



Hall County Government
FINANCIAL SERVICES
PURCHASING DIVISION
EXHIBIT B – CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HALL

CONTRACT # 46-005

POST OFFICE DRAWER 1435
GAINESVILLE, GA 30503

t: 770.535.8270 | f: 770.531.6711

FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
Taylor Samples, CPA

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR
Elizabeth White

PURCHASING MANAGER
Andy Penick

For the provision of
Professional Public Auditing Services

ARTICLE #101 – INTRODUCTION

This Contract for Professional Public Auditing Services (hereinafter "Services") as entered into on _____ and with an initial term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and all renewal options, is by and between Hall County, Georgia, Board of Commissioners, (hereinafter "County") principally located at 2875 Browns Bridge Rd, Gainesville, Georgia 30504, and Bates, Carter & Co., LLP (BatesCarter) _____, located at 525 Candler Street, NE Gainesville, Georgia 30501 (hereinafter "Consultant").

WHEREAS Consultant is an entity that is legally registered and qualified and holding any such licenses and certifications as may be required to render Services to do business in the State of Georgia. County and Consultant are known individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

WHEREAS Nothing contained in this Contract shall be construed to convert the Consultant or any of its employees, agents, sub-Consultants, or sub-Consultants into a partner, employee, or agent of the County, nor shall either Party to this Contract have any authority to bind the other in any respect.

WHEREAS the Consultant represents that it complies with the State of Georgia requirements for corporations and has signified a willingness to provide Services to the County and the County has relied on such representation; and,

WHEREAS the Parties mutually desire to enter into this Contract to document the provision of Services by the Consultant to the County in exchange for payment as compensation; and,

WHEREAS this contract will become legally binding upon signature by both Parties; and,

WHEREAS any attached documents, plans, exhibits, attachments, or references are all incorporated herein by reference, and

NOW, THEREFORE and in consideration of the mutual promises, terms, conditions, covenants, and agreements made as expressed and contained herein, or attached, incorporated, and made a part hereof, and other good and valuable consideration expressed by a valid offer and acceptance, the receipt and sufficiency of which the Parties hereby acknowledge, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE #102 – CONTRACT

- A. Consultant agrees to provide the Services to the County as detailed in the Scope of Work.
- B. County agrees to pay as compensation any fees as listed on the Exhibit C – Mandatory Cost Proposal Worksheet, which shall be fixed and firm for the duration of the contract.

ARTICLE #103 – NOTICES

To the extent that either Party to this Contract is required to provide notice(s) to the other Party in compliance herewith, then the Party shall direct notice(s) to the following persons:

COUNTY PROJECT MANAGER

Taylor F. Samples, CPA, MBA
Director of Financial Services
Hall County Government
2875 Browns Bridge Rd
Gainesville, GA 30504
tsamples@hallcounty.org
Ph: 770-531-3900

COUNTY ISSUING OFFICER

Andy Penick
Issuing Officer
Hall County Purchasing Division
2875 Browns Bridge Rd
Gainesville, GA 30504
apenick@hallcounty.org
Ph: (770) 531-4939

CONSULTANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kristi L. Griffin, CPA
Title: Managing Partner
Company Name: BatesCarter
Physical Address: 525 Candler Street, NE
City, State, ZIP: Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Email: kgriffin@batescarter.com
Phone: 770-532-9131

REMIT TO ADDRESS (if different): P.O. Drawer 2396
Gainesville, Georgia 30503

ARTICLE #104 – NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

The Contract is not exclusive. The County reserves the right to select other Consultants to provide the Services similar to those described in this Contract during the term of the Contract should the need arise, or the Consultant fail to perform.

ARTICLE #105 – CONTRACT TERM

From Notice-to-Proceed until substantial and final completion of Services according to agreed time-schedule of and after all sub-Consultant(s) and material suppliers' liens are satisfied.

ARTICLE #106 – CONTRACT AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATION

This Contract may only be modified, amended, or changed in writing and fully executed by both Parties hereto. This Contract constitutes the sole and entire Contract and understanding between the Parties as to the subject matter hereof, and no verbal promises have been made by either Party in relation hereto.

ARTICLE #107 – REMEDIES AND CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

In the event that either Party to this Contract breaches this Contract, including failure to meet the timetables set forth herein, the non-breaching Party shall provide a written Notice-to-Cure to the breaching Party which describes the breach of this Contract. The breaching Party shall have thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written Notice-to-Cure the breach or to otherwise negotiate a resolution of the breach.

If the breach has not been cured and the Parties hereto have not resolved the issue described in the Notice-to-Cure by thirty (30) days after receipt of the letter, the Party authoring the letter shall be entitled to seek any and all remedies allowed by Georgia law, including damages, equitable relief, declaratory relief, specific performance, and/or relief as to any bonds issued hereon. Additional provisions are:

A. Delay or Impossibility of Performance. Any failure or delay must be beyond the reasonable control of and without the fault or negligence of the Consultant. If the Services to be provided to the County are interrupted by a force majeure event, as defined below, the County will be entitled to an equitable adjustment to the fees and other payments due to the Consultant under this Contract. If delay results from a sub-Consultant's negligent conduct or failure to perform, the Consultant shall not be excused from compliance with the terms and obligations of the Contract.

Neither Party shall be held liable or responsible to the other Party nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached this Contract for failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any obligation under this Contract when such failure or delay is caused by or results from causes beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party including, but not limited to, fire, floods, embargoes, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrections, riots, strikes, lockouts or other labor disturbances, or acts of God; provided, however, that the Party so affected shall use reasonable commercial efforts to avoid or remove such causes of nonperformance, and shall continue performance

hereunder with reasonable dispatch whenever such causes are removed. Either Party shall provide the other Party with prompt written notice of any delay or failure to perform that occurs by reason of force majeure.

Definition: The term "force majeure" as defined in Black's Law Dictionary is "an event or effect that can be neither anticipated nor controlled. It is a contractual provision allocating the risk of loss if performance becomes impossible or impracticable, especially as a result of an event that the Parties could not have anticipated or controlled."

B. Obligations Beyond Contract Term. The Contract shall remain in full force and effect to the end of the specified term or until terminated or canceled pursuant to *ARTICLE #108 – TERMINATION PROVISIONS*.

C. Transition Cooperation with the County and Cooperation with Other Consultants. Consultant agrees that upon termination of this Contract for any reason, it shall provide sufficient efforts and reasonable cooperation and assistance to the County to ensure an orderly and efficient transition to the County or an alternative Consultant. Further, if the County has entered into or enters into contracts with other Consultants related to the Services, Consultant agrees to cooperate fully with other such Consultants. Consultant shall not engage in any act that will interfere with the performance of work by any other Consultant(s).

ARTICLE #108 – TERMINATION PROVISIONS

The County may terminate this Contract by providing thirty (30) days written notice to the Consultant at any time. Should the County terminate this Contract prior to the date of automatic termination, Consultant shall provide the County with all deliverables up to the date of termination thirty (30) days after the Notice to Terminate is issued. The County shall pay the Consultant for all work properly performed in compliance with the terms of this Contract up to the date of termination.

A. Termination for Convenience. Following thirty (30) days' written notice, the County may terminate the Contract in whole or in part for any reason without the payment of any penalty or incurring any further obligation to the Consultant.

B. Termination for Cause. The occurrence of any of the following events shall constitute cause for the County to declare the Consultant in default of its obligations under the Contract and cause for immediate termination of the contract without notice:

1. The Consultant fails to deliver or has delivered nonconforming Services or fails to perform, to the County's satisfaction, any material requirement of the Contract or is in violation of a material provision of the Contract including, but without limitation, the expressed warranties made by the Consultant.
2. The County determines that Consultant's unsatisfactory performance substantially endangers completion or that default is likely to occur.
3. The Consultant fails to make substantial and timely progress toward performance of the Contract.
4. The Consultant becomes subject to any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding under federal or state law to the extent allowed by applicable federal or state law including bankruptcy laws; the Consultant terminates or suspends its business; or the County reasonably believes that the Consultant has become insolvent or

unable to pay its obligations as they accrue consistent with applicable federal or state law.

5. The Consultant has failed to comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, County ordinances, regulations, and orders when performing within the scope of the Contract.
6. The Consultant has engaged in conduct that has or may expose the County or the State to liability, as determined in the County's sole discretion; or a material breach of the terms of the Contract by County upon County's failure to cure such material breach after written notice thereof has been delivered in accordance with *ARTICLE #108.C* below constitutes cause for the Consultant to declare that the County is in default of its obligations under the Contract.

C. Notice of Default. If either Party causes any of the default events set out in *ARTICLE #108 – TERMINATION PROVISIONS*, then either Party shall issue a written Notice of Default to the Party that causes one (1) or more of the default events requesting that the breach or noncompliance be remedied within the period of time specified in the Notice of Default. If the breach or noncompliance is not remedied within the period of time specified in the written notice, the non-breaching Party may:

1. Immediately terminate the Contract for default without additional written notice; and/or,
2. In the event of a breach by the Consultant, the County may procure substitute Services from another source and charge the difference between the Contract and the substitute Contract to the defaulting Consultant; and/or,
3. Enforce the terms and conditions of the Contract and seek any legal or equitable remedies.

D. Termination Due to Non-Availability of Funds. This Contract will terminate immediately and absolutely if the County determines that adequate funds are de-appropriated such that the County cannot fulfill its obligations under the Contract, such determination being at the County's sole discretion and conclusive. County agrees to provide prompt written notice to Consultant in the event of any de-appropriation.

E. Termination due to Failure of Consultant to Act. The County may terminate the Contract for any of the following reasons effective immediately without advance notice:

1. If the Consultant must be certified or licensed as a condition precedent to providing the Services, the revocation, suspension, or other loss of such license or certification may result in immediate termination of the Contract effective as of the date on which the license or certification is no longer in effect.
2. The County determines that the actions, or failure to act, of the Consultant, its agents, employees, or sub-Consultants have caused, or reasonably could cause, life, health, or safety to be jeopardized.
3. The Consultant furnished any statement, representation, or certification in connection with the Contract or the bidding process, which is materially false, deceptive, criminal, or maliciously incorrect.
4. Failure of the Consultant to obtain, provide, maintain, and deliver the performance and payment bonds when required under this Contract, or failure to comply with any requirement pertaining to the appropriate amounts thereof as set forth in *ARTICLE #123 – PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS* (not required for professional services).

F. Payment Limitation in Event of Termination. In the event of termination of the Contract for any reason by County, the County shall pay only those amounts, if any, due and owing to the Consultant for Services actually received and accepted by the County up to and including the date of termination of the Contract and for which the County is obligated to pay pursuant to the Contract.

G. Consultant's Termination Duties. Upon receipt of a Notice of Termination, the Consultant shall:

1. Cease work under the Contract and take all necessary or appropriate steps to limit disbursements and minimize costs and furnish a report within thirty (30) days of the date of Notice of Termination describing the status of all work under the Contract including, without limitation, results accomplished, conclusions resulting therefrom, and any other matters the County may require.
2. Immediately cease use and return to the County any personal property or materials, whether tangible or intangible, provided by the County to the Consultant.
3. Comply with the County's instructions for the timely transfer of any active files and work product produced by the Consultant under the Contract.
4. Cooperate in good faith with the County, its employees, agents, and Consultants during the transition period between the Notification of Termination and the substitution of any replacement Consultant.
5. Consultant is to immediately return any payments made by the County for goods and services that were not delivered by the Consultant.

H. Liquidated Damages. In the event that the Consultant unreasonably delays completion of the project as per the term in *ARTICLE #105 – CONTRACT TERM* or abandons the project before completion, the Consultant shall pay the County liquidated damages in the amount of \$250.00 per day.

ARTICLE #109 – NO DEFENSE OR INDEMNIFICATION BY COUNTY

The Parties agree that the County shall not be responsible for defending or indemnifying any Consultant from any claim brought by any third party against the Consultant.

ARTICLE #110 – ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION BY CONSULTANT

The Consultant shall not assign or delegate this Contract, or any performance required by it, in whole or in part, without the prior expressed written consent of the County.

ARTICLE #111 – USE OF THIRD PARTIES (SUBCONSULTANTS)

This Contract is for the benefit of the Parties hereto only and is not intended to benefit any third party or give rise to any duty or causes of action for any third party. All restrictions, obligations, and responsibilities of the Consultant under the Contract shall also apply to third parties such as sub-Consultants, if allowed in writing by the County. Any Contract with a sub-Consultant must also preserve the rights of the County.

ARTICLE #112 – ENTIRE CONTRACT

This Contract, as executed and approved, shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all other prior and contemporaneous statements, agreements, and understandings between the Parties. No written or oral statements,

agreements, or understandings that are not set out, referenced, or specifically incorporated in this Contract shall in any way be binding or of effect between the Parties.

ARTICLE #113 – SEVERABILITY

If any paragraph, sub-paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Contract is declared invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction or if the provisions of any part of this Contract as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the remaining portions of this Contract not so held to be invalid or the application of this Contract to other circumstances not so held to be invalid.

ARTICLE #114 – RECORDS

- A. **Public Records Request.** The Georgia Open Records Act, as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq, requires procurement records and all other records received by or prepared or maintained on behalf of the County shall be made open to public inspection unless otherwise provided by law.
- B. **Record Retention and Access.** The Consultant shall maintain books, records, and documents in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and which sufficiently and properly document and calculate all charges billed to the County throughout the term of the Contract for a period of at least five (5) years following the date of final payment or completion of any required audit, whichever is later. Records to be maintained include both financial records and service records.

ARTICLE #115 – ADDITIONAL TERMS

The County shall not be bound by any terms and conditions included in any Consultant's sales-orders, literature, packaging, invoice, catalog, brochure, technical data sheet, on-line representation, warranties or service level agreement, or other document which attempts to impose any condition in variance with or in addition to the terms and conditions contained herein.

ARTICLE #116 – WAIVER

The failure of any Party hereto to seek a remedy for any alleged breach of this Contract shall not constitute a waiver of any claim, cause of action, or remedy allowed by Georgia law for breach thereof.

ARTICLE #117 – CONSULTANT AND COUNTY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- A. The County has the right at any time to require the Consultant to put an immediate stop to any procedure, or the use of any equipment, chemical, material, personnel, etc. considered by the County to be hazardous or toxic to persons, buildings, or surfaces. The Consultant will utilize acceptable substitutes approved by the County as quickly as possible. In the event of such replacement, Consultant shall (i) notify County of any resulting replacement, (ii) introduce the individual serving as the replacement to County, and/or (iii) provide County with a résumé and any other information regarding the individual that may be reasonably requested by County.
- B. The County has the right to require the Consultant to reassign or remove any employee or sub-Consultant's employee from the premises temporarily or

permanently when, in the County's sole opinion, the employee is not suitable. The County's decision shall be final, and Consultant will remove the employee immediately and replace with a person of at least equivalent training, experience, and requisite qualifications as quickly as possible, subject to the County's approval.

C. Consultant agrees to obtain prior written approval from the County for the use of subConsultants to provide the Services described in Scope of Work prior to sub-Consultant's performance of work.

ARTICLE #118 – INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Consultant must procure and maintain insurance policies at the Consultant's own expense and must furnish the County with a certificate of insurance (COI) providing evidence of proof of coverage at least in the amounts indicated in this subsection. The COI must list "Hall County, Georgia" as the certificate holder and as an additional insured under the commercial general, automobile, and umbrella liability policies as follows: "County of Hall, its Board of Commissioners, officers, employees, servants, and agents, 2875 Browns Bridge Rd, Gainesville, GA, 30504". The policy must protect the Consultant and the County (as an additional insured) from any claims for bodily injury, property damage, or personal injury covered by the indemnification obligations set forth herein throughout the duration of the Contract. The Consultant must maintain the following insurance coverage during the term of the Contract, in at least the minimum amounts set forth below, to cover all loss and liability for damages or destruction of property caused by or arising from any and all services carried on and any and all work performed by the Consultant pursuant to this Contract:

Workers Compensation Insurance: Required for all contracts.

- \$500,000 Bodily Injury by Accident – Each Accident
- \$500,000 Bodily Injury by Disease – Each Disease
- \$500,000 Bodily Injury by Disease – Each Employee

Additional Provisions: Waiver of Subrogation. The insurer agrees to waive all rights of subrogation against Hall County Board of Commissioners (BOC), its elected or appointed officers, officials, agents, authorized volunteers, and employees for losses paid under the terms of this policy which arise from work performed by the Named Insured for Hall County BOC. This provision applies regardless of whether or not Hall County BOC has received a waiver of subrogation from the insurer.

General Liability Insurance: Required for all contracts.

- \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
- \$2,000,000 Products & Completed Operations Aggregate
- \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
- \$1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury
- \$500,000 Damages to Premises/Fire/Legal
- \$5,000 Medical Payments

Commercial Auto Liability Insurance: Required for all contracts, except for goods and/or services that are remote in nature and/or are delivered by a professional delivery service.

- \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit Or \$500,000 per Person/\$1,000,000 per Occurrence
- \$100,000 Property Damage
- \$1,000 for Medical Payments (no fault coverage)

Additional Provisions:

- Uninsured motorist's coverage should be equal to the per occurrence limit except for contracts with other governmental entities.
- Coverage shall be included for any owned, leased, hired, or non-owned autos.
- For any contracts involving the transportation of hazardous materials, limited pollution endorsement ISO form CA9948 or its equivalent shall be on the policy.

Umbrella Liability Insurance: Required for all contracts.

\$1,000,000 per Occurrence

Additional Provisions: Required for all contracts.

- Underlying coverage shall be General Liability, Automobile Liability, and Employers Liability (Workers Compensation).
- Minimum limit of \$5,000,000 per occurrence for all contracts over \$1,000,000 or involving any special risks or high hazard activities.
- Minimum limit of \$5,000,000 for automobile coverage for any transportation contracts involving seniors, special education, transit services, students, or youths.
- Concurrent policy dates with primary liability policies except for workers compensation.

Pollution Liability. Required for all road construction projects, work near wastewater, solid waste lines, or any work that involves handling, transporting, disposing, or working with hazardous materials, pollutants, water reclamation facilities, waste management, or other potentially toxic chemicals.

- \$1,000,000 per Occurrence
- \$1,000,000 Aggregate

Additional Provisions:

- Minimum limit of \$5,000,000 per occurrence for all contracts over \$50,000,000 or involving any special risks or high hazard activities

Professional Liability Insurance (Errors & Omissions): Required for all professional service contracts. This shall include any consultants, medical, legal, technical, insurance agents, or other professions that require proper licenses.

- \$1,000,000 Each Claim/Wrongful Act
- \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
- If written on a claim's made policy, the policy must be maintained for at least two (2) years after the completion of the work and/or contract.

Cyber Insurance: Required for all software, computer hardware installation, data access, data integrations, data usage, cloud storage, SaaS, and or technology related contracts.

- \$1,000,000 Each Claim/Wrongful Act

- \$2,000,000 Annual Aggregate
- \$1,000,000 Business Interruption
- \$1,000,000 Data Recovery
- \$500,000 Cyber Extortion Expenses
- \$50,000 Cyber Extortion/Ransom Payments
- If written on a claim's made policy, the policy must be maintained for at least two (2) years after the completion of the work and/or contract.

Additional Provisions: Coverage shall include at a minimum:

- Information Security & Privacy Liability
- Regulatory Fines and Penalties
- Payment Card Industry (PCI) – if credit cards and/or banking information is obtained or accessed
- Ransomware

Builders Risk: Hall County requires Builders Risk Coverage to be purchased by the Consultant for any construction project under \$10,000,000 insuring the full value of the project.

ARTICLE #122 – COUNTY PAYMENT TO CONSULTANT

- A. The County will issue a Notice to Proceed ("NTP") and a Purchase Order(s) ("PO") to the Consultant. The terms of this Contract shall be incorporated by reference into any PO(s) issued prior to the expiration or termination of this Contract. The County will issue the NTP and PO(s) by electronic mail (e-mail) to the Consultant's representative in *ARTICLE #103 – NOTICES*. A PO is considered "issued" when the e-mail containing the PO is sent by the County to the Consultant.

The Consultant shall not deliver any Services, equipment, devices, or components thereof until authorized in writing by the County through issuance of a PO, which shall provide a commencement date. Any work including, but not limited to, travel, preliminary meetings, planning, etc. performed outside of the terms and conditions of and before the issuance of a PO will not be considered for payment. Consultants are not to begin work or ship any product on any verbal communication from the County. The County will not be liable for payment for any work or product with the issuance of a verbal communication.

The Scope of Work shall remain in effect from the NTP date to completion of the project. The Parties agree that the County will not pay or otherwise compensate the Consultant for any Services, materials, equipment, devices, or components thereof outside of the Scope of Work and/or beyond the term of this Contract, unless specifically authorized in writing as evidenced by an amendment pursuant to *ARTICLE #106 – CONTRACT AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATION*, a time extension letter, or as otherwise authorized by the County.

B. Invoice/Payment

1.0 APPLICATIONS FOR PAYMENT

CONSULTANT shall submit Applications for Payment in accordance with the Conditions of the Contract. For construction projects where a third-party Engineer of Record, General Consultant for Hire, or other Owner's Representative, Applications for Payment may additionally be reviewed and approved.

2.0 PROGRESS AND FINAL PAYMENTS

OWNER will make progress payments on account of the Contract Price on the basis of Consultant's Applications for Payment as recommended by Hall County or Engineer of Record, monthly during construction as provided below. All progress payments will be on the basis of the progress of the Work measured by the schedule of values provided for in the Conditions of the Contract.

Prior to Substantial Completion, progress payments will be in an amount equal to 95 percent of the value of the Work completed and 95 percent of the value of materials and equipment not incorporated in the Work but delivered and suitably stored, less, in each case, the aggregate of payments previously made.

- 3.0 Consultant shall invoice the County via email each month solely to accountspayable@hallcounty.org and only after the County inspects and accepts the Services provided. Receipt of the Services does not constitute acceptance. Invoice amounts shall not exceed the Consultant's pricing set forth in Exhibit C – Cost Proposal Worksheet.

Each properly prepared invoice must be sent in accordance with the instructions listed on the PO. Each invoice shall include the Consultant's current "Remit to" address, a description of the Services provided, the invoice amount, the Contract number, and the associated PO number issued. Standard payment terms are net 30 days (N30) in arrears from the date the invoice is accepted, following delivery of the Services. The County does not pay for services not yet received but only in arrears.

The Consultant shall be solely responsible for paying all costs, expenses, and charges it incurs in connection with its performance under the Contract.

C. Unsatisfactory Performance/Delay of Payment

1. If the County determines that the quality of the Services provided are deficient, unacceptable, or unsatisfactory the County's Project Manager identified in *ARTICLE #103 – NOTICES* shall issue a written Notice to Cure to Consultant. Consultant agrees that upon receipt of the written Notice to Cure it shall make every effort to correct the deficiency(ies) within the timeframe prescribed therein. If the Consultant fails to timely correct the deficiency(ies), the

County reserves the right to delay or deny payment pursuant to this ARTICLE or terminate the Contract pursuant to ARTICLE #108 – TERMINATION PROVISIONS.

2. **Delay of Payment Due to Consultant's Failure.** If the County determines that the Consultant has failed to perform or deliver any Services as required by the Contract, the Consultant shall not be entitled to any compensation under the Contract until such Services are delivered and accepted. In this event, the County may withhold that portion of the Consultant's compensation, which represents payment for Services that were not delivered. To the extent that the Consultant's failure to perform or deliver in a timely manner causes the County to incur costs, the County may deduct the amount of such incurred costs as liquidated damages from any amounts payable to Consultant. The County's authority to deduct such incurred costs shall not in any way affect the County's authority to terminate the Contract.

D. **Set-Off Against Sums Owed by the Consultant.** If the Consultant owes the County any sum under the terms of this Contract, pursuant to any judgment or pursuant to any law, the County may set off the sum owed by the Consultant against any sum owed to the Consultant, in the County's sole discretion.

E. **Final Payment.** Consultant shall issue an invoice for final payment to the County no later than thirty (30) days following the expiration or termination date of the Contract.

F. The Consultant must not factor or assign payments to another entity or a financial institution. -The County will only pay the Party with whom it is contracted. The County will not under any circumstances pay a third party.

ARTICLE #123 – PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS

(Required for construction, renovation, and repair projects over \$100,000.00)

The Consultant must furnish to the County both a performance and payment bond, both equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract's total award dollar amount. The County will only issue a Notice to Proceed after the bonds are received. Only surety companies licensed to do business in the State of Georgia are acceptable. The Consultant is required to provide new bonds at the issuance of each renewal option term(s) or extension(s) that follow.

The Consultant must provide all required bonding instruments to the County prior to the commencement of any work. The County will consider any work done prior to the receipt of bonding instruments as null and void and thus not eligible for compensation.

ARTICLE #124 – RETAINAGE (Required for construction, renovation, and repair projects)

The County will retain and withhold funds from compensation in compliance with Georgia law. The County may hold up to five percent (5%) retainage throughout the entire project and will release said retainage at the point of completion and final acceptance by the County.

ARTICLE #125 – VENUE AND GOVERNING LAW

The Parties agree that this Contract shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. Should either party bring a legal suit to enforce the terms of this Contract, including suit in equity, the Parties agree and consent to file any such suit in the Superior Court of Hall County, Georgia.

ARTICLE #126 – NOTICE OF INTENT TO LITIGATE

Consultant hereby agrees not to file any civil action of disputes or claims relating to the Contract except after first giving thirty (30) days written notice to the County of the claim and the intent to initiate a civil action.

ARTICLE #127 – GEORGIA SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE ACT (E-Verify)

A. By signing this Contract, the Consultant certifies that prior to and throughout the performance of all applicable work under this Contract it will remain in full compliance with all federal and state immigration laws including, but not limited to, 8 U.S.C. § 1324a and the Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act (O.C.G.A. §13-10-90 et seq.), as amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011 regarding the verification of employment eligibility of employees under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Consultant will ensure that only persons who are citizens or nationals of the United States or non-citizens authorized under federal immigration laws are employed to perform services under this Contract or any subcontract or sub-subcontract hereunder.

B. Consultant further certifies its compliance with the aforementioned federal and state immigration laws set forth by signing a sworn affidavit, the Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act Affidavit (herein known as *Exhibit E – E-Verify Affidavit*), notarized by an Official Notary Public and incorporated herein by reference, and obtaining the same affidavit(s) from any subConsultant providing services pursuant to this Contract.

ARTICLE #128 – ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

In the event of any inconsistency, ambiguity, or conflict among the specific provisions of the Contract and the Consultant's response, the order of precedence shall be as follows:

1. Any amendments to the Contract, including all exhibits thereto.
2. The Contract itself, including all exhibits thereto.
3. Attachments appended to the Contract.
4. All other Contract attachments appended to the Contract.

ARTICLE #129 – CONTRACT EXHIBITS AND ATTACHMENTS

The Parties mutually acknowledge that all exhibits and attachments listed below made a part of this Contract, as though expressly written in the solicitation documents and the Bidder's response, are herein incorporated into this Contract by reference.

ARTICLE #130 – SALES TAX EXEMPTION STATUS

The County is exempt from State of Georgia and Local Sales and Use Tax. The Bidder understands and acknowledges that they are responsible for any sales and use tax they

may incur for materials. The Bidder must not charge the County any sales and use tax as a separate line item. The Consultant may request a copy of the County's Georgia Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate.

ARTICLE #131 – HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

The successful respondent hereby agrees to indemnify, hold free and harmless Hall County Government, County Commissioners, its agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, elected officials, or any other person(s) against any loss or expense. This includes attorney fees because of any liability imposed by law upon the County, except in cases of the County's sole negligence, sustained by any person(s) on account of bodily injury or property damage arising out of or in the consequence of this Contract.

ARTICLE #132 – NOT A JOINT VENTURE

The County shall not be bound by any terms and conditions included in any Consultant packaging, invoice, catalog, brochure, technical data sheet, on-line representation, warranties or service level agreement, or other document which attempts to impose any condition in variance with or in the addition to the terms and conditions contained herein.

ARTICLE #133 – CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. All purchases must comply with the Official Code of Hall County Sections 3.10.010 – 3.10.190.
2. If any conflict or ambiguity arises between the terms and conditions herein and the Official Code of Hall County, the latter will govern.
3. The terms and conditions set forth herein shall supersede and govern over all Supplier's terms and conditions or service level agreements.
4. The County retains the right to "red line" sections of the Supplier's terms and conditions if such are in conflict with the best interest of the County.
5. Acceptance of a Purchase Order ("PO") and delivery of goods or services serves as the Supplier's full and complete acceptance of the County's terms and conditions.
6. The terms "supplier", "vendor", "bidder", "offeror", "Consultant", "consultant", "designer", "distributor", "dealer" or "manufacturer" or otherwise purveyor or source of supply or performance of service shall mean one and the same, herein denoted as "supplier" for goods and "Consultant" for services.
7. The terms "goods", "materials", "commodities", "components", "drawings", "drafts", "renderings", "plans" (physical or digital), software, SaaS, capital asset equipment, vehicles, heavy earth-moving or other equipment (purchased or leased), or other such deliverables are herein denoted as "goods" and shall mean one and the same.
8. "Services" shall mean all services, either financial, advisory, consultative, labor, staff augmentation, construction, rehabilitation, restoration, repair, support or maintenance, communication, telephony, internet, TV or streaming, pest control, grounds maintenance, custodial and janitorial, street or paved surfaces cleaning, drain cleaning, or otherwise where services are offered for consideration.
9. The Supplier shall transfer and deliver all goods or services described on the respective PO for the consideration set forth herein.
10. The Supplier shall only deliver goods and services as described on the respective PO and within the Scope of Work and the Supplier's bid response.

11. The County holds no obligation to pay for goods delivered or services rendered unless specified on a written PO or a Change Order of such.
12. The Supplier shall not construe any verbal consent to purchase goods or services as valid.
13. The County does not accept substitutions of services or goods that do not comply with the Scope of Work or specifications set forth in a PO, Contract, or Agreement unless mutually agreed in writing by both Parties.
14. The County does not accept automatic contract renewals except for monthly subscription services.
15. The County does not pay deposits towards goods ordered. Exceptions exist for custom made items such as window treatments, floor coverings, pre-mixed paints and stains, fabrication, decoration, or otherwise custom designed products specifically for the County.
16. The County will accept backorders only if goods are out of stock and with prior written notice. Suppliers shall ship all quantities that they have in stock and hold orders for backorders.
17. The County participates in cooperative purchasing agreements, State of Georgia Statewide Contracts, and other state, local, intergovernmental agreements, memorandums of understanding, and other such agreements.
18. In all cases, the jurisdiction shall be the State of Georgia, County of Hall, for arbitration or other legalities.
19. Deliveries shall be made to the ship-to address(es) listed on the PO and within the time specified. The Supplier must note if multiple ship-to addresses are used and deliver goods to the appropriate ship-to address.
20. Risk of loss of goods shall pass to the County upon inspection and acceptance only.
21. Title to the goods shall remain with the Supplier until acceptance by the County. Receipt of goods or services does not constitute acceptance.
22. Receipt of goods or services does not constitute acceptance.
23. Title to the goods shall remain with the Supplier until acceptance by the County.
24. The Supplier warrants that goods are merchantable, and the Supplier has a legal right to deliver the goods and services and as described herein.
25. The County shall have the right to inspect all goods or services at the time and place of delivery.
26. No right or interest in the contract shall be assigned by the Supplier without written permission of the County, and no delegation of any obligation owed or of the performance of any obligation by the Supplier shall be made without the written permission of the County. Any attempted assignment or delegation shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph.
27. The County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax and Georgia Sales and Use Tax.
28. This issuance of a PO shall not violate the Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest for Public Officers and Employees for Government Service set forth in the 2020 Section 45-1020 et seq. of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and the Official Code of Hall County Section 3.10.070 governing Ethics.
29. All goods and services supplied pursuant to a PO shall, unless otherwise noted, conform exactly to all the descriptions, specifications, and attachments contained in the bid solicitation, request for proposals, invitation for bid, or other advertisements,

- upon which a PO is based, and the terms, conditions, and specifications of the bid solicitation are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.
30. Any and all media production, recordings, videos, photo negatives, positives, artwork, plates, engravings, and other printed or digital media materials paid for in full and owned by the County are considered County property and shall be delivered to the County upon request.
 31. Invoices should be submitted to the County as described on a PO, and each PO number and/or contract number must be shown on each invoice submitted.
 32. In the event that a PO is issued with an attached Contract or Agreement, the terms and conditions of the latter shall govern in the event of any conflict with these terms and conditions.
 33. The Supplier may be suspended, terminated, or debarred if it is determined that the Supplier has made false certification(s) or has violated such certification(s) by failure to carry out the requirements herein.
 34. The Supplier certifies that it and any of its subConsultants have not been debarred, suspended, or declared ineligible by any agency of the County, State of Georgia, or as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 48 C.F.R. Ch. 1 Subpart 9.4.
 35. The Supplier certifies that it is not currently engaged in an active or pending lawsuit or other grievance, injunction, or levy against the County.
 36. Goods are Free-On-Board (F.O.B.) destination unless otherwise denoted. Freight, shipping, and delivery shall be pre-paid and added to the invoice as a separate line item.
 37. The County does not pay late fees nor interest charges.
 38. The Supplier shall charge the County the exact amount of freight, delivery, handling, and insurance charges the Supplier incurs.
 39. The County is not bound to any minimum or maximum quantity or dollar amount set by the Supplier.
 40. In the event there is a discrepancy between the unit price and extended price, the unit price shall govern.
 41. Any changes to a PO in quantity or dollar amount require a written change order issued by the County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said Parties have hereunto affixed their signatures and seals on the day, month, and year below. Bidder must print their company's full legal company name as it appears on their W-9 form below:

Print Company's Full Legal Name Below:

Bates, Carter & Co., LLP

By: Kristi L. Griffin, CPA

Print Name: Kristi L. Griffin, CPA
Commissioners

Title: Managing Partner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

26 Day of March, 2025.

Notary Public: [Signature]

Notary commission expires: January 14, 2029
[Locus Sigilli – Seal or Stamp]



HALL COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: _____
David Gibbs, Chairman
Hall County Board of

Date: _____

Attestation: _____
Board of Commissioners Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

[Signature]
Nathaniel R. Anderson,
Senior Assistant County Attorney