

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF JACKSON

SYLVA TOWN ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT AND FEE AGREEMENT

The Town of Sylva (hereinafter "Town") and Eric Ridenour of RIDENOUR & GOSS, PA (hereinafter "Attorney") enter into this fee agreement this 22nd day of January, 2026.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Attorney was re-appointed to represent the Town as general counsel by the Town Board at the January 22, 2026 regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Sylva, and

WHEREAS, Attorney's previous reappointment as Town Attorney was in February 2022 at the hourly rate of \$240/hour, and

WHEREAS, Attorney and Town agree that Attorney's hourly rate shall increase to \$300/hour, which increase is approximately equivalent to the rate of inflation since the last appointment in February, 2022.

WHEREAS, effective January 22, 2026, Attorney shall provide legal services to Town at a flat fee of \$300 to attend the 1st monthly meeting of the month and \$300 per hour thereafter, and

WHEREAS, this agreement may be terminated by either party, with or without cause.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town and Attorney agree as follows:

A. Attorney agrees to:

1. Attend all regularly scheduled Town meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month and such other meetings as required by the board including serving as a non-voting member of the Town's Economic Development committee,
2. Advise the Town Board on all municipal questions of law,
3. Represent the Town when needed on all matters, including litigation, collection of taxes, nuisance abatement, zoning ordinance enforcement, personnel matters, drafting of contracts and inter-local agreements, questions of annexation and code enforcement.
4. Represent and advise other entities that operate under the direction of the Town including the Sylva Police Department and Sylva Fire Department.

5. Submit detailed monthly bill with separate billing statement for separate issues/files so that the Town can monitor and manage the Town budget.

B. Town agrees to:

1. Pay attorney monthly for billing submitted in accordance with this agreement,
2. Reimburse attorney for all out of pocket expenses advanced including but not limited to publication costs, deposition costs, travel, court costs, filing fees, expert witness fees.

C. The parties acknowledge and confirm that the Town Attorney serves at the pleasure of the board and this contract may be terminated at any time, with or without cause.

This the ____ day January, 2026.

Brad Waldrop, Mayor Pro-Tem
Town of Sylva

Eric Ridenour, Attorney
RIDENOUR & GOSS, PA

ATTEST:

Amanda W. Murajda, Town Clerk

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

This the ____ day of January, 2026

Lynn A. Bryant, Finance Officer