



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Sonja Hallum, Government Relations Officer, Government Relations Office
COPY: City Council, City Clerk, Bill Fosbre, Finance/Purchasing
SUBJECT: State Lobbying Services
DATE: January 3, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

The Government Relations Office requests approval to amend the state lobbying contract with Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, by \$187,800, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the General Government Internal Services Fund (5800), for the provision of state lobbying services. This increase will add the amount of \$93,900 for the year 2023 and \$93,900 for the year 2024 for a total of \$187,800 added to the original contract entered into in 2019, bringing the contract to a cumulative total of \$563,400, plus applicable taxes.

This amendment is needed to provide necessary assistance to the City during the 2023 and 2024 legislative session.

BACKGROUND:

The City entered into a contract with Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell in 2019 for the provision of services from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$187,800 for the two years of services. The services provided by Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell include assisting the City with securing positive outcomes for the City's annual Legislative Priorities, to represent the City's adopted positions on key legislative and administrative issues, meeting with key legislators and attending hearings on issues of importance to the City, assisting with inquiries from legislators and presentations during committee hearings, assisting with identifying opportunities for City Council members and staff to appear in Olympia related to issues of importance, providing weekly reports of activities on the City legislative priorities during session and other relevant times in the year, and coordinating with the Tacoma Public Utilities.

The 2019 contract was amended effective January 1, 2021 to extend the contract from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2022 and adding the additional sum of \$187,800 which brought the cumulative total of the 2019 contract with Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell to \$375,600.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

As directed by Resolution 40622 as enacted by the City Council, the 2023 State and Federal Legislative Agendas were developed using the theme of anti-racist systems transformation. There are numerous priorities contained in the agendas to achieve a greater level of equity in our community, from better transportation and transit access to police reform, and requests for aid to help the most vulnerable in our community, such as utility assistance. The contract lobbyist is critical to assisting the City to achieve the goals identified in the legislative agendas.



Economy/Workforce:

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Livability:

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The amendment to the contract will ensure the City has assistance from Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell during the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions to support the Government Relations Office to advocate for the issues of importance to the City as indicated in the City legislative agenda.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Not adopt the amendment to continue the contract.		The City will lack the necessary resources to adequately advocate for the many legislative priorities of the City with the Washington State Legislature.
2.		
3.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Performance on state and federal advocacy is evaluated based on the progress in achieving the goals stated on the State and Federal Legislative Agendas. This includes meaningful progress or passage of policy bills, modification of rules needed to help the City achieve its objectives, and funding requests fulfilled.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Government Relations Team recommends the City Council Adopt the amendment to the contract with Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell to ensure the City has the necessary assistance to advocate for the city priorities during 2023 and 2024. It is recommended the Council adopt the amendment to continue the contract which will expire on December 31, 2022.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.5800- CMO	598203	5310100	\$187,800
2.			
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium’s current budget?

YES

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?

NO

Please enter Explanation.

ATTACHMENTS:

- The 2019 contract with Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell
- The 2021 amendment to extend the 2019 contract through 2022