



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2015

CM/ACM JS
Finance LC
Legal KM
Risk Mgt. DE
HR NA

DATE: April 6, 2015

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Russ Pedersen, Chief Deputy WCSO
Telephone: (775) 328-3004, Email: rpedersen@washoecounty.us

THROUGH Chuck Allen, Sheriff

SUBJECT: Approve the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and Suppression Personnel and Equipment between the County of Washoe on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District [\$65,000 and \$10,000 respectively], to commence April 28, 2015 through June 30, 2016, for the provision, when requested of a helicopter or other aircraft and personnel and approve reimbursement for services rendered throughout the year by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be paid in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Regional Aviation Unit (RAVEN), and if approved, authorize the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

Approval of the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and Suppression Personnel and Equipment between the County of Washoe on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) [\$65,000 and \$10,000 respectively] for the provision, when requested of a helicopter or other aircraft and personnel and approve reimbursement for services rendered throughout the year by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be paid in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Regional Aviation Unit (RAVEN), and if approved, authorize the Finance Division to make the necessary budget adjustments.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Board of County Commissioners and the Board Fire Commissioners approved the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and suppression Personnel and Equipment on June 17, 2014. This Agreement expires on June 30, 2015; this is a renewal of the Agreement.

The Board of Fire Commissioners approved the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and suppression Personnel and Equipment on June 11, 2013. The Board of County Commissioners approved the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and suppression Personnel and Equipment on May 28, 2013.

AGENDA ITEM # 514

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the need for an airborne firefighting asset dedicated to the protection of Washoe County citizens and property was identified. Because the WCSO already owned an aircraft, the HH-1H “Huey” which was capable of fulfilling this mission, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and Board of Fire Commissioners appropriated the needed funds to purchase a belly mounted tank. The intent and desired outcome of that purchase was the development of a program in which the Huey could be employed as an initial attack asset on wildland fires within Washoe County and TMFPD. Since that time, RAVEN has participated in combating over 40 wildland fires. It has supported firefighting efforts for local as well as federal agencies, ensuring the safety, well-being and quality of life for all resident of the District. The acceptance of this Agreement continues this partnership with our local fire districts ensuring they have a dedicated initial attach asset available to them for fire season.

FISCAL IMPACT

The money received with this Interlocal Agreement will be used for the operation of the RAVEN program and reimburse the Sheriff’s Office for the costs incurred supporting these Fire Districts. The FY 14/15 budget includes and the 15/16 base/recommended budget includes this Interlocal Agreement under RAVEN cost Center 150720, GL Account 460162.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and Suppression Personnel and Equipment between the County of Washoe on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District [\$65,000 and \$10,000 respectively], to commence April 28, 2015 through June 30, 2016, for the provision, when requested of a helicopter or other aircraft and personnel and approve reimbursement for services rendered throughout the year by the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office to be paid in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Regional Aviation Unit (RAVEN), and if approved, authorize the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation a possible motion would be:
Move to approve the Interlocal Agreement – RAVEN Fire Training, Monitoring and Suppression Personnel and Equipment between the County of Washoe on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District [\$65,000 and \$10,000 respectively], to commence April 28, 2015 through June 30, 2016, for the provision, when requested of a helicopter or other aircraft and personnel and approve reimbursement for services rendered throughout the year by the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office to be paid in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Regional Aviation Unit (RAVEN), and if approved, authorize the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - RAVEN FIRE TRAINING, MONITORING
AND SUPPRESSION PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT**

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”, is made and entered by and between the County of Washoe, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada, on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, 911 Parr Boulevard, Reno, NV 89512, hereinafter the “WCSO”, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, 1001 E. 9th St., Reno, NV 89520, hereinafter “TMFPD”, and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, 866 Oriole Way, Incline Village, NV 89451, hereinafter the “NLTFPD”. TMFPD, and NLTFPD, may be collectively referred to as the “Fire Districts.” The parties to this agreement also may be referred to as “participating agency” or “participating agencies.”

WHEREAS, each of the parties are public agencies and political subdivisions of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, NRS 277.180(1) provides that any one or more public agencies may contract with any one or more other public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity or undertaking which any of the contracting agencies is authorized by law to perform; and

WHEREAS, the WCSO owns and operates an HH1-H helicopter on which a water tank for fire suppression can be affixed, as well as two OH-58 helicopters which aircraft are suitable for use for aerial observation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Districts are responsible for wildland fire monitoring and suppression within their respective areas of unincorporated Washoe County; and

WHEREAS, aerial fire monitoring and suppression instituted by the Fire Districts can be done more cost-effectively using the aerial resources of the WCSO; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire that the WCSO respond for the purposes of aerial wildland fire monitoring and suppression for the Fire Districts, which response shall include such mutual training exercises as the parties to this Agreement shall agree are necessary to provide the level of service and margin of safety appropriate for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Districts’ respective lands all pose fire dangers at times and, therefore, the Fire Districts agree to participate in portions of the administration and costs of the duties and obligations to the WCSO as set forth in this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing premises and the following covenants, terms and conditions, the parties hereto do hereby agree as follows:

1. **TERM**: This Agreement shall commence upon acceptance by all parties and shall terminate on June 30, 2016.
2. **TERMINATION**: Any party may terminate this Agreement without cause, solely as to its duty and obligation hereunder, upon 90 days written notice to all other parties. Any party may terminate this Agreement for cause, solely as to its duty and obligation hereunder, after 30 days

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written notice to the defaulting party (ies) only if the defaulting party (ies) fails to cure the default within those 30 days. The notice shall specify the cause alleged as the basis for said termination. In the event any party terminates this Agreement for cause, the Agreement shall remain in force and effect with other parties who have not taken action to terminate.

3. AGREEMENT AS TO PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT AND OPERATING PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES:

A. Aircraft and Equipment:

1. The WCSO shall provide, when requested, the FIRE DISTRICTS a helicopter, and possibly other aircraft, if made available by WCSO, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "helicopter") for the use of FIRE DISTRICTS for monitoring and fire suppression purposes during fire season. For purposes of this Agreement, "fire season" shall be defined as commencing as of April 1 and ending as of October 31 during the applicable calendar year. Except as specifically otherwise provided in this Agreement, the duties and obligations of FIRE DISTRICTS and WCSO in regard to said Aircraft and Equipment only apply during the fire season as so defined. WCSO as owner of helicopter and shall maintain the helicopter to standards applicable to the allowed uses established by this Agreement, including standards referenced herein, and assure its availability to the Fire Districts during the Fire Season.
2. The helicopter provided shall be configured as follows:
 - a. A Type 2 helicopter, which aircraft shall be configured to meet ICS 420-1 minimum standards for a Type 2 helicopter, including but not limited to:
 - 10 seats, including pilot;
 - 2,500 pound card weight capacity; and
 - 300 gallons of water capacity.
 - b. Include a fixed water tank capable of two (2) drops per sortie and equipped with a self-filling snorkel device.
3. The helicopter and any other aircraft provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be equipped, maintained and operated under all applicable Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) regulations.
4. The helicopter provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be operated, maintained and secured within the guidelines of the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program and its sponsors, the United States Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the "USFS" and the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as the "BLM."
5. The WCSO shall provide pilots for any helicopter and all other aircraft provided pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and shall be responsibly to assure that such pilots have proper training and adequate supervision to accomplish the allowed uses established by this Agreement.

6. All pilots provided by the WCSO shall have current commercial licenses. For firefighting missions that involve federal lands, the pilots shall also have current permits and approvals (carding) from USFS and BLM for firefighting missions.

7. The WCSO shall notify FIRE DISTRICTS of the schedule for inspections of any of the helicopter, including other aircraft made available, as provided by the WCSO to the FIRE DISTRICTS during the term of this Agreement and allow each FIRE DISTRICTS representative to attend the card review procedures. This inspection is for informational purposes and does not impose any form of duty or liability on Fire Districts to ascertain fitness for purpose or to confirm adequate maintenance has been performed.

8. The WCSO shall also supply necessary supporting equipment for the helicopter, including but not limited to, an approved fuel-servicing vehicle sufficient to sustain eight (8) hours of helicopter flight under firefighting conditions. The fuel-servicing vehicle shall be inspected by the FIRE DISTRICTS and WCSO shall comply with all fire, vehicle and other applicable codes related thereto. This inspection is for informational purposes and does not impose any form of duty or liability on Fire Districts to ascertain fitness for purpose or to confirm adequate maintenance has been performed.

9. Any helicopter supplied pursuant to this Agreement shall be operated in accordance with the "Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide" (IHOG).

10. The FIRE DISTRICT that requests use of Helicopter shall provide a helicopter manager, either a FIRE DISTRICTS employee or through a cooperative agreement with another agency, anytime a helicopter is requested from the WCSO under the terms of this Agreement. If the requesting FIRE DISTRICT is unable to provide a helicopter manager, the WCSO shall provide one. The cost for the helicopter Manager, if provided by WCSO, shall be borne by FIRE DISTRICT.

B. Operations

1. The FIRE DISTRICTS shall appoint a designated helicopter manager for all operations for which a helicopter is requested pursuant to this Agreement. If no FIRE DISTRICT helicopter manager is available for response, the WCSO shall provide the helicopter manager. The helicopter manager shall be responsible for the administrative and tactical functions of the aircraft. Although the FIRE DISTRICTS may select a helicopter manager based on its own selection criteria, the FIRE DISTRICTS will consult with the WCSO regarding the Selection.

2. The helicopters subject to this Agreement will be based at the Reno-Stead Airport. The FIRE DISTRICTS may, at its, option designate alternate bases for temporary operation. The FIRE DISTRICTS shall be responsible for the cost of flight time to and from the alternate base so designated.

3. The FIRE DISTRICTS may have interagency and cooperative-agreements with other local, state and federal agencies and may dispatch the helicopter to supply automatic

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - RAVEN FIRE TRAINING, MONITORING
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and mutual aid pursuant to contracts with those agencies. The WCSO consents to the use by the FIRE DISTRICTS of the WCSO personnel and equipment designated in this Agreement pursuant to those agreements for wildland fire monitoring and suppression activities within the County of Washoe. Operations for such purposes outside of Washoe County may not be undertaken without the prior approval by the WCSO Assistant Sheriff of Operations - or a higher member of the WCSO Command Staff – which approval or denial shall be at the sole discretion of the WCSO. In any event such operations shall not exceed twenty (20) nautical miles beyond the Washoe County boundary lines.

4. In the event that a WCSO helicopter is not available for a response to a FIRE DISTRICTS' request for a fire monitoring or suppression mission due to being utilized by a another agency for fire monitoring or suppression, it will be the responsibility of the FIRE DISTRICTS and the Incident Commander of the fire in which the helicopter is already working, to determine which fire should receive priority for air support.

5. Further operational and related details concerning the parties' performance under this Agreement in regard to said Aircraft and Equipment are set forth in the parties' Aviation Fire Suppression Program Operational Plan 2010 ("Operating Plan") executed contemporaneously herewith. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall govern and resolve any conflicts between the Operating Plan and this Agreement.

C. Availability As follows:

1. During the Fire Season and during the duration of this Agreement the helicopter shall be available:

- a. Immediate Response: The helicopter shall be available for immediate response during designated "Red Flag" days. "Red Flag" days shall be defined as those days that the National Weather Service has issued a "Red Flag" warning for any area under the FIRE DISTRICTS' responsibility. For the purposes of this Agreement, the phrase "immediate response" shall mean the helicopter is in flight within fifteen (15) minutes of receipt of the contact by the WCSO from the FIRE DISTRICTS requesting such equipment's dispatch.
- b. Standby Time: The helicopter will be available four (4) days per week, ten (10) hours per day. The duty hours will be coordinated with the FIRE DISTRICTS to maximize coverage for the critical burn hours. Sunset will be taken into consideration for operational hours as the WCSO will not be qualified to fight fires at night during the period of this Agreement. The "designated days" of the week will be at the discretion of the WCSO. The response time shall be no more than thirty (30) minutes from notification of the WCSO by the FIRE DISTRICTS requesting such dispatch. For "Red Flag" days that fall outside of a designated four (4) day work week, the WCSO shall staff the helicopter for immediate response if requested and for an additional cost as hereinafter set forth.

- c. The helicopter may be made available each day for recall for hours that fall outside of the WCSO's designated work week hours. This recall status will be available for an additional cost. For the purposes of this Agreement, "recall" shall mean the pilot is being recalled from an off-duty status and will respond to the hanger. The helicopter will be staffed and in flight within one (1) hour of notification of the designated recall pilot.
- d. Time Schedules: The FIRE DISTRICTS and the WCSO, in cooperation with the other involved fire departments and districts will meet and mutually agree on duty hours prior to the start of the fire season.

2. The WCSO shall provide immediate notification to the FIRE DISTRICTS' Chief of Operations of any inability of the WCSO to provide the designated personnel and equipment pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

3. The WCSO shall provide all necessary support for continuous, uninterrupted operation of the helicopter whenever required pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. This support shall include, but not be limited to, a staffed fuel truck and other services as required.

4. The WCSO may, at its sole discretion, when so requested by the FIRE DISTRICTS, make an additional helicopter (OH-58) available to the FIRE DISTRICTS for aerial observation. Such additional aircraft is subject to the immediate direction of the WCSO. The FIRE DISTRICTS may, at their discretion, request such additional aircraft on a call-when-needed basis when the FIRE DISTRICTS' incident commanders request additional firefighting resources. The FIRE DISTRICTS shall reimburse the WCSO for such call-when-needed aircraft in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. A qualified helicopter manager will be assigned to call-when-needed aircraft when available, but shall not delay a response.

5. When the FIRE DISTRICTS request the availability of an observation helicopter and it is made available by the WCSO, the FIRE DISTRICTS acknowledges that such OH-58 helicopters operated by the WCSO are not and will not be "carded" by the USFS or the BLM and therefore its costs do not qualify for reimbursement by FEMA.

6. Except as provided in Section 3 of this Agreement, in the event that other agencies request the use of the WCSO'S aircraft, the use of those aircraft shall be governed by the terms of use established by the WCSO with those agencies.

D. Training

1. All pilots assigned to aircraft under this Agreement shall be trained in the policies, frequency plans and special safety issues of the FIRE DISTRICTS and Federal firefighting aviation assets. This knowledge may, in the alternative, be gained by attending NDF/USFS/BLM Aviation safety meetings, pre-season inter-agency operations meetings and other such opportunities. The FIRE DISTRICTS shall make

such opportunities available to the WCSO's pilots at no charge, cost or fees for such attendance and participation.

2. WCSO shall train the helicopter manager in the duties and responsibilities of the crew chief at no additional charge, cost or fee for such training other than assessment of the charges and fees designated for use of the WCSO personnel and equipment for such training and operational usage by the FIRE DISTRICTS of such personnel and equipment.

3. The WCSO'S Aviation Unit manager or his designee and all pilots (based upon availability) assigned to aircraft under this Agreement shall attend a FIRE DISTRICTS' approved pre-season workshop.

4. The WCSO shall make its helicopters reasonably available, at the agreed hourly flight rate, for firefighting coordination training of flying crews and helicopter managers.

E. Communications:

1. A morning report shall be transmitted to the on-duty Battalion Chiefs for the FIRE DISTRICTS as well as the Incline, and Minden Dispatch centers within 30 minutes of commencement of daily operations.

2. This report shall include:

- Status of RAVEN 3 (HH-1H, Huey)
- Response posture, immediate or stand-by
- Pilot name
- Special status changes; i.e., location if not Reno-Stead Airport
- Other available helicopters
- Name of Helicopter Manager

3. The helicopter manager or the pilot shall ensure the following minimum information is obtained before liftoff on a fire mission:'

- Location and name of incident (Latitude and Longitude if available)
- Command radio frequency
- ICS ground contact
- Call-up frequency if different from command frequency
- Air-to-air frequency if other aircraft are operating

4. At the FIRE DISTRICTS' request, the WCSO personnel who participate in a response will attend any FIRE DISTRICTS' meetings to discuss the response to the incident subject to said attendance occurring during such personnel's regular duties days and hours.

F. Funding and Reimbursement:

1. As and for advance funding for the availability during a fire season of designated WCSO equipment and personnel at times constituting the WCSO's designated work week and hours, the FIRE DISTRICTS will provide advance funding to the WCSO as follows:

- a. The TMFPD shall provide to the WCSO \$65,000 within 30 days of acceptance by all parties to this Agreement.
- b. The NLTFPD shall provide to the WCSO \$10,000 within 30 days of acceptance by all parties to this Agreement.

The purpose of the advance funding by each of the FIRE DISTRICTS is to ensure the ability of each district to request a WCSO helicopter for wildland fire monitoring and/or suppression pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The advance funding shall be utilized at the discretion of the WCSO in its sole and absolute discretion.

2. Reimbursement for Flight Time: The FIRE DISTRICTS do not guarantee a maximum or minimum number of flight hours that may be utilized for training and the monitoring and suppression of wildland fires during the term of this Agreement, such usage being subject to the nature and extent of such incident during the term of this Agreement. When the aircraft of the WCSO covered by this Agreement are operating at the request of a FIRE DISTRICT, that FIRE DISTRICT is solely responsible to reimburse the WCSO as follows:

- \$1,190 per flight hour for the HH-1H Huey helicopter. Flight time shall be accrued and reimbursed in tenths of an hour based upon a battery-activated hour meter and shall include fuel.
- \$525 per flight hour for the OH-58 helicopter. Flight time shall be accrued and reimbursed in tenths of an hour based upon a battery-activated hour meter and shall include fuel.

3. Personnel Surcharges: Anytime a WCSO pilot is operating on behalf of a FIRE DISTRICT, or is requested by the FIRE DISTRICTS to be available for an immediate response or to be on standby, outside of the WCSO designated work week hours, the FIRE DISTRICTS shall pay a surcharge.

- a. A request to be available for immediate response shall generate a surcharge of \$100 per hour (\$152 per hour on a holiday) to be paid to the WCSO by the FIRE DISTRICTS. The requesting FIRE DISTRICT shall pay \$100 per hour of this surcharge. The remaining quarter shall be paid by the Washoe County Fire Suppression Budget. Holidays will be defined in accordance with the Washoe County Deputies Association contract with the County.

- b. When WCSO personnel operate aircraft at the request of a FIRE DISTRICT, then that FIRE DISTRICT is solely responsible for the surcharge of \$100 per hour (\$152 per hour on a holiday). Holidays will be defined in accordance with the Washoe County Deputies Association contract with the County.
- c. When any one or more of the FIRE DISTRICTS request the WCSO to guarantee availability of a pilot at times outside of the WCSO's designated work week hours (i.e., "immediate availability" not desired but rather on "standby" with a pager, e.g.), the FIRE DISTRICTS shall pay to the WCSO a surcharge of \$9.25 per hour per person (\$14.00 on a holiday). This surcharge is mandated in accordance with Washoe County Deputies Association contract with the WCSO, specifically ¼ hour pay per hour of "stand-by time." The FIRE DISTRICTS must notify the WCSO Aviation Unit manager 8 hours prior to the desired recall period to determine pilot availability and provide proper prior notice and crew rest to the designated pilot. The FIRE DISTRICTS shall each pay ½ of this surcharge. The remaining quarter is to be paid by the Washoe County Fire Suppression Budget. When said pilot is then requested for immediate availability, or requested to operate aircraft, then this standby status is terminated along with this surcharge and the surcharge rate in paragraph 3.F.3.b immediately above applies.
- d. The FIRE DISTRICTS may request a pilot to respond outside of the WCSO's designated work week hours but without designating a pilot for standby; however the WCSO will not guarantee a response in such event.
- e. If a fuel truck is requested by a FIRE DISTRICT to respond to a fire, the requesting FIRE DISTRICT is solely responsible for and shall pay \$37 per hour (\$55 per hour on a holiday) for the driver. The requesting FIRE DISTRICT shall pay – in addition - \$1.00 per mile from the Reno-Stead Airport to and from any staging area. For any training activities provided to the FIRE DISTRICTS in which the fuel truck is requested, the rates in this paragraph apply and shall be equally shared by the FIRE DISTRICTS participating in the training. These rates include fuel.
- f. If the requesting FIRE DISTRICT is unable to provide a helicopter manager and WCSO provides one, the requesting FIRE DISTRICT shall pay \$37 per hour (\$55 on a holiday) for the helicopter manager.
- g. The WCSO Aviation Unit Manager or his designee shall prepare, during each month during the term of this Agreement when a reimbursement is due, a month-end invoice detailing services rendered and the associated costs in accordance with this Agreement. A copy of any backup documentation will be provided to the FIRE DISTRICTS when requested of the WCSO Finance Liaison Officer.

- h. The FIRE DISTRICTS shall remit to the WCSO full payment within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, which payment shall be by a check made out to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, RAVEN program.

4. **ADMINISTRATION:** The FIRE DISTRICTS' Chiefs and the Washoe County Sheriff shall be responsible for the administration of this Agreement. Each party to this Agreement represents to the other that it has sufficient resources and/or other agreements to perform the covenants, terms and conditions set-forth hereunder. The terms of this Agreement may be modified only by written agreement of the parties hereto.

5. **EMPLOYMENT STATUS:** The WCSO and the FIRE DISTRICTS individually shall, during the entire term of this Agreement, be construed to be independent contractors and nothing in this Agreement is intended nor shall be construed to create an employer-employee relationship between employees of any of the parties hereto. Except as expressly provided in this Agreement, the WCSO shall be responsible for management of and costs associated with the WCSO employees, and the FIRE DISTRICTS shall be responsible for management of and the costs associated with the FIRE DISTRICTS' employees.

6. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT & SEVERABILITY:** This Agreement contains all of the commitments and agreements of the parties. Oral and written commitments not contained herein shall be of no force or effect to alter any term of this Agreement. In the event any one or more of the terms, sentences, paragraphs, or provisions contained herein shall for any reason be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other terms, sentences, paragraphs or provisions, and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

7. **NOTICE.** All notices or other communications required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered personally in hand, by telephonic facsimile with simultaneous regular mail, or mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid on the date posted, and addressed to the other party at the address set forth above.

8. **INSPECTION & AUDIT.**

A. Books and Records.

Each party agrees to keep and maintain under generally accepted accounting principles full, true and complete records, agreements, books, and documents as are necessary to fully disclose to the other party, the State or United States Government, or their authorized representatives, upon audits or reviews, sufficient information to determine compliance with any applicable regulations and statutes.

B. Inspection & Audit.

Each party agrees that the relevant books, records (written, electronic, computer related or otherwise), including but not limited to relevant accounting procedures and practices of the party, financial statements and supporting documentation, and documentation

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