



RESOLUTION 230613-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEONARD, TEXAS, APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEONARD, TEXAS, AND LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The City of Leonard (the "City") is a General Type A municipality located in Fannin County, Texas; and is governed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is authorized to enter into contracts for professional services as necessary to complete the work of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary for the operation of the City to renew the professional services agreement with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code and Chapter 6 of the Texas Property Tax Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEONARD, TEXAS:

Section 1. The City of Leonard is authorized to enter a professional services contract, exhibit B to this Resolution, with the Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, for the collection of delinquent property taxes.

Section 2. The City Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective after the City Council's adoption.

ADOPTED this 13th day of June 2023.

ATTEST:


Melissa Verde, City Secretary

SIGNED:

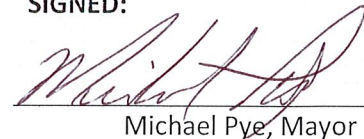

Michael Pye, Mayor

EXHIBIT B

Agreement for Tax Collection Services

This Agreement is made between Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP (hereinafter referred to as the "Firm") and the City of Leonard (hereinafter referred to as the "Client").

Article I *Nature of Relationship*

1.01 The parties hereto acknowledge that this Agreement creates an attorney-client relationship.

1.02 The Client hereby employs the Firm to provide the services hereinafter described for compensation hereinafter provided.

Article 2 *Scope of Services*

2.01 The Firm shall take reasonable and necessary actions to collect property taxes that are owed to the Client and to any other taxing unit whose taxes are assessed and collected by the Client, and that are subject to this agreement, as hereinafter provided.

2.02 The Client may from time-to-time specify in writing additional actions to be taken by the Firm in connection with the collection of taxes that are owed to the Client. Client further constitutes and appoints the Firm as Client's attorneys to sign all legal instruments, pleadings, drafts, authorizations and papers as shall be reasonably necessary to prosecute the Client's claim for taxes.

2.03 Taxes owed to the Client shall become subject to this agreement upon the following dates, whichever occurs first:

(a) On February 1 of the year in which the taxes become delinquent if a previously filed tax suit is then pending against the property subject to the tax;

(b) On the date any lawsuit is filed with respect to the recovery of the tax if the tax is delinquent and is required to be included in the suit pursuant to TEX. TAX CODE § 33.42(a);

(c) On the date of filing any application for tax warrant where recovery of the tax or estimated tax is sought and where the filing of an application for tax warrant by the Firm is at the request of Client's Tax Assessor-Collector;

(d) On the date of filing any claim in bankruptcy where recovery of the tax is sought; or

(e) In the case of tangible personal property, on the 60th day after the February 1 delinquency date;
or

(f) On July 1 of the year in which the taxes become delinquent.

Article 3 *Compensation*

3.01 Client agrees to pay to the Firm, as compensation for the services required herein, as follows:

(a) fifteen (15%) percent of the amount of all 2002 and prior year taxes, penalty and interest subject to the terms of this contract as set forth in Paragraph 2.03 above, collected and paid to the collector of taxes during the term of this contract, as and when collected; and

(b) twenty (20%) percent of the amount of all 2003 and subsequent year taxes, penalty and interest subject to the terms of this contract as set forth in Paragraph 2.03 above, collected and paid to the collector of taxes during the term of this contract, as and when collected.

3.02 The Client shall pay the Firm by the twentieth day of each month, all compensation earned by the Firm for the previous month as provided in this Article 3. All compensation above provided for shall become the property of the Firm at the time payment of the taxes, penalty and interest is made to the collector.

Article 4 *Intellectual Property Rights*

4.01 The Client recognizes and acknowledges that the Firm owns all right, title and interest in certain proprietary software that the Firm may utilize in conjunction with performing the services provided in this Agreement. The Client agrees and hereby grants to the Firm the right to use and incorporate any information provided by the Client ("Client Information") to update the databases in this proprietary software, and, notwithstanding that Client Information has been or shall be used to update the databases in this proprietary software, further stipulates and agrees that the Client shall have no rights or ownership whatsoever in and to the software or the data contained therein, except that the Client shall be entitled to obtain a copy of such data that directly relates to the Client's accounts at any time.

4.02 The Firm agrees that it will not share or disclose any specific confidential Client Information with any other company, individual, organization or agency, without the prior written consent of the Client, except as may be required by law or where such information is otherwise publicly available. It is agreed that the Firm shall have the right to use Client Information for internal analysis, purposes of improving the proprietary software and database, and to generate aggregate data and statistics that may inherently contain Client Information. These aggregate statistics are owned solely by the Firm and will generally be used internally, but may be shared with the Firm's affiliates, partners or other third parties for purposes of improving the Firm's software and services.

Article 5 *Costs*

5.01 The Firm and Client recognize that publication costs for citations and notices of sale and title abstract costs will be incurred in the process of providing the litigation services contemplated in this Agreement. All such costs shall be billed to the Client, in care of the Firm, and the Firm will advance the payment of such costs on behalf of the Client. Upon recovery of such costs from the defendants or from the tax sale of defendants' property, the Firm shall be reimbursed for the advance payment. Alternatively, the Firm may arrange with the vendor or agency providing the service that actual payment of the costs of services is wholly contingent upon recovery of such costs by the Client or the Firm from the defendants or from the tax sale of defendants' property. In such contingent arrangements, the Client has no responsibility or liability for payment or advancement of any costs, other than forwarding to the vendor or service provider any cost amounts received from defendants or from the tax sale of defendants' property.

5.02 The Client acknowledges that the Firm may provide services, such as title research, with its own employees or with other entities or individuals who may be affiliated with the Firm, but the Firm agrees that any charges for such services will be reasonable and consistent with what the same services would cost if obtained from a third party. The Client agrees that upon the recovery of such costs, the Client will: (i) pay the Firm for any such costs which have been advanced by the Firm or performed by the Firm, and (ii) pay any third party agency or vendor owed for performing such services.

Article 6 *Term and Termination*

6.01 This Agreement shall be effective on July 1, 2023 (The "Effective Date") and shall expire on June 30, 2028 (the "Expiration Date") unless extended as hereinafter provided.

6.02 Unless prior to 60 days before the Expiration Date, the Client or the Firm notifies the other in writing that it does not wish to continue this Agreement beyond its initial term, this Agreement shall be automatically extended for an additional one year period without the necessity of any further action by either party. In the absence of any such 60 day notice by either the Client or the Firm, the Agreement shall continue

to automatically renew for additional and successive one-year terms in the same manner at the end of each renewal period.

6.03 If at any time during the initial term of this Agreement or any extension hereof, the Client determines that the Firm's performance under this Agreement is unsatisfactory, the Client shall notify the Firm in writing of the Client's determination. The notice from the Client shall specify the particular deficiencies that the Client has observed in the Firm's performance. The Firm shall have sixty (60) days from the date of the notice to cure any such deficiencies. If at the conclusion of that sixty-day remedial period, the Client remains unsatisfied with the Firm's performance, the Client may terminate this Agreement effective upon the expiration of thirty days following the date of written notice to the Firm of such termination ("Termination Date").

6.04 Whether this Agreement expires or is terminated, the Firm shall be entitled to continue to prosecute any tax suits, applications for tax warrants or bankruptcy claims pending on the Termination Date or Expiration Date for an additional six months following termination or expiration. The Client agrees that the Firm shall be compensated as provided by Article 3 for any base tax, penalties and interest collected in the pending matters during the six-month period.

6.05 The Client agrees that the Firm shall be reimbursed for any costs advanced and shall be paid for any services performed pursuant to Article 5 when such costs are recovered by or on behalf of the Client, regardless of the date recovered. It is expressly agreed that neither the expiration nor the termination of this Agreement constitutes a waiver by the Firm of its entitlement to be reimbursed for such costs and to be paid for such services. It is further expressly agreed that the expiration of any six-month period under Section 6.04 does not constitute any such waiver by the Firm.

Article 7 *Miscellaneous*

7.01 Assignment and Subcontracting. This Agreement is not assignable, provided however, the Firm may from time-to-time obtain co-counsel or subcontract some of the services provided for herein to other law firms or entities. In such cases, the Firm will retain supervisory control and responsibility for any services provided by such co-counsel or subcontractors and shall be responsible to pay any compensation due to any such co-counsel or subcontractor.

7.02 Arbitration. Any controversy between the parties to this Agreement involving the construction or application of any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this Agreement shall, on the written request of one party served on the other, be submitted to arbitration, and such arbitration shall comply with and be governed by the provisions of the Texas General Arbitration Act.

7.03 Integration. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto and may only be modified in a written amendment, executed by both parties.

7.04 Representation of Other Taxing Entities. The Client acknowledges and consents to the representation by the Firm of other taxing entities that may be owed taxes or other claims and be secured by the same property as the Client's claim.

7.05 Retention of Files. The Firm will retain the files created in the course of performing the Services specified in Article 2 above according to the following schedule. After the time periods specified in this Section, Client consents to the destruction of such files, so long as such destruction is undertaken in a manner to protect the confidentiality of any personal or private information contained therein.

Tax Warrant files: Five years from the date of issuance of a warrant.

Litigation files: Two years from the date of nonsuit or dismissal of a suit occurring prior to a final judgment.

Five years from the date of sale of the last property pursuant to the judgment or other satisfaction of the judgment.

Ten years from the date of filing of an abstract of judgment, or five years from the date of satisfaction of the judgment, whichever is earlier.

Bankruptcy Files: Two years from the date of dismissal of a bankruptcy proceeding or other order closing the case, or from satisfaction of a claim, whichever is earlier, with respect to Chapter 7 and 13 proceedings.

Three years from the date of dismissal of a bankruptcy proceeding or other order closing the case, or from satisfaction of a claim, whichever is earlier, with respect to Chapter 11 proceedings.

7.06. Compliance with Tx. Govt. Code §2271.002. In order to comply with Tx. Govt. Code §2271.002, the Firm verifies that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract.

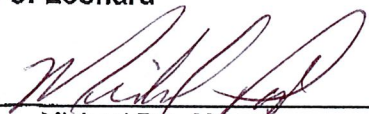
7.07 Compliance with Tx. Govt. Code §2252.151- .154. In order to comply with Tx. Govt. Code §2252.152, the Firm verifies that it is not a company identified on the Texas Comptroller's list of companies known to have contracts with, or provide supplies or services to, a foreign organization designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. Secretary of State under federal law.

7.08 Compliance with Tx. Govt. Code §2274.001 - .002. In order to comply with Tx. Govt. Code §2274.002, the Firm verifies that it does not boycott energy companies and will not boycott energy companies during the term of the contract.

7.09 Compliance with Tx. Govt. Code §2274.001 - .002. In order to comply with Tx. Govt. Code §2274.002, the Firm verifies that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association; and, will not discriminate during the term of the contract against a firearm entity or firearm trade association.

In consideration of the terms and compensation herein stated, the Firm hereby accepts said employment and undertakes the performance of this Agreement as above written. This Agreement is executed on behalf of the Firm and of the Client by the duly authorized persons whose signatures appear below.

City of Leonard

By: 
Michael Pye, Mayor

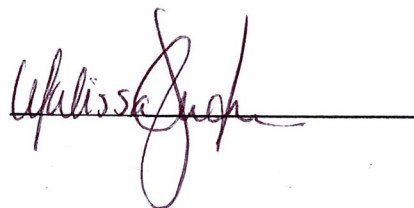
Date: 10/13/23

**Linebarger Goggan Blair
& Sampson, LLP**

By: _____
Wade Gent, Partner For the Firm

Date: _____

ATTEST:



ACTION APPROVING CONTRACT
WITH LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

After having provided adequate notice as required by Sec. 2254.1036 of the Texas Government Code, the Agreement for Delinquent Tax Collection Services with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP is approved and the Mayor is authorized to execute this Agreement.

After exercising its due diligence, the City finds that:

1. There is a substantial need for the legal services to be provided pursuant to the Agreement for Delinquent Tax Collection Services;
2. These legal services cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the City at a reasonable cost;
3. These legal services cannot reasonably be obtained from attorneys in private practice under a contract providing only for the payment of hourly fees, without regard to the outcome of the matter, because of the nature of delinquent tax penalties provided by Texas Tax Code Sections 6.30, 33.07, 33.08, 33.11, and 33.48 and because the City does not have the funds to pay the estimated amounts required under a contract only for the payment of hourly fees;
4. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, is well qualified and competent to perform the legal services required to comply with the terms of this contract;
5. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP has provided these specialized legal services to the City in the past and the City has been well satisfied with the quality and outcome of the legal services provided.
6. The contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP is the result of an arm's length transaction between the City and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP and is fair and reasonable.

RESOLUTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FANNIN §

WHEREAS, the City of Leonard wishes to defray its costs of collection, as authorized by TEX. TAX CODE § 33.11, that it incurs under a contract for collection of delinquent property taxes between said City and a private law firm entered into pursuant to TEX. TAX CODE § 6.30;

WHEREAS, under said Section 33.11, the governing body of the City of Leonard is empowered to authorize the addition of a collection penalty in an amount that does not exceed the amount of the compensation specified in the contract with the private law firm;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LEONARD, SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF SAID CITY, THAT:

Section 1: THE RECITALS SET FORTH IN THIS RESOLUTION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Section 2: AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY ON DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR TAX YEARS 2023 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND IMPOSED, AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 33.11, TEXAS TAX CODE, IN THE AMOUNT OF 20% OF THE DELINQUENT TAX, PENALTY AND INTEREST IF THE TAX BECOMES DELINQUENT ON FEBRUARY 1 OF A YEAR AND REMAINS DELINQUENT ON THE 60TH DAY THEREAFTER.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

City of Leonard

BY: Michael Pye, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Secretary

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Leonard City Council will be held on _____ at _____ for the purpose of considering and taking action on all matters on the agenda for the meeting, including approval of an agreement with the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect delinquent property taxes and authorizing the execution of such agreement.

The agreement to be considered is necessary for the delinquent taxes owed to the City of Leonard to be collected in the most effective manner. The City desires that such delinquent tax, penalties and interest be collected as provided in the Texas Tax Code.

The Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP firm is fully qualified to provide this representation, being the largest delinquent tax collection law firm in the State of Texas, as well as the United States and having been engaged in this specialized legal service for more than 40 years. In addition, the Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP firm possesses infrastructure and technology, such as call center technology, that the City does not currently possess.

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP has represented the City for the past 31 years with competence and professionalism, in the collection of delinquent property taxes, beginning on February 1, 1992.

The specialized legal services required by this agreement cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the City due to the high cost of implementing the appropriate infrastructure and technology and employing sufficient in-house attorneys and staff with the level of experience and competence necessary to perform these activities.

Linebarger will be compensated on a contingent fee basis as provided in the Texas Tax Code Sections 6.30, 33.07, 33.08, 33.11, and 33.48. These Texas Tax Code sections specifically provide for an additional penalty on delinquent taxes to compensate collection attorneys. A contract to pay inside or outside attorneys on an hourly basis would represent an additional cost to the City.

Entering into the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the residents of the City because the delinquent taxes will be professionally and competently collected without the additional costs to the City of implementing infrastructure and technology, and employing in-house personnel or paying outside counsel on an hourly fee basis which would otherwise be required.