



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026

FROM: L.J. Arnold, III, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Consideration of increasing the previously approved outside legal counsel fees of \$10,000 to \$25,000 for defense of the Huntley v. City litigation initiated by Huntley. *City Attorney Arnold*

BACKGROUND

As the City Council is well aware, the City has a stormwater utility system which applies a base and user fee to most all real property within the City. Some landowners have voiced concerns over the method which we are using to assess their property for the user fee portion of the total assessment. We also are all aware that Mr. Huntley and/or his legal entities have filed suit against the City arguing that their property does not have any impact on our stormwater system and they should not be assessed the "user" fee portion of the total assessment. That litigation is ongoing, and the City retained attorney Greg Stewart of the very well respected firm of Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson to represent the City in this complex litigation wherein Huntley is seeking a refund on all past stormwater user fee assessments and a declaration that the subject property should not owe any future user fee assessments as well. Clearly, there are several hundred thousands of dollars or more at stake, and the City must have expert legal representation to ensure justice prevails.

To date, the City has paid approximately \$7,000 for this legal representation, and we will surely exceed the previously set limit. I have explained to Mr. Stewart to do the least amount of legal work that is required in view of the anticipated resolution of this case in the next few months.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City will expend more attorney fees to properly defend ourselves in this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to set a new limit on outside legal in the Huntley case in the amount of not to exceed \$25,000.