

Staff Report

Subject: Proposal with GMC for Stormwater Utility Implementation

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Department: Procurement / Engineering

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

Item Description: Consideration to approve a proposal with Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC) for professional services associated with the implementation of a Stormwater Utility User Fee in Effingham County.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the proposal submitted by GMC dated November 4, 2025, to support the County in the implementation of a stormwater utility, including rate structure development, GIS and billing system setup, public outreach, and ordinance support.

Executive Summary / Background:

Effingham County is seeking to implement a Stormwater Utility User Fee to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for stormwater infrastructure maintenance, capital improvements, and compliance with federal and state regulations (including the County's NPDES MS4 Phase I Permit).

GMC has extensive experience assisting Georgia jurisdictions with similar programs, including Dahlonga, Statesboro, Richmond Hill, Garden City, and others. Their proposed scope of work includes:

- Assessment of Existing Stormwater Program and Services
- Development of Countywide Impervious Surface GIS Database
- Creation of a Master Billing File for Tax Integration
- Rate Structure Evaluation and Alternatives
- Public Outreach and Education Campaign
- Ordinance and Resolution Preparation Support
- Final Project Report and CIP Prioritization Matrix
- Optional Customer Service Training Module

The utility will help clearly define the extent of service responsibilities, prioritize capital improvement projects, and establish an equitable, parcel-based fee structure. The proposed methodology includes development of Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs), billing models, and account classifications based on impervious surface data.

The total proposed fee for GMC's professional services is **\$149,380.00**, which includes lump sum tasks for project management, GIS mapping, rate structure development, ordinance support, and reporting, along with a not-to-exceed amount for public outreach. An optional customer service training module is also included within this total.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. **Approve** the professional services agreement with GMC as presented.
2. **Reject** the proposal and direct staff to seek alternative consultant support.
3. **Defer** action and request modifications or further review.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2, 3

Department Review: Procurement, Engineering

Funding Source: FY 2026 Capital Projects - Stormwater

Attachments: GMC Proposal – Stormwater Utility Implementation (dated November 4, 2025)