

September 24, 2026

City of Loganville
Attn: Ansley Pope
4303 Lawrenceville Road
Loganville, GA 30052

Re: Proposal for Legal Services

Dear Ms. Pope:

On behalf of James Bates Brannan Groover LLP, thank you for the opportunity to submit the enclosed proposal to serve as legal counsel for the City of Loganville.

For more than 35 years, our attorneys have represented cities and counties across Georgia on the issues local governments face every day, including ordinance drafting, open meetings and open records compliance, contracts, real estate, and litigation. Today, some of these clients include Toccoa, Irwin County, Macon-Bibb County, Butler, Peach County, and Athens-Clarke County.

Our proposed team of Jack Nichols, James Banter, Blake Ogden, and Willie Sizemore will work together to give the City responsive and practical counsel, both at Council meetings and in between. We would be honored to partner with the City and welcome the chance to answer any questions the Council may have.

Respectfully,



Jack Nichols
James Banter
Blake Ogden
Willie Sizemore

Thank you for your time and consideration
- JBBG Team

Proposal for Legal Services

**JAMES
BATES
BRANNAN
GROOVER**



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

City of Loganville



Introduction

Attorneys at James Bates Brannan Groover (“JBBG”) have been representing local governmental entities in various capacities for over 35 years. JBBG was founded in 1999 as a forward-thinking, client-driven law firm centered on core values of integrity, servant leadership, respect for others, and the pursuit of excellence. Currently, JBBG has offices in Macon, Atlanta, and Athens, with approximately 50 attorneys and 50 support staff to serve its clients. JBBG is a full-service law firm. In addition to the local government practice, JBBG provides legal services involving construction, employment law, real estate, insurance, tax, and financial institutions.

Team



Jack Nichols

Jack Nichols has been a member of the Georgia Bar since 2006. After serving as a JAG in the U.S. Army for 3 years, Jack has been with the firm’s Macon office since 2010 focusing on business litigation and local government law. He represents both cities and counties in a variety of matters, including employment issues, ordinance drafting, zoning, real property issues, contracts, and water and wastewater concerns. Jack serves as city attorney for several small cities in central Georgia.



James Banter

James Banter was admitted to the practice of law in 2016, and is a commercial litigator and local government attorney who calls Macon home. James has extensive experience serving local government clients, including defending Section 1983 claims in federal courts across Georgia. James also serves as the County Attorney for Peach County and Irwin County. He is an active member of the Georgia Bar Association, serving on the Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors.



Blake Ogden

Blake Ogden has been a member of the Georgia Bar for over 7 years and advises local governments on a variety of issues. His primary focus is advising local governments on complex real estate matters, including acquisitions, leasing, and condemnations. In addition, he represents the Georgia Department of Transportation on property acquisitions and condemnations across Northeast Georgia.



Willie Sizemore

Willie Sizemore joined the firm and Georgia Bar in 2024. Since then, he has primarily focused his practice on defending local governments in a wide variety of litigation matters. Willie also spends time responding to the everyday legal questions and concerns raised at City Council and County Commission meetings of our local government clients. Willie and his wife, Kylie, call Carnesville, Georgia, home.

This team of lawyers will work in lockstep, along with our other professionals, to provide superior legal services to the City of Loganville. This means that you can expect to see any four of these team members at your Council meetings, depending on the topic, nature, and scope of the agenda. Additionally, team members from across JBBG may be called upon to work on specific matters suited to their strengths.

Experience

Open Meetings/Open Records—Requests, Procedures, and Compliance

As part of our representation of local governments, various attorneys within our firm have been tasked with ensuring compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act.

Drafting and Interpretation of Contracts and Intergovernmental Agreements

JBBG has extensive experience drafting and interpreting contracts between local governments and other governmental entities. Examples of such contracts include intergovernmental agreements for waste management, storm water, and enforcement of ordinances with Sheriffs' Offices. JBBG has also been effective in drafting memoranda of understanding or resolution documents between governmental entities. Furthermore, JBBG has successfully represented local governments in contract drafting negotiations with state and federal agencies.

Drafting and Interpretation of Ordinances, Statutes, and Resolutions

Our firm regularly interprets and drafts ordinances, local laws, resolutions, and similar legislation for our local government clients. JBBG has also been involved in comprehensive updates to ordinances governing alcohol licensing, blight, and code enforcement.

SPLOST and LOST Referendums, Procedures, and Requirements

JBBG has extensive experience in counseling local government clients through the complicated process of securing local sales and use tax amendments via state legislative action and voter referendum.

Condemnation Procedures and Litigation

Our team at JBBG is well versed in eminent domain, including declarations of taking for road improvements and special master proceedings for other public expansion purposes. This includes condemnation actions beginning at initial negotiations to contested litigation.

Defending Local Governments in Litigation

JBBG has extensive experience defending local governments in litigation involving contract disputes, Section 1983 civil rights cases, tort and nuisance lawsuits, and similar litigation.

Procurement and Public Bidding Requirements

JBBG has been heavily involved in both the procurement procedures and legal requirements of securing bids and responses to multimillion-dollar public building projects and improvements.

Human Resources Issues and Compliance with Title VII

Various attorneys within our firm have been tasked with ensuring compliance with Title VII and other employment laws. Further, our team of lawyers has represented local government clients in various employment matters, including internal investigations, litigation, and EEOC charges.

ADA and Rehabilitation Act Compliance Issues for Local Governments

JBBG has handled a number of ADA-related matters, including litigation and EEOC charges.



Professional References

John Hawkins

706-613-3035 | john.hawkins@accgov.com

John Hawkins is the Deputy Chief Attorney for Athens-Clarke County and has held that post for more than six years. Athens-Clarke County, under the direction of its County Commission, engages our firm to represent it in real estate transactions and litigation in both federal and state courts. James Banter, Blake Ogden, and Willie Sizemore provide legal advice and services on behalf of Athens-Clarke County.

Vicki Wainwright

478-862-5435 | vwainwright@cityofbutlerga.com

Vicki Wainwright is the City Clerk and Administrator for the City of Butler. She has worked with the City of Butler for more than 18 years and has served in leadership roles within the Georgia Municipal Clerk's Association. Jack Nichols serves as the City Attorney for Butler.

Fredda Wheeler

706-886-4603 | fwheeler@cityoftoccoa.com

Fredda Wheeler is the City Manager for the City of Toccoa. She has worked for the City of Toccoa for more than two decades, serving in several roles, including City Clerk for more than a decade. Blake Ogden and Willie Sizemore work alongside Gregory Sowell to serve Toccoa as City Attorneys.

Proposed Fees

For preparation and attendance at regularly scheduled City Council meetings, along with related phone calls and correspondence, the City may engage JBBG for a flat monthly fee of \$2,000.

For specific legal needs, including drafting ordinances, completing research projects, and completing various real estate transactions, Partners in our firm would bill at \$300 per hour, and other attorneys would bill at \$250 per hour. Paralegals will bill at \$150 per hour.

Contact Information

One Press Place, Suite 200, Athens, GA 30601

Jack Nichols

478-749-9982 | jnichols@jamesbatesllp.com

James Banter

478-749-9992 | jbaxter@jamesbatesllp.com

Blake Ogden

706-215-8332 | bogden@jamesbatesllp.com

Willie Sizemore

706-215-8340 | wsizemore@jamesbatesllp.com



Conclusion

James Bates Brannan Groover understands the unique legal, operational, and public-facing challenges confronting local governments. Our firm brings decades of experience, a deep bench of attorneys dedicated to local government law, and a commitment to practical, plain-English counsel grounded in integrity and public service. With a strong presence in Northeast Georgia, we are well-positioned to provide responsive, effective, and cost-conscious legal services. We would be honored to serve the Mayor and City Councilmembers and partner with Loganville to advance its mission on behalf of its citizens.



Helpful Links

Law Firm Website



jamesbatesllp.com

Writing Samples



<https://tinyurl.com/j29fw5re>

Local Government Team



<https://tinyurl.com/2kt9kr25>



**Thank you for your
consideration.**

**JAMES
BATES
BRANNAN
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