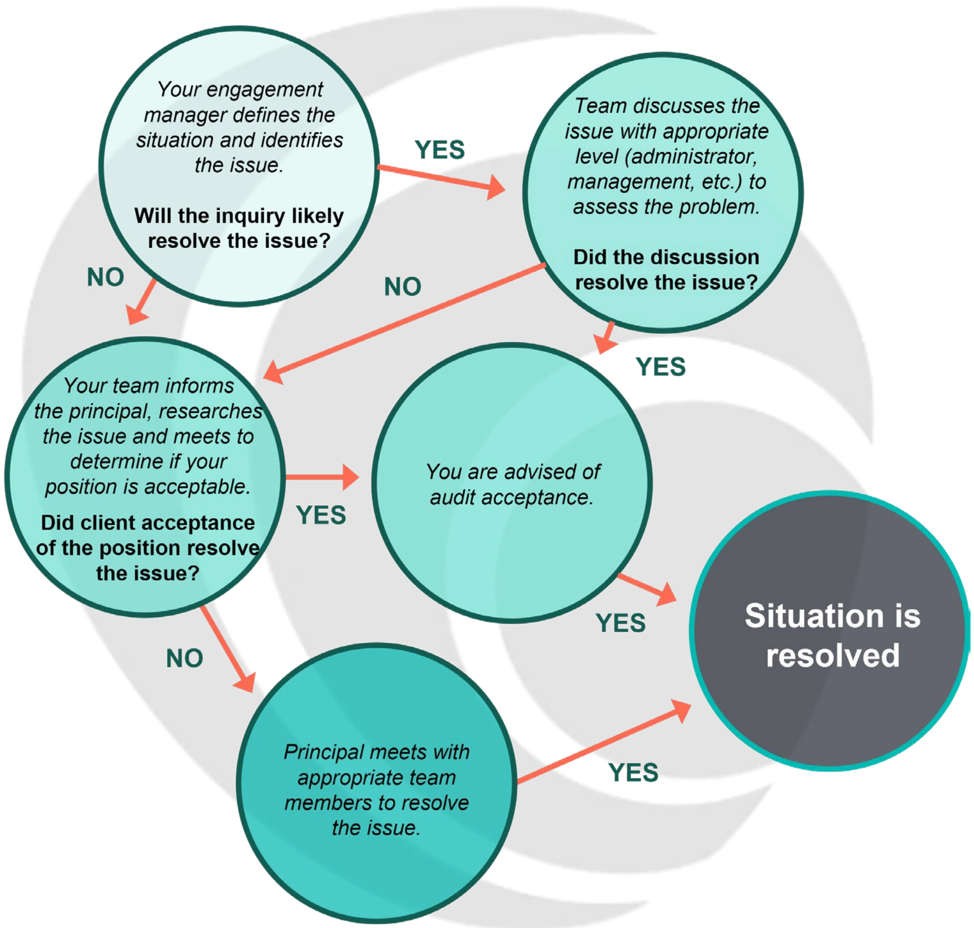
Resolving audit issues quickly and efficiently

You can't see what's on the other side of every hill, but you can be ready for it. Experience: More than 25 years serving Wisconsin municipalities and governmental entities has taught us to prepare for anything and everything.

When issues emerge during audits, we have a plan. The big-picture goal is immediate and efficient issue resolution in every audit.

HERE'S OUR PLAN TO GET THERE	
• The City of Columbus's management will be kept up to date on the status of any open items throughout the engagement. • Based on your preference, you'll be invited to recurring meetings to see our progress and learn about any concerns related to audit execution, reporting or deadlines.	• Any issues during fieldwork will be brought to your attention. • All major issues will be resolved prior to our leaving your work site. • At least four weeks before the final audit report's release, team members commit to meeting with the City of Columbus and discussing any deficiencies.

While we do not anticipate any audit problems, we'll be ready if they happen.



HAVING A STREAMLINED, EFFICIENT APPROACH TO RESOLVING AUDIT ISSUES IS THE NEXT BEST THING TO NOT HAVING ISSUES AT ALL

The City of Columbus will have direct access to our engagement team leaders to quickly resolve issues in your audit.

Value for fees

When we say value, we mean achieving your objectives and imagining new ones. We mean sharing public sector insights, gaining efficiencies and directing our best resources to the City of Columbus.

Sharing our transparent fee estimate

The City of Columbus's fee estimate is based on what we've learned is important to you. We'll go beyond what's expected to deliver a return on your investment.

SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBUS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2026	FEES
Financial statement audit of governmental funds (includes financial statement preparation)	$ 29,000
State Financial Report Form compilation	$ 2,500
TID report compilation	$1,500 per TID
Adjusting journal entries and accounting assistance	Varies depending on condition of records*

OUR TRANSPARENT, FAIR FEE ESTIMATE

The City of Columbus can expect a competitive fee arrangement and continuous value.

Baker Tilly charges a technology fee (5% of billings) on top of our standard fees to cover the additional costs associated with maintaining the technology infrastructure needed to deliver our services. The technology fee includes expenses for specialized software and tools, cybersecurity measures, data storage and backup, IT support and automation tools. This fee ensures our firm can provide a high level of service, security and operational efficiency.

Key assumptions

We based our fee estimate on your needs. If any of the assumptions below change, we'll share any new requirements, budgetary considerations and options.

- Adequate support, preparedness, cooperation and feedback from management
- Fees based on current standards
- No major changes in scope or organizational structure, including mergers or expansions
- Organized books and records with minimal audit entries or work paper preparation assistance

* We have traditionally provided adjusting journal entries and other accounting assistance in relation to the City's annual audit. The extent of assistance provided varies significantly based on the specific needs of the City for that year. We would expect to provide such services for the 2026 audit and can work with City personnel to identify tasks that could reduce our efforts in this area.

Affirming our commitment to the City of Columbus

Our team will always look for a better way to help you stay ahead of every curve on our journey together.

A team that knows your landscape

Your team has worked with similar clients and will hit the ground running

Eyes on the horizon

We will share proactive ideas, industry insights and educational opportunities

Commitment to cost control

We won't send surprise bills or add unnecessary charges

Staff continuity

Our commitment to our people ensures you'll have a consistent team with consistent knowledge of your needs

Ahead of the curve

Our innovative technology keeps you at the forefront of communication, efficiency and compliance

Resources around the globe

You'll have access to specialists across the nation and around the world

Wide-open communication

Expect frequent check-ins and prompt responses to your questions

Solutions scaled for you

Our service plans are flexible and collaborative, crafted for your unique needs

Principal support

You'll always work with experienced team members who bring big-picture perspectives

Unlimited potential

Our services grow with your needs and evolve as you do

ABOVE ALL, OFFERING INFINITE POTENTIAL

Going above and beyond to exceed the City of Columbus's expectations is important to us.

We understand that budget considerations are crucial. While our pricing is fair based on estimated hours, we're flexible. Let's have an open conversation about the scope to find a solution, as we have done with other clients.

Your needs, our resources

As your guide, we champion your goals, anticipate your challenges and chart a new course together.

Guiding you with our resources, reputation and reach

Baker Tilly at a glance

At Baker Tilly, we bring a legacy and commitment to helping our clients embrace what's next.

With more than 11,000 professionals from coast to coast, our resources fuel our ability to offer clients deep industry insights, bold thinking and holistic solutions. Our ranking as the sixth-largest advisory CPA firm means we're actively shaping the industry landscape across markets.

6th-	11,000+	90+	~3,400	$3B+	100+	300+
largest U.S. accounting firm	team members, 1,000+ principals	years in business	Certified Public Accountants	firm revenue in FY2025	worldwide office locations	workplace and culture awards

GIVING YOU THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO NAVIGATE THE FUTURE

Baker Tilly will successfully guide the City of Columbus through changing landscapes with skills, stability and strength as one of the oldest and largest advisory, tax and assurance firms in the United States.

What does our size mean for you? It's about having a powerhouse team of passionate professionals unafraid to roll up their sleeves and provide hands-on support for the City of Columbus. It's about team members brimming with thoughtful ideas, backed by the scale of a firm genuinely dedicated to your success.

When you choose Baker Tilly, you're not just choosing a leading advisory, tax and assurance firm. You're choosing a skilled navigator for the road ahead.

Additional information

Ensuring independence

Baker Tilly and our principals and staff are independent with respect to the City of Columbus as defined by GAAS and the Government Auditing Standards set forth by the U.S. GAO. We will maintain an independent attitude and appearance through the full term of the engagement.

Formal independence guidelines are contained in our Employee Handbook based on rules and regulations established by the Comptroller General of the United States and the AICPA.

We have no knowledge of any business, investment or family relationships with the City of Columbus, its agencies, officials, department heads or other employees and personnel of our firm that would impair our independence.

Documenting our licensure and certificates of awardability

Baker Tilly is licensed to practice public accounting in various states across the U.S. State licensing certifications are documented and can be provided upon request. All key CPAs assigned to the City of Columbus's engagement are licensed to practice public accounting.

Standing strong, with a positive reputation for nearly a century

Along the course traveled by any large business, litigation is a fact of life. Allegations of various common law and statutory violations are regularly made against large accounting and advisory firms like Baker Tilly. Baker Tilly does not disclose or discuss its litigation, which is generally disposed of in the normal course of business and under any applicable professional indemnity insurance policy.

We expect to resolve any pending matters without material detrimental impact on the firm. We enjoy the benefits of the positive reputation we've built and upheld for nearly a century.

Standing up to scrutiny

From time to time, the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and other regulatory authorities conduct inquiries, which could include a review of professional services provided by Baker Tilly and interviews of some of the firm's staff and/or principals. While Baker Tilly cannot predict which of these inquiries may result in further proceedings, we can control one thing: our ever-present readiness and integrity.

Meeting the industry's highest standard through quality peer review

We're proud to share the result of our most recent peer review, completed in November 2024. This review included a specific review governmental engagements.

Baker Tilly received a "pass" report — the highest level of confidence we can obtain regarding our quality control. This is not a new phenomenon; we've achieved this top level with every review. As with past years, no letter of comments was issued.

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

EideBailly
CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

November 14, 2024

To the Partners of Baker Tilly US, LLP
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Baker Tilly US, LLP (the Firm) applicable to engagements not subject to Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) permanent inspection in effect for the year ended March 31, 2024. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a system review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The Firm is responsible for designing and complying with a system of quality control to provide the Firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards in all material respects. The Firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported on in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design and compliance with the Firm's system of quality control based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, audits performed under FDICIA, and examinations of service organizations (SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements).

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the Firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Baker Tilly US, LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended March 31, 2024, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the Firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Baker Tilly US, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Eide Bailly LLP

Eide Bailly LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Appendix: Resumes

PRINCIPAL

Justin D. Hoagland, CPA

Justin Hoagland is a principal with Baker Tilly's public sector practice.

Baker Tilly US, LLP

4807 Innovate Lane
Madison, WI 53718
United States

T: +1 (608) 240 2497
justin.hoagland@bakertilly.com

bakertilly.com

Education

Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting and finance
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Justin specializes in providing accounting and auditing services, as well as single audits, to state and local government entities. This includes counties, cities, villages, towns and governmental agencies.

Specific experience

- Prepares financial statements for state and local governments
- Manages financial audits of governmental units including cities, towns, villages and counties
- Performs audits and compilations of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) districts
- Assists clients with implementation of standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- Performs agreed-upon procedure engagements
- Licensed CPA in Wisconsin

Industry involvement

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA)
- Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (WICPA)
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- Wisconsin Government Finance Officers Association (WGFOA)

Continuing professional education

- Public sector accounting and auditing updates sponsored by Baker Tilly
- Audit Watch
- Single audit training sessions
- Wisconsin GFOA conferences and meetings

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Amanda R. Blomberg, CPA

Amanda Blomberg is managing director of Baker Tilly's state and local government practice.

Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP

4807 Innovate Lane
Madison, WI 53718
United States

T: +1 (608) 240 2386
amanda.blomberg@bakertilly.com

bakertilly.com

Education

Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Amanda specializes in providing financial audit, single audit and consulting services to governments. She also provides federal award compliance audits and consulting for foreign universities and for-profit entities.

Specific experience

- Leads financial audit and accounting engagements for cities, villages and counties in Wisconsin and Illinois
- Directs single audit engagements for municipalities and counties, including the City of Chicago
- Assists with federal award compliance audit engagements and consulting projects for for-profit entities and foreign universities
- Helps clients research and implement new accounting standards
- Provides Uniform Guidance implementation assistance
- Prepares and reviews financial statements and other statutory reports
- Assists municipalities with various accounting issues and questions
- Presents financial results and information to governing bodies
- Develops single audit work programs and leads training for the firm's single audit practice as a firm Professional Practice Leader
- Reviews quality of peer review engagements for the AICPA
- Speaks at local and regional conferences
- Authors articles for the public sector newsletter and presents for the state and local government webinar series
- GFOA Annual Comprehensive Financial Report reviewer
- Licensed CPA in Wisconsin and Illinois

Industry involvement

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (WICPA)
- Wisconsin Government Finance Officers Association (WGFOA)
- AICPA Single Audit Advanced Certificate holder
- AICPA Peer Review Oversight – Single Audits

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Amanda R. Blomberg, CPA

Continuing professional education

- AICPA national governmental conferences and training programs
- WICPA governmental accounting updates
- WICPA “Accounting, Auditing and Financial Management Update”
- Various AICPA single audit webinars
- Accounting and auditing 2013 “ASL Inspector Training” (Baker Tilly)
- GASB seminars
- “IT Risk Assessment Standards (RAS) Training for Auditors” (Baker Tilly)
- “City of Chicago Ethics Training” (Baker Tilly)
- “Information Technology Risk Assessment Concepts for Financial Audit” (Baker Tilly)
- “Succession Planning: Why It’s Still Relevant” (Baker Tilly)
- “Independence: Historical Insights and Today’s Rules” (Becker Professional Education)
- “Common Fraud Schemes in Governments” (Baker Tilly)
- Energy and utilities training sessions (Baker Tilly)
- Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) conferences and training programs including Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) updates
- Wisconsin GFOA conferences and meetings
- Accounting and auditing updates sponsored by Baker Tilly
- Numerous single audit training sessions

MANAGER

Ryan Shavlik, CPA

Ryan Shavlik is a manager with Baker Tilly's assurance practice.

Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP

4807 Innovate Lane
Madison, WI 53718
United States

T: +1 (608) 316 1335
ryan.shavlik@bakertilly.com

bakertilly.com

Education

Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting
University of Wisconsin
(La Crosse)

Ryan joined Baker Tilly more than five years ago and is a member of the public sector team and specializes in providing auditing, accounting and consulting services to state and local government entities. Clients include municipalities, counties, other governmental agencies, school districts and not-for-profit organizations.

Specific experience

- Prepares state and local government financial statements and other regulatory reports including form C for Wisconsin cities and villages as well as tax incremental finance (TIF) audit and annual reports
- Provides auditing and accounting services consisting of planning, fieldwork and audit completion for government units including cities, towns, villages and counties as well as school districts and not-for-profit organizations
- Assists with single audit planning, reporting and compliance testing of governmental units including cities, towns, villages and counties as well as for-profit and not-for-profit organizations receiving federal and state grant funding
- Evaluates the internal control environment at governmental entities and reports findings and best practices
- Proficient in data analysis, organization and classification using Excel and TMA
- Wisconsin certified CPA

Continuing professional education

- Valued Business Advisor Assurance Academy – Level 5
- Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Update
- Single Audit Update Training
- Professional Ethics Update Training
- PSC Report Training
- TMA (TeamMate Analytics) Training