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Office of the President
June 12, 2025

Members, Audit and Compliance Committee:

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER CONTRACT WITH IDENTIFIED FINALIST FOR AUDIT, ACCOUNTING, TAX AND CONSULTING SERVICES

Recommendation: that the Audit and Compliance Committee authorize Procurement Services to enter into a contract with the identified external auditor finalist for audit, accounting, tax and consulting services.

Background: Pursuant to University of Kentucky Governing Regulation (GR) II the Audit and Compliance Committee has sole authority to review recommendations and appoint the external auditor. No action by the Board of Trustees is required.

The University's current external auditor, Forvis Mazars, LLC (formerly BKD), was hired in 2016 as a result of a request for proposals (RFP) process. The initial contract term was five years July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2021. The contract provided for four one-year extensions at the option of both parties under negotiated financial terms. The contract was subsequently extended for four additional one-year periods, with the final extension expiring with the audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

In March 2025, the University issued an RFP for audit, accounting, tax and consulting services and received three proposals. The RFP Evaluation Committee performed a preliminary evaluation of proposals and invited all three firms to present to the Committee in early April 2025. The RFP Evaluation Committee identified a finalist firm for recommendation to the Audit and Compliance Committee.

The RFP Evaluation Committee recommends an initial term of the contract(s) with Forvis Mazars, LLC to be five years (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030) with four one-year renewal options for a total term not to exceed nine years with final extension expiring with the audit of fiscal year ending June 30, 2034. Forvis Mazars, LLC was determined to be the best overall value for the University to perform the following scope of services:

- Annual, independent audits of the University of Kentucky and its affiliated corporations
- Audit of the basic financial statements of the university organizational units
- Accounting, tax services, and other services including reports on internal controls and compliance as required by the State and federal government, reports on various agreed-upon procedures
- Consulting on related matters as needed

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____