CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2023-517 – Approving an agreement for audit services with Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C. (AGH) for the 2023 fiscal year with options for the following four years.

MEETING DATE
October 16, 2023

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2023-517 Ordinance; Exhibit "A" Audit Agreement; RFP for Professional Auditing Services; AGH's Bid Response; Bid Tab and Comments

REVIEWED BY
Department Head: Leslie Haase; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nick Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill approves the Audit Services Agreement for the audit of the City's general-purpose financial statements, the Single Audit, the Police and Fire Pension Audit, and the Joplin Regional Airport's Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Program for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023. The cost for the first year is $87,000.00. The Agreement is renewable, at the City's option, for each of the four (4) subsequent years.

BACKGROUND
Section §2.14 of the City Charter requires an annual audit of the financial statements of the City government by a certified public accountant or firm of certified public accountants. Hood and Associates, previously Cochran Head Vick & Co., P.C., had audited the City of Joplin records for the past eighteen years. Prior to that time period, KPMG audited the City of Joplin records for nine years.

On August 18, 2023, the City developed a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) for Professional Auditing Services which was sent to six Certified Public Accounting firms. A legal notice for "Professional Auditing Services" was published in the Joplin Globe inviting proposals from qualified organizations to provide auditing services to the City and it was posted on the City's website. Two firms responded by the due date to this RFP, Hood and Associates, as well as AGH. After reviewing the proposals, these two bids were found to be conforming bids.

The bids were analyzed separately by three Finance Department staff members and the ratings were averaged based on a combination of technical qualifications and cost. The total proposed five-year fee for Hood and Associates is $101,680.00, while AGH's five-year fee is $103,250.00. AGH's total score is 291, while Hood's is 290. As such, the recommendation is to advance a contract with AGH for the City's professional auditing services.

FUNDING SOURCE
This item is not applicable for budget amendments.

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends approval of this council bill on an emergency basis.