

**FORSYTH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BRIEFING DRAFT**

MEETING DATE: APRIL 15, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 16

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER AND  
AUDIT CONTRACT WITH ELLIOTT DAVIS, PLLC, TO COMPLETE THE ANNUAL  
INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR FORSYTH COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022,  
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION  
(FINANCE DEPARTMENT)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:**

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER  
AND AUDIT CONTRACT WITH ELLIOTT DAVIS, PLLC, TO COMPLETE  
THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR FORSYTH COUNTY FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE  
SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION  
(FINANCE DEPARTMENT)**

**WHEREAS** N.C.G.S. 159-34 requires that each unit of local government have its accounts audited as soon as possible after the close of each fiscal year by a certified public accountant or by an accountant certified by the Local Government Commission as qualified to audit local government accounts, that the auditor be selected by and report directly to the governing board, and that the audit contract be in writing and include the provisions specified by law, and that the audit contract be submitted to the Secretary of the Local Government Commission for approval;

**WHEREAS** as instructed by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, Forsyth County staff prepared and submitted a Request for Proposals to five auditing firms identified by the Local Government Commission in 2018, and the Board decided to select Elliott Davis, PLLC, to complete the annual independent audit for Forsyth County for fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, and June 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS** Elliott Davis, PLLC, has offered to complete the annual independent audit for Forsyth County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, at a cost not to exceed \$67,400, and the Audit Committee of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners recommends retaining Elliott Davis, PLLC, for such services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chairman is hereby authorized to execute an engagement letter and a contract with Elliott Davis, PLLC, for the provision of audit services, for Forsyth County for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, at a cost not to exceed \$67,400, subject to approval by the Secretary of the Local Government Commission and further subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon by the County Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract for additional services with Elliott Davis, PLLC, based upon procedures which may be required by the State outside of the Contract to Audit at fees recommended by the State.

Adopted this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.



February 16, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners  
of Forsyth County  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**The Objective and Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements**

You have requested that we audit Forsyth County, North Carolina's (the "County") governmental activities, each major fund and aggregate remaining fund information as of and for the year ending June 30, 2021, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on the basic financial statements.

We will also perform the audit of the County as of June 30, 2021, so as to satisfy the audit requirements imposed by the Single Audit Act, Subpart F of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act.

**The Responsibilities of the Auditor**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (GAS); the provisions of the Single Audit Act; Subpart F of Title 2 U.S. CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Compliance Supplement, and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Those standards, circulars, and supplements require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS. Also, an audit is not designed to detect errors or fraud that are immaterial to the financial statements. The determination of abuse is subjective; therefore, Governmental Auditing Standards does not expect us to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the County's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 County's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.

We will also communicate to the Board of County Commissioners (a) any fraud involving senior management and fraud (whether caused by senior management or other employees) that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements that becomes known to us during the audit, and (b) any instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations that we become aware of during the audit (unless they are clearly inconsequential).

We are responsible for the compliance audit of major programs under the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, including the determination of major programs, the consideration of internal control over compliance, and reporting responsibilities.

Our reports on internal control will include any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in controls of which we become aware as a result of obtaining an understanding of internal control and performing tests of internal control consistent with requirements of the standards and circulars identified above. Our reports on compliance matters will address material errors, fraud, abuse, violations of compliance obligations, and other responsibilities imposed by state and federal statutes and regulations or assumed by contracts; and any state or federal grant, entitlement or loan program questioned costs of which we become aware, consistent with requirements of the standards and circulars identified above.

**The Responsibilities of Management and Identification of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management acknowledge and understand that they have the responsibility:

1. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to include: the County's financial statements and related footnote disclosures of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, the aggregate remaining fund information, and all required and other supplementary information;
2. To evaluate subsequent events through the date the financial statements are issued or available to be issued, and to disclose the date through which subsequent events were evaluated in the financial statements. Management also agrees that it will not evaluate subsequent events earlier than the date of the management representation letter referred to below;
3. For the preparation of the transmittal letter, management's discussions and analysis, the County's schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards to include all applicable grants and the related expenditures that are required to be reported under the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act and provision of accurate listings for accrual items and all information necessary for the statistical tables

4. For the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
5. For establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for informing us of all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of such controls of which it has knowledge;
6. For report distribution; and
7. To provide us with:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - b. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine is necessary to obtain audit evidence;

As part of our audit process, we will request from management written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit, including among other items:

1. That management has fulfilled its responsibilities as set out in the terms of this letter; and
2. That it believes 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.

Management is responsible for identifying and ensuring that the County complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities, and for informing us about all known material violations of such laws or regulations. In addition, management is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud or abuse, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or abuse affecting the entity involving management, employees who have significant roles in internal control, and others where the fraud or abuse could have a material effect on the financial statements or compliance. Management is also responsible for informing us of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or abuse, or suspected fraud or abuse affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, short sellers, or others.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management agrees to include the auditor's report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that the auditor has reported on such supplementary information. Management also agrees to present the supplementary information with the audited financial statements or, if the supplementary information will not be presented with audited financial statements, to make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance of the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.

Because the audit will be performed in accordance with the Single Audit Act, and the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, management is responsible for (a) identifying all federal and state awards received and expended; (b) preparing the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with Uniform Guidance and State Single Audit Implementation Act requirements; (c) internal control over compliance; (d) compliance with federal and state statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal and state awards; (e) making us aware of significant vendor relationships where the vendor is responsible for program compliance; (f) following up and taking corrective action on audit findings, including the preparation of a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan; and (g) submitting the reporting package and data collection form.

The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for informing us of its views about the risks of fraud or abuse within the entity, and its knowledge of any fraud or abuse or suspected fraud or abuse affecting the entity.

Our association with an official statement is a matter for which separate arrangements will be necessary. The County agrees to provide us with printer's proofs or masters of such offering documents for our review and approval before printing, and with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed. In the event our auditor/client relationship has been terminated when the County seeks such consent, we will be under no obligation to grant such consent or approval.

The County agrees that it will not associate us with any public or private securities offering without first obtaining our consent. Therefore, the County agrees to contact us before it includes our reports or otherwise makes reference to us, in any public or private securities offering.

We agree that our association with any proposed offering is not necessary, providing the County agrees to clearly indicate that we are not associated with the contents any such official statement or memorandum. The County agrees that the following disclosure will be prominently displayed in any such official statement or memorandum:

Elliott Davis, PLLC, 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, and that Elliott Davis, PLLC, also has not performed any procedures relating to the official statement or memorandum.

#### **The County's Records and Assistance**

If circumstances arise relating to the condition of the County's records, the availability of appropriate audit evidence or indications of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements because of error, fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets which, in our professional judgment, prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion, we retain the unilateral right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express an opinion or issue a report, or withdrawing from the engagement.

During the course of our engagement, we may accumulate records containing data that should be reflected in the County's books and records. The County will determine that all such data, if necessary, will be so reflected. Accordingly, the County will not expect us to maintain copies of such records in our possession.

The assistance to be supplied by County personnel, including the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts, will be discussed and coordinated with Terri Goodman, Deputy Chief Financial Officer. The timely and accurate completion of this work is an essential condition to our completion of the audit and issuance of our audit report.

**Other Relevant Information**

Elliott Davis, PLLC may mention the County's name and provide a general description of the engagement in Elliott Davis, PLLC's client lists and marketing materials.

In accordance with GAS, a copy of our most recent peer review report has been provided to you.

**Fees**

Our fees for the audit and accounting services described above are based upon the value of the services performed and the time required by the individuals assigned to the engagement, plus direct expenses. Our fee for the audit will be \$67,400. These fees reflect our estimate for compliance testing of up to 3 major federal programs and up to 2 major state programs based on requirements that were in effect when the fees were initially quoted. If changes to requirements such as those imposed by federal or state agencies, or resulting from CARES Act funding result in additional programs having to be tested we will discuss potential scope and fee changes with you as soon as they become known and prior to incurring any additional costs.

The above fees are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not arise that would significantly increase the time required for us to complete the audit. Examples of circumstances that cause us to perform work in excess of that contemplated in the above fee include:

*Changing Auditing and Reporting Standards*

Governmental and rule-making bodies regularly expand or revise their audit and reporting requirements. While we attempt to plan our work to anticipate these changes, they can often arise subsequent to when we quote our initial proposed fees. We will assess the effects of these situations and discuss them with you at the earliest possible time in order to make the necessary adjustments and amendments in our engagement.

*Incorrect Accounting Methods or Errors in Client Records*

We base our fees on the expectation that client accounting methods and records are accurate and in accordance with existing authoritative guidance so that our work can be performed in a timely and efficient manner. Numerous errors, incomplete records, or the application of incorrect accounting methods will require significant additional work in order for us to issue our audit opinion in accordance with professional standards.

*Failure to Prepare for the Audit*

Our fees also assume that the County will be prepared for us to perform the audit in accordance with the agreed upon timeline. When we are required to start and stop work due to the condition of records or failure to provide records on schedule, we are not able to perform the engagement efficiently. As a result, we must incur significant time and expense to reschedule staff, absorb additional start-up costs, and still complete the audit within the deadline.

If these or other such circumstances arise we will discuss potential scope and fee changes with you as soon as they become known and prior to incurring any additional costs.

In the event you terminate this engagement, you will pay Elliott Davis, PLLC for all services rendered (including deliverables and products delivered), expenses incurred and commitments made by Elliott Davis, PLLC through the effective date of termination.

When an engagement has been suspended at the request of management and work on that engagement has not recommenced within 120 days of the request to suspend our work, Elliott Davis, PLLC may, at its sole discretion, terminate this arrangement letter without further obligation to the County. Resumption of audit work following termination may be subject to our client acceptance procedures and, if resumed, will necessitate additional procedures not contemplated in this arrangement letter. Accordingly, the scope, timing and fee arrangement discussed in this arrangement letter will no longer apply. In order for Elliott Davis, PLLC to recommence work, a new arrangement letter would need to be mutually agreed upon and executed.

Our professional standards require that we perform certain additional procedures, on current and previous years' engagements whenever a shareholder or professional employee leaves the firm and is subsequently employed by or associated with a client in a key position. Accordingly, the County agrees it will compensate Elliott Davis, PLLC for any additional costs incurred as a result of the County's employment of a shareholder or professional employee of Elliott Davis, PLLC.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Elliott Davis, PLLC and constitutes confidential information.

Review of audit documentation by a successor auditor or as part of due diligence will be agreed to, accounted for and billed separately.

In the event we are requested or authorized by the County or are required by government regulation, subpoena or other legal process to produce our documents or our personnel as witnesses with respect to our engagement for the County, the County will, so long as we are not a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought, reimburse us for our professional time and expenses, as well as the fees and expenses of our counsel, incurred in responding to such requests.

The documentation for this engagement is the property of Elliott Davis, PLLC. However, you acknowledge and grant your assent that representatives of the cognizant or oversight agency or their designee, other government audit staffs, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office shall have access to the audit documentation upon their request and that we shall maintain the audit documentation for a period of at least three years after the date of the report, or for a longer period if we are requested to do so by the cognizant or oversight agency. Access to requested documentation will be provided under the supervision of Elliott Davis, PLLC audit personnel and at a location designated by our Firm.

You have informed us that you intend to prepare a comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) and submit it for evaluation by the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program. Our association with the CAFR is to consist of reading, referencing, and reviewing information presented in the introductory and statistical sections for consistency with the financial statements.

#### **Claim Resolution**

The County and Elliott Davis, PLLC agree that no claim arising out of services rendered pursuant to this arrangement letter shall be filed more than two years after the date of the audit report issued by Elliott Davis, PLLC or the date of this arrangement letter if no report has been issued. The County waives any



claim for punitive damages. Elliott Davis PLLC's liability for all claims, damages and costs of the County arising from this engagement is limited to the amount of fees paid by the County to Elliott Davis, PLLC for the services rendered under this arrangement letter.

Because Elliott Davis, PLLC will rely on the County and its management and the Board of County Commissioners to discharge the foregoing responsibilities, the County holds harmless and releases Elliott Davis, PLLC and its shareholders and employees from all claims, liabilities, losses and costs arising in circumstances where there has been a knowing misrepresentation by a member of the County's management that has caused, in any respect, Elliott Davis, PLLC's breach of contract or negligence. This provision shall survive the termination of this arrangement for services.

#### **Information Security - Miscellaneous Terms**

Elliott Davis, PLLC is committed to the safe and confidential treatment of the County's proprietary information. Elliott Davis, PLLC is required to maintain the confidential treatment of client information in accordance with relevant industry professional standards which govern the provision of services described herein. The County agrees that it will not provide Elliott Davis, PLLC with any unencrypted electronic confidential or proprietary information, and the parties agree to utilize commercially reasonable measures to maintain the confidentiality of the County's information, including the use of collaborate sites to ensure the safe transfer of data between the parties.

Elliott Davis, PLLC may terminate this relationship immediately in its sole discretion if Elliott Davis, PLLC determines that continued performance would result in a violation of law, regulatory requirements, applicable professional standards or Elliott Davis, PLLC client acceptance or retention standards, or if the County is placed on a verified sanctioned entity list or if any director or executive of, or other person closely associated with, the County or its affiliates is placed on a verified sanctioned person list, in each case, including but not limited to lists promulgated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations Security Council, the European Union or any other relevant sanctioning authority.

If any term or provision of this arrangement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such term or provision will be deemed stricken and all other terms and provision will remain in full force and effect.

#### **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the County's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners of Forsyth County. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

In addition to our report on County's basic financial statements, we will also issue the following types of reports:

1. A report on the fairness of the presentation of County's schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards for the year ending June 30, 2021.
2. Reports on internal control related to the financial statements and major programs. These reports will describe the scope of testing of internal control and the results of our tests of internal control.

3. Reports on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements. We will report on any noncompliance that could have a material effect on the financial statements and any noncompliance that could have a material effect, as defined by Subpart F of Title 2 U.S. CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and the *State Single Audit Implementation Act*, on each major program; and
4. An accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs;

**Electronic Signatures and Counterparts**

Each party hereto agrees that any electronic signature of a party to this agreement or any electronic signature to a document contemplated hereby (including any representation letter) is intended to authenticate such writing and shall be as valid, and have the same force and effect, as a manual signature. Any such electronically signed document shall be deemed (i) to be "written" or "in writing," (ii) to have been signed and (iii) to constitute a record established and maintained in the ordinary course of business and an original written record when printed from electronic files. Each party hereto also agrees that electronic delivery of a signature to any such document (via email or otherwise) shall be as effective as manual delivery of a manual signature. For purposes hereof, "electronic signature" includes, but is not limited to, (i) a scanned copy (as a "pdf" (portable document format) or other replicating image) of a manual ink signature, (ii) an electronic copy of a traditional signature affixed to a document, (iii) a signature incorporated into a document utilizing touchscreen capabilities or (iv) a digital signature. This agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original instrument, but all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement. Paper copies or "printouts," of such documents if introduced as evidence in any judicial, arbitral, mediation or administrative proceeding, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other original business records created and maintained in documentary form. Neither party shall contest the admissibility of true and accurate copies of electronically signed documents on the basis of the best evidence rule or as not satisfying the business records exception to the hearsay rule.

Please sign and return a copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements, including our respective responsibilities.

ELLIOTT DAVIS, PLLC



Thomas J. McNeish, CPA  
Shareholder

Confirmed on behalf of **Forsyth County, North Carolina:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governance signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Management signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

The	Governing Board
of	Primary Government Unit (or charter holder)
and	Discretely Presented Component Unit (DPCU) (if applicable)

*Primary Government Unit, together with DPCU (if applicable), hereinafter referred to as Governmental Unit(s)*

and	Auditor Name
	Auditor Address

*Hereinafter referred to as Auditor*

for	Fiscal Year Ending	Audit Report Due Date
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*Must be within four months of FYE*

hereby agree as follows:

1. The Auditor shall audit all statements and disclosures required by U.S. generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and additional required legal statements and disclosures of all funds and/or divisions of the Governmental Unit(s). The non-major combining, and individual fund statements and schedules shall be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and an opinion shall be rendered in relation to (as applicable) the governmental activities, the business- type activities, the aggregate DPCUs, each major governmental and enterprise fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information (non-major government and enterprise funds, the internal service fund type, and the fiduciary fund types).

2. At a minimum, the Auditor shall conduct his/her audit and render his/her report in accordance with GAAS. The Auditor shall perform the audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* if required by the State Single Audit Implementation Act, as codified in G.S. 159-34. If required by OMB *Uniform Administration Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, the Auditor shall perform a Single Audit. This audit and all associated audit documentation may be subject to review by Federal and State agencies in accordance with Federal and State laws, including the staffs of the Office of State Auditor (OSA) and the Local Government Commission (LGC). If the audit requires a federal single audit performed under the requirements found in Subpart F of the Uniform Guidance (§200.501), it is recommended that the Auditor and Governmental Unit(s) jointly agree, in advance of the execution of this contract, which party is responsible for submission of the audit and the accompanying data collection form to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as required under the Uniform Guidance (§200.512).

If the audit and Auditor communication are found in this review to be substandard, the results of the review may be forwarded to the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners (NC State Board).

3. If an entity is determined to be a component of another government as defined by the group audit standards, the entity's auditor shall make a good faith effort to comply in a timely manner with the requests of the group auditor in accordance with AU-6 §600.41 - §600.42.
4. This contract contemplates an unmodified opinion being rendered. If during the process of conducting the audit, the Auditor determines that it will not be possible to render an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the unit, the Auditor shall contact the LGC Staff to discuss the circumstances leading to that conclusion as soon as is practical and before the final report is issued. The audit shall include such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as are considered by the Auditor to be necessary in the circumstances. Any limitations or restrictions in scope which would lead to a qualification should be fully explained in an attachment to this contract.
5. If this audit engagement is subject to the standards for audit as defined in *Government Auditing Standards*, 2018 revision, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, then by accepting this engagement, the Auditor warrants that he/she has met the requirements for a peer review and continuing education as specified in *Government Auditing Standards*. The Auditor agrees to provide a copy of the most recent peer review report to the Governmental Unit(s) and the Secretary of the LGC prior to the execution of an audit contract. Subsequent submissions of the report are required only upon report expiration or upon auditor's receipt of an updated peer review report. If the audit firm received a peer review rating other than pass, the Auditor shall not contract with the Governmental Unit(s) without first contacting the Secretary of the LGC for a peer review analysis that may result in additional contractual requirements.
- If the audit engagement is not subject to *Government Accounting Standards* or if financial statements are not prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and fail to include all disclosures required by GAAP, the Auditor shall provide an explanation as to why in an attachment to this contract or in an amendment.
6. It is agreed that time is of the essence in this contract. All audits are to be performed and the report of audit submitted to LGC Staff within four months of fiscal year end. If it becomes necessary to amend this due date or the audit fee, an amended contract along with a written explanation of the delay shall be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval.
7. It is agreed that GAAS include a review of the Governmental Unit's (Units') systems of internal control and accounting as same relate to accountability of funds and adherence to budget and law requirements applicable thereto; that the Auditor shall make a written report, which may or may not be a part of the written report of audit, to the Governing Board setting forth his/her findings, together with his recommendations for improvement. That written report shall include all matters defined as "significant deficiencies and material weaknesses" in AU-C 265 of the *AICPA Professional Standards (Clarified)*. The Auditor shall file a copy of that report with the Secretary of the LGC.
8. All local government and public authority contracts for audit or audit-related work require the approval of the Secretary of the LGC. This includes annual or special audits, agreed upon procedures related to internal controls, bookkeeping or other assistance necessary to prepare the Governmental Unit's (Units') records for audit, financial statement preparation, any finance-related investigations, or any other audit-related work in the State of North Carolina. Approval is not required on contracts and invoices for system improvements and similar services of a non-auditing nature.
9. Invoices for services rendered under these contracts shall not be paid by the Governmental Unit(s) until the invoice has been approved by the Secretary of the LGC. (This also includes any progress billings.) [G.S. 159-34 and 115C-447] All invoices for Audit work shall be submitted in PDF format to the Secretary of the LGC for approval. The invoice marked 'approved' with approval date shall be returned to

the Auditor to present to the Governmental Unit(s) for payment. This paragraph is not applicable to contracts for audits of hospitals.

10. In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the provisions of this contract, the Governmental Unit(s) shall pay to the Auditor, upon approval by the Secretary of the LGC if required, the fee, which includes any costs the Auditor may incur from work paper or peer reviews or any other quality assurance program required by third parties (federal and state grantor and oversight agencies or other organizations) as required under the Federal and State Single Audit Acts. This does not include fees for any pre-issuance reviews that may be required by the NC Association of CPAs (NCACPA) Peer Review Committee or NC State Board of CPA Examiners (see Item 13).

11. If the Governmental Unit(s) has/have outstanding revenue bonds, the Auditor shall submit to LGC Staff, either in the notes to the audited financial statements or as a separate report, a calculation demonstrating compliance with the revenue bond rate covenant. Additionally, the Auditor shall submit to LGC Staff simultaneously with the Governmental Unit's (Units') audited financial statements any other bond compliance statements or additional reports required by the authorizing bond documents, unless otherwise specified in the bond documents.

12. After completing the audit, the Auditor shall submit to the Governing Board a written report of audit. This report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: (a) Management's Discussion and Analysis, (b) the financial statements and notes of the Governmental Unit(s) and all of its component units prepared in accordance with GAAP, (c) supplementary information requested by the Governmental Unit(s) or required for full disclosure under the law, and (d) the Auditor's opinion on the material presented. The Auditor shall furnish the required number of copies of the report of audit to the Governing Board upon completion.

13. If the audit firm is required by the NC State Board, the NCACPA Peer Review Committee, or the Secretary of the LGC to have a pre-issuance review of its audit work, there shall be a statement in the engagement letter indicating the pre-issuance review requirement. There also shall be a statement that the Governmental Unit(s) shall not be billed for the pre-issuance review. The pre-issuance review shall be performed prior to the completed audit being submitted to LGC Staff. The pre-issuance review report shall accompany the audit report upon submission to LGC Staff.

14. The Auditor shall submit the report of audit in PDF format to LGC Staff. For audits of units other than hospitals, the audit report should be submitted when (or prior to) submitting the final invoice for services rendered. The report of audit, as filed with the Secretary of the LGC, becomes a matter of public record for inspection, review and copy in the offices of the LGC by any interested parties. Any subsequent revisions to these reports shall be sent to the Secretary of the LGC along with an Audit Report Reissued Form (available on the Department of State Treasurer website). These audited financial statements, excluding the Auditors' opinion, may be used in the preparation of official statements for debt offerings by municipal bond rating services to fulfill secondary market disclosure requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and for other lawful purposes of the Governmental Unit(s) without requiring consent of the Auditor. If the LGC Staff determines that corrections need to be made to the Governmental Unit's (Units') financial statements, those corrections shall be provided within three business days of notification unless another deadline is agreed to by LGC Staff.

15. Should circumstances disclosed by the audit call for a more detailed investigation by the Auditor than necessary under ordinary circumstances, the Auditor shall inform the Governing Board in writing of the need for such additional investigation and the additional compensation required therefore. Upon approval by the

Secretary of the LGC, this contract may be modified or amended to include the increased time, compensation, or both as may be agreed upon by the Governing Board and the Auditor.

16. If an approved contract needs to be modified or amended for any reason, the change shall be made in writing and pre-audited if the change includes a change in audit fee (pre-audit requirement does not apply to charter schools or hospitals). This amended contract shall be completed in full, including a written explanation of the change, signed and dated by all original parties to the contract. It shall then be submitted to the Secretary of the LGC for approval. No change to the audit contract shall be effective unless approved by the Secretary of the LGC, the Governing Board, and the Auditor.

17. A copy of the engagement letter, issued by the Auditor and signed by both the Auditor and the Governmental Unit(s), shall be attached to this contract, and except for fees, work, and terms not related to audit services, shall be incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein as part of this contract. In case of conflict between the terms of the engagement letter and the terms of this contract, the terms of this contract shall take precedence. Engagement letter terms that conflict with the contract are deemed to be void unless the conflicting terms of this contract are specifically deleted in Item 28 of this contract. Engagement letters containing indemnification clauses shall not be accepted by LGC Staff.

18. Special provisions should be limited. Please list any special provisions in an attachment.

19. A separate contract should not be made for each division to be audited or report to be submitted. If a DPCU is subject to the audit requirements detailed in the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and a separate audit report is issued, a separate audit contract is required. If a separate report is not to be issued and the DPCU is included in the primary government audit, the DPCU shall be named along with the primary government on this audit contract. DPCU Board approval date, signatures from the DPCU Board chairman and finance officer also shall be included on this contract.

20. The contract shall be executed, pre-audited (pre-audit requirement does not apply to charter schools or hospitals), and physically signed by all parties including Governmental Unit(s) and the Auditor, then submitted in PDF format to the Secretary of the LGC.

21. The contract is not valid until it is approved by the Secretary of the LGC. The staff of the LGC shall notify the Governmental Unit and Auditor of contract approval by email. The audit should not be started before the contract is approved.

22. Retention of Client Records: Auditors are subject to the NC State Board of CPA Examiners' Retention of Client Records Rule 21 NCAC 08N .0305 as it relates to the provision of audit and other attest services, as well as non-attest services. Clients and former clients should be familiar with the requirements of this rule prior to requesting the return of records.

23. This contract may be terminated at any time by mutual consent and agreement of the Governmental Unit(s) and the Auditor, provided that (a) the consent to terminate is in writing and signed by both parties, (b) the parties have agreed on the fee amount which shall be paid to the Auditor (if applicable), and (c) no termination shall be effective until approved in writing by the Secretary of the LGC.

24. The Governmental Unit's (Units') failure or forbearance to enforce, or waiver of, any right or an event of breach or default on one occasion or instance shall not constitute the waiver of such right, breach or default on any subsequent occasion or instance.

25. There are no other agreements between the parties hereto and no other agreements relative hereto that shall be enforceable unless entered into in accordance with the procedure set out herein and approved by the Secretary of the LGC.

26. E-Verify. Auditor shall comply with the requirements of NCGS Chapter 64 Article 2. Further, if Auditor utilizes any subcontractor(s), Auditor shall require such subcontractor(s) to comply with the requirements of NCGS Chapter 64, Article 2.

27. **Applicable to audits with fiscal year ends of June 30, 2020 and later.** For all non-attest services, the Auditor shall adhere to the independence rules of the AICPA Professional Code of Conduct and Governmental Auditing Standards, 2018 Revision (as applicable). Financial statement preparation assistance shall be deemed a "significant threat" requiring the Auditor to apply safeguards sufficient to reduce the threat to an acceptable level. If the Auditor cannot reduce the threats to an acceptable level, the Auditor cannot complete the audit. If the Auditor is able to reduce the threats to an acceptable level, the documentation of this determination, including the safeguards applied, must be included in the audit workpapers.

All non-attest service(s) being performed by the Auditor that are necessary to perform the audit must be identified and included in this contract. The Governmental Unit shall designate an individual with the suitable skills, knowledge, and/or experience (SKE) necessary to oversee the services and accept responsibility for the results of the services performed. If the Auditor is able to identify an individual with the appropriate SKE, s/he must document and include in the audit workpapers how he/she reached that conclusion. If the Auditor determines that an individual with the appropriate SKE cannot be identified, the Auditor cannot perform both the non-attest service(s) and the audit. See "Fees for Audit Services" page of this contract to disclose the person identified as having the appropriate SKE for the Governmental Unit.

28. **Applicable to audits with fiscal year ends of June 30, 2021 and later.** The auditor shall present the audited financial statements including any compliance reports to the government unit's governing body or audit committee in an official meeting in open session as soon as the audited financial statements are available but not later than 45 days after the submission of the audit report to the Secretary. The auditor's presentation to the government unit's governing body or audit committee shall include:

- a) the description of each finding, including all material weaknesses and significant deficiencies, as found by the auditor, and any other issues related to the internal controls or fiscal health of the government unit as disclosed in the management letter, the Single Audit or Yellow Book reports, or any other communications from the auditor regarding internal controls as required by current auditing standards set by the Accounting Standards Board or its successor;
- b) the status of the prior year audit findings;
- c) the values of Financial Performance Indicators based on information presented in the audited financial statements; and
- d) notification to the governing body that the governing body shall develop a "Response to the Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters," if required under 20 NCAC 03 .0508.

29. Information based on the audited financial statements shall be submitted to the Secretary for the purpose of identifying Financial Performance Indicators and Financial Performance Indicators of Concern.

30. Applicable to charter school contracts only: No indebtedness of any kind incurred or created by the charter school shall constitute an indebtedness of the State or its political subdivisions, and no indebtedness of the charter school shall involve or be secured by the faith, credit, or taxing power of the State or its political subdivisions.

31. All of the above paragraphs are understood and shall apply to this contract, except the following numbered paragraphs shall be deleted (See Item 16 for clarification).

32. The process for submitting contracts, audit reports and invoices is subject to change. Auditors and units should use the submission process and instructions in effect at the time of submission. Refer to the N.C. Department of State Treasurer website at <https://www.nctreasurer.com/state-and-local-government-finance-division/local-government-commission/submitting-your-audit>

33. All communications regarding audit contract requests for modification or official approvals will be sent to the email addresses provided on the signature pages that follow.

34. Modifications to the language and terms contained in this contract form (LGC-205) are not allowed.



**FEEES FOR AUDIT SERVICES**

1. For all non-attest services, the Auditor shall adhere to the independence rules of the AICPA Professional Code of Conduct (as applicable) and *Governmental Auditing Standards, 2018 Revision*. Refer to Item 27 of this contract for specific requirements. The following information must be provided by the Auditor; contracts presented to the LGC without this information will be not be approved.

Financial statements were prepared by:  Auditor  Governmental Unit  Third Party

If applicable: Individual at Governmental Unit designated to have the suitable skills, knowledge, and/or experience (SKE) necessary to oversee the non-attest services and accept responsibility for the results of these services:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title and Unit / Company:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OR Not Applicable** (Identification of SKE Individual not applicable for GAAS-only audit or audits with FYEs prior to June 30, 2020.)

2. Fees may not be included in this contract for work performed on Annual Financial Information Reports (AFIRs), Form 990s, or other services not associated with audit fees and costs. Such fees may be included in the engagement letter but may not be included in this contract or in any invoices requiring approval of the LGC. See Items 8 and 13 for details on other allowable and excluded fees.

3. Prior to submission of the completed audited financial report, applicable compliance reports and amended contract (if required) the Auditor may submit invoices for approval for services rendered, not to exceed 75% of the billings for the last annual audit of the unit submitted to the Secretary of the LGC. Should the 75% cap provided below conflict with the cap calculated by LGC Staff based on the billings on file with the LGC, the LGC calculation prevails. All invoices for services rendered in an audit engagement as defined in 20 NCAC .0503 shall be submitted to the Commission for approval before any payment is made. Payment before approval is a violation of law. (This paragraph not applicable to contracts and invoices associated with audits of hospitals).

**PRIMARY GOVERNMENT FEES**

Primary Government Unit	
Audit Fee	\$
<b>Additional Fees Not Included in Audit Fee:</b>	
Fee per Major Program	\$
Writing Financial Statements	\$
All Other Non-Attest Services	\$
<b>75% Cap for Interim Invoice Approval</b> <i>(not applicable to hospital contracts)</i>	\$

**DPCU FEES (if applicable)**

Discretely Presented Component Unit	
Audit Fee	\$
<b>Additional Fees Not Included in Audit Fee:</b>	
Fee per Major Program	\$
Writing Financial Statements	\$
All Other Non-Attest Services	\$
<b>75% Cap for Interim Invoice Approval</b> <i>(not applicable to hospital contracts)</i>	\$

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**AUDIT FIRM**

Audit Firm*	
Authorized Firm Representative (typed or printed)*	Signature* 
Date*	Email Address*

**GOVERNMENTAL UNIT**

Governmental Unit*	
Date Primary Government Unit Governing Board Approved Audit Contract* <small>(G.S. 159-34(a) or G.S. 115C-447(a))</small>	
Mayor/Chairperson (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date	Email Address

Chair of Audit Committee (typed or printed, or "NA")	Signature
Date	Email Address

**GOVERNMENTAL UNIT – PRE-AUDIT CERTIFICATE**

Required by G.S. 159-28(a1) or G.S. 115C-441(a1).  
Not applicable to hospital contracts.

*This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act or by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.*

Primary Governmental Unit Finance Officer* <small>(typed or printed)</small>	Signature*
Date of Pre-Audit Certificate*	Email Address*

**SIGNATURE PAGE – DPCU  
(complete only if applicable)**

**DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNIT**

DPCU*	
Date DPCU Governing Board Approved Audit Contract* (Ref: G.S. 159-34(a) or G.S. 115C-447(a))	
DPCU Chairperson (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date*	Email Address*

Chair of Audit Committee (typed or printed, or "NA")	Signature
Date	Email Address

**DPCU – PRE-AUDIT CERTIFICATE**

Required by G.S. 159-28(a1) or G.S. 115C-441(a1).  
Not applicable to hospital contracts.

*This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act or by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.*

DPCU Finance Officer (typed or printed)*	Signature*
Date of Pre-Audit Certificate*	Email Address*

Remember to print this form, and obtain all required signatures prior to submission.