

Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: January 18, 2011
Date Submitted: January 5, 2011
To: Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Board
From: Johnny Williams, County Administrator
Arthur Lawson, Sr., Assistant County Administrator
Subject: Renewal of Contract for State Lobbying Services

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item seeks Board approval to renew the contract with Christian B. Doolin and Associates to provide State Lobbying Services for the 2010/11 fiscal year. Staff also seeks authorization for the Chairperson to execute a contract.

Background:

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners retained the firm of Christian B. Doolin and Associates for the past five years to assist in developing and implementing a state legislative effort to enhance state-level funding and services to Gadsden County. The previous contract for State Lobbying Services expired on 9/30/2010.

Mr. Doolin and his staff provided consulting services and assisted the County in the development of its annual legislative agenda for the Florida Legislative Session and advised the County on strategies to accomplish the annual legislative agenda.

Analysis:

During the fiscal year 2009/2010, staff rebid for State Lobbying Services. Staff recommended and the Board approved the bid award to Christian B. Doolin & Associates.

The legislative consulting team of Christian Doolin, Sarah Bleakley, and Bob Jones has worked with the Board of County Commissioners and County Administration in previous years in developing a legislative program that identifies the priority needs of the Gadsden County Commission and coordinated with the six municipalities and local interests. This legislative effort has resulted in multiple benefits including direct funding in 2006, 2007 2008 and 2009.

At the request of the Board, staff is recommending approval to renew the contract with the above mentioned firm for an additional year.

Fiscal Impact:

The fees allocated in the FY 2010/11 budget are \$25,000.

Options:

1. Approve renewal of a contract with Christian B. Doolin and Associates for an additional year and authorize the chairperson to execute the contract.
2. Do not approve renewal of a contract with Christian B. Doolin and Associates.
3. Board Direction.

County Administrator's Recommendation:

Option 1

Attachment:

1. Lobbying Services Contract