



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER BERTINO-TARRANT
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

KEVIN LYNN
DIRECTOR

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

November 7, 2025

Cherry Bekaert LLP
200 W. Adams St. Ste 2015
Chicago, IL 60606

Attn: John Fedus

Re: Bid 2026-51 Auditing Services – Will County, IL

Dear Mr. Fedus,

I am pleased to inform you that your bid submitted on September 29, 2025, for Will County Auditing Services is hereby accepted.

The contract shall begin December 1, 2025, and continue through the completion of the audit for the fiscal period ending November 30, 2027, which constitutes three consecutive renewable one-year periods. The contract will automatically renew for years two and three, unless either party provides written notice of termination at least 90 days prior to the renewal date.

The total contractual cost for 2025 Audit is \$144,500.00 including all travel and other related costs.

We look forward to a very efficient and sound working relationship ahead. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Hennessey, Finance Director at 815-774-6359.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
JBT/nr



WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bid History

ITEM: #2026-51 Audit Services

DEPARTMENT: Finance

BID RELEASE: September 5, 2025

PUBLISHED NOTICE: September 7, 2025

FUNDING SOURCE: Budgeted Item

BID OPENING: September 29, 2025

LOCATION: 302 N Chicago St, Joliet, IL 60432

BIDDING RESULTS:

NUMBER RELEASED:

NUMBER RETURNED:

BIDDER:

First Year Cost

Cherry Bekaert, Tampa, FL

\$144,500.00

Sikich, LLP, Naperville, IL

\$117,500.00

Crowe, LLP, Oakbrook Terrace, IL

\$137,900.00

Baker Tilly, Oak Brook, IL

Disqualified

Recommendation attached, from Karen Hennessy, Finance Director, is to award the 2026-51 Auditing Services contract to Cherry Bekaret, Tampa, FL. The total contractual cost, including travel related expenses, for the 2025 audit is \$144,500. This RFP includes two (2) one (1) year renewals for the 2026 and 2027 audits.

BID TABULATION SHEET

BID: 2026-51 RFP – Audit Services – Will County

DUE: 9-29-25, 2:00 PM

OPEN: 9-29-25, 2:05 PM

BIDDER	REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL COST
Sikich, LLP Naperville, IL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Addenda Rec (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Forms Signed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>ref - yes</i>	County Clerk 2025 Audit \$ 117,500. ⁰⁰ \$ 25,000. ⁰⁰ 2026 Audit \$ 121,025. ⁰⁰ \$ 25,750. ⁰⁰ 2027 Audit \$ 124,655. ⁰⁰ \$ 26,525. ⁰⁰
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP Oka Brook, IL	Prime Cert Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Addenda Rec (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Forms Signed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>ref - yes</i>	County Clerk 2025 Audit \$ \$ 2026 Audit \$ Disqualified 2027 Audit \$ no prime contractor
CBH (Cherry Bekaert) Tampa, FL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Addenda Rec (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Forms Signed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>ref - yes</i>	County Clerk 2025 Audit \$ 144,500. ⁰⁰ \$ 23,100. ⁰⁰ 2026 Audit \$ 150,500. ⁰⁰ \$ 24,125. ⁰⁰ 2027 Audit \$ 156,750. ⁰⁰ \$ 25,150. ⁰⁰
Crowe LLP Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Prime Cert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Addenda Rec (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Forms Signed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>ref - yes</i>	County Clerk 2025 Audit \$ 137,900. ⁰⁰ \$ 26,500. ⁰⁰ 2026 Audit \$ 140,600. ⁰⁰ \$ 27,000. ⁰⁰ 2027 Audit \$ 143,300. ⁰⁰ \$ 27,500. ⁰⁰
	Prime Cert Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Addenda Rec (1) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Forms Signed Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	County Clerk 2025 Audit \$ \$ 2026 Audit \$ \$ 2027 Audit \$ \$
	Prime Cert Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Addenda Rec (1) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Forms Signed Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	County Clerk 2025 Audit \$ \$ 2026 Audit \$ \$ 2027 Audit \$ \$

Also Present:

NR & Juh

Kevin Lynn

From: Karen Hennessy
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 4:35 PM
To: Kevin Lynn
Cc: Emily Perkins
Subject: Audit Service RFP #2026-51

Kevin,

Thank you for all your help with the Audit Services RFP.

The Finance Department has completed its review of the proposals submitted for the Audit Services RFP #2026-51 and we have selected **Cherry Bekaert, LLP**.

Our review of Cherry Bekaert, LLP's proposal found –

Experience/Similar Clients – The firm has an extensive list of county clients and actively serves 150 governments ranging in size from \$2 million to \$9 billion, including 25 counties.

Location – In 2023 Cherry Bekaert, LLP expanded into the metropolitan Chicago area when they acquired PKF Mueller, a full-service CPA and advisory firm in the Chicago area.

Size – Cherry Bekaert, LLP is ranked as number 20 on Accounting Today's prestigious 2025 Top 100 Firms List.

References – We contacted Cumberland County, NC, the City of Palos Hills, IL, and the Illinois Sports Facility Authority. Each of the references has used this firm for multiple years and indicated that their strengths are their depth of experience and communication/responsiveness to client's needs. References indicated that their audits were completed on time.

Cost – While not a primary consideration in the selection of professional services, the proposed fees for the 2025 audit services are in line with our cost for the 2024 audit services.

Advisory Services - available if needed.

Virtual meeting – In addition to our review of the proposal, we met virtually with three members of the team dedicated to the county's engagement to discuss their approach to an audit engagement with new clients and were pleased with the discussion, the planning process, and the tools that could be available to us. (John Fedus - Partner, Kevin Bissell - Director, and Linda Suggs - Senior Manager)

Please let me know the next steps so we can start thinking about our preliminary planning of the FY2025 audit.

Thank you,

Karen Hennessy

Will County Finance Director
Office of Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant