

Management Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 8, 2013

Subject: Authorization to Amend Legal Contract #10P058B to Increase the Contract Value from \$355,000 to \$535,000

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the amendment of contract 10P058B by increasing the contract value from \$355,000 to \$535,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Staff presented that this contract amendment is related to the Heacox law firm, which is currently one of three firms providing defense to the Council for workers' compensation claims. While this contract needs an amendment to increase its value, the overall legal expense in 2012 was down over 11% when compared to 2011. Given the number of attorneys the Heacox firm employs, as well as the complexity of the files they handle, more money has been spent on this contract than originally anticipated at the beginning of the contract term.

This increase will allow the Council to utilize the services of Heacox until the end of the contract, at which time it will competitively bid this service through an RFP.

No questions were asked by the committee and the proposed action was approved.

Management Committee

Meeting date: April 10, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 8, 2013

Subject: Authorization to Amend Legal Contract #10P058B to Increase the Contract Value from \$355,000 to \$535,000

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference:

Staff Prepared/Presented: Phil Walljasper, 651-602-1787

Division/Department: Regional Administration/Risk Management

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the amendment of contract 10P058B by increasing the contract value from \$355,000 to \$535,000.

Background

Contract 10P058B is with the Heacox law firm and provides services for Workers' Compensation defense. This is one of three contracts the Council currently has with for this service, with each contract expiring on 1/31/14. The original value of each respective contract was \$355,000.

While overall Workers' Compensation legal expense was down over 11% in 2012, and the lowest in the last four years, the amount paid by the Heacox firm exceeded what was anticipated at the time of the contract effective date. This has primarily been a factor of the number of active files handled by the firm and their complexity.

Rationale

Given the value of the contract exceeds \$250,000, any amendment requires Council action. The proposed amendment would allow the Metropolitan Council to pay for essential legal services.

Funding

Legal expenses are allocated to each workers' compensation claim and are budgeted by each division.

Known Support / Opposition

None