



City of Hartford * County of Van Buren * State of Michigan

TO: Mayor Danger and Hartford City Commission

FROM: Nicol Pulluam, City Manager 

DATE: June 22, 2026

RE: **APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH BLOOM SLUGGETT, PC FOR SPECIAL
LEGAL SERVICE - INTERLOCAL FIRE AGREEMENT & CODE ENFORCEMENT**

ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

The item before the Commission is to approve a legal service agreement with Bloom Sluggett, PC, for special legal counsel to the city for the interlocal fire agreement negotiations and code enforcement.

BACKGROUND:

The city is seeking specialized legal counsel to assist with negotiations for the interlocal fire agreement between the city and Hartford Township. This agreement was approved in November 2013, with arbitration becoming effective in January 2023. Hartford Township has provided the city with a draft of the agreement. Legal counsel will support the city's interlocal fire agreement committee in preparing a draft to present to the commission before it is submitted to the Township board for review and approval.

The city's police department is currently handling code enforcement. The city is seeking legal services for property owners who fail to comply with its ordinances after receiving a verbal warning or a warning letter. Property owners will be given 10 days to comply with the ordinances. If they do not comply within this 10-day period, the city will proceed with legal services.

Currently, Bloom Sluggett, PC, is representing the city in the wastewater treatment plant matter. Bloom Sluggett is located in Grand Rapids and specializes in representing governmental agencies in public sector law, municipal law, water law, and business law, among others. Attorney Sluggett will manage the city's relationship with Bloom Sluggett, and most of the work will be handled by litigators and paralegals. Shareholder time will be billed at \$255 per hour, associate attorney time at \$205 to \$240 per hour, and paralegal time at \$130 per hour.

RECOMMENDATION:

The item before the Commission is to approve a legal services agreement with Bloom Sluggett for special legal counsel to the city to negotiate the interlocal fire agreement and code enforcement. The shareholder time will be billed at \$255 per hour, associate attorney time at \$205 to \$240 per hour, and paralegal time at \$130 per hour. The fees have been budgeted in the general fund.