

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2024-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DIANNE BLUMER OF NAVIGATE AK, dba BLUMER & ASSOCIATES, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM

WHEREAS, the Unalaska City Council has determined it is beneficial to the City of Unalaska to retain a lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, the existing Professional Services Agreement with Dianne Blumer of Blumer & Associates will expire on June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska wishes to retain Dianne Blumer to perform the duties of Lobbyist as directed by the City of Unalaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council authorizes the City Manager to extend the Professional Services Agreement with Dianne Blumer, Blumer & Associates for an additional term, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for a fee of \$71,000 plus reasonable expenses.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on June 25, 2024.

Vincent M. Tutiakoff Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Estkarlen Magdaong,
City Clerk

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Michelle Price, Executive Assistant 1
Through: William Homka, City Manager
Date: June 25, 2024
Re: Resolution 2024-26: Authorizing the City Manager to extend the term of the Professional Services Agreement with Dianne Blumer of Navigate AK, dba Blumer & Associates, for an additional term

SUMMARY: State lobbyist Dianne Blumer's contract with the City expires on June 30, 2024. Ms. Blumer submitted a letter of interest to Mayor Vincent Tutiakoff Sr on April 9, expressing her interest in renewing her contract (copy attached). Resolution 2024-26 authorizes the City Manager to extend the term of the Professional Services Agreement for an additional term. Staff recommends approval.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council adopted Resolution 2023-29 on June 13, 2023, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Professional Services agreement contract for FY24 in the amount of \$71,000 plus reasonable expenses. Council budgeted \$71,000 for state lobbyist fees for FY25.

BACKGROUND: Dianne Blumer has been the City Council's lobbyist for state affairs since FY19. Her firm's name has changed to Navigate AK, doing business as Blumer & Associates.

The table below provides a history of compensation rates for Dianne Blumer from FY19 to the present:

YEAR	FEES	EXPENSES	TOTAL
FY19	\$ 71,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 71,250.00
FY20	\$ 71,000.00	\$1,602.08	\$ 72,602.08
FY21	\$ 71,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 71,250.00
FY22	\$ 71,000.00	\$1,206.00	\$ 72,206.00
FY23	\$ 71,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 71,250.00
FY24	\$ 71,000.00	\$3,893.56	\$ 74,893.56
TOTAL	\$ 426,000.00	\$7,451.64	\$ 433,451.64

DISCUSSION: Ms. Blumer's letter states that she is interested in continuing her services for the next fiscal year. She has not requested an increase in her retainer.

ALTERNATIVES: Council could renew the lobbying contract at the current level, recommend an increase to the base compensation rate or a cost of living increase, or not enter into a lobbying agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: This expense is included in the FY25 budget for \$71,000, plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

LEGAL: None needed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: If Council agrees to authorize the City Manager to sign a renewal contract with Dianne Blumer of Blumer & Associates, Council should approve and adopt Resolution 2024-26.

PROPOSED MOTION: This item is included on the Consent Agenda and will be included in the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. If the item is moved to the Regular Agenda for discussion, the suggested motion is to move to adopt Resolution 2024-26.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: I recommend Council approve this resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Letter of interest from Dianne Blumer dated April 9, 2024
- Proposed Modification of Professional Services Agreement



6058 Azalea Dr. Anchorage, AK 99516
907-575-2279 dianne@navigate-ak.com

April 9, 2024

Mayor Vince Tutiakoff
City of Unalaska
P O Box 610
Unalaska, Alaska 99865

Subject: Letter of Interest for FY 2025 Lobbying Services

Dear Mayor Tutiakoff:

Navigate AK (dba Blumer & Associates) is pleased to offer this Letter of Interest for consideration of the FY2025 lobbying contract representing the City of Unalaska. It has been a distinct privilege to work with you, the City Manager, City Council, and staff over the past years.

Continuing to champion important projects and priorities for the community would be my honor. As we reflect on past successful strategies, we also need to focus on potential avenues to pursue in the future for the betterment of the community. Being well-informed about relevant issues, maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders, and having a deep understanding of proposed projects strengthen our team each year. I am convinced that hosting the annual fly-ins to Unalaska has been extremely valuable in bringing key projects to the forefront for consideration by the Governor Alaska State Legislature.

As the Principal of Navigate AK, I personally offer thirty-three years of combined experience with the Alaska State Legislature and the Executive Branch, including recent direct advocacy on behalf of local governmental clients. I maintain solid relationships with the Governor and his Cabinet, as well as bipartisan relationships with House and Senate members, including leadership on both sides of the aisle.

Navigate AK possesses the bipartisan professional relationships necessary to ensure that your priorities and concerns are well represented and advocated for so that they will be heard and acted upon. I am well-versed in local government priorities and resolutions on key legislative issues. Having served the City of Unalaska for the last seven years, I am familiar with many of the local issues and key objectives.

I offer integrity, professionalism, familiarity with the process, and the bipartisan relationships required to successfully represent the City of Unalaska. I look forward to continuing to work along side you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Blumer
President
Navigate AK

**MODIFICATION OF
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This modification is made to that certain agreement dated June 6, 2018, between the City of Unalaska (hereinafter designated as "City") and Blumer & Associates, hereinafter designated as "Consultant". The Professional Services Agreement is modified as follows:

1. The Agreement is extended for an additional term effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
2. The total payment under this Agreement shall not exceed \$71,000, plus reasonable expenses.
3. Payment for services to Consultant shall be as follows:

DATE	AMOUNT
July 1, 2024	\$1775.00
August 1, 2024	\$1775.00
September 1, 2024	\$1775.00
October 1, 2024	\$1775.00
November 1, 2024	\$1775.00
December 1, 2024	\$1775.00
January 1, 2025	\$14,200.00
February 1, 2025	\$14,200.00
March 1, 2025	\$14,200.00
April 1, 2025	\$14,200.00
May 1, 2025	\$1775.00
June 1, 2025	\$1775.00
TOTAL	\$71,000

CITY OF UNALASKA

BLUMER & ASSOCIATES

Marjorie Veeder, Assistant City Manager

Dianne Blumer

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
Third Judicial District)

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss.
_____Judicial District)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of June 2024 by Marjorie Veeder, Assistant City Manager for the City of Unalaska, a First Class Alaska Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the City of Unalaska.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of June 2024, by DIANNE BLUMER on behalf of BLUMER & ASSOCIATES.

Notary Public, State of Alaska
Commission expires _____

Notary Public, State of Alaska
Commission expires _____