



155 F Road Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470

Agenda Item # 5

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Francine Ramaglia, Town Manager
DATE: September 5, 2023
SUBJECT: Renewal of Lobbying & Government Affairs Consulting Services

Background:

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, and because we have had success in the past, time is of the essence should the Town wish to consider Lobbying & Government Affairs Consulting Services. Pursuant to our Purchasing Manual, these services involve special skill, ability, training, or expertise that are in their nature unique, original, or creative and are therefore exempt from competitive selection requirements; however, the Town went through a competitive quotation and interview process with a number of firms last year and selected Ron Book and the Pittman Law firm in joint partnership. Engaged for the session last year at a cost of \$25,000, the joint venture was able to secure a \$750,000 appropriation as the first year of a 3-year programmed appropriation request. The partnership has also been very successful at getting the Town in front of the right people and has been instrumental in positioning the Town for additional funds as well as the critical rural designation by the state.

The full year contract which is attached has a total contract value of \$65,000, plus out of pockets and other expenses of more than \$5,000. The scope of their services includes but are not limited to the following:

- Attending pertinent committee meetings
- Drafting and preparing appropriations request applications and supporting documents
- Identifying legislative champions for said projects
- Testifying at committee hearings
- Preparing support materials as necessary
- Scheduling meetings for town officials with House and Senate members, staff, and agency officials
- Providing written reports regularly throughout the legislative session and committee weeks

The joint venture partnership will be available for virtual meetings and teleconferences as necessary, and will appear before the council, before and following the 2024 legislative session, to provide a report.

Recommendation: Staff seeks Council Approval of the Renewal of Lobbying & Government Affairs Consulting Services for the 2024 legislative session at a cost of \$65,000 plus out of pocket expenses of \$5,000.