

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S AGREEMENT

THIS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S AGREEMENT (hereinafter this "Agreement") is made and effective the 28th day of September, 2023 by and between **OKEECHOBEE COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (hereinafter the "COUNTY") and **CAS GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, LLC**, a Florida Limited Liability Company (hereinafter "CONTRACTOR").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the COUNTY is a political subdivision of the State of Florida, having a responsibility to provide certain services to benefit the citizens of Okeechobee County; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY has the full power and authority to enter into the transactions contemplated by this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, CONTRACTOR is in the business of lobbying and governmental relations services in Okeechobee County and elsewhere in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, CONTRACTOR is competent and has sufficient manpower, training, and technical expertise to perform the services contemplated by this Agreement in a timely and professional manner consistent with the standards of the industry in which CONTRACTOR operates; and

WHEREAS, Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., imposes certain obligations on public agencies with regard to the use of the E-Verify system by their contractors and subcontractors.

WHEREAS, the services subject to this Agreement are considered by the COUNTY to fall under exemption XIII.15. to the County's, Procurement Policy; and

WHEREAS, CONTRACTOR agrees to provide such goods and services as more particularly described in this Agreement, as well as in any proposal documents issued in connection with this project.

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the premises, and in consideration of the mutual conditions, covenants, and obligations hereafter expressed, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are true and correct, constitute a material inducement to the parties to enter into this Agreement, and are hereby ratified and made a part of this Agreement.
2. **Description of Work.**
 - a. CONTRACTOR shall provide and be responsible for providing the services described in the Scope of Services, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein

by reference. Unless specifically excluded, CONTRACTOR shall provide all permits, labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the completion of the work described herein. Any conflict between the terms and conditions in the body of this Agreement and the terms and conditions set forth in Exhibit "A" shall be resolved in favor of the body of this Agreement.

b. Additionally, CONTRACTOR shall provide the following deliverables:

- i. Provide quarterly reviews to the COUNTY;
- ii. Advise the COUNTY about legislative issues which may affect Okeechobee County;
- iii. Advise the COUNTY about issues that surface from other counties supported by CONTRACTOR which may have an effect upon Okeechobee County, or upon which the COUNTY could lend its support;
- iv. Provide support to Commission delegates during Legislative Day in Tallahassee;
- v. Arrange meetings with agendas for the House and Senate representatives; and
- vi. Provide support efforts in arranging any other meeting that may be necessary due to information received during the COUNTY's regularly scheduled sessions.

c. Additionally, CONTRACTOR shall endeavor to establish an "Okeechobee County Day" in Tallahassee, during which the Commission delegates can meet with legislators. Completion of this task is dependent upon COUNTY parameters for scope and cost of any such event. The goal of such event would be to permit the COUNTY Commissioners to develop an agenda for the day's activities.

3. Commencement and completion/Term.

This Agreement has a Term of one (1) year, beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, unless sooner terminated under the terms of this Agreement.

4. Payment.

- a. In consideration of the performance of this Agreement, the COUNTY agrees to pay CONTRACTOR for all work actually performed, at the rate of \$60,000.00 per year, in four (4) equal quarterly installments of \$15,000.00 each, on October 30, 2023, January 30, 2024, April 30, 2024, and July 30, 2024.
- b. The COUNTY reserves the right to ratably withhold amounts in the event of the nonperformance of all or part of CONTRACTOR's obligations. CONTRACTOR must, without additional compensation, correct and revise any errors, omissions, or other deficiencies in its work product, services, or materials arising from the error or omission or negligent act of CONTRACTOR.

5. Termination.

- a. Termination at Will: This Agreement may be terminated by the COUNTY in whole or in part at any time without cause by the COUNTY giving written notice to CONTRACTOR not less than 30 days prior to the date of termination; provided, however, that in such event, neither party will be relieved from its rights or obligations of this Agreement through the date of the actual termination. Notice must be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery.
- b. Termination for Cause: This Agreement may be terminated by either party for cause by the COUNTY or CONTRACTOR giving written notice to the other party not less than 10 days prior to the date of termination; provided, however, that in such event, neither party will be relieved from its rights or obligations of this Agreement through the date of the actual termination. Notice must be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery.

6. Notices. All notices to the parties under this Agreement must be in writing and sent certified mail to:

- a. To COUNTY: Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners, Attention: County Administrator, 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34972;
- b. To CONTRACTOR: CAS Governmental Services, P.O. Box 210623, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421-0623.

7. Insurance.

- a. CONTRACTOR must maintain such insurance as will fully protect both CONTRACTOR and the COUNTY from any and all claims under any Workers Compensation Act or Employers Liability Laws, and from any and all other claims of whatsoever kind or nature to the damage or property, or for personal injury, including death, made by anyone whomsoever, that may arise from operations carried on under this Agreement, either by CONTRACTOR, any subcontractor, or by anyone directly or indirectly engaged or employed by either of them.
- b. The insurance coverage required by the terms of this Agreement must not be less than the amounts described in the Bid Documents. If the Bid Documents do not state an insurance requirement or the amount of insurance, then the amount of insurance required by the terms of this Agreement must not be less than: (a) Workers' Compensation (unless exempt) with Employer's Liability with a limit of \$100,000.00 each accident, \$100,000.00 each employee, a limit of not less than \$300,000.00 each occurrence; if such CGL insurance contains a general aggregate limit, it shall apply separately to this project in the amount of \$600,000.00; CGL insurance must be written on an occurrence form and include bodily injury and property damage liability for premises, operations, independent contractors, products and completed operations, contractual liability, broad form property damage and property damage resulting from

explosion, collapse or underground (x, c, u) exposures, personal injury and advertising injury; fire damage liability must be included at \$100,000.00

- c. CONTRACTOR must furnish the COUNTY with Certificates of Insurance, which are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The COUNTY is to be specifically included as an additional insured and loss payee on all policies except Workers' Compensation. In the event the insurance coverage expires prior to the completion of the project, a renewal certificate must be issued 30 days prior to the expiration date. The policy must provide a 30-day notification clause in the event of cancellation or modification to the policy. All certificates of insurance must be on file with and approved by the COUNTY before commencement of any work activities.
- d. The insurance coverages procured by CONTRACTOR as required herein will be considered as primary insurance over and above any other insurance, or self-insurance, available to CONTRACTOR, and any other insurance, or self-insurance available to CONTRACTOR will be considered secondary to, or in excess of, the insurance coverage(s) procured by CONTRACTOR as required herein.

8. **General Provisions.** CONTRACTOR must comply with the following general provisions:

- a. **Bond.** If a surety bond has been required by the Bid Documents for CONTRACTOR's faithful performance and payment, and if at any time the surety is no longer acceptable to the COUNTY, CONTRACTOR must, at its expense, within five (5) days after the receipt of notice from the COUNTY to do so, furnish an additional bond or bonds in such form and with such Surety or Sureties as are satisfactory to the COUNTY. The COUNTY will not make any further payment to CONTRACTOR, nor will any further payment be deemed to be due to CONTRACTOR, until such new or additional security for the faithful performance of the work is furnished in a manner and form satisfactory to the COUNTY.
- b. **Compliance with Laws.** In providing the Scope of Services, CONTRACTOR must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations pertaining to or regulating the provision of such services, including those now in effect and hereafter adopted.
- c. **Personal nature of Agreement; Assignment.**
 - i. The parties acknowledge that the COUNTY places great reliance and emphasis upon the knowledge, expertise, training, and personal abilities of CONTRACTOR. Accordingly, this Agreement is personal and CONTRACTOR is prohibited from assigning or delegating any rights or duties hereunder without the specific written consent of the COUNTY.
 - ii. If CONTRACTOR requires the services of any subcontractor or professional associate in connection with the work to be performed under this Agreement,

CONTRACTOR must obtain the written approval of the COUNTY Project Manager prior to engaging such subcontractor or professional associate. CONTRACTOR will remain fully responsible for the services of any subcontractors or professional associates.

d. Discrimination.

- i. CONTRACTOR shall not discriminate against any employee employed in the performance of this Agreement, or against any applicant for employment because of age, ethnicity, race, religious belief, disability, national origin, or sex. CONTRACTOR shall not exclude any person, on the grounds of age, ethnicity, race, religious belief, disability, national origin, or sex, from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any activity under, this Agreement.
- ii. CONTRACTOR shall provide a harassment-free workplace, with any allegation of harassment given priority attention and action by management.

e. Independent contractor.

- i. CONTRACTOR is, and will be deemed to be, an independent contractor and not a servant, employee, joint adventurer, or partner of the COUNTY. None of CONTRACTOR's agents, employees, or servants are, or will be deemed to be, the agent, employee, or servant of the COUNTY. None of the benefits, if any, provided by the COUNTY to its employees, including but not limited to, compensation insurance and unemployment insurance, are available from the COUNTY to the employees, agents, or servants of CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR will be solely and entirely responsible for its acts and for the acts of its agents, employees, servants, and subcontractors during the performance of this Agreement. Although CONTRACTOR is an independent contractor, the work contemplated herein must meet the approval of the COUNTY and is subject to the COUNTY's general right of inspection to secure the satisfactory completion thereof. CONTRACTOR must comply with all Federal, State and municipal laws, rules and regulations that are now or may in the future become applicable to CONTRACTOR, or to CONTRACTOR's business, equipment, or personnel engaged in operations covered by this Agreement or accruing out of the performance of such operations. The COUNTY will not be held responsible for the collection of or the payment of taxes or contributions of any nature on behalf of CONTRACTOR.
- ii. CONTRACTOR will bear all losses resulting to it on account of the amount or character of the work, or because of bad weather, or because of errors or omissions in its contract price.
- iii. CONTRACTOR must utilize, and must expressly require all subcontractors to utilize, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by CONTRACTOR and any subcontractors during the Term of this Agreement.

f. Indemnification.

- i. CONTRACTOR must indemnify and hold the COUNTY harmless against and from any and all claims, losses, penalties, interest, demands, judgments, costs, damages, or expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs, incurred by the COUNTY, or its agents, officers, or employees, arising directly or indirectly from CONTRACTOR's performance under this Agreement or by any person on CONTRACTOR's behalf, including but not limited to those claims, losses, penalties, interest, demands, judgments, costs, damages, or expenses arising out of any accident, casualty, or other occurrence causing injury to any person or property. This includes persons employed or utilized by CONTRACTOR (including CONTRACTOR's agents, employees, and subcontractors). CONTRACTOR must further indemnify the COUNTY against any claim that any product purchased or licensed by the COUNTY from CONTRACTOR under this Agreement infringes a United States patent, trademark, or copyright. CONTRACTOR acknowledges that CONTRACTOR has received consideration for this indemnification, and any other indemnification of the COUNTY by CONTRACTOR provided for within the Bid Documents, the sufficiency of such consideration being acknowledged by CONTRACTOR, by CONTRACTOR's execution of this Agreement. CONTRACTOR's obligation will not be limited by, or in any way to, any insurance coverage or by any provision in or exclusion or omission from any policy of insurance, whether such insurance is in connection with this Agreement or otherwise. Such indemnification is in addition to any and all other legal remedies available to the COUNTY and not considered to be the COUNTY's exclusive remedy.
- ii. In the event that any claim in writing is asserted by a third party which may entitle the COUNTY to indemnification, the COUNTY must give notice thereof to CONTRACTOR, which notice must be accompanied by a copy of statement of the claim. Following the notice, CONTRACTOR has the right, but not the obligation, to participate at its sole expense, in the defense, compromise or settlement of such claim with counsel of its choice. If CONTRACTOR does not timely defend, contest, or otherwise protect against any suit, action or other proceeding arising from such claim, or in the event the COUNTY decides to participate in the proceeding or defense, the COUNTY will have the right to defend, contest, or otherwise protect itself against same and be reimbursed for expenses and reasonable attorney's fees and, upon not less than ten (10) days notice to CONTRACTOR, to make any reasonable compromise or settlement thereof. In connection with any claim as aforesaid, the parties hereto must cooperate fully with each other and make available all pertinent information necessary or advisable for the defense, compromise or settlement of such claim.
- iii. The indemnification provisions of this paragraph will survive the termination of this Agreement.

- g. Sovereign Immunity.** Nothing in this Agreement extends, or will be construed to extend, the COUNTY's liability beyond that provided in section 768.28, Florida Statutes. Nothing in this Agreement is a consent, or will be construed as consent, by the COUNTY to be sued by third parties in any matter arising out of this Agreement.
- h. Public records.**
- i. CONTRACTOR is a "Contractor" as defined by Section 119.0701(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and must comply with the public records provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, including the following:
 1. Keep and maintain public records required by the COUNTY to perform the service.
 2. Upon request from the COUNTY's custodian of public records, provide the COUNTY with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119 or as otherwise provided by law.
 3. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of this Agreement term and following completion of the Agreement if CONTRACTOR does not transfer the records to the COUNTY.
 4. Upon completion of this Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the COUNTY all public records in possession of CONTRACTOR or keep and maintain public records required by the COUNTY to perform the service. If CONTRACTOR transfers all public records to the COUNTY upon completion of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR must destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If CONTRACTOR keeps and maintains public records upon completion of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR must meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the COUNTY, upon request from the COUNTY's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the COUNTY.
 - ii. "Public records" is defined in Section 119.011(12), Florida Statutes, as may, from time to time, be amended.
 - iii. If CONTRACTOR asserts any exemptions to the requirements of Chapter 119 and related law, CONTRACTOR will have the burden of establishing such exemption, by way of injunctive or other relief as provided by law.
 - iv. CONTRACTOR consents to the COUNTY's enforcement of CONTRACTOR's Chapter 119 requirements, by all legal means, including, but not limited to, a mandatory injunction, whereupon CONTRACTOR must pay all court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by COUNTY.
 - v. CONTRACTOR's failure to provide public records within a reasonable time may be subject to penalties under Section 119.10, Florida Statutes. Further, such

failure by CONTRACTOR will be grounds for immediate unilateral cancellation of this Agreement by the COUNTY.

- vi. **IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AT 863-763-6441, EXT 1; publicrecords@co.okeechobee.fl.us; MAILING ADDRESS: 304 NW 2nd Street, ROOM 123, OKEECHOBEE, FL 34972.**
- i. **Federal or State Funding.** If any portion of the funding for this Agreement is derived from the State of Florida, or any department of the State of Florida, or from federal funding through the State of Florida, the provisions of this sub-paragraph shall apply, provisions elsewhere in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding. CONTRACTOR shall make inquiry from the COUNTY's Project Manager to determine whether Federal or State funding is applicable to this Agreement.
 - i. **E-Verify.** CONTRACTOR must utilize, and must expressly require all subcontractors to utilize, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by CONTRACTOR during the Term of this Agreement.
 - ii. **Agency.** CONTRACTOR agrees and acknowledges that it, its employees, and its subcontractors are not agents or employees of the Federal Government, of the State of Florida, or of any department of the Federal Government or the State of Florida.
 - iii. **Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, CONTRACTOR shall indemnify and hold harmless the COUNTY, the Federal Government, the State of Florida, any department of the Federal Government or the State of Florida, and all officers and employees, from liabilities, damages, losses and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees, to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness or intentional wrongful misconduct of CONTRACTOR and persons employed or utilized by CONTRACTOR in the performance of this Agreement. This indemnification shall survive the termination of this Agreement. Nothing contained in this paragraph is intended to nor shall it constitute a waiver of the State of Florida and the COUNTY's sovereign immunity.
 - iv. **Workers' Compensation Insurance.** CONTRACTOR must provide Workers' Compensation Insurance in accordance with Florida's Workers' Compensation law for all employees. If subletting any of the work, CONTRACTOR must ensure that the subcontractor(s) have Workers' Compensation Insurance for their employees in accordance with Florida's Workers' Compensation law. If using "leased employees" or employees obtained through professional employer organizations ("PEO's"), CONTRACTOR must ensure that such employees are covered by Workers' Compensation insurance through the PEO's or other leasing entities. CONTRACTOR must ensure that any

equipment rental agreements that include operators or other personnel who are employees of independent Contractors, sole proprietorships or partners are covered by insurance required under Florida's Workers' Compensation law.

- v. **Liability Insurance.** Contractor shall carry Commercial General Liability insurance providing continuous coverage for all work or operations performed under the Agreement. Such insurance shall be no more restrictive than that provided by the latest occurrence form edition of the standard Commercial General Liability Coverage Form (ISO Form CG 00 01) as filed for use in the State of Florida. CONTRACTOR shall cause the State of Florida to be made an Additional Insured as to such insurance. Such coverage shall be on an "occurrence" basis and shall include Products/Completed Operations coverage. The coverage afforded to the State of Florida as an Additional Insured shall be primary as to any other available insurance and shall not be more restrictive than the coverage afforded to the Named Insured. The limits of coverage shall not be less than \$1,000,000 for each occurrence and not less than a \$5,000,000 annual general aggregate, inclusive of amounts provided by an umbrella or excess policy. The limits of coverage described herein shall apply fully to the work or operations performed under the Contract, and may not be shared with or diminished by claims unrelated to this Agreement. The policy/ies and coverage described herein may be subject to a deductible. CONTRACTOR shall pay all deductibles as required by the policy. No policy/ies or coverage described herein may contain or be subject to a Retention or a Self-Insured Retention. At all renewal periods which occur prior to final acceptance of the work, the COUNTY and the State of Florida shall be provided with an ACORD Certificate of Liability Insurance reflecting the coverage described herein. The COUNTY and the State of Florida shall be notified in writing within ten days of any cancellation, notice of cancellation, lapse, renewal, or proposed change to any policy or coverage described herein. The COUNTY's or the State of Florida's approval or failure to disapprove any policy/ies, coverage, or ACORD Certificates shall not relieve or excuse any obligation to procure and maintain the insurance required herein, nor serve as a waiver of any rights or defenses the COUNTY or the State of Florida may have.
 - vi. **Inspections.** CONTRACTOR shall permit, and require its subcontractors to permit, the COUNTY's and the State of Florida's authorized representatives to inspect all work, materials, payrolls, and records, to audit the books, records, and accounts pertaining to the financing and development of the Services described in the Contract Documents.
 - vii. **Auditor General Cooperation.** CONTRACTOR shall comply with §20.055 (5), Florida Statutes, and shall incorporate in all subcontracts the obligation to comply with §20.055 (5), Florida Statutes.
- j. **E-Verify Compliance.** Contractor affirmatively states, under penalty of perjury, that in accordance with Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., Contractor is registered with and uses the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees, that in accordance with such statute, Contractor requires from each of its subcontractors an affidavit stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract

with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien, and that Contractor is otherwise in compliance with Sections 448.09 and 448.095, Fla. Stat.

9. **Miscellaneous Provisions.** The following miscellaneous provisions apply to this Agreement:
- a. **Binding Nature of Agreement.** This Agreement is binding upon the successors and assigns of the parties hereto.
 - b. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement states the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes any written or oral representations, statements, negotiations, or agreements to the contrary. CONTRACTOR recognizes that any representations, statements, or negotiations made by the County staff do not suffice to legally bind the COUNTY in a contractual relationship unless they have been reduced to writing, authorized, and signed by the authorized COUNTY representatives.
 - c. **Amendment.** No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms or conditions of this Agreement will be effective unless contained in a written document executed with the same formality as this Agreement.
 - d. **Severability.** If any term or provision of this Agreement is held, to any extent, invalid or unenforceable, as against any person, entity, or circumstance during the Term hereof, by force of any statute, law, or ruling of any forum of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity will not affect any other term or provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Agreement will remain operable, enforceable, and in full force and effect to the extent permitted by law.
 - e. **Construction.** If any provision of this Agreement becomes subject to judicial interpretation, the court interpreting or considering such provision should not apply the presumption or rule of construction that the terms of this Agreement be more strictly construed against the party which itself or through its counsel or other agent prepared it. All parties hereto have participated in the preparation of the final form of this Agreement through review by their respective counsel, if any, or the negotiation of specific language, or both, and, therefore, the application of such presumption or rule of construction would be inappropriate and contrary to the intent of the parties.
 - f. **Headings.** All headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and are not to be used in any judicial construction or interpretation of this Agreement or any paragraph.
 - g. **Waiver.** The indulgence of either party with regard to any breach or failure to perform any provision of this Agreement does not constitute a waiver of the provision or any portion of this Agreement, either at the time the breach or failure occurs or at any time throughout the term of this Agreement. The review of, approval of, or payment for any of CONTRACTOR's work product, services, or materials does not operate as a waiver, and should not be construed as a waiver, of any of the COUNTY's rights

under this Agreement, or of any cause of action the COUNTY may have arising out of the performance of this Agreement.

- h. **Force Majeure.** Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement to the contrary, the parties will not be held liable if failure or delay in the performance of this Agreement arises from fires, floods, strikes, embargos, acts of the public enemy, unusually severe weather, outbreak of war, restraint of government, riots, civil commotion, force majeure, act of God, or for any other cause of the same character which is unavoidable through the exercise of due care and beyond the control of the parties. This provision does not apply if the "Scope of Services" of this Agreement specifies that performance by CONTRACTOR is specifically required during the occurrence of any of the events herein mentioned.

- i. **Compliance/Consistency with Scrutinized Companies Provisions of Florida Statutes.** Section 287.135(2)(a), Florida Statutes, prohibits a company from bidding on, submitting a proposal for, or entering into or renewing a contract for goods or services of any amount if, at the time of contracting or renewal, the company is on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, created pursuant to section 215.4725, Florida Statutes, or is engaged in a boycott of Israel. Section 287.135(2)(b), Florida Statutes, further prohibits a company from bidding on, submitting a proposal for, or entering into or renewing a contract for goods or services over one million dollars (\$1,000,000) if, at the time of contracting or renewal, the company is on either the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, both created pursuant to section 215.473, Florida Statutes, or the company is engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria. Contractor hereby certifies that Contractor is not listed on any of the following: (i) the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, (ii) Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, or (iii) the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List. Contractor further hereby certifies that Contractor is not engaged in a boycott of Israel or engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria. Contractor understands that pursuant to section 287.135, Florida Statutes, the submission of a false certification may subject Contractor to civil penalties, attorney's fees, and/or costs. Contractor further understands that any contract with County for goods or services of any amount may be terminated at the option of County if Contractor (i) is found to have submitted a false certification, (ii) has been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, or (iii) is engaged in a boycott of Israel. And, in addition to the foregoing, if the amount of the contract is one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more, the contract may be terminated at the option of County if the company is found to have submitted a false certification, has been placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or has been engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria.

- j. **Law; Venue.** This Agreement is being executed in Okeechobee County, Florida and is governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. Venue of any action hereunder will be in Okeechobee County, Florida.

10. **Special Provisions.**

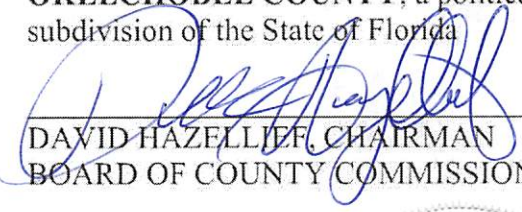
- a. **Funding Guaranty.** CONTRACTOR makes no express or implied warranty or guarantee regarding the outcome of any legislation, special funding or appropriation passage, beyond CONTRACTOR's warranty and representation that CONTRACTOR has sufficient manpower and technical expertise to perform the services contemplated by this Agreement in a timely and professional manner consistent with the standards of the industry in which CONTRACTOR operates.
- b. **Lobbying.** CONTRACTOR shall comply with all state statutes, rules, and regulations relating to lobbyists and lobbying, and shall indemnify and hold harmless the COUNTY for any loss, damage, fine, or penalty resulting from a violation of same.
- c. **Non-contingent Compensation.** The compensation for the CONTRACTOR is in no way contingent upon the amount of appropriations, if any, obtained by the COUNTY as a result of the CONTRACTOR's efforts.
- d. **Allowable Subcontractors.** Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 8.c., above, CONTRACTOR may utilize the services of Magnolia Strategies, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company; Tidewater Consulting, Inc., a Florida Corporation; and James A. Naff and Associates, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company during the Term of this Agreement, either as subcontractor(s), or professional associate(s).

(SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS)

CAS GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S AGREEMENT
SIGNATURE PAGE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed and sealed this Agreement effective the date first written above.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, a political
subdivision of the State of Florida


DAVID HAZELLIEF, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Carri J. Bronawski - OC
JERALD D. BRYANT, CLERK OF
THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER
Date signed by COUNTY: 9/28/23

(Seal)



CAS GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, LLC

by Connie Vanassche
Connie Vanassche as its President and
authorized agent

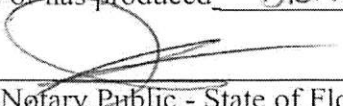
(COMPANY SEAL)

ATTEST:

_____, company secretary

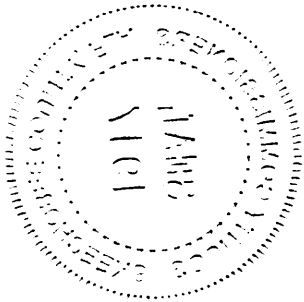
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PAUM BEACH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization, this 23rd day of AUGUST, 2023, by CONNIE VANASSCHE of CAS GOVERNMENTAL SVCS, a Florida corporation, on behalf of the corporation, and he/she is personally known to me or has produced DRIVERS LICENSE as identification.


Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida



Printed/Typed/Stamped Name of Notary
My commission expires:



CAS GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, LLC

Communication Advocacy Specialists

Governmental – Legislative Services – Grants – Special Funding

P.O. Box 210623 • Royal Palm Beach, Florida 33421-0623
Telephones: 561.512-0089 • 850-228-1296 • Fax: 1.866.929.8006

**Scope of Services for
Okeechobee County Board of County Commission
2023-2024 Agreement
Exhibit "A"**

CAS Governmental Services, LLC (CASGS) proposes a comprehensive scope of services that covers all aspects of lobbying, legislative representation and appropriation funding services on behalf of Okeechobee County which includes:

- Working with the County Administrator and staff, as appropriate and directed, to develop legislative priorities and prepare documentation for the Legislative Delegation.
- Submitting the County's Legislative Priorities documentation to the Delegation as outlined by the Delegation Chair prior to the deadline.
- Attending the Okeechobee County Legislative Delegation Hearing.
- Preparing for Legislative Committee Weeks and Legislative Session.
- Providing full-time representation in Tallahassee during scheduled Committee Weeks and the Legislative Session, including the Legislative Conference process.
- Assisting with the preparation and completion of the House and Senate Legislative Appropriation Project Request (APR) for funding of each County project.
- Submitting the County's approved House and Senate Legislative Appropriation Project Requests prior to House and Senate deadlines.
- Monitoring the House and Senate appropriation processes and addressing inquiries and requests for information, as may be needed.
- Preparing House Attestation documentation for each appropriation project request for the County's review and signature and submission as outlined in the House Rules.
- Meeting with House and Senate Legislators, Committee Chairs, Committee Members and Leadership in Tallahassee throughout Committee Weeks, the Legislative Session and through the Conference and budget processes.
- Preparing and providing talking points and background information to Legislators for presentation of the County's appropriation project requests.
- Tracking legislation being filed and presented during Committee Weeks and through the Legislative process.
- Attending House and Senate Appropriations, Subcommittee and Committee meetings scheduled during the Legislative Session, providing testimony as appropriate and directed.
- Coordinating and soliciting support for County priorities from legislators and state agencies as appropriate.
- Addressing requests from the Governor's office, Senate and House.
- Coordinating with State government officials as necessary throughout the year.
- Providing support to Commissioners and staff during Legislative Day in Tallahassee.
- Scheduling appointments with Representatives/Senators, as requested.
- Coordinating with the County's Legislative Delegation.

- Advising the County regarding legislative issues that arise during Committee Weeks and Legislative Session that may affect Okeechobee County.
- Advising the County of issues that surface during Committee Weeks and Legislative Session upon which the County could lend its support.
- Monitoring the Governor's actions for signing/vetoing of bills, legislation and budget items.
- Coordinating and maintaining contact with the County Administrator and elected officials.
- Providing quarterly reviews to the County.

Compensation for CASGS Services:

Annual fee of \$60,000.00 payable in four equal installments of \$15,000.00, no later than:

- October 30, 2023
- January 30, 2024
- April 30, 2024
- July 30, 2024

CAS Governmental Services, LLC
Communication Advocacy Specialists

Governmental – Legislative Services – Grants – Special Funding

P.O. Box 210623 • Royal Palm Beach, Florida 33421-0623
Telephones: 561.512.0089 • 850.228.1296 • Fax: 866.929.8006

December 5, 2023

Mr. Richard E. Coates, Esq.
Tidewater Consulting, Inc.
115 East Park Avenue, Unit 1
Tallahassee, Florida, 32310

RE: Letter of Engagement

Dear Mr. Coates:

Thank you for your assistance with CAS Governmental Services, LLC (CASGSLLC) working on behalf of our client base.

We greatly appreciate Tidewater Consulting, Inc., both you and Shelley. It is our desire to continue this working relationship, during the 2024 Legislative Session and Committee Weeks to accomplish goals, appropriations and legislation for the clients of CASGSLLC. CASGSLLC and Tidewater Consulting, Inc. agree that CASGSLLC desire this engagement to not only acquire assistance during the time frames shown in this letter but to also seek out the potential of a long-term relationship for both firms to work together on CASGSLLC projects.

This letter shall serve as a Letter of Engagement between CAS Governmental Services, LLC (CASGSLLC) Ms. Connie C. Vanassche, President, and Mr. James Spratt, Vice President and Tidewater Consulting, Inc. Mr. Richard E. Coates, Esq, and Ms. Shelley B. Green for the 2024 Legislative Session and Legislative Committee Weeks and appropriate time associated with this session.

Tidewater Consulting, Inc. Mr. Richard Coates/Ms. Shelley Green shall abide with all appropriate laws and rules governing lobbyists duties, filing of required reports and provide all appropriate insurance pursuant to the parameters of their firm. CASGSLLC may suspend or cancel this letter of engagement with 15 days written or e-mail notice. Should a suspension or cancellation be made, CASGSLLC agrees to compensate Tidewater Consulting, Inc. for work completed or substantially complete.

The fee for services for terms covered in this letter of engagement shall be Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) and shall be invoiced monthly at the rate of \$4,000.00 each in January, February, March, April and May 2024.


Initial:


Initial:

Tidewater Consulting, Inc. agrees with "non-compete" with any clients under agreement/contract with CASGSLLC at the time of this engagement and shall not seek out, work for any of those listed on Attachment A or any client that may come to a contract status with CASGSLLC during a period of two Legislative Sessions without written permission from CASGSLLC excepting any mutual clients that both firms are already under agreement with.

It is understood by the parties that the Letter of Engagement is not exclusive.

Sincerely,

CAS GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, LLC



Connie C. Vanassche
President

C: J. Spratt
file

Please sign and date where indicated below and return:

For Tidewater Consulting, Inc.



Signature:

President

Title:

December 20, 2013

Date:

CAS Governmental Services, LLC

Tidewater Consulting, Inc.
Letter of Engagement
Attachment A

City of Bartow

City of Belle Glade

City of Moore Haven

City of Okeechobee

City of Wauchula

City County Public Works Authority (Glades County/City of Moore Haven)

Glades County Board of County Commissioners

Hardee County Board of County Commissioners

Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners

Okeechobee Utility Authority

Town of Pembroke Park

Wakulla County