

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Jesse DiTommaso, Economic Development Coordinator
Brit Fontenot, Economic Development Director

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Sign an Amendment to a Professional Services Agreement with Central House Strategies for Legislative Services

MEETING DATE: October 28, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Agreement - Vendor/Contract

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to sign an amendment professional services agreement with Central House Strategies for legislative services.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 7.5. Funding and Delivery of City Services: Use equitable and sustainable sources of funding for appropriate City services, and deliver them in a lean and efficient manner.

BACKGROUND: The City of Bozeman began retaining a lobbyist for the Montana State Legislature in 2020. After the 2021 Legislative Session, the City chose to keep a lobbyist on contract to assist with interim legislative work including coalition building, bill implementation, and interim legislative committee tracking and testifying. An RFQ for legislative services for the next two years was published in the spring of 2024. Central House Strategies, the City's current lobbyist, was the only firm to respond. City staff from economic development, sustainability, legal, and utilities reviewed the RFQ response for legislative services and found Central House to be positioned well to represent the City's interests at the State Legislature for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Central House demonstrated strong relationships at the statehouse as well as extensive experience with local government issues in Montana. With the unpredictable nature of the upcoming sessions, staff feels an experienced team knowledgeable about relevant city issues and with established relationships will greatly benefit our City.

The original professional services agreement's effective date ends on November 1st, 2025. Section 31 of the Agreement, allows for an extension through December 31, 2029. To ensure consistency and continued representation at the State level, the attached amendment extends the agreement through the 2027 legislative session (May 31, 2027).

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As recommended by the Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The scope of services details the monthly fee for legislative services. \$5,500 during interim months November 2025-October 2026, \$6,500 during interim months November 2026-December 2026, and \$9000 for in-session months January 2027-May 2027.

Attachments:

[102025 Central House Amendment 1 FULL.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: October 14, 2025