

BOCC APPROVED SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

3. STATE LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING SERVICES FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY -- MANAGER'S OFFICE
FUNDING -- MANAGER'S OFFICE

(Request sent to 26 vendors)

RFP #24-0059 Contract

	Watkins Public Strategies, LLC	
State Legislative Lobbying Services	\$70,000.00 per year	
No Submission	Catalyst	Federico Consulting, LLC
	Heartland Credit Union	Johnston & Associates

On the recommendation of Joe Thomas, on behalf of the Manager's Office, Greg Gann moved to **accept the proposal from Watkins Public Strategies, LLC for an annual fee of \$70,000.00 and contract period for three (3) years with two (2) one (1) year options to renew.** Jennifer Blasi seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 4 with Russell Leeds abstaining from the vote.

A committee comprised of Tania Cole and Rusty Leeds - Assistant County Managers; Lindsay Poe Rousseau - CFO; Chris Labrum - Director of MABCD; Adrienn Clark - Assistant County Counselor; and Joe Thomas - Director of Purchasing evaluated the proposal response based on the criteria set forth in the RFP. The committee agreed to accept the proposal from Watkins Public Strategies, LLC.

Sedgwick County will work with this firm to provide services as a legislative liaison to represent and report to the county on a regular basis during the State Legislative sessions as well as outside the session regarding legislation or issues that affect the county.

This firm is expected to work closely with the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager, Legal Department, Division Directors, and Department Heads, which represents Sedgwick County government and the interests of Sedgwick County government to the State of Kansas Legislature.

This firm will present potential legislative items and provide continuous and ongoing legislative advice to the county concerning the county's platform issues. Additionally, the firm will monitor all bills of importance to Sedgwick County government, including those affecting operations of county departments, taxation matters, state and local partnership concerns, and other local governments so that the county has the opportunity to engage in discussions.

The lobbying efforts of this firm will meet with state legislators to request their support or opposition to bills and provide support materials to legislators in advance.

Notes:

This is a proposal and not a bid. Proposals are based on criteria set forth in the RFP. There are five (5) components to this RFP.

Component	Points
a. Overall quality of firm's proposal and approach to work.	20
b. Relevant experience in providing lobbying services in either the public or private sector. Experience and demonstrated success, as indicated by the listing of current major clients.	20
c. The firm's professional reputation for integrity and compliance with state and federal law.	20
d. The professional qualifications and experience of principal employees who will work with the County.	20
e. Proposing the services described herein with the most advantageous and prudent methodology and costs to the county.	20
Total Points	100

Watkins Public Strategies, LLC has represented Sedgwick County government since 2014.