

Staff Report

Subject: Award of RFP No. 26-RFP-125 – Audit Services

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Department: Procurement and Finance

Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

Item Description: Consideration to approve the award of RFP No. 26-RFP-125, Audit Services, to Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC of Dublin, Georgia, as the highest-ranked proposer based on the County's evaluation process.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Effingham County Board of Commissioners approve the selection of Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC for Audit Services pursuant to RFP No. 26-RFP-125.

Executive Summary/Background:

Effingham County issued RFP No. 26-RFP-125 to solicit proposals from qualified firms to provide professional Audit Services for the County. The competitive RFP process allowed the County to evaluate firms based on their governmental audit experience, qualifications of the proposed project team, audit approach and methodology, references and past performance, and proposed fees. Proposals were due July 20, 2026.

Following evaluation, Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC received the highest overall score of **98.33 out of 100**, followed by Mauldin & Jenkins with **93.67**. Custom Strategic Solutions and Financial Elevation Group received scores of **47.67** and **29.67**, respectively, while Lanier, Deal, & Deal, CPAs was excluded from the evaluation. Based on the competitive evaluation process, **Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC was identified as the recommended vendor for Audit Services.**

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the selection of Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC for Audit Services pursuant to RFP No. 26-RFP-125.
2. Do not approve the contract
3. Provide staff with alternative solution.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: Procurement and Finance

Funding Source: 2027 FY Budget

Attachments: RFP No. 26-RFP-125 Audit Services Evaluation Tabulation Summary