



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Amendment to Agreement for Legal Services - Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

CEQA: Not a Project.

Recommendation: That Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-59 approving the Amendment to Legal Services between the City of Grass Valley and Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC effective October 1, 2023.

Prepared by: Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

Date Prepared: September 19, 2023

Agenda: Consent

Background Information: Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC (“CHW”) has provided legal services to the City of Grass Valley since October 2011. Over the course of the last twelve years, CHW has continued to deliver a high level of responsive legal services and advice to the City.

CHW last raised the fees charged to the City in September of 2021. In recognition of the fact that over the last couple of years aggregate inflation has been more than 12%; coupled with the recent 3% increase afforded all employees in the City, staff recommends Council approval of a commensurate 3% increase to hourly rates charged by CHW. Effective October 1, 2023, rates are recommended to be updated as follows:

Level of Service	Current Rate	New Rate
Legal Retainer (monthly)	\$6,300.00	\$6,500.00
4% for Costs (monthly)	\$250.00	\$260.00
Special Projects	\$250.00 / hr	\$260.00 / hr
Labor & Litigation Services	\$275.00 / hr	\$285.00 / hr
Reimbursed	\$300.00 / hr	\$310.00 / hr

Additionally, non-retainer hourly billing rates will be updated as follows:

Shareholders & Senior Contract Attorneys	\$310.00 / hr
6 th Year and More Senior Associates	\$310.00 / hr
5 th year Associates	\$300.00 / hr
4 th year Associates	\$285.00 / hr
3 rd Year Associates	\$275.00 / hr
2 nd Year Associates	\$265.00 / hr

1 st Year Associates	\$255.00 / hr
Paralegals	\$190.00 / hr
Legal Assistants	\$145.00 / hr

As previously discussed, these updated rates will become effective October 1, 2023.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #5 - High-Performance Government and Quality Service.

Fiscal Impact: Based on annual legal costs budgeted for FY 2022-23, the estimated incremental ongoing annual costs of approximately \$10,000 will be funded by available fund balances and contingencies; and adjusted into the budget update presented at mid-year. Budget amendment(s), to the extent necessary, will be recommended with the FY 2022-23 mid-year update to be considered by the City Council in early 2024.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: General Fund
Water Fund
Sewer Fund

Reviewed by: Tim Kiser, City Manager

Attachments: Resolution & Contract Amendment