

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT was made and entered into this ____ day of **April 2025**, by and between the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, a Florida municipal corporation ("Town"), and Geoffrey B. Sluggett & Associates, Inc., a Florida limited liability company with a principal address of 500 South Australian Avenue, Suite 710, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 ("Consultant").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS the Town represents that it is a Florida municipal corporation with the authority to engage the Consultant and accept the obligation for payment for the services desired; and

WHEREAS the Town desires to engage the Consultant to perform professional services on behalf of Town Administration, under the direction and approval of the Town Manager or their designee. These services encompass representing the Town of Loxahatchee Groves and delivering specialized consulting services, particularly in securing funding for programs and projects that serve the Town's interests. This includes actively pursuing funding opportunities through partnerships, grants, appropriations, and other agreements, as well as ensuring the successful approval and implementation of Town projects.; and

WHEREAS the Consultant desires to provide such professional services in accordance with this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual benefits which will accrue to the parties hereto in carrying out the terms of this Agreement, it is mutually understood and agreed as follows:

SECTION 1: INCORPORATION OF RECITALS. The foregoing Recitals are incorporated into this Agreement as true and correct statements.

SECTION 2: CONSULTANT'S SERVICES. The Consultant, at the direction and approval of the Town Manager, shall provide consulting services to the Town. The general scope of the Consultant's services includes actively pursuing funding opportunities through partnerships, grants, appropriations, and other agreements, as well as ensuring the successful approval and implementation of Town projects. These services include but are not limited to:

- Providing expert advice, counsel, and active involvement in identifying potential funding sources, including grants for which the Town may be eligible.
- Scheduling, attending, and reporting on relevant meetings to ensure timely communication and progress.
- Drafting and preparing comprehensive funding requests and accompanying documentation.

- Identifying and collaborating with key stakeholders, consultants, agencies, and staff to advance project goals.
- Developing necessary support materials to bolster funding efforts.
- Negotiating partnerships and agreements to facilitate project success.
- Monitoring project progress, funding requests, and agreements, with regular status updates. As well as other assigned duties and related services in accordance with this Agreement. The Consultant shall efficiently manage each project from initiation to completion.

SECTION 3: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP. No relationship of employer or employee is created by this Agreement, it being understood that Consultant will act hereunder as an independent contractor and none of the Consultant's, officers, directors, employees, independent contractors, representatives, or agents performing services for consultant pursuant to this Agreement shall have any claim under this Agreement or otherwise against the Town for compensation of any kind under this Agreement. The relationship between the Town and Consultant is that of independent contractors, and neither shall be considered a joint venture, partner, employee, agent, representative or other relationship of the other for any purpose expressly or by implication.

SECTION 4: TERM, TIME, AND TERMINATION.

- a. Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence on **October 1, 2024** and shall remain in effect until **February 28, 2025, unless terminated as stated** herein.
- b. Time for Completion. Time is of the essence in the performance of this Agreement. The Consultant shall always carry out its duties and responsibilities as expeditiously as possible in accordance with or better than industry standards.
- c. Force Majeure. Neither party hereto shall be liable for its failure to perform hereunder due to any circumstances beyond its reasonable control, such as acts of God, wars, riots, national emergencies, sabotage, strikes, labor disputes, accidents, and governmental laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations. The Consultant or Town may suspend its performance under this Agreement as a result of a force majeure without being in default of this Agreement, but upon the removal of such force majeure, the Consultant or Town shall resume its performance as soon as is reasonably possible. Upon the Consultant's request, the Town shall consider the facts and extent of any failure to perform the services and, if the Consultant's failure to perform was without its or its sub-consultants' fault or negligence, the schedule and/or any other affected provision of this Agreement may be revised accordingly, subject to the Town's rights to change, terminate, or stop any or all of the services at any time. No extension shall be made for delay occurring more than three (3) days before notice of delay or claim therefore is made in writing to the Town. In the case of continuing cause of delay, only one (1) notice of delay or claim is necessary.
- d. Termination without cause. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time with or without cause by giving not less than **thirty (30)** days written notice of termination.

- e. Termination for cause. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time in the event that the other party engages in any act or makes any omission constituting a material breach of any term or condition of this Agreement. The party electing to terminate this Agreement shall provide the other party with written notice specifying the nature of the breach. The party receiving the notice shall then have three (3) business days from the date of the notice in which to remedy the breach. If such corrective action is not taken within three (3) business days, then this Agreement shall terminate at the end of the three (3) day period without further notice or demand.
- f. Early Termination. If this Agreement is terminated before the completion of all services by either party, the Consultant shall:
 - 1) Stop services on the date and to the extent specified in the notice including without limitation services of any sub-consultants.
 - 2) Transfer all work in progress, completed work, and other materials related to the terminated services to the Town in the format acceptable to Town
 - 3) Continue and complete all parts of the services that have not been terminated.
- g. Effect of Termination. Termination of this Agreement shall not affect any rights, obligations, and liabilities of the parties arising out of services provided prior to termination.
- h. Termination for non-appropriation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties acknowledge and agree that the Town is a municipal corporation of the state of Florida, and as such, this Agreement are subject to budgeting and appropriation by the Town of funds sufficient to pay the costs associated herewith in any fiscal year of the Town. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, in the event that no funds are appropriated or budgeted by the Town's governing board in any fiscal year to pay the costs associated with the Town's obligations under this Agreement, or in the event the funds budgeted or appropriated are, or are estimated by the Town to be, insufficient to pay the costs associated with the Town's obligations hereunder in any fiscal period, then the Town will notify Consultant of such occurrence and either the Town or Consultant may terminate this Agreement by notifying the other in writing, which notice shall specify a date of termination no earlier than twenty-four (24) hours after giving of such notice. Termination in accordance with the preceding sentence shall be without penalty or expense to the Town of any kind whatsoever; however, the Town shall pay Consultant for all services performed under this Agreement through the date of termination.

. SECTION 5: COMPENSATION.

- a. **Payments.** The Consultant's compensation shall not exceed \$24,999 for the term of this agreement per itemized invoice. The invoice shall be submitted to the Town Manager for review and processing no later than the 10th of each month. Travel time will be included in the monthly billing if one-way travel to the Town exceeds 30 minutes. The Town will not be responsible for withholding any payroll, state, or federal taxes, which shall be the

sole responsibility of the Consultant. Each year on October 1, the Consultant shall receive an increase commensurate with the Town's Procurement and Contract Management Division, but not less than 3% in the hourly compensation rate, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the parties.

- b. The consultant shall be entitled to reimbursement of reasonable expenses assumed with the assigned tasks including but not limited to travel and mileage expenses, lobbyist registration fees, and exhibit production costs. The type and approximate cost of any such expenses should be approved by the Town Manager prior to the incursion of the expense.

SECTION 6: WARRANTY/GUARANTEE. The Consultant warrants that the services provided under this Agreement will be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year following completion of those services or as otherwise provided by the manufacturer.

SECTION 7: INSURANCE. The Town agrees to waive the requirement for consultant to carry specific insurance coverages during the Term of this Agreement.

SECTION 8: INDEMNIFICATION. The Consultant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Town, its elected officials, officers, employees, and attorneys of, from, and against liabilities, damages, losses and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees (at all trial and appellate levels), to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the Consultant, its agents, officers, sub-consultants, employees, or anyone else employed or utilized by the Consultant in the performance of this Agreement. The Consultant's liability hereunder shall include all reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by the Town in the enforcement of this indemnification provision. This includes claims made by the employees of the Consultant against the Town and the Consultant hereby waives its entitlement, if any, to immunity under Section 440.11, Florida Statutes. The obligations contained in this provision shall survive termination of this Agreement and shall not be limited by the amount of any insurance required to be obtained or maintained under this Agreement.

Nothing contained in the foregoing indemnification shall be construed as a waiver of any immunity or limitation of liability the Town may have under the doctrine of sovereign immunity or Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

SECTION 8: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. IN NO EVENT WILL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE FOR ANY PUNITIVE, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSSES OR DAMAGES.

SECTION 9: COMPLIANCE AND DISQUALIFICATION. Each of the parties agrees to perform its responsibilities under this Agreement in conformance with all laws, regulations and administrative instructions that relate to the parties' performance of this Agreement.

SECTION 10: PERSONNEL. The Consultant has or will secure, at its own expense, all necessary personnel required to perform the services under this Agreement. Such personnel shall not be employees of or have any contractual relationship with the Town. All the services required

hereunder shall be performed by the Consultant or under its supervision, and all personnel engaged in performing the services shall be fully qualified and authorized or permitted under federal, state and local law to perform such services.

SECTION 11: SUB-CONSULTANTS. The Town reserves the right to accept the use of a subconsultant or to reject the selection of a particular sub-consultant and approve all qualifications of any sub-consultant in order to make a determination as to the capability of the sub-consultant to perform properly under this Agreement. In the event that a sub-consultant does not have insurance or does not meet the insurance limits as stated in this Agreement, the Consultant shall indemnify and hold the Town harmless for any claim in excess of the subconsultant's insurance coverage arising out of the negligent acts, errors or omissions of the subconsultant. The Consultant shall not charge an administrative fee or surcharge on any subconsultant's services; all subconsultant costs shall be a direct pass-through cost to the Town.

SECTION 12: ASSIGNMENT. The Town and the Consultant each binds itself and its partners, successors, legal representatives, and assigns to the other party to this Agreement and to the partners, successors, legal representatives, and assigns of such other party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement; and, neither the Town nor the Consultant will assign or transfer their interest in this Agreement without the written consent of the other.

SECTION 13: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT. Consultant agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment for work under this Agreement because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, ancestry, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment advertising; lay-off or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Consultant agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth this non-discrimination clause. This provision applies to all Consultant's subcontractors, and it is the responsibility of the Consultant to ensure sub-contractor's compliance.

SECTION 14: INTEREST OF THE CONSULTANT. The Consultant covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, in any services to which this Agreement pertains or any other interest which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. The Consultant further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement, no person having such interest shall be employed.

SECTION 15: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. The Consultant shall comply with the applicable requirements of State and applicable federal, state, and local laws, including all Codes and Ordinances of the Town as amended from time to time, and that exist at the time of building permit issuance.

SECTION 16: ACCESS AND AUDITS. The Consultant shall maintain adequate records to justify all payments made by the Town under this Agreement for at least three (3) years after completion of this Agreement and longer if required by applicable federal or state law. The Town

shall have access to such books, records, and documents as required in this section for the purpose of inspection or audit during normal business hours, at the Consultant's place of business. In no circumstances will Consultant be required to disclose any confidential or proprietary information regarding its products and service costs.

SECTION 17: AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE. The Consultant hereby represents and warrants that it has and will continue to maintain all licenses and approvals required to conduct its business and provide the services required under this Agreement, and that it will at all times conduct its business and provide the services under this Agreement in a reputable manner and consistent with all applicable laws, including without limitation, Florida's Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Proof of such licenses and approvals shall be submitted to the Town upon request.

SECTION 18: SEVERABILITY. If any term or provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall, to any extent, be held invalid or unenforceable, to remainder of this Agreement, or the application of such terms or provision, to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected, and every other term and provision of this Agreement shall be deemed valid and enforceable to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION 19: PUBLIC ENTITY CRIMES. As provided in Sections 287.132-133, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, by entering into this Agreement, Consultant certifies that it, its affiliates, suppliers, sub-consultants, and any other contractors who will perform hereunder, have not been placed on the convicted vendor list maintained by the State of Florida Department of Management Services within the thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the date of this Agreement. The Consultant is under a continuing obligation for the term of this Agreement to immediately notify the Town of any violation of this provision.

SECTION 20: DISCRIMINATORY VENDOR. As provided in Sections 287.134, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, by entering into the Agreement, Consultant certifies that it and its affiliates have not been placed on the discriminatory vendor list maintained by the State of Florida Department of Management Services within the thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the date hereof. The Consultant is under a continuing obligation for the term of this Agreement to immediately notify the Town of any violation of this provision.

SECTION 21: SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES. As provided in Section 287.135, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, by entering into this Agreement, Consultant certifies that it is not participating in a boycott of Israel. The Town and Consultant agree that the Town will have the right to terminate this Agreement if Consultant is found to have been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List or is engaged in a boycott of Israel. The Consultant is under a continuing obligation for the term of this Agreement to immediately notify the Town of any violation of this provision.

SECTION 22: NOTICE. All notices required in this Agreement shall be sent by hand-delivery, certified mail (RRR), or by nationally recognized overnight courier, and if sent to the TOWN shall be sent to: Town of Loxahatchee Groves

Attn: Town Manager

155 F Road

Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470

If sent to the Consultant, it shall be sent to:

Geoffrey B. Sluggett and Associates, Inc.

Mary McNicholas

500 South Australian Avenue, Suite 710,

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

SECTION 23: ENTIRETY OF AGREEMENT. The Town and the Consultant agree that this Agreement sets forth the entire agreement between the parties and that there are no promises or understandings other than those stated herein. None of the provisions, terms, and conditions contained in this Agreement may be added to, modified, superseded, or otherwise altered except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

SECTION 24: WAIVER. Failure of a party to enforce or exercise any of its right(s) under this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of that party's right to enforce or exercise said right(s) at any time thereafter.

SECTION 25: PREPARATION AND NON-EXCLUSIVE. This Agreement shall not be construed more strongly against either party, regardless of who was more responsible for its preparation. This is a non-exclusive Agreement, and the Town reserves the right to contract with individuals or firms to provide the same or similar services.

SECTION 26: NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES. There are no third-party beneficiaries under this Agreement.

SECTION 27: MATERIALITY. All provisions of the Agreement shall be deemed material. In the event Consultant fails to comply with any of the provisions contained in this Agreement, amendments, and addenda attached hereto, said failure shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement, and Town may, at its option, provide notice to the Consultant to, terminate for cause.

SECTION 28: LEGAL EFFECT. This Agreement shall not become binding and effective until approved by the Town Manager. The Effective Date is October 1, 2024.

SECTION 29: NOTICE OF COMPLAINTS, SUITS, AND REGULATORY VIOLATIONS. Each party will promptly notify the other of any complaint, claim, suit, or cause of action threatened or commenced against it which arises out of or relates, in any manner, to the performance of this Agreement. Each party agrees to cooperate with the other in any investigation either may conduct, the defense of any claim or suit in which either party is named and shall do nothing to impair or invalidate any applicable insurance coverage.

SECTION 30: SURVIVABILITY. Any provision of this Agreement which is of a continuing nature or imposes an obligation which extends beyond the term of this Agreement shall survive its expiration or earlier termination.

SECTION 31: COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and will become effective and binding upon the parties as of the effective date at such time as all the signatories hereto have signed a counterpart of this Agreement.

SECTION 32: PALM BEACH COUNTY IG. Palm Beach County has established the Office of Inspector General in Palm Beach County Code, Sections 2-421 - 2-440, as may be amended. The Inspector General's authority includes, but is not limited to, the power to review past, present and proposed Town contracts, transactions, accounts and records, to require the production of records, and to audit, investigate, monitor, and inspect the activities of the Town and its agents in order to ensure compliance with contract requirements and detect corruption and fraud. Failure to cooperate with the Inspector General or interfering with or impeding any investigation shall be a breach of this Agreement and may result in termination of this Agreement or other sanctions or penalties as set forth in the Palm Beach County Code.

SECTION 33: AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS AND CONTROLLING PROVISIONS. This Agreement consists of this Agreement. The parties agree to be bound by all the terms and conditions set forth in the aforementioned documents. To the extent that there exists a conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall prevail. Wherever possible, the provisions of such documents shall be construed in such a manner as to avoid conflicts between provisions of the various documents.

SECTION 34: OWNERSHIP OF DELIVERABLES. The deliverables, work product, specifications, calculations, supporting documents, or other work products which are delivered by the Consultant to the Town shall become the property of the Town. The Consultant may keep copies or samples thereof and shall have the right to use the same for its own purposes. The Town accepts sole responsibility for the reuse of any such deliverables in a manner other than as initially intended or for any use of incomplete documents.

SECTION 35: REPRESENTATIONS AND BINDING AUTHORITY. By signing this Agreement, the undersigned on behalf of the Consultant hereby represents to the Town that he or she has the authority and full legal power to execute this Agreement and any and all documents necessary to effectuate and implement the terms of this Agreement on behalf of the Consultant for whom he or she is signing and to bind and obligate such party with respect to all provisions contained in this Agreement.

SECTION 36: DISPUTE RESOLUTION. All claims arising out of this Agreement, or its breach shall be submitted first to mediation. The parties shall share the mediator's fee equally. The mediator shall be a Florida Supreme Court Certified mediator. The mediation shall be held in Palm Beach County, Florida. Agreements reached in mediation shall be enforceable as settlement agreements in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The Consultant hereby covenants, consents and yields to the jurisdiction of the State Civil Courts of Palm Beach County, Florida. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of Florida with venue for dispute resolution in Palm Beach County. Each party shall be responsible for its own attorney's fees and costs in any dispute arising out of or related to this Agreement. TO ENCOURAGE PROMPT AND EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF ANY LITIGATION, EACH PARTY HEREBY WAIVES ITS RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LITIGATION RELATED TO OR ARISING OUT OF THIS AGREEMENT.

SECTION 37: REMEDIES. No remedy herein conferred upon any party is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy, and each and every such remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy given hereunder or now hereafter existing at law or in equity or by statute or otherwise. No single or partial exercise by any party of any right, power or remedy hereunder shall preclude any other or further exercise thereof.

SECTION 38: E-VERIFY. Pursuant to Section 448.095(2), Florida Statutes, Consultant shall:

- a. Register with and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees and require all sub-consultants to register with and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all the sub-consultants' newly hired employees.
- b. Secure an affidavit from all sub-consultants stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an "unauthorized alien" as defined in Section 448.095(1) Florida Statutes.

- c. Maintain copies of all sub-consultant affidavits for the duration of this Agreement and provide the same to the Town upon request.
- d. Comply fully, and ensure all its subcontractors comply fully, with Section 448.095, Florida Statutes.
- e. Be aware that a violation of Section 448.09, Florida Statutes (Unauthorized aliens; employment prohibited) shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement.
- f. Be aware that a violation of Section 448.095(5) by a sub-consultant, and not Consultant, shall be grounds for the Town to order Consultant immediately terminate the contract with the sub-consultant; and
- g. Be aware that if the Town terminates this Agreement under Section 448.095(2)(c), Florida Statutes, Consultant may not be awarded a public contract for at least one (1) year after the date on which this Agreement is terminated and will be liable for any additional costs incurred by the Town as a result of termination of this Agreement.

SECTION 39: PUBLIC RECORDS. Consultant shall comply with Florida's Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and, if determined to be acting on behalf of the Town as provided under section 119.011(2), Florida Statutes, specifically agrees to:

- a. Keep and maintain public records required by the Town to perform the service.
- b. Upon request from the Town's custodian of public records or designee, provide the Town with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise provided by law.
- c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of this Agreement and following completion of this Agreement if the Consultant does not transfer the records to the Town.
- d. Upon completion of this Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the Town all public records in possession of the Consultant or keep and maintain public records required by the Town to perform the service. If the Consultant transfers all public records to the Town upon completion of the Agreement, the Consultant shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the Consultant keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, the Consultant shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the Town, upon request from the Town's custodian of public records or designee, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the Town.

IF THE CONSULTANT HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONSULTANT'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS OR DESIGNEE AT 561-807-6672, VOakes@loxahatcheegrovesfl.gov, OR BY MAIL AT TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, 155 F ROAD, LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FL 33470.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town has caused these presents to be executed in its name by its Town Manager and the Consultant has hereunto set its hand and seal the day and year first written above.

CONSULTANT:

Geoffrey B. Sluggett & Associates, Inc., a Florida
Limited liability company

By: _____
Geoffrey B. Sluggett, President

STATE OF _____
COUNTY OF _____

Subscribed before me by means of ☐ physical presence or ☐ online notarization, this _____ day of _____, 202__, Geoffrey B. Sluggett as President of Geoffrey B. Sluggett, Inc. ☐ who is personally known to me or ☐ who produced _____ as identification and who did not take an oath.

(Signature of Notary Public-State of Florida)

(Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of Notary public)

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

Francine L. Ramaglia, Town Manager

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Office of the Town Attorney