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Rev 7/2026

CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This document reflects a contractual agreement entered into as of the 29th day of September, 2026 among the Office of the State Auditor, Lowndes County (herein referred to as the "County") and T.E. Lott & Company (herein referred to as the "Firm") to provide services, materials and personnel to perform the work as specified in paragraph 1.

Scope of Services

1. The County and the Office of the State Auditor desire to engage the Firm to render the following professional audit services for the County for the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years:

   A. Perform a financial audit for all funds of the County.
   B. Perform a compliance audit with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Sections of the compliance audit program labeled as "Required" must be completed by the Firm regardless of materiality or impact to the Financial Statements.
   C. Perform Items A and B above in conformity with professional standards, laws, rules, regulations and guidelines as contained in, but not limited to, the documents identified in paragraph 4 of this contract.
   (If the county does not have financial statements prepared at the start of the audit, the county is responsible for the report being late.)

Indicate which type of financial reporting framework of financial statement reporting for performance of audit services:

Initial Applicable Framework (Select Only One)

Check the one that applies:	Type of Framework of Financial Statement Reporting
X	General Purpose Financial Reporting Framework (GAAP)
	Special Purpose Financial Reporting Framework (Cash Basis-OCBOA)

Authorized Representatives

2. The following people have been empowered to act as the duly authorized representatives for this contract:

Office of the State Auditor

Name: Beth Stuart and Greg Grenn

Title: Directors, County Audit Section

Address: P. O. Box 956, Jackson, MS 39205

_____ County, Mississippi

Name: Trip Hairston

Title: President

Address: PO Box 1364 Columbus, MS 39703

T.E. Lott & Company, PA CPA Firm

Name: Trent F. Yeatman, CPA

Title: Partner

Address: PO Box 471 Columbus, MS 39703

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Notices All notices required or permitted to be given under this Contract must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by facsimile provided that the original of such notice is sent by certified United States mail postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or overnight courier with signed receipt, to the party to whom this notice should be given as indicated above. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The parties agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address.

Contract Fee Consideration

3. The Firm shall receive as compensation to be paid by the County for the described auditing services a fee not to exceed:

$ 89,200 for the audit for the 2026 fiscal year.

$ 91,500 for the audit for the 2027 fiscal year.

The said fee is based on:

550 hours at $ 162 avg per hour for the 2026 fiscal year audit.

550 hours at $ 166 avg per hour for the 2027 fiscal year audit.

The Firm shall not receive as compensation an amount greater than the actual hours worked multiplied by the rate per hour for the applicable fiscal year. The Firm will receive no more than the agreed upon compensation no matter the number of hours worked except as provided in paragraph 18.

Compliance with Laws and Professional Standards

4. The professional services will be performed in conformity with the following:

A. Generally accepted auditing standards and the industry audit guide, Audits of State and Local Governmental Units, established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

B. Statements of financial accounting standards as prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board as applicable, if the County is presenting its financial statements under a Special Purpose Framework (OCBOA).

C. Government Auditing Standards, as required by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (The Yellow Book).

D. OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, Audits of States, Local governments, and Non-profit Organizations.

E. The Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996.

F. Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) for compliance with applicable state laws.

G. A state legal compliance audit program given the Firm by the Office of the State Auditor.

H. Attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants as applicable to the examination of the Purchasing System and Inventory Control System.

Reportable Findings

5. The Firm shall report immediately to the County and the Office of the State Auditor any preliminary findings of possible fraud, misapplication or misappropriation of funds.

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Termination of Contract

6. The County, with the written consent of the Office of the State Auditor, has the right to reject any work not meeting the terms of this contract. Should either reject any services, the County's or the Office of the State Auditor's authorized representative shall notify the Firm in writing of such rejection giving reason therefore. The right to reject services shall extend throughout the terms of this contract. However, prior to termination of this contract by the County, the County must provide written justification to the Office of the State Auditor documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The County must obtain written approval from the Office of the State Auditor prior to terminating the contract.

Firm's Requirements of Services

7. The Firm shall provide a draft report and the workpapers, if requested, to the Office of the State Auditor for review and approval. Drafts must be submitted at least two months prior to the desired issuance date. Drafts submitted in a shorter timeline may not be finalized by the desired deadline. If a Single Audit, this must be provided to the Office of the State Auditor within seven months after fiscal year end of each audit. If a there is no Single Audit, this must be provided to the Office of the State Auditor within nine months after fiscal year end of each audit. Upon written notification by the Office of the State Auditor, the Firm shall make any necessary corrections to the report due to this review, and these corrections shall be made within two weeks of such notification. In addition, a copy of the Compliance Audit Program provided by the Office of the State Auditor must be completed and sent to the Office of the State Auditor with any draft report. The records shall be maintained for at least five (5) years; however, if any litigation or other legal action has begun that is not completed at the end of the five (5) year period, or if audit findings, litigation or other legal action has not been resolved at the end of the five (5) year period, the records shall be retained until resolution. Send all documents to ((County.audits@osa.ms.gov)

Responsibility of Firm to Distribute Audit Report

8. If a Single Audit, the Firm shall provide two (2) copies of the completed signed report and (1) CD/electronic media/email (County.audits@osa.ms.gov) containing a Final Report Adobe PDF File to the Office of the State Auditor within nine months after the fiscal year end of each audit. If a Single Audit, the Data Collection Form (Form SF-SAC) and one copy of the approved Single Audit reporting package, as required by OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, should be filed electronically with the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. Instructions for the filing may be accessed at https://www.fac.gov/. If there is no Single Audit, the Firm shall provide two (2) copies of the completed signed report and (1) CD/electronic media/email (County.audits@osa.ms.gov) containing a Final Report Adobe PDF File to the Office of the State Auditor within eleven months after fiscal year end of each audit. Also, the firm should provide the Office of the State Auditor with the total amount of federal expenditures for each fiscal year.

The Firm shall also provide six (6) copies of the completed signed reports to the County, with synopsis instructions, at the same time it provides the reports discussed above.

Engagement Letter

9. The Firm should provide an engagement letter for the audit, which contains the price quote.

Progress Reports

10. The Firm shall keep on file monthly progress reports, which detail the work, completed during the month and shall make these reports available to the County and/or the Office of the State Auditor for review, if requested. Additionally, the Firm must provide status updates on demand as requested by the Office of the State Auditor.

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Payment

11. The Firm will be entitled to interim payments, which shall not exceed 70% of the contract amount for the applicable fiscal year, from the County. The Firm shall submit a final invoice for all work performed. This invoice shall provide the number of hours worked by each employee. The final payment of the annual contract amount will be paid by the County upon completion of the audit services and acceptance by the Office of the State Auditor and the County. The County shall not pay any part of the final 30% owed the firm until the County has received written permission from the Office of the State Auditor to do so. The Firm will not be entitled to compensation from the County for correction of any deficient work found in the Office of the State Auditor'sreview.

Approval

12. The firm agrees to provide any existing service contract with the county as an Appendix to this contract. Additionally, the Firm agrees that if the county is desirous to enter into any other service agreement with the Firm, that the Firm will provide that agreement to the Office of the State Auditor for review before execution so that OSA can review for possible impairments of independence. Any violation of this clause is considered breach of contract and can result in contracttermination.

The authorized representative of the Office of the State Auditor is empowered to accept and approve, or reject the services furnished by the Firm in compliance with the provisions of this contract and the attached schedule. No payment, including final payment, shall be construed as acceptance of defective or incomplete work and the Firm shall remain responsible and liable for full performance.

Contract Expiration

13. The contract shall expire 120 days after the final services have been rendered.

Ownership of Documents and Work Papers Upon Termination of Contract

14. The work papers remain the property of the Firm. All other files, notes, correspondence and all other data compiled during the audit shall be available without cost to the County and the Office of the State Auditor for examination and abstracting during normal business hours of any business day. The records shall be maintained for at least five (5) years as required in paragraph 7 of this contract. If, through any cause, the Firm shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner, as determined by the County and/or the Office of the State Auditor, its obligations under this contract, or if the Firm shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this contract, the County, with the written consent of the Office of the State Auditor, shall thereupon have the right to terminate this contract by giving written notice to the Firm of such termination and specifying the effective date of such termination. However, prior to termination of this contract by the County, the County must provide written justification to the Office of the State Auditor documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The County must obtain written approval from the Office of the State Auditor prior to terminating the contract. Furthermore, the Firm should notify the Office of the State Auditor and the County as soon as possible if the deadlines cannot be met. In the event the contract is terminated, the Firm will provide reasonable assistance to successor auditors in accordance with the applicable professionalstandards.

Reduction of Compensation

15. If the Firm fails to meet the submission date for the draft report described in paragraph 7, the County may reduce the agreed compensation by 5% of the contract price for the applicable fiscal year.

If the Firm fails to meet the submission date for the final reports described in paragraph 8 by less than thirty days, the County may reduce the agreed compensation by 10% of the contract price for the applicable fiscal year. If the reports described in paragraph 8 are overdue by thirty days or more, the County may reduce the agreed compensation by 20% of the total contract price for the applicable fiscal year.

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Contract Termination Compensation

16. The County, with the written consent of the Office of the State Auditor, may terminate this contract at any time, for any reason other than those reasons contained in paragraph 14 above, by giving written notice to the Firm of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least ten days before the effective date of such termination. However, prior to termination of this contract by the County, the County must provide written justification to the Office of the State Auditor documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The County must obtain written approval from the Office of the State Auditor prior to terminating the contract. In the event the contract is terminated, the Firm will provide reasonable assistance to successor auditors in accordance with the applicable professional standards. If the contract is terminated by the County and/or the Office of the State Auditor as provided herein, the Firm will be paid an amount which bears the same ratio to the total services of the Firm covered by the contract as supported by detailed invoices submitted to the County by the Firm identifying hours worked on thecontract.

Termination of Contract

17. In the event the County and/or the Office of the State Auditor exercises its right to terminate this contract pursuant to paragraph 6 and/or paragraph 14 of this contract, the Firm shall bear all costs associated with the issuance of a new contract. However, prior to termination of this contract by the County, the County must provide written justification to the Office of the State Auditor documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The County must obtain written approval from the Office of the State Auditor prior to terminating the contract. Also, the Firm shall notify the County and the Office of the State Auditor of any potential conflict of interest resulting from service to other clients. If such conflict cannot be resolved to the County's satisfaction, the County reserves the right to terminate this contract with the written consent of the Office of the State Auditor and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the State.

Modification or Renegotiation

18. The County, Office of the State Auditor, or the Firm may request changes in the scope of services to be performed by the Firm. Such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of the Firm's compensation, which are mutually agreed upon by and between the County, or its duly authorized representative, and the Firm, shall be included in written amendments to this contract and subject to approval by the Office of the State Auditor.

Contractor Requirements

19. The Firm shall, during the entire term of this contract, be construed to be an independent contractor. Nothing in this contract is intended to nor shall be construed to create an employer-employee relationship, or a joint venturerelationship.

The Firm represents that it is qualified to perform the duties to be performed under this contract and that it has, or will secure, if needed, at its own expense, applicable personnel who are qualified to perform the duties required under this contract. Such personnel shall not be deemed in any way, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of the County.

Any person assigned by the Firm to perform the services hereunder shall be an employee or a subcontractor of the Firm who shall have the sole right to hire and discharge its employees or subcontractors.

The Firm or its subcontractors shall pay, when due, all salaries and wages of their employees and accepts exclusive responsibility for the payment of federal income tax, social security, unemployment compensation and any other withholdings that may be required.

Neither the Firm, its subcontractors nor their employees are entitled to state retirement or leave benefits.

It is further understood that the consideration expressed herein constitutes full and complete compensation for all services and performance hereunder, and that any sum due and payable to the Firm shall be paid as a gross sum with no withholdings or deductions being made by the County for any purpose from said contract sum, except as permitted in paragraphs 14, 15 and16.

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Indemnification: To the fullest extent allowed by law, the Firm shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect, and exonerate the County, its officers, employees, agents and representatives, and the State of Mississippi from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses and costs of every kind and nature whatsoever, including, without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, and attorneys' fees, and claims for damage arising out of or caused by the firm and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees and/or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform this Contract.

Third Party Action Notification: The Firm shall notify the County in writing within five (5) business days of its receipt of liquidation or receivership proceedings or within five (5) business days of its receipt of notification of any action or suit being filed or any claim being made against the Firm or the County by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to this Contract and/or which may affect the Firm's performance under this Contract. Failure of the Firm to provide such written notice to the County shall be considered a material breach of this Contract and the County may, at its sole discretion, pursue its rights as set forth in the Termination clauses herein and any other remedies it may have at law or in equity.

Confidential Information

20. The Firm will be granted access to all client and claimant information necessary for completion of the audit services described herein. The Firm and the Office of the State Auditor assure the County that any and all information regarding clients and claimants of the County will be kept strictly confidential. Any use or release of client or claimant information for purposes other than to fulfill the Firm's or the Office of the State Auditor's responsibilities under this contract must have the prior written approval of the County.

Contract Governance

21. This contract shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, and venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. The Firm expressly agrees that under no circumstances shall the Office of the State Auditor and/or the County be obligated to pay an attorney's fee or the cost of legal action to the Firm.

Disputes and Arbitration

22. Any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under this contract shall be disposed of by good faith negotiation between duly authorized representatives of the County, the Office of the State Auditor, and the Firm. Such a resolution shall be reduced to writing and a copy thereof mailed or furnished to the Firm and shall be final and conclusive. If a resolution cannot be reached, the Firm shall mail or furnish to the Board of Supervisors of the County and the Office of the State Auditor a written request for review. The Firm shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard and to offer evidence in support of his/her/its position on the issue in dispute and under review. The review will be handled under a three (3) person panel for arbitration composed of the Deputy State Auditor, the Director of Technical Assistance and the Director of the Financial and Compliance Audit Division. The decision of the Arbitration Panel of the Office of the State Auditor on the review shall be final and conclusive unless determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in Hinds County, State of Mississippi, to have been fraudulent, capricious, or so grossly erroneous as necessarily to imply bad faith, or not be supported by substantial evidence. Pending final decision of a dispute hereunder, the Firm shall proceed diligently with the performance of the duties and obligations of the contract.

Compliance with Laws

23. The Firm shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures, and grant requirements (if applicable) of the United States of America or any agency thereof, the State of Mississippi or any agency thereof and any local governments or political subdivisions that may affect the performance of services under this contract. Specifically, but not limited to, the Firm shall not discriminate against any employee nor shall any party be subject to discrimination in the performance of this contract because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin or disability.

Change in Scope of Work

24. Modification, changes or amendments to this contract may be made upon mutual agreement of the parties hereto. However, any change, supplement, modification or amendment of any term, provision or condition of this contract must be in writing and signed by all parties hereto.

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Assignment

25. The Firm shall not assign or otherwise transfer the obligation incurred on its part pursuant to the terms of this contract without the prior written consent of the County and the Office of the State Auditor. Any attempted assignment or transfer of its obligations without such consent shall be null and void. All obligations and duties of either party under this contract shall be binding on all successors in interest or assigns of such party.

Failure to Enforce

26. Failure of any party hereto to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any similar right or power hereunder at any subsequent time or of any other provision hereof, nor shall it be construed to be a modification of the terms of this contract.

Availability of Funds

27. It is expressly understood by the parties hereto that the fulfillment of the obligations of the County under this agreement is conditioned upon the availability and receipt of funds. In the event that funds are insufficient or otherwise unavailable to satisfy payment due under this agreement, the County shall not be obligated to make such payments, and all further obligations of the County under this agreement shall cease immediately, without penalty, cost or expense to the County of any kind whatsoever. In the event of such insufficiency or unavailability of funding, the County shall notify the Firm in writing, of such event, and this agreement shall be void.

Insurance Requirements

28. Firm represents that it will maintain workers' compensation insurance, if applicable, which shall inure to the benefit of all Firm's personnel provided hereunder, comprehensive general liability or professional liability insurance, and where applicable, employee fidelity bond insurance.

Severability

29. If any term or provision of this contract is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this contract shall not be affected thereby and each term and provision of this contract shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Entire Agreement

30. This contract constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations, understandings and agreements, written or oral, between the parties relating there to.

Address Changes

31. The parties agree to promptly notify each other of any change of address.

Employee Status Verification System

32. Firm represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act (Senate Bill 2988 from the 2008 Regular Legislative Session) and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Firm agrees to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State.

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Firm further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi. Firm understands and agrees that any breach of these warranties may subject Firm to the following: (a) termination of the Agreement and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation/ termination being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to firm by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. In the event of such termination/cancellation, Firm would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit."

Representation Regarding Contingent Fees

33. The Firm represents that it has not retained a person to solicit or secure a State contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in the contractor's bid or proposal (if applicable).

Representation Regarding Gratuities

34. The Firm represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 7-204 (Gratuities) of the "Mississippi Personal Service Contract ProcurementRegulations."

Certification of Independent Price Determination

35. The Firm certifies that the price submitted in response to the solicitation has been arrived at independently and without - for the purpose of restricting competition - any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor relating to the price, the intention to submit a bid, or the methods or factors used to calculate the price bid.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions

36. The Firm certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

A. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

B. Have not within a three-year period preceding this contract been convicted or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

C. Are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in item b. of this certification;and

D. Have not within a three-year period preceding this contract had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

Whistleblower Protection

37. Section 1553 of Division A, Title XV of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, provides protections individuals who make specified disclosures relating to Recovery Act funds. Any non-federal employer receiving recovery funds is required to post a notice of the rights and remedies provided under this section of the Act.

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Reporting Requirements

38. The firm is notified that this contract may be paid in full or part with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (hereinafter, "ARRA") Funds. The Firm shall ensure that all subcontracts and other contracts for goods and services for an ARRA-funded project have the mandated provisions of this directive in their contracts. Pursuant to Title XV, Section 1512 of the ARRA, the Agency shall require that the contractor provide reports and other employment information as evidence to document the number of jobs created or jobs retained by this contract from the Firm's own workforce and any subcontractors. No direct payment will be made for providing said reports, as the cost for same shall be included in the various items in the contract.

Required Contract Provision to Implement ARRA Section 902

39. Section 902 of the ARRA requires that each contract awarded using ARRA funds must include a provision that provides the U.S. Comptroller General and his representatives with the authority to:

A. Examine any records of the Firm or any of its subcontractors, or any State or local agency administering such contract, that directly pertain to, and involve transactions relating to, the contract or subcontract; and

B. Interview any officer or employee of the firm or any of its subcontractors, or of any State or local government agency administering the contract, regarding such transactions.

Accordingly, the Comptroller General and his representatives shall have the authority and rights prescribed under Section 902 of the ARRA with respect to contracts funded with recovery funds made available under the ARRA. Section 902 further states that nothing in 902 shall be interpreted to limit or restrict in any way any existing authority of the Comptroller General.

Authority of the Inspector General Provision

40. Section 1515(a) of the ARRA provides authority for any representatives of the United States Inspector General to examine any records or interview any employee or officers working on this contract. The Firm is advised that representatives of the Inspector General have the authority to examine any record and interview any employee or officer of the Firm, its subcontractors or other firms working on this contract. Section 1515(b) further provides that nothing in this section shall be interpreted to limit or restrict in any way any existing authority of an Inspector General.

Availability and Use of Funds

41. The Firm understands and acknowledges that any and all payment of funds or the continuation thereof is contingent upon funds provided solely by ARRA or required state matching funds. Pursuant to Section 1604 of the ARRA, contractors agree not to undertake or make progress toward any activity using recovery funds that will lead to the development of such activity as casinos or other gambling establishments, aquariums, zoos, golf courses, swimming pools or any other activity specifically prohibited by the Recovery Act.

Federal, State and Local Tax Obligations

42. The Firm asserts and self-certifies that all Federal, State and local tax obligations have been or will be satisfied prior to receiving recovery funds.

Anti-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

43. Pursuant to Section 1.7 of the guidance memorandum issued by the United States Office of Management and Budget on April 3, 2009, ARRA Recovery funds must be distributed in accordance with all anti-discrimination and equal opportunity statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders pertaining to the expenditure of funds.

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Additional Information:

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Additional Requirements

The Firm agrees to comply with additional requirements imposed by ARRA regulations upon notification.

In witness of where this contract has been entered into and executed by the parties hereto in triplicate originals.

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

SIGNATURE: Signed by: Trip Hairston 69E99EC35F3940E...

TITLE: President, Board of Supervisors

DATE: 9/29/2026

SIGNATURE: Signed by: Cindy Goode E614237DDD8C4CE...

TITLE: Chancery Clerk

DATE: 9/29/2026

FIRM REPRESENTATIVE

CPA FIRM: T.E. Lott & Company, PA

SIGNED: Signed by: Trent F. Yeatman, CPA AB863DE726C74DD...

TITLE: Partner

DATE: 9/29/2026

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SIGNED: Signed by: Beth A. Stuart 5923905292FC4C2...

TITLE: Director, County Audit Section

DATE: 9/30/2026