



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Jason Simpson, City Manager

Prepared by: Barbara Leibold, City Attorney

Date: July 11, 2023

Subject: Attorney Representation Agreement with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd & Romo

Recommendation

Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd & Romo to provide special counsel legal services relating to public employment matters on an as-needed basis in substantially the form attached and in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

Background

The City utilizes special counsel legal services and representation on an as-needed basis to address legal matters relating to collective bargaining, personnel matters, administrative investigations, employment litigation, retirement, labor relations and other public employment matters.

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd & Romo (AALRR) is one of the largest law firms representing public agencies in California. Several years ago, AALRR provided special counsel services to the City in pre-litigation matters unrelated to public employment. Under the guidance of Nate Kowalski, AALRR has more recently assisted the City in connection with personnel/public employment matters. AALRR legal services have consistently been provided in a comprehensive, professional and timely basis.

Discussion

Mr. Kowalski is the practice group leader for a team of 20 lawyers that represents cities, counties and special districts in labor and employment matters. In addition to representing cities and other public agencies for more than twenty years, Mr. Kowalski has represented the Judicial Council for over a decade, defending roughly a dozen different Superior Courts in labor and employment litigation. Mr. Kowalski's expertise, guidance and approach to public employment issues has proven beneficial to the City's Human Resources Department and the City Attorney who recommend entering into the proposed Attorney Representation Agreement to provide ongoing legal services in labor and personnel matters on an as-needed basis.

Fiscal Impact

Legal services will be billed on an hourly basis in increments of one-tenth hour in accordance with the attached Agreement. Bills will be submitted on a monthly basis. Total amount to be billed will depend entirely on the scope and frequency of requests for services and will be paid from the City's General Fund.

Attachments

Attachment 1- Agreement