



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
FINANCIAL ITEMS

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248.656.4630
www.rochesterhills.org

Legislative File No: 2025-0470

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor
Joe Snyder, Chief Financial Officer

DATE: October 29, 2025

SUBJECT: FY 2026 City Attorney Services

REQUEST:

City Council is requested to authorize approval of FY 2026 City attorney services with Hafeli, Staran, and Christ, P.C., under the new firm name of The Kelly Firm PC, and further authorize a blanket purchase order for FY 2026 City Attorney Services to The Kelly Firm, in the amount not-to-exceed \$265,000.00.

REASON FOR PURCHASE:

City Council appointed Hafeli, Staran and Christ, P.C. as the City Attorney pursuant to Section 8.7 of the City Charter. The City Attorney provides essential general legal services, including contract review, consultation, legal opinions, and litigation support. The firm of Hafeli, Staran, and Christ, P.C., including services provided by legal counsel, John Staran and Dan Christ, has been consistent and satisfactory counsel to the City for many years and is integral to maintaining the stability of our legal representation.

Mr. Christ's firm, Hafeli, Staran and Christ, P.C., is currently undergoing a merger with The Kelly Firm, a respected municipal law firm. This merger will result in a change of the firm name to The Kelly Firm, but the City's principal attorney, Mr. Christ, will remain the same and the City's legal counsel representative. This organizational change is highly beneficial to the City, as it will expand the depth of available legal resources and specialized knowledge by integrating with another municipal firm, ensuring continued high-quality, comprehensive legal support without disruption to the existing client relationship.

It is for these reasons that City Council is requested to approve the continuation of services with Hafeli, Staran, and Christ, P.C., under the newly merged entity, The Kelly Firm PC.

For 2026, hourly rates are proposed at:

- Partner rate for legal work performed by P. Daniel Christ - \$155/hr
- Partner rate for legal work performed by John Staran - \$155/hr
- Hourly associate rates for services performed by other attorneys within the firm = \$140/hr

PROCESS:

Vendor Name and Address:

The Kelly Firm PC
2055 Orchard Lake Road
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320

Reason for Selection:

Charter Appointment

Method of Purchase:

Blanket Purchase Order

BUDGET:

Funding is included in the FY 2026 Adopted Budget.

Fund Name	Department Account No	Account No. Description	Budget Amount	Cost	Remaining Budget
General Fund / Legal Services	210.805001	Legal Fees – City Attorney	\$265,000	\$265,000	\$0

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council is requested to authorize approval of 2026 City attorney services with Hafeli, Staran, and Christ, P.C., under the new firm name of The Kelly Firm, and further authorize a blanket purchase order for 2026 City Attorney Services to The Kelly Firm, in the amount not-to-exceed \$265,000.00.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Budget Content: Chief Financial Officer		
Purchasing Process: Procurement Manager		
Mayor		
City Clerk		

Contract Reviewed by City Attorney ☐ Yes ☒ N/A