

# Staff Report

**Subject:** Audit engagement letter for FY 2024  
**Author:** Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director  
**Department:** Finance  
**Meeting Date:** 11/19/24  
**Item Description:** Consideration to approve an engagement letter between the Effingham County Board of Commissioners and Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser for audit services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024

## **Summary Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approving the engagement letter with Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser for audit services for fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

## **Executive Summary/Background:**

Beginning with fiscal year 2013 Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser (formerly Thigpen, Lanier, Westerfield & Deal and later Lanier, Deal & Proctor) has provided audit services of the County's annual financial statements and internal controls.

Two years ago, the County put these services out to bid and given their competitive pricing and quality work in prior years, Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser were awarded the contract at the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 public meeting.

Each fiscal year an audit is conducted. This audit is conducted in order to meet state and federal requirements of the county, to ensure the financial statements of the county are presented fairly in all material aspects, and are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles known as GAAP.

There are three major portions of the audited statements: The independent auditor's report, the management discussion and analysis, and the financial statements. The independent auditor's report is the auditor's opinion. Management's discussion and analysis is staff's narrative of the audited statements. The financial statements contain both countywide and individual fund statements. The audit is conducted in accordance with GASB (Governmental Auditing Standards). The auditor's work includes items such as review of internal controls, review of recorded financial transactions, review of compliance related issues, and examination and testing in order to express an opinion on these items.

The cost of this service for FY 2024 shall not exceed to be \$46,500 and if the single audit is required, an additional \$3,500. This is an increase of \$44,500 where it had been for some years.

**Alternatives for Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve the Letter of Engagement for FY 2024 audit services with Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser.
2. Do not approve the Letter of Engagement.
3. Provide Staff with Direction

**Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve the Letter of Engagement for FY 2023 audit services with Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser.

**Other Alternatives:**

N/A

**Department Review:** *(list departments)*

Finance

**Funding Source:**

General fund

**Attachments:**

Engagement letter from Lanier, Deal, Proctor & Bloser for FY 2024