

Regular Tomball EDC Agenda Item Data Sheet

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

Topic:

Consideration and possible action to appoint Legal Counsel for the Tomball Economic Development Corporation.

Background:

The Tomball Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) has experienced significant growth in both the scale and complexity of its projects, particularly in the areas of real estate transactions, redevelopment initiatives, incentive agreements, and complex contracts. To ensure that TEDC's legal representation is fully aligned with these evolving needs, the organization issued RFQ No. 2025-01-TEDC for legal services, seeking firms with strong experience in municipal law, economic development, and real estate.

The following firms submitted Statements of Qualifications (SOQ): Messer Fort, O'Hanlon, Demerath, and Castillo, Olson & Olson, and Thompson & Horton. The Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Committee reviewed and scored the SOQ's using the criteria outlined in the RFQ and conducted a comparative assessment of each firm's experience with municipalities, economic development corporations, and real estate and redevelopment matters. The two top ranked firms were invited to interview with the BRE Committee.

Through this competitive process, Messer Fort emerged as the top-ranked firm. Their proposal demonstrated extensive experience representing economic development entities and Texas municipalities, with particular strengths in real estate transactions, redevelopment projects, incentive agreements, and the application of economic development tools. They also showed strong familiarity with the Texas Public Information Act and public finance, supported by a staffing structure that provides both depth of expertise and responsiveness.

Origination: Kelly Violette, Executive Director, Tomball Economic Development Corporation

Recommendation: Based on the RFQ results and the BRE Committee's evaluation, staff recommends engaging Messer Fort to serve as legal counsel for the Tomball Economic Development Corporation.

Party(ies) responsible for placing this item on agenda: Kelly Violette

FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE)

Are funds specifically designated in the current budget for the full amount required for this purpose?

Yes: _____ No: _____ If yes, specify Account Number: # _____

If no, funds will be transferred from account # _____ To account # _____

Signed _____

Staff Member-TEDC

Date _____

Approved by _____

Executive Director-TEDC

Date _____

