



RE: Consideration of Ordinance Authorizing Government Relations Services Agreement (B Lift Station to 94 Lift Station Infrastructure Project)

OVERVIEW

This agenda item requests Board authorization for the City to enter into an agreement with Hahn | DeBoef Government Relations to advocate for state funding support toward the City's top sewer infrastructure priority: capacity upgrades between the B Lift Station and the 94 Lift Station.

The proposed agreement covers a 10-month term beginning **August 1, 2025**, at a cost of **\$5,000/month**. Hahn | DeBoef will serve as the City's government relations representative, advocating for financial support during the 2026 legislative session to secure direct appropriations or other forms of state-level funding for the project.

BACKGROUND

The "B-to-94" project is a critical step toward relieving flow from our regional lift station, and most importantly expanding capacity for future development, and creating more efficient connectivity to our 94 Lift Station and ultimately Springfield's wastewater treatment system. While engineering has determined this connection to be hugely beneficial to the City, the financial magnitude of this infrastructure upgrade is significant, state support is likely necessary to implement the project on a meaningful timeline.

Following conversations, we believe the City is well-positioned to ask for funding assistance from the State of Missouri during the upcoming fiscal cycle. The enclosed proposal and draft agreement from Hahn | DeBoef Government Relations outlines their approach to maximizing that opportunity.

The scope includes:

- Direct lobbying and legislative strategy focused on appropriations
 - Stakeholder coordination and agency engagement
 - Regular progress reporting and updates to City leadership
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FUNDING

CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

224 W. Jackson Street P.O. Box 187 Willard, MO 65781 417-742-3033 417-742-3080 Fax



The proposed contract totals \$50,000, which is available within the Sewer Fund within the stipulations of the rate plan agreed upon earlier this year. Future contingent extensions of the agreement (outlined in the contract) would be considered separately depending on the results of the 2026 state budget cycle.

OPTIONS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

1. **Approve the ordinance and authorize execution of the agreement**

This would enable the City to pursue significant external funding for the “B-to-94” project with dedicated, professional representation in Jefferson City. The lobbying support would increase our presence, improve access to key decision-makers, and significantly enhance our likelihood of success during the 2026 legislative session.

2. **Decline to approve at this time**

The City would still seek state funding independently through direct outreach by staff and elected officials. However, this approach limits our voice in the Capitol and may reduce our competitiveness against better-represented communities. Progress on the “B-to-94” project would continue through internal capital planning, but timelines would be longer and subject to tighter local funding constraints.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **Option 1: Approval** of the attached ordinance and agreement with Hahn | DeBoef Government Relations. The timing aligns with the state’s legislative calendar and gives Willard a real opportunity to secure funding support for a transformative public works project with the power to generate real economic development opportunity for the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Hahn", is written over a light blue grid background.

CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

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Wesley Young, MPA, CPM
City Administrator
City of Willard

Attachments:

- Draft Ordinance Authorizing Agreement
- Government Relations Services Agreement
- Proposal from Hahn | DeBoef Government Relations