



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT

Meeting Date: November 12, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
Through: George Garrett, City Manager

Agenda item: **Resolution 2024-117**, Authorizing The City To Continue An Agreement With The Southern Group For Professional Consulting And Lobbying Services Before The Legislature Of The State Of Florida; Authorizing The City Manager To Finalize And Execute The Agreement; And Providing An Effective Date

BACKGROUND

The Southern Group has considerable lobbying experience with issues revolving around homeowners' insurance and represents FIRM, a non-profit which the City typically supports for their involvement in windstorm and flood insurance issues.

Staff believes that the continuation of services provided through The Southern Group will well round out the City's lobbying capabilities in Tallahassee this year and in coming years.

<u>CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:</u>	N/A	Yes	No
1. Comprehensive Plan		_____	_____
2. Other – 2010 Sewer Mandate		_____	_____

FISCAL NOTE:

Funding for this agreement is included in the adopted FY25 City Council Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

Sponsored by: Garrett

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2024-117**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO CONTINUE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHERN GROUP FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING AND LOBBYING SERVICES BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FINALIZE AND EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon (the "City") recognizes the importance of monitoring and participating in the State legislative process in order to protect the interests of the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Consultant and City, through mutual negotiation, have agreed upon a scope of services and fee for legislative consulting services on behalf of the City before the Florida Legislature, the executive branch of the Florida government, and various regional and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the firm of The Southern Group (the "Consultant"), wishes to continue to provide professional legislative consulting and lobbying services before the legislature of the State of Florida on behalf of the City,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The professional services agreement between the City and Consultant, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A," together with such non-material changes as may be acceptable to the City Manager and approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney, is hereby approved.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

Mayor

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Diane Clavier, City Clerk
(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**

Steve Williams, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARATHON
AND
THE SOUTHERN GROUP

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into between The Southern Group of Florida, Inc a Florida Profit Corporation, (hereinafter the "Consultant"), and the CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation, (hereinafter the "City").

WHEREAS, the Consultant and City, through mutual negotiation, have agreed upon a scope of services and fee for legislative consulting services on behalf of the City before the Florida Legislature, the executive branch of the Florida government, and various regional and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to engage the Consultant to perform the legislative consulting services specified below.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, the Consultant and the City agree as follows.

1. Scope of Services/Deliverables.

1.1 Consultant shall provide legislative consulting services on behalf of the City before the Florida Legislature, the executive branch of the Florida government, and various regional and local governments.

1.2 Specifically, Consultant shall provide the following services:

1.2.1 No less than once a year meet with the City Council and staff to assist the City in developing a legislative program.

1.2.2 Monitor and report on all state agency programs of interest to the City, including any programs that could be helpful in funding, planning and operating the City.

1.2.3 Represent City's interests before the Florida legislature and any executive branch body and any other entity that could be of benefit to the City's interests.

1.2.4 Monitor and track all legislation of interest to the City.

1.2.5 Provide monthly reports during the legislative session and quarterly reports during the non-session months to the City Manager and City Attorney on all legislation being tracked. Such reports will be electronically transmitted to the City Manager and City Attorney.

1.2.6 Host City officials during the legislative session in Tallahassee and arrange all appropriate meetings.

1.2.7 Attend staff meetings, workshops or Council meetings in Marathon at the City Manager's request.

2. Term/Commencement Date.

2.1 This Agreement is effective upon execution by both parties. The term is through December 1, 2027, unless earlier terminated in accordance with Paragraph 8. The term may be extended two additional times each for a period of one (1) year with the approval of the City Manager.

3. Compensation and Payment.

3.1 For all professional services provided by Consultant described in Section 1, the City shall pay Consultant an annual fee of \$60,000.00, payable in four (4) equal quarterly installments of \$15,000.00. Payment for the quarter is due within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. Modification of services or fees may be negotiated during the term of the Agreement based on mutual consent and the approval of both Southern Group and the City Council.

3.2 If a dispute should occur regarding an invoice submitted, the City Manager may withhold payment of the disputed amount and may pay to the Consultant the undisputed portion of the invoice. Upon written request of the Finance Director, the Consultant shall provide written documentation to justify the invoice. Any compensation disputes shall be decided by the City Manager whose decision shall be final.

4. No Subconsultants or Assignment.

4.1 Although this Agreement is with Consultant, the parties understand that the services of Consultant are personal in nature and that the following members of Consultant's firm shall be designated by Consultant to perform services under this Agreement is Kate DeLoach and/or her designee.

4.2 In the event that any member of the firm can no longer perform services under this Agreement, Consultant shall immediately notify the City Manager and the City Manager shall have the right to immediately terminate this Agreement.

4.3 This Agreement shall not be subject to assignment by Consultant without prior written consent of the City.

5. City's Responsibilities

5.1 Furnish to Consultant, at the Consultant's written request, all available maps, plans, existing studies, reports and other data pertinent to the services to be provided by Consultant, in possession of the City.

6. Consultant's Responsibilities

6.1 The Consultant shall exercise the same degree of care, skill and diligence in the performance of the work under this Agreement as is ordinarily provided by a professional under similar circumstances.

7 . Conflict of Interest.

7.1 Consultant shall not be prohibited from representing or providing the like services to other persons and entities other than the City, so long as Consultant shall avoid any representation or relation that would create a conflict of interest, as determined by the City Attorney and City Council.

7.2 Consultant shall not take on any client or matter, which would jeopardize Consultant's ability to devote the time, resources, and effort necessary to fulfill its obligations to the City.

8. Termination.

8.1 Either party may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other.

8.2 The City may terminate this Agreement immediately with cause Upon receipt of the City's written notice of termination, Consultant shall stop all work on behalf of the City unless directed otherwise in writing by the City Manager. In the event of termination, the City shall be obligated to pay the Consultant only for approved fees and costs incurred by the Consultant prior to the date of termination. If the Consultant has already received the quarterly fee payment, the Consultant shall refund a pro-rated percentage of the fee back to the City.

9. Insurance.

The Contractor shall secure and maintain throughout the duration of this Agreement insurance of such type and in such amounts as required by the City Manager. The underwriter of such insurance shall be qualified to do business in the State of Florida and have agents upon whom service of process may be made in the State of Florida. If requested by the City Manager, the insurance coverage shall be primary insurance with respect to the City, its officials, employees, agents and volunteers. The insurance coverages shall include a minimum of:

9,1 Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance. If applicable, coverage to apply for all employees at minimum statutory limits as required by Florida Law. Consultants with Worker's Compensation exemption shall not hold City liable for employee injury or claims.

9.2 Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability. Vehicle liability with limits of liability of not less than \$500,000 per Occurrence, for Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability, for use of any hired and non-owned vehicle licensed for travel on public roads by you or your business. Consultant shall submit certificate of insurance to the City evidencing the required coverage and providing that City of Marathon is named as an additional insured.

9.3 Professional Liability. The Consultant shall furnish professional liability efforts and omissions insurance coverage in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.

9.4 Certificates of Insurance shall be provided to the City at the time of execution of this Agreement and certified copies provided if requested. Certificates of Insurance shall include the City as additional insured or certificate holder. Each policy certificate shall be endorsed with a provision that not less than thirty (30) calendar days' written notice shall be provided to the City before any policy or coverage is cancelled or restricted.

10. Nondiscrimination.

10.1 During the term of this Agreement, Consultant shall not discriminate against any of its employees or applicants for employment because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and to abide by all Federal and State laws regarding nondiscrimination.

11. Attorney's Fees and Waiver of Jury Trial.

11.1 In the event of any litigation arising out of this Agreement each party shall be responsible for its attorneys' fees and costs, including the fees and expenses of any paralegals, law clerks and legal assistants, and including fees and expenses charged for representation at both the trial and appellate levels.

11.2 In the event of any litigation arising out of this Agreement, each party hereby knowingly, irrevocably, voluntarily and intentionally waives its right to trial by jury.

12. Indemnification.

12.1 Consultant shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City, its officers, agents and employees, from and against any and all demands, claims, losses, suits, liabilities, causes of action, judgment or damages, arising out of, related to, or any way connected with Consultant's performance or non-performance of any provision of this Agreement. Consultant shall reimburse the City for all its expenses including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in and about the defense of any such claim or investigation and for any judgment or damages arising out of, related to, or in any way connected with Consultant's performance or non-performance of this Agreement.

12.2 The provisions of this section shall survive termination of this Agreement.

13. Notices/Authorized Representatives.

13.1 Any notices required by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been properly given if transmitted by hand-delivery, by registered or certified mail with postage prepaid return receipt requested, or by a private postal service, addressed to the parties (or their successors) at the following addresses:

For the City: Mr. George Garrett, City Manager

City of Marathon, Florida
9805 Overseas Highway
Marathon, Florida 33050
305-289-4130

With a Copy to Mr. Steve Williams, City Attorney
City of Marathon, Florida
9805 Overseas Highway
Marathon, Florida 33050

For The Consultant: Ms. Kate Deloach
The Southern Group of Florida, Inc.
P. O. Box 10570
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

14. Governing Law.

14.1 This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Exclusive venue for any litigation arising out of this Agreement shall be in Monroe County, Florida, Middle Keys Division of the Circuit Court or the Southern District of Florida.

15. Entire Agreement/Modification/Amendment.

15.1 This writing contains the entire Agreement of the parties and supersedes any prior oral or written representations. No representations were made or relied upon by either party, other than those that are expressly set forth herein.

15.2 No agent, employee, or other representative of either party is empowered to modify or amend the terms of this Agreement, unless executed with the same formality as this document.

16. Ownership and Access to Records and Audits.

16.1 ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS- The Contractor shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 19, Florida Statutes. The City shall have the right to immediately terminate this contract for the refusal by the Contractor to comply with Chapter 19, Florida Statutes. If the contractor has questions regarding the application of Chapter 19, Florida Statutes, to the contractor's duty to provide public records relating to this contract, contact the custodian of public records at Cityclerk@ci.marathon.us.fl or (305) 743-0033.

16.2 All records, books, documents, papers and financial information (the "Records") that result from the Consultant providing services to the City under this Agreement shall be the property of the City.

16.3 The City Manager or his designee shall, during the term of this Agreement and for a period of five (5) years from the date of termination of this Agreement, have access to and the right to examine and audit any Records of the Consultant involving transactions related to this Agreement.

16.4 The City may cancel this Agreement for refusal by the Consultant to allow access by the City Manager or his designee to any Records pertaining to work performed under this Agreement that are subject to the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

17. Severability

17.1 If any term or provision of this Agreement shall to any extent be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and each remaining term and provision of this Agreement shall be valid and be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

18. Independent Contractor.

18.1 The Consultant and its employees, volunteers and agents shall be and remain independent contractor and not agents or employees of the City with respect to all of the acts and services performed by and under the terms of this Agreement. This Agreement shall not in any way be construed to create a partnership, association or any other kind of joint undertaking, enterprise or venture between the parties.

19. Compliance with Laws.

19.1 The Consultant shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and lawful orders of public authorities relating to the Project.

20. Waiver

20.1 The failure of either party to this Agreement to object to or to take affirmative action with respect to any conduct of the other which is in violation of the terms of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of the violation or breach, or of any future violation, breach or wrongful conduct.

21. Survival of Provisions

21.1 Any terms or conditions of either this Agreement that require acts beyond the date of the term of the Agreement, shall survive termination of the Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect unless and until the terms or conditions are completed and shall be fully enforceable by either party.

22. Prohibition Of Contingency Fees.

22.1 The Consultant warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, to solicit or secure this Agreement, and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person(s), company, corporation, individual or firm,

other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration, contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement.

23. Counterparts

23.1 This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties execute this Agreement on the respective dates under each signature: The City, signing by and through its City Manager, attested to by its City Clerk, duly authorized to execute same and by Consultant by and through Ms. Kate Deloach, who has been duly authorized to execute same.

ATTEST:

CITY OF MARATHON

Diane Clavier, City Clerk

George Garrett, City Manager

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:

Steve Williams, City Attorney

THE SOUTHERN GROUP

Ms. Kate Deloach

Date: _____