

**ARTISAN LAKES  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR  
PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES**

**February 18, 2024**

**Prepared by:**

***JPWard & Associates, LLC  
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District Manager***

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**ARTISAN LAKES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
(Hereinafter called "District")  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

I. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Legal Notice

The ARTISAN LAKES Community Development District is requesting proposals from qualified firms of certified public accountants, licensed to practice in the State of Florida, to audit its financial statements for the fiscal year ending **September 30, 2024**, and in the sole and absolute discretion of the District for each fiscal year thereafter through **September 30, 2028**.

There is no expressed or implied obligation for the District to reimburse responding firms for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request.

Sealed technical and dollar cost proposals will be received by the District Manager's office until **12:00 p.m., Monday on March 18, 2024, located at 2301 Northeast 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308**. Proposals received after this time will be returned unopened.

The Proposer shall submit a sealed and clearly marked envelope that includes both a pdf file along with seven (7) printed Technical and Dollar Cost Proposals to be marked as follows: **"ARTISAN LAKES Community Development District, Professional Auditing Services Proposal."**

The Technical and Dollar Cost Proposal will be opened in the Office of the District Manager at **12:00 p.m., on Monday, March 18, 2024**.

Proposals submitted will be evaluated by a five (5) member Auditor Selection Committee, ("Selection Committee"). The Audit Selection Committee consists of the five (5) members' of the Board of Supervisor's, who will review submissions.

The District reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted and to use, without compensation, any ideas in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected. Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance by the firm of the conditions contained in this request for proposals, unless clearly and specifically noted in the proposal submitted and confirmed in the contract between the District of and the firm selected.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted or to retain all proposals submitted and to use without compensation any ideas in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected. Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance by the firm of all of the conditions contained this Request for Proposal.

B. General Information

During the evaluation process, the Selection Committee and the District reserve the right, where it may serve the District best interest, to request additional information or clarifications from proposers, or to allow corrections of errors or omissions. At the discretion of the District or the Selection Committee, firms submitting proposals may be requested to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation process.

It is anticipated the selection of a firm will be completed no later than September 2024. Following the notification of the selected firm, it is expected a contract will be executed by the end of September 2024.

C. Subcontracting

No subcontracting will be permitted. Any firm who submits a proposal, which contains any subcontracting work, shall be considered non-responsive and the District will not give any further consideration to the proposal.

D. Insurance Requirements

**Worker's Compensation** – Statutory Limits of Florida Statutes.

**Commercial General Liability** – Occurrence Form patterned after the current I.S.O. form with no limiting endorsements. Bodily Injury & Property Damage at \$1,000,000 single limit per occurrence

**Automobile Liability** - \$500,000 each Occurrence Owned/Non-owned/Hired Automobile Included.

The District, its agents and employee's must be named as "ADDITIONAL INSURED" on the insurance Certificate for Commercial General Liability.

**Errors and Omissions** - \$5,000,000 single limit per occurrence.

Proposer warrants that it is willing and able to obtain insurance coverage, throughout the entire term of the contract and any renewals thereof.

II. NATURE OF SERVICES REQUIRED

A. Scope of Work to be Performed

The District desires the auditor to express an opinion on the fair presentation of its general-purpose financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

The District also desires the auditor to express an opinion on the fair presentation of its combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

The auditor shall also be responsible for performing certain limited procedures involving required supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board as mandated by generally accepted auditing standards.

B. Auditing Standards to be followed

To meet the requirements of this request for proposals, the audit shall be performed in accordance with the following standards:

- 1) Generally accepting auditing standards as set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- 2) The standards for financial audits set forth in the most current applicable U.S. General Accounting Office's (GAO) Government Auditing Standards.
- 3) The most current applicable provisions of the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 (as amended).
- 4) The most current applicable provisions of U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, Audits of State and Local Governments.
- 5) The most current applicable Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board The most current applicable Statements on Auditing Standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- 6) The most current applicable Government Auditing Standards published by the Comptroller General of the United States.
- 7) The most current applicable Audit and Accounting Guide-Audits of State and Local Governmental Units, published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- 8) The most current applicable Statements and interpretations issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.
- 9) Applicable Florida Statutes.
- 10) Regulations of the State of Florida Department of Financial Services
- 11) Rules of the Auditor General, State of Florida, Chapter 10-550 (Local Government Audits)
- 12) Any other applicable federal, state, local regulations or professional guidance not specifically listed above as well as any additional requirements which may be adopted by these organizations in the future.

C. Reports to be Issued

Following the completion of the audit of the fiscal year's financial statements, the auditor shall issue:

1. A report on the fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
2. A report on compliance and internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with government auditing standards.
3. A Management Letter Report.

In the required report(s) on compliance and internal controls, the auditor shall communicate any reportable conditions found during the audit. A reportable condition shall be defined as a significant deficiency in the design or operation of the internal control structure, which could adversely affect the organization's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. Reportable conditions that are also material weaknesses shall be identified as such in the report. No reportable conditions discovered by the auditors shall be reported to management.

The report on compliance and internal controls shall include all material instances of noncompliance. All nonmaterial instances of noncompliance shall be reported in a separate management letter, which shall be referred to in the report on compliance and internal controls.

**Irregularities and illegal acts. Auditors shall be required to make an immediate, written report of all irregularities and illegal acts or indications of illegal acts of which they become aware of, to the Board of Supervisor's, the District Manager and a copy to the District Attorney.**

D. Special Considerations

1. The District currently, may prepare one or more official statements in connection with the sale of debt securities, which will contain the general-purpose financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The auditor shall be required, if requested by the financial advisor and/or the underwriter, to issue a "consent and citation of expertise" as the auditor and any necessary "comfort letters."
2. The District retains the right to use any audited financials statements in any Official Statement issued by the District without the express consent of the Auditor.

E. Working Paper Retention and Access to Working Papers

All working papers and reports must be retained, at the auditor's expense, for a minimum of three (3) years, unless the firm is notified in writing by the District of the need to extend the retention period.

**THE AUDITOR SHALL PROVIDE A COMPLETE ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE WORKING PAPERS TO THE DISTRICT MANAGER AT THE COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT, PRIOR TO THE FINAL PAYMENT OF THE AUDITING FEES, BY THE DISTRICT.**

**The electronic copy shall be in Microsoft Word or Excel.**

In addition, the firm shall respond to the reasonable inquiries of successor auditors and allow successor auditors to review working papers relating to matters of continuing accounting significance.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE GOVERNMENT

A. Name and Telephone Number of Contact Persons/Location of Offices

The auditor's principal contact with the District will be James P. Ward, District Manager or a designated representative, who will coordinate the assistance to be provided by the District to the auditor.

B. A copy of the District's Budget for the audit period and the Audited Financial Statements for the prior Fiscal Year is available by contacting the District Manager.

C. Budgetary Basis of Accounting

The District prepares its budgets on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

D. Pension Plans - NONE

E. Blended Component Units - NONE

The District is defined, for financial reporting purposes, in conformity with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*, Section 2100. Using these criteria, there are no blended component units included in the District financial statements.

F. Joint Ventures - NONE



#### IV. TIME REQUIREMENTS

##### A. Date Audit May Commence

The District will have all records ready for audit for by October 15<sup>th</sup> of each Fiscal Year.

##### B. Schedule for each Fiscal Year Audit

Each of the following should be completed by the auditor, no later than the dates indicated.

###### 1. Fieldwork

The auditor shall complete all fieldwork by November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

###### 2. Draft Reports

The auditor shall have drafts of the audit report[s] and recommendations to management available for review by December of each year.

##### C. Date Final Report is Due - 1 business day from Management Approval

The Auditor shall prepare draft financial statements, notes and all required supplementary information.

The final report should be delivered to the **District Manager at 2301 Northeast 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308.**

#### V. ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO THE AUDITOR AND REPORT PREPARATION

A. The District staff and responsible management personnel will be available during the audit to assist the firm by providing information, documentation and explanations. The preparation of confirmations will be the responsibility of District and provided to the auditor to transmit. In addition any required hours of clerical support will be made available to the auditor for the preparation of routine letters and memoranda.

##### B. Information Solutions (IS) Assistance

The District Manager also be available to provide systems documentation and explanations. The auditor will be provided computer time and limited read only access to the use of the District computer hardware and software.

C. Statements and Schedules to be Prepared by the District.

Statement or Schedule

Bank Confirmations  
Construction in Progress  
GFA Roll Forward  
Contract/Retainage Payable  
Accounts Payable  
Accounts Receivable  
Investments/Accrued Interest Receivable  
Operating Transfers  
Equity Accounts Detail  
Bond Reserve Requirements  
Amortization/Depreciation Schedules  
Interest Expense  
Debt Amortization Schedules

D. Auditor Work Location

All work must be handled at the office of the Auditor and the District will provide all files to the Auditor electronically and the Auditor will be provided limited read only access to the District's electronic system.

E. Report Preparation

Report preparation and editing shall be the responsibility of the auditor and the Auditor shall deliver 1 printed original of the Audited Financial Statements and one (1) electronic file in word and one (1) electronic file in pdf format.

VI. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Technical and Dollar Cost Proposal

1. General Requirements

The purpose of the Technical and Dollar Cost Proposal is to demonstrate the qualifications, competence and capability of the firms seeking to undertake an independent audit of the District in conformity with the requirements of this request for proposals. As such, the substance of proposals will carry more weight than their form or manner of presentation. The Technical and Dollar Cost Proposal should demonstrate the qualifications of the firm and of the particular staff to be assigned to this engagement. It should also specify an audit approach that will meet the request for proposals requirements.

The Technical and Dollar Cost Proposal should address all the points outlined in the request for proposal The Proposal should be prepared simply and

economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the proposer's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the request for proposals.

While additional data may be presented, the following subjects, items Nos. 2 through 10, must be included. They represent the criteria against which the proposal will be evaluated.

2. Independence

The firm should provide an affirmative statement that is independent of the District as defined by generally accepted auditing standards/the most current applicable U.S. General Accounting Office's *Government Auditing Standards*.

The firm also should provide an affirmative statement that it is independent of all of the component units of the District as defined by those same standards.

The firm should also list and describe the firm's professional relationships involving the District for the past five (5) years, together with a statement explaining why such relationships do not constitute a conflict of interest relative to performing the proposed audit.

In addition, the firm shall give the District written notice of any professional relationships entered into during the period of this agreement.

3. License to Practice in Florida

An affirmative statement should be included that the firm and all assigned key professional staff are properly registered/licensed to practice in the State of Florida.

4. Firm Qualifications and Experience

The proposer should state the size of the firm, the size of the firm's governmental audit staff, the location of the office from which the work on this engagement is to be performed and the number and nature of the professional staff to be employed in this engagement on a full-time basis and the number and nature of the staff to be so employed on a part-time basis.

The firm is also required to submit a copy of the report on its most recent external quality control review, with a statement whether that quality control review included a review of specific government engagements.

The firm shall also provide information on the results of any federal or state desk reviews or field reviews of its audits during the past three (3) years. In addition, the firm shall provide information on the circumstances and status of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the firm during the past three (3) years with state regulatory bodies or professional organizations, as well as, an

explanation of all pending litigation against governmental entities, including all accounts of Federal indictments for any civil or criminal matters for which the firm has been charged. The firm shall also provide information as to any and all litigation or arbitration in Florida within the last three (3) years, in which the firm is or was a Defendant.

5. Partner, Supervisory and Staff Qualifications and Experience

Identify the principal supervisory and management staff, including engagement partners, managers, other supervisors and specialists, who would be assigned to the engagement. Indicate whether each such person is registered or licensed to practice as a certified public accountant in Florida. Provide information on the government auditing experience of each person, including information on relevant continuing professional education for the past three (3) years and membership in professional organizations relevant to the performance of this audit.

Provide as much information as possible regarding the number, qualifications, experience and training, including relevant continuing professional education, of the specific staff to be assigned to this engagement. Indicate how the quality of staff over the term of the agreement will be assured.

Engagement partners, managers, other supervisory staff and specialists may be changed if those personnel leave the firm, are promoted or are assigned to another office. These personnel may also be changed for other reasons with the express prior written permission of the District. However, in either case, the District retains the right to approve or reject replacements.

Consultants and firm specialists mentioned in response to this request for proposal can only be changed with the express prior written permission of the District, which retains the right to approve or reject replacements.

Other audit personnel may be changed at the discretion of the proposer provided that replacements have substantially the same or better qualifications or experience.

6. Prior Engagements with the District

List separately all engagements within the last five years, ranked on the basis of total staff hours, by type of engagement (i.e., audit, management advisory services, other). Indicate the scope of work, date, engagement partners, total hours, the location of the firm's office from which the engagement was performed, and the name and telephone number of the principal client contact.

7. Similar Engagements With Other Government Entities

For the firm's office that will be assigned responsibility for the audit, list the most significant engagements performed in the last five years that are similar to the engagement described in this request for proposal. These engagements should be ranked on the basis of total staff hours. Indicate the scope of work, date, engagement partners, total hours, and the name and telephone number of the principal client contact.

8. Specific Audit Approach

The proposal should set forth a work plan, including an explanation of the audit methodology to be followed, to perform the services required in Section II of this request for proposal. In developing the work plan, reference should be made to such sources of information as District's budget and related materials, organizational charts, manuals and programs, and financial and other management information systems.

Proposers will be required to provide the following information on their audit approach:

- a. Proposed segmentation of the engagement
- b. Level of staff and number of hours to be assigned to each proposed segment of the engagement
- c. Sample size and the extent to which statistical sampling is to be used in the engagement
- d. Extent of use of EDP software in the engagement
- e. Type and extent of analytical procedures to be used in the engagement
- f. Approach to be taken to gain and document an understanding of the District's internal control structure
- g. Approach to be taken in determining laws and regulations that will be subject to audit test work
- h. Approach to be taken in drawing audit samples for purposes of tests of compliance

9. Identification of Anticipated Potential Audit Problems

The proposal should identify and describe any anticipated potential audit problems, the firm's approach to resolving these problems and any special assistance that will be requested from the District .

10. Report Format

The proposal should include sample formats for required reports.

B. Dollar Cost Proposal

1. Total All-Inclusive Maximum Price

The dollar cost proposal should contain all pricing information relative to performing the audit engagement as described in this request for proposal. The total all-inclusive maximum price to be proposal is to contain all direct and indirect costs including all out-of-pocket expenses.

The District will not be responsible for expenses incurred in preparing and submitting the technical proposal or the sealed dollar cost proposal. Such costs should not be included in the proposal.

The first page of the dollar cost proposal should include the following information:

- a. Name of Firm
- b. Certification that the person signing the proposal is entitled to represent the firm, empowered to submit the proposal, and authorized to sign a contract with the District .
- c. A Total All-Inclusive Maximum Price for the Audited Financial Statements for each Fiscal Year.

3. Out-of-pocket Expenses must be included in the Total All-inclusive Maximum Price and Reimbursement Rates

Out-of-pocket expenses for firm personnel (e.g., travel, lodging and subsistence) will be reimbursed at the rates in Florida Statutes.

5. Manner of Payment

Progress payments will be made in accordance with the Florida Prompt Payment Act.

## VII. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

### A. Review of Proposals

The SELECTION COMMITTEE will evaluate and rank the proposals. Each member of the SELECTION COMMITTEE will evaluate and rank each technical proposal by each of the criteria described in Section VII B below.

After the rankings for the firms have been established, the sealed dollar cost proposal will be opened and will be utilized for the ranking of the firms.

### B. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using three sets of criteria. Firms meeting the mandatory criteria will have their proposals ranked for both technical qualifications. The following represent the principal selection criteria, which will be considered during the evaluation process.

#### 1. Mandatory Elements

- a. The audit firm is independent and licensed to practice in Florida
- b. The firm has no conflict of interest with regard to any other work performed by the firm for the District
- c. The firm adheres to the instructions in this request for proposal on preparing and submitting the proposal
- d. The firm submits a copy of its last external quality control review report and the firm has a record of quality audit work

#### 2. Technical Qualifications:

##### a. Expertise and Experience

- (1) The firm's past experience and performance on comparable government engagements.
- (2) The quality of the firm's professional personnel to be assigned to the engagement and the quality of the firm's management support personnel to be available for technical consultation.
- (3) The firm provides information on the results of any federal or state desk reviews or field reviews of its audits during the past three (3) years. In addition, the firm provides information on the circumstances and status of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the firm during the past three (3) years, with

state regulatory bodies or professional organizations, as well as, an explanation of all pending litigation against governmental entities, including all accounts of Federal indictments for any civil or criminal matters for which the firm has been charged. The firm also provides information as to any and all litigation or arbitration in Florida within the last three (3) years, in which the firm is or was a Defendant.

b. Audit Approach

- (1) Adequacy of proposed staffing plan for various segments of the engagement
- (2) Adequacy of sampling techniques
- (3) Adequacy of analytical procedures

Proposals shall be ranked on the basis of their Technical Qualifications by each member of the SELECTION COMMITTEE who will assign each of the top five proposals a number of one (1) through five (5), with one (1) signifying the highest rated proposal and five (5) signifying the lowest rated proposal.

3. Price:

Proposals shall be ranked on the basis of their price by the SELECTION COMMITTEE who will assign each of the top five proposals a number of one (1) through five (5), with one (1) signifying the lowest price and five (5) signifying the highest price.

Upon reconciliation of the weighted scores defined above, the proposal with the lowest average ranking score will be ranked one (1), the proposal with the second lowest average ranking score will be ranked two (2), and so on until all proposals are scored and ranked. The proposal ranked one (1), in the ranking form provided in the attachment (Appendix C), will be recommended by the SELECTION COMMITTEE to the District for award of the contract.

C. Oral Presentations

During the evaluation process, the SELECTION COMMITTEE may, at its discretion, request any one or all firms to make oral presentations. Such presentations will provide firms with an opportunity to answer any questions the SELECTION COMMITTEE may have on a firm's proposal. Not all firms may be asked to make such oral presentations.

D. Right to Reject Proposals

Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance by the firm of the conditions contained in this request for proposal unless clearly and specifically noted in the proposal submitted



and confirmed in the contract between the District and the firm selected. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

**APPENDIX A**

**SCHEDULE OF PROFESSIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Fee shall include all services, including but not limited to Out-of-Pocket expenses, meals and lodging, transportation, printing and binding, telephone, fax, copies.**

<b>Fiscal Year 2024</b>	_____
<b>Fiscal Year 2025</b>	_____
<b>Fiscal Year 2026</b>	_____
<b>Fiscal Year 2027</b>	_____
<b>Fiscal Year 2028</b>	_____
<b>TOTAL ALL YEARS</b>	_____

**APPENDIX B**

**AUDITOR RANKING FORM**

**INCLUDED AT END OF RFP**

**APPENDIX C**

**Agreement for Auditing Services**

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE  
ARTISAN LAKES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
AND  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FOR  
PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES**

This Agreement, is made and entered into the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 by and between the ARTISAN LAKES Community Development District , a Florida municipal corporation, (“DISTRICT”), and \_\_\_\_\_ (“AUDITOR”) for the audit of the DISTRICT’S financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 and for each fiscal year thereafter through September 30, 2028.

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT and Section 218.39, Florida Statutes, require that the DISTRICT shall provide annually for an audit of the financial statements of the DISTRICT; and

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT, undertook a selection process in seeking a firm to perform the required financial audit; and

WHEREAS, proposals were evaluated and ranked by an Auditor Selection Committee; and

WHEREAS, the District has selected the AUDITOR upon the recommendation of the Auditor Selection Committee to audit the DISTRICT’S financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 2024 and for each fiscal year thereafter through September 30, 2028, provided that the District Manager renews this Agreement for each subsequent fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, DISTRICT and AUDITOR desire to enter into an Agreement whereby the duties and obligations each to the other are set forth.

**IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS HEREIN EXPRESSED AND THE FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF ALL SUCH COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. SCOPE OF AUDIT**

1.1 The audit must meet the requirements identified in the Request for Proposals for Professional Auditing Services dated \_\_\_\_\_, ("RFP") is attached hereto and made a part hereof, as Exhibit "A," and the AUDITOR'S Technical Proposal and the Sealed Dollar Cost Proposal are attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "B." AUDITOR shall perform the scope of work, issue reports, comply with the Special Considerations and follow the auditing standards, as described in Exhibit "A," Section II, Nature of Services Required.

1.2 AUDITOR shall be required to make an immediate written report of all irregularities and illegal acts or indications of illegal acts of which they become aware of, to the District Manager and the District Attorney.

1.3 AUDITOR agrees that certain books and records may be made available prior to the time when others may be made available, and certain funds may be audited and such audit for those funds completed prior to the time that other funds are so audited and completed. It is contemplated that those funds audited separately and reported separately will be completed and the audit report furnished as soon as possible. In any event, the final audit report shall be furnished to the DISTRICT no later than January 31st of each fiscal year. The DISTRICT agrees that all records, documentation, and information requested in connection with the audit will be made available, that all material information will be disclosed, and that the AUDITOR will have the full cooperation of the DISTRICT and the District's agents. As required by generally accepted auditing standards, the AUDITOR will make specific inquiries of the DISTRICT about the representations embodied in the financial statements, the effectiveness of the internal control structure, the DISTRICT'S compliance with certain laws and regulations, and obtain a representation letter from the DISTRICT about these matters. The responses to the AUDITOR'S inquiries, the written representations and the results of audit tests comprise the evidential matter that will be relied upon in forming an opinion on the financial statements.

1.4 AUDITOR agrees and acknowledges that AUDITOR is prohibited from exempting provisions in the RFP or in this Agreement in any of AUDITOR'S reports prepared pursuant to this Agreement.

1.5 AUDITOR agrees and acknowledges that District Attorney shall review and approve of the litigation section of the Audited Financial Statements prior to its publication.

1.6 AUDITOR agrees and acknowledges that upon execution of this Agreement, AUDITOR shall provide in writing, to the District Manager, AUDITOR'S contact person, who shall be responsible for the DISTRICT'S audit.

**SECTION 2. TERM**

2.1 The term of this Agreement shall begin on the date it is fully executed by both parties and shall extend to the completion and delivery to the DISTRICT of the audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2028, subject to the termination provisions contained herein.

2.2 The DISTRICT'S fiscal year is from October 1 through September 30. The audit field work should be substantially completed no later than November 30th of each fiscal year and the financial statements and the final signed report delivered to the DISTRICT by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each fiscal year. Time shall be deemed to be of the essence in performing the duties obligations and responsibilities required by this Agreement, however these dates may be changed each year by the District and AUDITOR. AUDITOR shall comply with all dates as described in Exhibit "A" and with the time schedules for subsequent audit years.

### SECTION 3. COMPENSATION

3.1 DISTRICT agrees to pay AUDITOR, the agreed to amount, as set forth in Exhibits "A", which amount shall be accepted by AUDITOR as full compensation for all such work, which shall include provisions for out-of-pocket expenses. It is acknowledged and agreed by AUDITOR that these amounts are the maximum payable and constitute a limitation upon DISTRICT'S obligation to compensate AUDITOR for its services related to this Agreement. This maximum amount, however, does not constitute a limitation of any sort, upon AUDITOR'S obligation to perform all items of work required by or which can be reasonably inferred from the Scope of Services.

3.2. AUDITOR may submit an invoice for compensation, developed and agreed upon by the District Manager and AUDITOR, no more often than on a monthly basis, but only after the services for which the invoices are submitted have been completed. An original invoice plus one copy are due within fifteen (15) days of the end of the month except the final invoice which must be received no later than sixty (60) days after this Agreement expires. Invoices shall designate the nature of the services performed and shall also show a summary of fees and expenses with accrual of the total and credits for portions paid previously, and shall allocate the billing costs to the appropriate fund or combination of funds. Each statement shall show the proportion of the guaranteed maximum payment that has been expended through previous billings.

3.3. DISTRICT shall pay AUDITOR within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of AUDITOR'S proper statement. To be deemed proper, all invoices must comply with the requirements set forth in this Agreement and must be submitted on the form and pursuant to instructions prescribed by the District Manager. AUDITOR shall provide a complete copy of the working papers to DISTRICT at the completion of the audit, prior to the final payment of the auditing fees by the DISTRICT. DISTRICT shall withhold ten percent (10%) from each billing pending delivery of the AUDITOR'S final reports. Additionally, payment may be withheld by the District Manager, for failure of AUDITOR to comply with a term, condition or requirement of this Agreement.

3.4 Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, District Manager, may withhold, in whole or in part, payment (in addition to the ten percent (10%) described above) to the extent necessary to protect itself from loss on account of inadequate or defective work which has not been remedied or resolved in a manner satisfactory to District Manager. The amount withheld shall not be subject to payment of interest by DISTRICT.

3.5 Payment shall be made to AUDITOR at:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.6 AUDITOR agrees to keep such records and accounts as may be necessary in order to record complete and correct entries as to personnel hours charged and any expenses for which AUDITOR receives reimbursement for a period of at least three years after completion of the work provided for in this Agreement. Such books and records shall be available at all reasonable times for examination and audit by DISTRICT.

3.7 If it should become necessary for DISTRICT to request AUDITOR to render any additional services to either supplement the services described in the RFP or to perform additional work as a result of the specific recommendations included in any report issued pursuant to this Agreement, such additional work shall be performed only if set forth in an addendum to this Agreement. Any such additional work agreed to by both parties shall be performed at the same rate in the schedule of fees and expenses included in the sealed dollar cost bid, or if in subsequent fiscal years, at the agreed upon schedule.

#### SECTION 4. TERMINATION

4.1 This Agreement may be terminated by the District for any reason upon not less than ten (10) days written notice to Auditor in accordance with the Notices section of this Agreement.

4.4 In the event this Agreement is terminated, AUDITOR shall be paid for any services performed to the date the Agreement is terminated; however, upon being notified of DISTRICT'S election to terminate, AUDITOR shall refrain from performing further services or incurring additional expenses under the terms of this Agreement. AUDITOR acknowledges and agrees that Ten Dollars (\$10.00) of the compensation to be paid by DISTRICT, the adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged by AUDITOR, is given as specific consideration to AUDITOR for DISTRICT'S right to terminate this Agreement for convenience.

4.5 In the event this Agreement is terminated, any compensation payable by DISTRICT shall be withheld until all documents are provided to DISTRICT pursuant to Section 7.2 of this Agreement.

#### SECTION 5. INDEMNIFICATION

AUDITOR shall at all times hereafter indemnify, hold harmless and, at District's option, pay for an attorney selected by the District, after consultation with AUDITOR, to defend DISTRICT, its officers, agents servants, and employees against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, and expenditures of any kind, including attorney fees, court costs, and expenses, caused by negligent act or omission of AUDITOR, its employees, agents, servants, or officers, or accruing, resulting from, or related to the subject matter of this Agreement including, without limitation, any and all claims, demands or causes of action of any nature whatsoever resulting from injuries or damages sustained by any person or property. The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement. To the extent considered necessary by the District Manager and the District Attorney, any sums due AUDITOR under this Agreement may be retained by DISTRICT until all of DISTRICT'S claims for indemnification pursuant to this Agreement have been settled or otherwise resolved; and any amount withheld shall not be subject to payment of interest by DISTRICT.

#### SECTION 6. INSURANCE

6.1 In order to insure the indemnification obligation contained above, AUDITOR shall, as a minimum, provide, pay for, and maintain in force at all times during the term of this Agreement, the

insurance coverages and any renewals thereof, as required by the Request for Qualifications.

6.2 AUDITOR shall furnish to the District Manager, Certificates of Insurance or endorsements evidencing the insurance coverages specified by the DISTRICT, and DISTRICT shall approve such certificates prior to beginning performance of work under this Agreement.

6.3 Coverage is not to cease and is to remain in force (subject to cancellation notice) until all performance required of AUDITOR is completed. All policies must be endorsed to provide DISTRICT with at least thirty (30) days' notice of cancellation and/or material changes. If any of the insurance coverages will expire prior to the completion of the work, copies of renewal policies shall be furnished at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of their expiration.

## SECTION 7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1 Copies of Report. AUDITOR agrees to furnish DISTRICT with copies of the Audited Financial Statements identified in the Request for Proposals.

7.2 Ownership Of Documents. Unless otherwise provided by law, any and all reports, surveys, and other data and documents provided or created in connection with this Agreement are and shall remain the property of DISTRICT. In the event of termination of this Agreement, any reports photographs surveys and other data and documents prepared by AUDITOR, whether finished or unfinished, shall become the property of DISTRICT and shall be delivered by AUDITOR to the District Manager within seven (7) days of termination of this Agreement by either party. Any compensation due to AUDITOR shall be withheld until all documents are received as provided herein.

7.3 Audit And Inspection Rights And Retention Of Records. DISTRICT shall have the right to audit the books, records and accounts of AUDITOR that are related to this Project. AUDITOR shall keep such books, records, and accounts as may be necessary in order to record complete and correct entries related to the Project.

AUDITOR shall preserve and make available, at reasonable times for examination and audit by DISTRICT, all financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and any other documents pertinent to this Agreement for the required retention period of the Florida Public Records Act (Chapter 119, Fla. Stat.), if applicable, or, if the Florida Public Records Act is not applicable, for a minimum period of three (3) years after termination of this Agreement, unless AUDITOR is notified in writing by DISTRICT of the need to extend the retention period. Such retention of such records and documents shall be at AUDITOR'S expense. If any audit has been initiated and audit findings have not been resolved at the end of the retention period or three (3) years, whichever is longer, the books, records, and accounts shall be retained until resolution of the audit findings. If the Florida Public Records Act is determined by DISTRICT to be applicable to AUDITOR'S records, AUDITOR shall comply with all requirements thereof; however, no confidentiality or non-disclosure requirement of either federal or state law shall be violated by AUDITOR. Any incomplete or incorrect entry in such books, records, and accounts shall be a basis for DISTRICT'S disallowance and recovery of any payment upon such entry.

In addition, AUDITOR shall respond to the reasonable inquiries of successor auditors and allow successor auditors to review working papers relating to matters of continuing accounting significance.

In addition, AUDITOR shall provide a complete copy of all working papers to the DISTRICT, prior to final payment by the DISTRICT, in accordance with the RFP for AUDITOR services.



AUDITOR shall affirmatively comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state and local equal employment laws and shall not engage in or commit any discriminatory practice against any person based on race, age, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, physical or mental disability, political affiliation or any other factor which cannot be lawfully used as a basis for service delivery.

7.4 Policy Of Non-Discrimination. AUDITOR shall not discriminate against any person in its operations, activities or delivery of services under this Agreement.

AUDITOR shall affirmatively comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state and local equal employment laws.

7.5 Public Entity Crime Act. AUDITOR represents that the execution of this Agreement will not violate the Public Entity Crime Act (Section 287.133, Florida Statutes), which essentially provides that a person or affiliate who is a contractor, consultant or other provider and who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a Public Entity Crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to DISTRICT, may not submit a bid on a contract with DISTRICT for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to DISTRICT, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with DISTRICT, and may not transact any business with DISTRICT in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for category two purchases for a period of thirty six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list. Violation of this section shall result in termination of this Agreement and recovery of all monies paid hereto, and may result in debarment from DISTRICT'S competitive procurement activities.

In addition to the foregoing. AUDITOR further represents that there has been no determination, based on an audit, that it committed an act defined by Section 287.133, Florida Statutes, as a "public entity crime" and that it has not been formally charged with committing an act defined as a "public entity crime" regardless of the amount of money involved or whether AUDITOR has been placed on the convicted vendor list.

7.6 Independent Contractor. AUDITOR is an independent contractor under this Agreement. Services provided by AUDITOR pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to the supervision of AUDITOR. In providing such services, neither AUDITOR nor its agents shall act as officers, employees or agents of the DISTRICT. Personnel policies, tax responsibilities, social security and health insurance, employee benefits, purchasing policies and other similar administrative procedures applicable to services rendered under this Agreement shall be those of AUDITOR. This Agreement shall not constitute or make the parties a partnership or joint venture.

7.7 Third Party Beneficiaries. Neither AUDITOR nor DISTRICT intends to directly or substantially benefit a third party by this Agreement. Therefore, the parties agree that there are no third party beneficiaries to this Agreement and that no third party shall be entitled to assert a claim against either of them based upon this Agreement the parties expressly acknowledge that it is not their intent to create any rights or obligations in any third person or entity under this Agreement.

7.8 Notices. Whenever either party desires to give notice to the other, such notice must be in writing, sent by certified United States Mail postage prepaid return receipt requested or by hand delivery with a request for a written receipt of acknowledgment of delivery, addressed to the party for whom it is intended at the place last specified. The place for giving notice shall remain the same as set

forth herein until changed in writing in the manner provided in this section for the present, the parties designate the following:

**As to District:**

ARTISAN LAKES Community Development District  
2301 Northeast 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308  
Attention: James P. Ward, District Manager

**With a Copy to:**

Kutak Rock LLP  
107 West College Avenue  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
Attention: Mr. Jere Earlywine, District Attorney

**As to Auditor:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7.9 Assignment And Performance. Neither this Agreement nor any interest herein shall be assigned, transferred, or encumbered by either party. In addition, AUDITOR shall not subcontract any portion of the work required by this Agreement.

AUDITOR represents that all persons delivering the services required by this Agreement have the knowledge and skills, either by training, experience, education, or a combination thereof, to adequately and competently perform the duties, obligations, and services set forth in Exhibit "F" and to provide and perform such services to DISTRICT'S satisfaction for the agreed compensation.

AUDITOR shall perform its duties, obligations and services under this Agreement in a skillful and respectable manner. The quality of AUDITOR'S performance and all interim and final product(s) provided to or on behalf of DISTRICT shall be comparable to the best local and national standards.

7.10 Conflicts. Neither AUDITOR nor its employees shall have or hold any continuing or frequently recurring employment or contractual relationship that is substantially antagonistic or incompatible with AUDITOR'S loyal and conscientious exercise of judgment related to its performance under this Agreement.

AUDITOR agrees that none of its officers or employees shall, during the term of this Agreement, serve as an expert witness against DISTRICT in any legal or administrative proceeding in which he or she is not a party, unless compelled by court process. Further, AUDITOR agrees that such persons shall not give sworn testimony or issue a report or writing, as an expression of his or her expert opinion, which is adverse or prejudicial to the interests of DISTRICT in connection with any such pending or threatened legal or administrative proceeding. The limitations of this section shall not preclude AUDITOR or any other persons

from representing themselves in any action or in any administrative or legal proceeding.

In the event AUDITOR is permitted to utilize subcontractors to perform any services required by this Agreement, AUDITOR agrees to prohibit such subcontractors, by written contract, from having any conflicts within the meaning of this section.

7.11 Contingency Fee. AUDITOR warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for AUDITOR, to solicit or secure this Agreement and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for AUDITOR, any fee, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. For a breach or violation of this provision, DISTRICT shall have the right to terminate this Agreement without liability at its discretion or to deduct from the Agreement price or otherwise recover the full amount of such fee, percentage, gift or consideration.

7.12 Materiality And Waiver Of Breach. DISTRICT and AUDITOR agree that each requirement, duty, and obligation set forth herein is substantial and important to the formation of this Agreement and, therefore, is a material term hereof.

DISTRICT'S failure to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such provision or modification of this Agreement. A waiver of any breach of a provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Agreement.

7.13 Compliance With Laws. AUDITOR shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in performing its duties, responsibilities, and obligations pursuant to this Agreement.

7.14 Severance. In the event a portion of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue to be effective unless DISTRICT or AUDITOR elects to terminate this Agreement. An election to terminate this Agreement based upon this provision shall be made within seven (7) days after the finding by the court becomes final.

7.15 Joint Preparation. The parties acknowledge that they have sought and received whatever competent advice and counsel as was necessary for them to form a full and complete understanding of all rights and obligations herein and that the preparation of this Agreement has been their joint effort. The language agreed to expresses their mutual intent and the resulting document shall not, solely as a matter of judicial construction, be construed more severely against one of the parties than the other.

7.16 Priority Of Provisions. If there is a conflict or inconsistency between any term, statement, requirement, or provision of any exhibit attached hereto, any document or events referred to herein, or any document incorporated into this Agreement by reference and a term, statement, requirement, or provision of this Agreement, the term, statement, requirement, or provision contained in Articles 1 through 7 of this Agreement shall prevail and be given effect.

7.17 Applicable Law And Venue. This Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Any controversies or legal problems arising out of this Agreement and any action involving the enforcement or interpretation of any rights

hereunder shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the courts in Manatee County, Florida.

7.18 Amendments. No modification, amendment or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document prepared with the same or similar formality as this Agreement.

7.19 Drug-Free Workplace. AUDITOR shall maintain a Drug Free Workplace.

7.20 Prior Agreements. This Agreement and its attachments constitute the entire agreement between AUDITOR and DISTRICT, and this document incorporates and includes all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements, and understandings applicable to the matters contained herein and the parties agree that there are no commitments, agreements or understandings concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that are not contained in this document. Accordingly, the parties agree that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representations or agreements, whether oral or written. It is further agreed that no modification, amendment or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless set forth in writing in accordance with Section 7.18 above.

7.21 Incorporation By Reference. The truth and accuracy of each “Whereas” clause set forth above is acknowledged by the parties. The attached Exhibits "A" and “B” are incorporated hereto and made a part of this Agreement.

7.22 Multiple Originals. This Agreement may be fully executed in FIVE (5) copies by all parties each of which, bearing original signatures, shall have the force and effect of an original document.

7.23 Headings. Headings are for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered in any interpretation of this Agreement.

7.24 Binding Authority. Each person signing this Agreement on behalf of either party individually warrants that he or she has full legal power to execute this Agreement on behalf of the party for whom he or she is signing, and to bind and obligate such party with respect to all provisions contained in this Agreement.

7.25 Survival Of Provisions. Any terms or conditions of this Agreement that require acts beyond the date of its termination shall survive the termination of this Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect unless and until the terms of conditions are completed, and shall be fully enforceable by either party.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND \_\_\_\_\_ FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement on the respective dates under each signature: the District signing by and through its Chairman, authorized to execute same by action on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024; and \_\_\_\_\_ authorized to execute same, through its \_\_\_\_\_.

**ARTISAN LAKES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Sciarabba, Chairman

\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
James P. Ward, Secretary

WITNESS:

**AUDITOR**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Print Name