

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Payment of Attorney Fees for the Sheriff's Office
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to authorize payment of attorney fees to Balch Law Group (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$19,777.30, and approve payment of future legal fees for the provision of legal services for the Sheriff's Office.
INITIATED BY:	Finance/City Attorney's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to authorize payment of attorney fees to Balch Law Group (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$19,777.30 and approve payment of future legal fees for the provision of legal services for the Sheriff's Office in reference to the current pending CCG investigation.

Background: The Sheriff's Office is currently conducting an investigation involving Departments, employees and officials of the City. The Sheriff has requested separate legal counsel on this matter as his investigatory role may conflict with other City interests.

Analysis: None.

Financial Considerations: The Sheriff's Office budget will cover the costs of the attorney fees.

Legal Considerations: Payments to attorneys for legal fees are approved by Council resolution each fiscal year.

Recommendation/Action: Approve a resolution to authorize payment of attorney fees to Balch Law Group (Atlanta, GA), in the amount of \$19,777.30 and approve payment of future legal fees for the provision of legal services for Sheriff's Office in reference to the current pending CCG investigations for the remainder of FY 2024.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES TO BALCH LAW GROUP (ATLANTA, GA), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,777.30; AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF FUTURE LEGAL FEES FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR SHERIFF’S OFFICE IN REFERENCE TO A PENDING CCG INVESTIGATION.

WHEREAS, the firm provided legal services to the Sheriff’s Office regarding a pending CCG investigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to render payment of attorney fees to Balch Law Group (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$19,777.30 for the provision of legal services for the Sheriff’s Office. Further expenses for legal services provided by Balch Law Group pertaining to the Sheriff’s pending CCG investigation for the remainder of FY2024 may also be paid without further resolution of Council. Expenses will be charged to: General Fund – Sheriff – Administration – Legal Services; 0101 – 550 – 1000 – SHRF – 6312.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor District 1 Seat	voting _____
Councilor Begly	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor