



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1550, **Agenda Item #:** 26.

4/7/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with McGinnis Lochridge LLP d/b/a McGinnis Lochridge to provide hearing examiner services, in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9B, Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to Liz Lock, at 512-322-6251 or Liz.Lock@austintexas.gov or [<mailto:Liz.Lock@austintexas.gov>](mailto:Liz.Lock@austintexas.gov).

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

March 21, 2022 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Bowen, Cardenas, Chapman, and Funkhauser absent.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide Austin Energy with an impartial hearing examiner (IHE) to assist with a retail base rate review process and make recommendations to assist Council in adopting new base rates. In 2012, Council adopted Ordinance No. 20120607-055, which allows the City to hire an IHE, whose primary responsibility is to preside over a base rate review process and any related hearings and conferences, and to make recommendations to Council. The IHE will preside over a public process addressing the cost of service and tariff the package proposed by Austin Energy to establish fair, just, and reasonable electric base rates.

Staff vetted a short list of contractors for their expertise in this specialized field of study to determine the best value to the City.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.