

Staff Report

Subject: Renewal of the Agreement for Lodging Excise Tax Distribution with the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.

Author: Alison Bruton, Purchasing Agent

Department: Purchasing

Meeting Date: June 6, 2023

Item Description: Consideration to renew the Agreement for Lodging Excise Tax Distribution with the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends Renewal.

Executive Summary/Background:

- The County currently has an agreement in place with the Chamber of Commerce for lodging excise tax distribution. The terms of the agreement are July 1 2013 through June 30 2014 with the option to renew annually unless otherwise cancelled.
- The Board of Commissioners approved the "hotel/motel tax" in June 2013.
- The ordinance levies a 5% tax on the amount of lodging charges collected (unless exemptions apply) on all accommodations in the unincorporated areas, and requires the county expend 40% of the tax collected for the purpose of promoting tourism, conventions, and trade shows under contract with a 501 (c)(6) private sector non-profit organization as defined by O.C.G.A 48-13-50.2(3).
- The agreement with the Chamber of Commerce provides for 80% of the revenue collected to be provided to them for the purpose of promoting tourism, conventions and trade shows.
- The agreement has been previously reviewed and approved to form by the county attorney.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Board approval to allow the agreement for lodging excise tax distribution with the Chamber of Commerce to automatically renew for the period July 1 2023 through June 30 2024.
2. Cancel the agreement.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Purchasing

Funding Source: Funding from lodging excise tax proceeds received by the County.

Attachments:

1. Current agreement for Lodging Excise Tax Distribution with the Chamber of Commerce.
2. Chamber Hotel Motel Budget FY24.