

Staff Report

Subject: FY26 audit engagement letter with Nichols Cauley
Author: Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director
Department: Finance
Meeting Date: 10/6/26
Item Description: Consideration to approve an engagement letter with Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC for audit services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026

Summary Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the engagement letter with Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC for the County's FY 2026 financial statement audit and federal single audit.

Executive Summary/Background:

The County obtains an independent audit each fiscal year. Nichols Cauley's September 4, 2026 engagement letter covers the County's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026, including governmental and business-type activities, component units, major funds, and remaining fund information. The firm will also audit compliance for the County's major federal award programs.

The audit will be conducted under generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards, and the federal Uniform Guidance. The engagement includes the federal award expenditure schedule and supplementary schedules for SPLOST and TSPLOST projects. Nichols Cauley expects to issue its audit report in December 2026.

The estimated fee is \$43,500 for the financial statement audit and \$4,500 for the single audit, including one major federal program, for an initial total of \$48,000. Each additional major federal program would cost \$2,500. The letter also provides for actual out-of-pocket expenses. These amounts are estimates, not a fixed maximum; the firm will notify the County of circumstances that could significantly affect the estimate.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the FY 2026 audit engagement letter with Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC.
2. Do not approve the engagement letter.
3. Provide staff with other direction.

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends Alternative 1 – approve the FY 2026 audit engagement letter with Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC.

Other Alternatives:

N/A

Department Review:

Finance

Funding Source:

General Fund

Attachments:

Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC engagement letter for the FY 2026 audit, dated September 4, 2026