

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Organizational Risk Assessment & Consulting Services
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve additional professional services from Mauldin and Jenkins (Atlanta, GA) to provide an organizational risk assessment for the fixed amount of \$69,950.00.

Mauldin and Jenkins will provide consulting services to conduct an organization wide risk assessment which will identify areas of risk throughout the organization based on criteria to be determined during the course of the engagement. The risk assessment will help to establish an effective, risk-based Internal Audit approach for the City that will direct Internal Audit activity to focus on reviews that matter, to continually assess and manage risk, and to team with management, process owners, control operators, and other assurance functions to mitigate and improve operational results while meeting regulatory requirements.

The scope of the Risk Assessment includes addressing the key strategic, financial, operational, and legal & regulatory risks as defined by the COSO internal control framework. The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) developed a widely used framework to help organizations design, implement, and assess their internal control systems. It provides a comprehensive approach to understanding and managing internal controls over financial reporting, operations, and compliance.

Mauldin and Jenkins will conduct the Risk Assessment with a joint team of experienced IA specialists, government subject-matter specialists, and IT specialists. An Information Technology risk assessment identifying and prioritizing what IT areas and risks should be the focus of IT will also be incorporated into the overall Risk Assessment approach. The estimated project duration is approximately 65-75 days to complete the risk assessment.

Engagement objectives include the following:

- Meet with key stakeholders to understand the Government's strategic imperatives, operational processes, and legal and regulatory framework.
- Work with the City's leadership team and Audit/Finance Committee to frame and communicate the City's vision for the Government's internal audit function.
- Meet with leadership and core process owners to define the audit universe and complete the comprehensive Risk Assessment which includes information technology.
- Create a comprehensive Risk Assessment Report detailing levels of potential risk throughout the organization.
- Present final deliverables to key stakeholders.

Mauldin & Jenkins has proven expertise in this type of consultant services for governmental entities. Additionally, Mauldin & Jenkins is the City's annual contracted vendor providing

Auditing Services, per Resolution #084-25. Under the contract, the City can engage the vendor to provide additional professional services.

General Fund reserves will be used to cover the cost of the assessment. Expenses will be charged to: General Fund – Non-departmental – Non-categorical – Professional Services; 0101-590-3000-NCAT-6311.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM MAULDIN AND JENKINS (ATLANTA, GA) TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE FIXED AMOUNT OF \$69,950.00.

WHEREAS, Mauldin and Jenkins will provide consulting services to conduct an organizational risk assessment which will identify areas of risk throughout the organization based on criteria to be determined during the course of the engagement. The risk assessment will help to establish an effective, risk-based Internal Audit approach for the City that will direct Internal Audit activity to focus on reviews that matter, to continually assess and manage risk, and to team with management, process owners, control operators, and other assurance functions to mitigate and improve operational results while meeting regulatory requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the scope of the Risk Assessment includes addressing the key strategic, financial, operational, and legal & regulatory risks as defined by the COSO internal control framework. The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) developed a widely used framework to help organizations design, implement, and assess their internal control systems. It provides a comprehensive approach to understanding and managing internal controls over financial reporting, operations, and compliance; and,

WHEREAS, Mauldin and Jenkins will conduct the Risk Assessment with a joint team of experienced team of IA specialists, government subject-matter specialists, and IT specialists. An Information Technology risk assessment identifying and prioritizing what IT areas and risks should be the focus of IT will also be incorporated into the overall Risk Assessment approach. The estimated project duration is approximately 65-75 days to complete the risk assessment; and,

WHEREAS, the Engagement objectives include the following:

- Meet with key stakeholders to understand the Government's strategic imperatives, operational processes, and legal and regulatory framework.
- Work with the City's leadership team and Audit/Finance Committee to frame and communicate the City's vision for the Government's internal audit function.
- Meet with leadership and core process owners to define the audit universe and complete the comprehensive Risk Assessment which includes information technology.
- Create a comprehensive Risk Assessment Report detailing levels of potential risk throughout the organization.
- Present final deliverables to key stakeholders; and,

WHEREAS, Mauldin & Jenkins has proven expertise in this type of consulting services for governmental entities. Additionally, Mauldin & Jenkins is the City's annual contracted vendor providing Auditing Services, per Resolution #084-25. Under the contract, the City can engage the vendor to provide additional professional services.

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

That the City Manager and/or his designee are hereby authorized to execute an engagement letter from Mauldin and Jenkins (Atlanta, GA) to provide an organizational risk

assessment for the fixed amount of \$69,950.00. General Fund reserves will be used to cover the cost of the assessment. Expenses will be charged to: General Fund – Non-departmental – Non-categorical – Professional Services; 0101-590-3000-NCAT-6311.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Anker	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey Mclemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor