



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2Y
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

Title of Item: 2023 Audit Agreement

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Kathleen Ryan		Department: Auditor
Presenter (Name and Title): Kathleen Ryan		Estimated Time Needed:
Summary of Issue: Please find the attached State of Work for the 2023 audit. This includes the specifics for the 2023 audit, including fees. The master services agreement which contains the general and legal language and is good up to 5 years, was approved November 22, 2022.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Please approve the SOW for Board Chair and Administrator to sign.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ 74,500, plus additional fees as needed Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> Fees are budgeted yearly.		



Statement of Work - Audit Services

November 1, 2023

This document constitutes a statement of work ("SOW") under the master service agreement ("MSA") dated November 11, 2022, or superseding MSA, made by and between CliftonLarsonAllen LLP ("CLA," "we," "us," and "our") and Aitkin County ("you," "your," or "the entity"). We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the services CLA will provide for the entity as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Kristen A. Houle is responsible for the performance of the audit engagement.

Scope of audit services

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Aitkin County, and the related notes to the financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) provides for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to accompany the entity's basic financial statements.

The following RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited.

- Management's discussion and analysis.
- Budgetary comparison schedules.
- GASB-required supplementary pension and OPEB information.

We will also evaluate and report on the presentation of the supplementary information other than RSI accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Nonaudit services

We will also provide the following nonaudit services:

- Preparation of your financial statements and the related notes.
- Preparation of the required supplementary information (RSI).

- Preparation of the supplementary information.
- Preparation of schedule of federal awards.
- Preparation of adjusting journal entries, as applicable
- Preparation of the Data Collection Form
- Assistance with implementing new accounting standards, as applicable

Audit objectives

The objectives of our audit of the financial statements are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards require us to be independent of the entity and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. Our audit will include tests of your accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express opinions and render the required reports.

We will apply certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. GAAS. However, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. We will also perform procedures to enable us to express an opinion on whether the supplementary information (as identified above) other than RSI accompanying the financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The objectives of our audit also include:

- Reporting on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Reporting on internal control over compliance related to major programs and expressing an opinion (or

disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will issue written reports upon completion of our audit of your financial statements and compliance with requirements applicable to major programs.

Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditors' report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the financial statements or compliance are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If circumstances occur related to the condition of your records, the availability of sufficient, appropriate audit evidence, or the existence of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements or material noncompliance caused by error, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets, which in our professional judgment prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion on the financial statements or an opinion on compliance, we retain the right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express opinions or issue reports, or withdrawing from the engagement.

As part of our audit, we will also perform the procedures and provide the report required by the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions.

It is our understanding that our auditors' report will be included in your annual report which is comprised of your financial statements, including the introductory section and that your annual report will be issued by September 30, 2024. Our responsibility for other information included in your annual report does not extend beyond the financial information identified in our opinion on the financial statements. We have no responsibility for determining whether such other information is properly stated and do not have an obligation to perform any procedures to corroborate other information contained in your annual report. We are required by professional standards to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements because the credibility of the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon may be undermined by material inconsistencies between the audited financial statements and other information. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Auditor responsibilities, procedures, and limitations

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS, the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

Those standards require that we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. As part of our audit, we will:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and evaluate whether audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement or a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the amounts and disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on our evaluation of audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Although our audit planning has not been concluded and modifications may be made, we have identified the following significant risk(s) of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Management override of internal controls
- Improper revenue recognition
- Lack of adequate segregation of duties
- Risk that construction in progress may not be accurately recorded and capitalized

There is an unavoidable risk, because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance. Because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, material misstatements, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3)

misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity, may not be detected. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not require auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a single audit.

Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting fraud or errors that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses in internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify during the audit that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the entity's compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

We will include in our report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance relevant information about any identified or suspected instances of fraud and any identified or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that may have occurred that are required to be communicated under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance

about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that may have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the "OMB Compliance Supplement" for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the entity's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We will evaluate the presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We will make certain inquiries of management and evaluate the form, content, and methods of preparing the schedule to determine whether the information complies with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We will compare and reconcile the schedule to the underlying accounting records and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Management responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you (management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance) acknowledge and understand that you have certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit.

You are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, RSI, and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Management is also responsible for identifying all federal awards received, understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Management's responsibilities include the selection and application of accounting principles; recording and reflecting all transactions in the financial statements; determining the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates included in the financial statements; adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements; and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date.

Management is responsible for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program

compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control, including internal control over compliance, relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities and safeguarding assets to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud; assessing the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; and informing us of all instances of identified or suspected noncompliance whose effects on the financial statements should be considered.

You are responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements; or abuse that we may report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified, including noncompliance identified in audit findings; and to follow up and take prompt corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review.

You are responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including amounts and disclosures, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters, and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), and for ensuring management information and financial information is reliable and properly reported; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

You agree to inform us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial

statements that may affect the financial statements.

You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of other supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. You agree to provide us written representations related to the presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for the preparation of other information included in your annual report. You agree to provide the final version of such information to us in a timely manner, and if possible, prior to the date of our auditors' report. If the other information included in your annual report will not be available until after the date of our auditors' report on the financial statements, you agree to provide written representations indicating that (1) the information is consistent with the financial statements, (2) the other information does not contain material misstatements, and (3) the final version of the documents will be provided to us when available, and prior to issuance of the annual report by the entity, so that we can complete the procedures required by professional standards. Management agrees to correct material inconsistencies that we may identify. You agree to include our auditors' report in any document containing financial statements that indicates that such financial statements have been audited by us.

Management is responsible for providing us with a written confirmation concerning representations made by you and your staff to us in connection with the audit and the presentation of the basic financial statements and RSI. During our engagement, we will request information and explanations from you regarding, among other matters, the entity's activities, internal control, future plans, specific transactions, and accounting systems and procedures. The procedures we will perform during our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the representations that we receive in the representation letter and otherwise from you. Accordingly, inaccurate, incomplete, or false representations could cause us to expend unnecessary effort or could cause a material fraud or error to go

undetected by our procedures. In view of the foregoing, you agree that we shall not be responsible for any misstatements in the entity's financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations made to us by you.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies to us of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the "Audit objectives" section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other engagements or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Responsibilities and limitations related to nonaudit services

For all nonaudit services we may provide to you, management agrees to assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. Management is also responsible for ensuring that your data and records are complete and that you have received sufficient information to oversee the services.

Use of financial statements

Should you decide to include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our auditors' report(s) thereon in a future private placement or other offering of equity or debt securities, you agree that we are under no obligation to re-issue our report or provide consent for the use of our report in such a registration or offering document. We will determine, at our sole discretion, whether we will re-issue our report or provide consent for the use of our report only after we have performed the procedures we consider necessary in the circumstances. If we decide to re-issue our report or consent to the use of our report, we will be required to perform certain procedures including, but not limited to, (a) reading other information incorporated by reference in the registration statement or other offering document and (b) subsequent event procedures. These procedures will be considered an engagement separate and distinct from our audit engagement, and we will bill you separately. If we decide to re-issue our report or consent to the use of our report, you agree that we will be included on each distribution of draft offering materials and we will receive a complete set of final documents. If we decide not to re-issue our report or decide to withhold our consent to the use of our report, you may be required to engage another firm to audit periods covered by our audit reports, and that firm will likely bill you for its services. While the successor auditor may request access to our workpapers for those periods, we are under no obligation to permit such access.

If the parties (i.e., you and CLA) agree that CLA will not be involved with your official statements related to municipal securities filings or other offering documents, we will require that any official statements or other offering documents issued by you with which we are not involved clearly indicate that CLA is not involved with the contents of such documents. Such disclosure should read as follows:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not

performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website or submitted on a regulator website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

We may issue preliminary draft financial statements to you for your review. Any preliminary draft financial statements should not be relied on or distributed.

Engagement administration and other matters

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations, account analyses, and audit schedules we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing. A list of information we expect to need for our audit and the dates required will be provided in a separate communication.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the auditor sections of the electronic Data Collection Form SF-SAC and perform the steps to certify the Form SF-SAC and single audit reporting package. It is management's responsibility to complete the auditee sections of the Data Collection Form. We will create the single audit reporting package PDF file for submission; however, it is management's responsibility to review for completeness and accuracy and electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be electronically submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the entity; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing confidential or sensitive information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the sole and exclusive property of CLA and constitutes confidential and proprietary information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to Minnesota Office of the State Auditor, or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of CLA personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies or electronic versions of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor. If we are aware that a federal or state awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Professional standards require us to be independent with respect to you in the performance of these services. Any discussion that you have with our personnel regarding potential employment with you could impair our independence with respect to this engagement. Therefore, we request that you inform us prior to any such discussions so that we can implement appropriate safeguards to maintain our independence and objectivity. Further, any employment offers to any staff members working on this engagement without our prior knowledge may require substantial additional procedures to ensure our independence. You will be responsible for any additional costs incurred to perform these procedures.

Our audit engagement ends on delivery of our signed report. Any additional services that might be requested will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific SOW for that service.

Government Auditing Standards require that we make our most recent external peer review report publicly available. The report is posted on our website at www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/.

Fees

Our professional fees are outlined in the table below:

Service	Fee
Financial Statement Audit (includes 2 Single Audit programs)	\$74,500
Implementation of the New Risk Auditing Standards which includes an increase in information technology testing	SAS 143-145 \$3,500-\$7,000
SBITAs audit resource fee	\$1,000
Additional audit testing for GASB 96 SBITAs	\$250 per hour
Additional Single Audit programs, if applicable	\$5,000-\$7,000

We will also bill for a technology and client support fee of five (5%) of all professional fees billed. Our fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with locating requested documents and preparing requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, the fees and expenses will likely be higher.

Professional fees will be billed as follows:

Progress bill to be mailed on	Amount to be billed
Upon execution of the SOW	One-third of our professional fees
Upon the commencement of substantive procedures	One-third of our professional fees
Issuance of draft report(s)	One-third of our professional fees

Unexpected circumstances

We will advise you if unexpected circumstances require significant additional procedures resulting in a substantial increase in the fee estimate.

Changes in accounting and audit standards

Standard setters and regulators continue to evaluate and modify standards. Such changes may result in new or revised financial reporting and disclosure requirements or expand the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in the SOW increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

Agreement

We appreciate the opportunity to provide to you the services described in this SOW under the MSA and believe this SOW accurately summarizes the significant terms of our audit engagement. This SOW and the MSA constitute the entire agreement regarding these services and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA related to audit services. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please sign, date, and return this SOW to us to indicate your acknowledgment and understanding of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of your financial statements including the terms of our engagement and the parties' respective responsibilities.

Sincerely,

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Response:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Aitkin County.

CLA

ORG: CLA

NAME: Kristen A. Houle

TITLE: Signing Director

SIGN: *Kristen A Houle*

DATE: 11/01/2023

Client

ORG: Aitkin County

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

SIGN: _____

DATE: _____

ORG: Aitkin County

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

SIGN: _____

DATE: _____