



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 04/23/2024

REQUESTER: Kathryn Walker

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-141: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO RETAIN CERTAIN OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY REGARDING DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION ISSUES WITH THE NORMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL.

BACKGROUND:

Mold was discovered in the Norman Public Library Central location in November 2023. The library was immediately closed for mold remediation efforts. Since that time, Staff and consultants have been working to determine the cause of the mold. Council was last provided an update at an executive session on April 2, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

To assist in discussions with the construction and design teams of the Central Library, Staff advised Council that it would be prudent to bring in outside legal counsel now. Requests for representation were sent to four (4) local firms. Two firms had conflicts of interest, one firm did not respond, and a proposal was received from Phillips Murrah law firm. Phillips Murrah has long represented the City in employment matters and has attorneys who specialize in construction law. The particulars of their proposal are attached to Resolution R-2324-141 as Exhibit A. Legal staff believes there are sufficient budgeted funds in FYE24 for outside legal expenses to cover activity related to the Central Library issue through June 30, and intends to utilize its budgeted funds for outside legal expenses in FYE25 to cover as much of the cost of representation as possible. Additional funding will be requested as necessary.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R-2324-141.