

Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: April 7, 2009

Date Submitted: March 25, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Bud Parmer, Interim County Administrator
Charles Chapman, Administrative Coordinator

Subject: Approval of Contractual Lobbying Services with Governance Solutions, Inc. and Authorization for the Chairman to Execute.

Statement of Issue:

This item seeks approval of the Board of County Commissioners to enter into contractual obligation with Governance Solutions, Inc. to retain lobbying services for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Gadsden County is a member of a four county regional effort to present "shovel ready" projects in order to leverage the most funds available from the federal economic stimulus effort. Governance Solutions, Inc. has been retained to provide lobbying services by several of the agencies within the four county regional partnerships.

Background:

December 2008 a regional effort was developed by Leon County Chairman Bryan Desloge in order to present the concerns of the entire Capital Area Region in reference to the forthcoming Economic Stimulus Program from President Obama's administration. Representatives from Leon County, City of Tallahassee, Gadsden County, City of Chattahoochee, Town of Greensboro, City of Gretna, Town of Havana, City of Midway, City of Quincy, Gadsden County School District, and many more are represented in this focus group.

January 2009, the development of a "shovel ready" project inventory and marketing brochures were executed and distributed amongst the members of the Tallahassee Capital Region Economic Stimulus focus group.

February 2009 meetings discussed the retention of lobbying services to carry forward the message and "story" of the Tallahassee Capital Region Economic Stimulus effort.

March 3, 2009 the BOCC advised the Interim County Administrator to review a contractual agreement with Governance Solutions, Inc. as many of the members of the

Tallahassee Capital Region Economic Stimulus effort were doing. BOCC staff has since submitted the draft contractual agreement to the County Attorney for legal review.

Analysis:

BOCC staff and Mr. Antonio Jefferson, Gretna City Manager has reached out to the six municipalities to engage conversation in a cost share effort for the full amount of the contractual obligation. Commitments have been received by City of Gretna and tentative commitment from City of Quincy and Town of Havana.

Fiscal Impact:

Contractual agreement for lobbying services \$20,000

However, with recent revenue projection indicating a loss and the need for County Administration to further reduce operating budgets to engage in a non-budgeted contractual agreement at this time would place additional stress on the county's fragile financial condition.

Options:

- Option 1: Approve Contractual Lobbying Services with Governance Solutions, Inc. and Authorization for the Chairman to Execute
- Option 2: Do not approve Contractual Lobbying Services with Governance Solutions, Inc. and Authorization for the Chairman to Execute
- Option 3: Board provide direction

Recommendations:

- Option 2: Do not approve Contractual Lobbying Services with Governance Solutions, Inc. and Authorization for the Chairman to Execute

Attachment (s):

1. DRAFT Contractual Agreement with Governance Solution, Inc.
(Material to be provided)