



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

P. (815) 740-4601
F. (815) 740-4600
E. countyexec@willcountyillinois.com

Will County Office Building
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

October 7, 2024

Bakertilly, US, LLP
1301 W 22nd St. Ste 400
Oakbrook, IL 60523

Attn: Nick Cavaliere

RE: BID #2023-51 Auditing Service-Will County, IL

Dear Mr. Cavaliere,

The contract for Auditing Services for Will County is set to expire on November 30, 2024. Will County is in the position to exercise the first one (1) year renewal option as stated in the original solicitation documents.

The next contract period will begin December 1, 2024, through and including November 30, 2025. The contract pricing for the second year is \$123,480.00 as stated in your original solicitation response.

If you have any questions, please contact our Purchasing Director, Kevin Lynn at klynn@willcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
Will County Executive
JBT/nr



**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Awarding Bid for Annual Audit

WHEREAS, the Will County Board, in accordance with 55 ILCS 5/6-31003, "shall cause an audit of all the funds and accounts of the county to be made annually by an accountant or accountants chosen by the County Board", and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the County Board, the Will County Executive's Office solicited proposals for the annual audit from four (4) firms to provide auditing services for the fiscal years 2022, 2023 and 2024, as attached, and

WHEREAS, after review of such proposals and other factors, and with the recommendation from the Will County Finance Director, the Executive Committee recommends that the contract for the county audit and single audit for FY2022 be awarded to the firm of Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krause, LLP, of Oak Brook, IL.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Will County Board hereby awards the contract for the county audit and single audit for FY2022 to the firm of Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krause, LLP, of Oak Brook, IL, for a total amount of \$117,600.00, which includes travel and other related expenses. This contract also includes two (2) one (1) year renewals for 2023 and 2024 audits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the financial examination will be made in accordance with generally accepted standards and will include such tests that are necessary to render an opinion as to the fairness of the financial position and operating results of the combined fund types and account groups for Will County.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall also be a single audit which will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Single Audit Act of 1984, and OMB Circular A-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Preamble of this Resolution is hereby adopted as if fully set herein. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

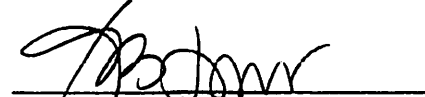
Adopted by the Will County Board this 15th day of December, 2022.

AYES: Deane-Schlottman, VanDuyne, Ogalla, Pretzel, Butler, Newquist, Ballch, Richmond, Parker, Williams, Diaz, Winfrey, Coleman, Logan, Freeman, Revis, Mitchell, Ortiz, Berkowicz, Mueller, Costa, Traynere

Result. Approved - (Unanimous)


Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk

Approved this 10 day of January, ~~2022~~
2023


Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
Will County Executive



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

P. 815-740-4712
F. 815-740-4604
E. klynn@willcountyillinois.com

JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

KEVIN LYNN
DIRECTOR

County Office Building
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

PROPOSAL HISTORY

ITEM: 2023-51 RFP – Auditing Services – Will County

DEPARTMENT: Finance

RFP LETTING: October 24, 2022 - November 28, 2022

BIDDING RESULTS:

NUMBER RELEASED: 11 + INTERNET NUMBER RETURNED: 4

<u>BIDDER:</u>	<u>2022 AUDIT TOTAL:</u>
BAKER, TILLY, VIRCHOW, KRAUSE, LLP, OAK BROOK, IL	\$ 117,600.00
SIKICH LLP, NAPERVILLE, IL	\$ 92,500.00
MACK & ASSOC, PC, MORRIS, IL	\$ 97,500.00
FORVIS, OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL	\$ 150,000.00

RECOMMENDATION ATTACHED, FROM KAREN HENNESSY, FINANCE DIRECTOR, IS TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE COUNTY AUDIT AND SINGLE AUDIT OF WILL COUNTY TO BAKER, TILLY, VIRCHOW, KRAUSE, LLP, OF OAKBROOK, IL. THE TOTAL CONTRACTUAL COST, INCLUDING TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES, FOR 2022 AUDIT IS \$117,600.00. THIS RFP INCLUDES TWO (2) ONE (1) YEAR RENEWALS FOR 2023 AND 2024 AUDITS.

BID TABULATION SHEET

15.2.a

BID: 2023-51 RFP – Auditing Services – Will County

DUE: 11-28-22, 2:00 PM

OPEN: 11-28-22, 2:05 PM

BIDDER	REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL COST
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP Oka Brook, IL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2022 Audit \$ <u>110,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>110,000</u>
	Addenda Rec'd (1) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2023 Audit \$ <u>110,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>110,000</u>
	Forms Signed <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2024 Audit \$ <u>125,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>125,000</u>
Mack & Associates PC Morris, IL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2022 Audit \$ <u>97,500</u> County Clerk \$ <u>97,500</u>
	Addenda Rec'd (1) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2023 Audit \$ <u>97,500</u> County Clerk \$ <u>97,500</u>
	Forms Signed <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2024 Audit \$ <u>110,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>110,000</u>
Sikich, LLP Naperville, IL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2022 Audit \$ <u>92,500</u> County Clerk \$ <u>92,500</u>
	Addenda Rec'd (1) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2023 Audit \$ <u>91,125</u> County Clerk \$ <u>91,125</u>
	Forms Signed <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2024 Audit \$ <u>101,400</u> County Clerk \$ <u>101,400</u>
Forvis Oak Brook Terrace, IL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2022 Audit \$ <u>150,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>150,000</u>
	Addenda Rec'd (1) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2023 Audit \$ <u>150,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>150,000</u>
	Forms Signed <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2024 Audit \$ <u>160,000</u> County Clerk \$ <u>160,000</u>
	Prime Cert <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2022 Audit \$ County Clerk \$
	Addenda Rec'd (1) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2023 Audit \$ County Clerk \$
	Forms Signed <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2024 Audit \$ County Clerk \$
	Prime Cert <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2022 Audit \$ County Clerk \$
	Addenda Rec'd (1) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2023 Audit \$ County Clerk \$
	Forms Signed <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	2024 Audit \$ County Clerk \$

Attachment: Audit Award Docs (22-459 : Awarding Bid for Annual Audit)

Also Present: Kevin Lynn, Nancy Ruettiger, Karen Hennessy



WILL COUNTY ILLINOIS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

KAREN HENNESSY
FINANCE DIRECTOR

P. (815) 774-6359
F. (815) 740-4604
E. khennesy@willcountyillinois.com

Will County Office Building
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

TO: Will County Board
FROM: Karen Hennessy
DATE: 12/5/2022
RE: Award of Audit Bid

After review and comparison of the four qualified bids received for audit services, my recommendation is to award the bid to Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krause, LLP. My rationale for that decision follows.

When selecting a firm to provide audit services the factors to be considered are **experience** with counties of similar size and structure, **presence** in the accounting field, **fit** for Will County, **continuity**, **value added** services, and finally **cost**. While the county uses the RFP process for audit services so proposals are submitted based on the same set of criteria, a professional services bid should not be evaluated in the same manner as a bid for office supplies; professional services should be evaluated primarily on the quality of services provided and not solely on cost.

Experience

Baker Tilly is a top 10 accounting firm that is structured around industry specialization. That structure allows them to provide focused training and continuing education to their team members, act as industry leaders, and to keep the county informed of changes. Their state and local government practice is dedicated to understanding our county environment, the ever-changing government regulations, and new accounting standards.

Baker Tilly has significant experience in auditing county governments, with targeted experience auditing more than 30 Illinois and Midwest counties. The Illinois counties they audit include DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, and Winnebago. These counties are largest counties in Illinois, by population, excluding Cook. Baker Tilly has a team of 420 public sector professionals, including 40 partners in their state and local government team who have been successful in serving entities of similar size and with similar operating issues as Will County. Baker Tilly's public sector team performs approximately 1,000 government audits.

Baker Tilly has a proven record of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report certificate submission for their state and local clients; with 19 county clients receiving the award annually.

All references spoke to Baker Tilly's experience, extensive knowledge base, the quality of staff assigned to audits, the timeliness of completion, and that this firm exceeded their expectations every year.

Presence in the accounting field

Baker Tilly is ranked 9th of the top 100 firms in the 2022 report published by Accounting Today. Baker Tilly professionals are among the most influential in the accounting and advisory industry, evidenced by their leadership and participation in the following industry organizations: Governmental Audit Quality Center (GAQC), Governmental Audit Quality Center (GAQC) Executive Committee, Technical Issues Committee (TIC), State and Local Government Expert Panel, Auditing Standards Board (ASB), Peer Review Oversight Reviewer-Single Audits, Peer Review Board, and National Peer Review Committee (NPRC)

Baker Tilly was one of the firms invited to participate in the Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Fellowship Program. Baker Tilly is heavily involved with the GFOA award for excellence and provides seventeen professionals to serve as volunteer report reviewers, more than any other firm in the nation. Baker Tilly regularly provides webinars on current topics in governmental accounting at no cost to the county.

Fit for Will County

Baker Tilly is large enough to offer the professional capabilities the county needs, yet they have a local firm focus that ensures we receive responsive, personalized attention.

Continuity

Baker Tilly has been providing audit services for Will County for twelve years, selected four times through an open bid process. During that time, we have implemented the following significant new Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), pronouncements: GASB 45 – Accounting and Reporting for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB); GASB 54 – Fund Balance Reporting and Fund Balance Definition; GASB 61 - Financial Reporting, Component Units; GASB 68 – Accounting and Reporting for Pensions. GASB 75- Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions; GASB 84 – Fiduciary. Implementation of each of these standards required extensive preparation and revision to our financial reports, changes we made successfully with their experience, support, and guidance.

Changing audit firms requires a significant investment of time by staff, an increase of ten to twenty percent, assisting a new firm in documenting procedures and becoming familiar with County operations and staff. Two of the most respected organizations in the accounting industry, the American Accounting Association (AAA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) offer the following comments on auditor rotation: AAA - auditor rotation can inhibit the skepticism rather than encourage it as professional standards require

and they stress the importance of the role of concurring partner assigned to an engagement: AICPA - Audit quality increases with audit firm retention and suffers with mandatory audit firm rotation.

Value Added Services

Baker Tilly has been responsive to the unique needs of county financial reporting, i.e., most professional accounting organizations are geared toward providing resources to municipalities, townships, and school districts rather than counties due to the number of these governmental units. Realizing that the unique needs of county government may not always be met through these organizations, Baker Tilly began sponsoring a CFO Roundtable in 2015, where county finance directors can meet to discuss current topics and challenges, share information, and develop valuable working relationships. This is just one example of the exceptional client services they provide.

Cost

The cost for the 2022 audit as quoted by Baker Tilly is \$117,600, which is an increase from the prior year, which recognizes the complexity of county operations. Since 2018 the County has been a recipient of federal funding to offset the economic impact of the COVID pandemic; Coronavirus Relief Fund \$120 million, Emergency Rental Assistance \$36 million, and American Rescue Plan Act \$134 million. The additional programmatic and financial testing required is also included in the quote. The highest bid was from Forvis at \$150,000. While the two other audit firms provided lower bids, they have additional cost factors to consider, and none have the same level of expertise performing county audits.

Other factors

The County has continued to receive the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting while Baker Tilly has provided audit services. The quality of our financial report has continued to improve each year with their guidance.

The county has missed the established deadline for issuance of the 2021 financial reports, including the county Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR); the Single Audit, including the Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards (SEFA); and the Consolidated Year End Financial Report (CYEFR). The delinquency is the result of major delays in implementing a new financial management system during COVID; significant turnover in key positions in the finance department; and unprecedented influx of federal dollars.

Baker Tilly has proved to be a steadfast partner during this challenging time. They are actively working with the county to meet our goal of issuance by December 31, 2022.

Based on the above, I recommend that the bid for County audit services for the 2022, 2023, and 2024 fiscal years be awarded to Baker Tilly.

