

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**AGREEMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING SERVICES BETWEEN
PFM FINANCIAL ADVISORS LLC AND FORT BEND COUNTY**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between Fort Bend County (hereinafter "County"), a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, and PFM Financial Advisors LLC (hereinafter "Consultant"), a company authorized to conduct business in the State of Texas.

W I T N E S S E T H

WHEREAS, County is authorized under Texas Local Government Code § 381.002 to develop and administer a program to stimulate business and commercial activity and to promote state or local economic development; and

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code § 381.004 further authorizes the County to utilize services and provide for the administration of such economic development programs; and

WHEREAS, the County has established an economic development initiative centered on the development of the Epicenter Hotel/Convention Center and Parking Facilities Project (the "Project") and awarded the development of said Project to Stonehenge Holdings, LLC ("Developer"); and

WHEREAS, the County requires specialized professional assistance to perform necessary financial due diligence, including the verification of project viability and the evaluation of capital structures, to ensure that the administration of the Epicenter economic development program is conducted with fiscal responsibility and protects the public's interest in County resources; and

WHEREAS, the County desires that Consultant provide Economic Development Consulting Services as will be more specifically described in this Agreement (hereinafter "Services") and as allowed by Texas Local Government Code § 381.004; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court finds that this Agreement is for personal or professional services, including municipal advisory and economic development consulting, and is therefore exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to Texas Local Government Code § 262.024(a)(4); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court further finds that this Agreement constitutes work performed under a contract for community and economic development as authorized by Texas Local Government Code § 381.004, and is thereby exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to Texas Local Government Code § 262.024(a)(10); and

WHEREAS, to the extent the County Purchasing Act (Chapter 262 of the Texas Local Government Code) applies to the procurement of these Services, the Commissioners Court hereby grants and authorizes such discretionary exemptions for the Services as set forth in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend County Purchasing Agent has reviewed this Agreement and the recitals herein and concurs that the procurement of these Services meets the requirements for discretionary exemptions as set forth in the County Purchasing Act and the Fort Bend County Purchasing Manual; and

WHEREAS, Consultant represents that it is qualified and remains ready, willing, and able to perform.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

Section 1. Scope of Services

- A. Consultant shall render Economic Development Consulting and Municipal Advisory Services in accordance with Exhibit A of this Agreement. These services are specifically focused on the administration of the County's partnership with Stonehenge Holdings, LLC (the "Developer") for the Epicenter Hotel/Convention Center and Parking Facilities Project (the "Project").

- B. The scope of services provided by Consultant includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Due Diligence and Pro Forma Review: Performing comprehensive financial due diligence on the Developer's capital capacity and ability to secure project financing. This includes reviewing the Project Financial Pro Forma and evaluating the structure of the County's additional contributions and potential investment recapture mechanisms.
 - 2. Financing Strategy: Advising the County on various financing alternatives and recommending the optimal method of sale, whether through a negotiated sale, private placement, or public sale; including analysis as to whether an alternative entity, may be an effective and appropriate mechanism by which to finance this initiative.
 - 3. Transaction Analysis: Developing debt transaction alternatives, including detailed evaluations of available revenues, maturity schedules, and cash flow requirements.
 - 4. Procurement Support: Assisting in the solicitation and evaluation of investment banking proposals and providing written analyses of underwriter proposals to the County.
 - 5. Market Preparation: Evaluating the benefits of bond insurance or security insurance for debt reserve funds.
 - 6. Credit Coordination: Developing professional credit rating presentations and coordinating the overall presentation to rating agencies when appropriate.

7. Competitive Bidding: In the event of a public sale, providing formal recommendations regarding the determination of the best bid.
- C. Consultant shall provide the County with written reports, financial models, and technical analyses upon the completion of specific tasks or as otherwise requested, in both physical and electronic formats.

Section 2. Personnel

- A. Consultant represents that it presently has, or is able to obtain, adequate qualified personnel in its employment for the timely performance of the Scope of Services required under this Agreement and that Consultant shall furnish and maintain, at its own expense, adequate and sufficient personnel, in the opinion of County, to perform the Scope of Services when and as required and without delays.
- B. All employees of Consultant shall have such knowledge and experience as will enable them to perform the duties assigned to them. Any employee of Consultant who, in the opinion of County, is incompetent or by his conduct becomes detrimental to the project shall, upon request of County, immediately be removed from association with the project.

Section 3. Compensation and Payment

- A. Consultant's fees shall be calculated at the rates set forth in the attached Exhibit A. The Maximum Compensation for the performance of Services within the Scope of Services is Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand dollars and 00/100 (\$215,000.00). In no case shall the amount paid by County under this Agreement exceed the Maximum Compensation without an approved change order.
- B. Consultant understands and agrees that the Maximum Compensation stated is an all-inclusive amount and no additional fee, cost, or reimbursed expense shall be added whatsoever to the fees stated in the Exhibit(s).
- C. All performance of the Scope of Services by Consultant, including any changes in the Scope of Services and revision of work satisfactorily performed, will be performed only when approved in advance and authorized by County.
- D. County will pay Consultant based on the following procedures: Upon completion of the tasks identified in the Scope of Services, Consultant shall submit invoices to apauditor@fbctx.gov showing the amounts due for services performed in a form acceptable to County. County shall review such invoices and approve them within 30 calendar days with such modifications as are consistent with this Agreement and forward same to the Auditor for processing. County shall pay each such approved invoice within thirty (30) calendar days. County reserves the right to withhold payment pending verification of satisfactory work performed.

Section 4. Limit of Appropriation

- A. Consultant clearly understands and agrees, such understanding and agreement being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that County shall have available the total maximum sum of Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand dollars and 00/100 (\$215,000.00) specifically allocated to fully discharge all liabilities County may incur.
- B. Consultant does further understand and agree, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Consultant may become entitled to and the total maximum sum that County may become liable to pay to Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand dollars and 00/100 (\$215,000.00).

Section 5. Term

This Agreement is effective as of March 1, 2026, and shall terminate upon the earlier of the completion of the Project or September 30, 2027, unless terminated sooner in accordance with the provisions herein. This Agreement does not automatically renew.

Section 6. Termination

- A. Termination for Convenience: County may terminate this Agreement at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice issued by the County President.
- B. Termination for Default
 - 1. County may terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement for cause in the following circumstances:
 - a. If Consultant fails to perform services within the time specified in the Scope of Services or any extension thereof granted by the County in writing;
 - b. If Consultant materially breaches any of the covenants or terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement or fails to perform any of the other provisions of this Agreement or so fails to make progress as to endanger performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, and in any of these circumstances does not cure such breach or failure to County's reasonable satisfaction within a period of ten (10) calendar days after receipt of notice from County specifying such breach or failure.
 - 2. If, after termination, it is determined by County that for any reason whatsoever that Consultant was not in default, or that the default was excusable, services may continue in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement or the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same

as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the County in accordance with Section 6A above.

- C. Upon termination of this Agreement, County shall compensate Consultant in accordance with Section 3, above, for those services which were provided under this Agreement prior to its termination and which have not been previously invoiced to County. Consultant's final invoice for said services will be presented to and paid by County in the same manner set forth in Section 3 above.
- D. If County terminates this Agreement as provided in this Section, no fees of any type, other than fees due and payable at the Termination Date, shall thereafter be paid to Consultant.

Section 7. Modifications and Waivers

- A. The parties may not amend or waive this Agreement, except by a written agreement executed by both parties.
- B. No failure or delay in exercising any right or remedy or requiring the satisfaction of any condition under this Agreement, and no course of dealing between the parties, operates as a waiver or estoppel of any right, remedy, or condition.
- C. The rights and remedies of the parties set forth in this Agreement are not exclusive of, but are cumulative to, any rights or remedies now or subsequently existing at law, in equity, or by statute.

Section 8. Ownership and Reuse of Documents

All documents, data, reports, research, graphic presentation materials, etc., developed by Consultant as a part of its work under this Agreement, shall become the property of County upon completion of this Agreement, or in the event of termination or cancellation thereof, at the time of payment under Section 3 for work performed. Consultant shall promptly furnish all such data and material to County on request.

Section 9. Inspection of Books and Records

Consultant will permit County, or any duly authorized agent of County, to inspect and examine the books and records of Consultant for the purpose of verifying the amount of work performed under the Scope of Services. County's right to inspect survives the termination of this Agreement for a period of four years.

Section 10. Insurance

- A. Prior to commencement of the Services, Consultant shall furnish County with properly executed certificates of insurance which shall evidence all insurance required and provide that such insurance shall not be canceled, except on 30 days' prior written notice to County. Consultant shall provide certified copies of insurance endorsements and/or

policies if requested by County. Consultant shall maintain such insurance coverage from the time Services commence until Services are completed and provide replacement certificates, policies and/or endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to completion of Services. Consultant shall obtain such insurance written on an Occurrence form from such companies having Bests rating of A/VII or better, licensed or approved to transact business in the State of Texas, and shall obtain such insurance of the following types and minimum limits:

1. Workers Compensation in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Substitutes to genuine Workers' Compensation Insurance will not be allowed.
 2. Employers' Liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per injury by accident, \$1,000,000 per injury by disease, and \$1,000,000 per bodily injury by disease.
 3. Commercial general liability insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the annual aggregate. Policy shall cover liability for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage and products/completed operations arising out of the business operations of the policyholder.
 4. Business Automobile Liability coverage applying to owned, non-owned and hired automobiles with limits not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage combined.
- B. County and the members of Commissioners Court shall be named as additional insured to all required coverage except for Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability (if required). All Liability policies written on behalf of Consultant shall contain a waiver of subrogation in favor of County and members of Commissioners Court. For Commercial General Liability, the County shall be named as an Additional Insured on a Primary & Non-Contributory basis.
- C. If required coverage is written on a claims-made basis, Consultant warrants that any retroactive date applicable to coverage under the policy precedes the effective date of the Contract and that continuous coverage will be maintained or an extended discovery period will be exercised for a period of 2 years beginning from the time the work under this Contract is completed.
- D. Consultant shall not commence any portion of the work under this Contract until it has obtained the insurance required herein and certificates of such insurance have been filed with and approved by County.
- E. No cancellation of or changes to the certificates, or the policies, may be made without thirty (30) days prior, written notification to County.

- F. Approval of the insurance by County shall not relieve or decrease the liability of the Consultant.

Section 11. Indemnity

CONSULTANT SHALL INDEMNIFY AND DEFEND COUNTY AGAINST ALL LOSSES, LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, AND OTHER EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS FEES, ARISING FROM ACTIVITIES OF CONSULTANT, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES, PERFORMED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT THAT RESULT FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION OF CONSULTANT OR ANY OF CONSULTANT'S AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT THIS INDEMNIFICATION PROVISION SHALL APPLY DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES AS WELL AS DURING THE PERORMANCE OF ANY CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS THAT MAY EXIST (IF ANY) AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

Section 12. Confidential and Proprietary Information

- A. Consultant acknowledges that it and its employees or agents may, in the course of performing their responsibilities under this Agreement, be exposed to or acquire information that is confidential to County. Any and all information of any form obtained by Consultant or its employees or agents from County in the performance of this Agreement shall be deemed to be confidential information of County ("Confidential Information"). Any reports or other documents or items (including software) that result from the use of the Confidential Information by Consultant shall be treated with respect to confidentiality in the same manner as the Confidential Information. Confidential Information shall be deemed not to include information that (a) is or becomes (other than by disclosure by Consultant) publicly known or is contained in a publicly available document; (b) is rightfully in Consultant's possession without the obligation of nondisclosure prior to the time of its disclosure under this Agreement; or (c) is independently developed by employees or agents of Consultant who can be shown to have had no access to the Confidential Information.
- B. Consultant agrees to hold Confidential Information in strict confidence, using at least the same degree of care that Consultant uses in maintaining the confidentiality of its own confidential information, and not to copy, reproduce, sell, assign, license, market, transfer or otherwise dispose of, give, or disclose Confidential Information to third parties or use Confidential Information for any purposes whatsoever other than the provision of Services to County hereunder, and to advise each of its employees and agents of their obligations to keep Confidential Information confidential. Consultant shall use its best efforts to assist County in identifying and preventing any unauthorized use or disclosure of any Confidential Information. Without limitation of the foregoing, Consultant shall advise County immediately in the event Consultant learns or has reason to believe that any person who has had access to Confidential Information has violated or intends to violate the terms of this Agreement and Consultant will at its expense cooperate with

County in seeking injunctive or other equitable relief in the name of County or Consultant against any such person. Consultant agrees that, except as directed by County, Consultant will not at any time during or after the term of this Agreement disclose, directly or indirectly, any Confidential Information to any person, and that upon termination of this Agreement or at County's request, Consultant will promptly turn over to County all documents, papers, and other matter in Consultant's possession which embody Confidential Information.

- C. Consultant acknowledges that a breach of this Section, including disclosure of any Confidential Information, or disclosure of other information that, at law or in equity, ought to remain confidential, will give rise to irreparable injury to County that is inadequately compensable in damages. Accordingly, County may seek and obtain injunctive relief against the breach or threatened breach of the foregoing undertakings, in addition to any other legal remedies that may be available. Consultant acknowledges and agrees that the covenants contained herein are necessary for the protection of the legitimate business interest of County and are reasonable in scope and content.
- D. Consultant in providing all services hereunder agrees to abide by the provisions of any applicable Federal or State Data Privacy Act.
- E. Consultant expressly acknowledges that County is subject to the Texas Public Information Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. §§ 552.001 et seq., as amended, and notwithstanding any provision in the Agreement to the contrary, County will make any information related to the Agreement, or otherwise, available to third parties in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. Any proprietary or confidential information marked as such provided to County by Consultant shall not be disclosed to any third party, except as directed by the Texas Attorney General in response to a request for such under the Texas Public Information Act, which provides for notice to the owner of such marked information and the opportunity for the owner of such information to notify the Attorney General of the reasons why such information should not be disclosed. The terms and conditions of the Agreement are not proprietary or confidential information.

Section 13. Independent Contractor

- A. In the performance of work or services hereunder, Consultant shall be deemed an independent contractor, and any of its agents, employees, officers, or volunteers performing work required hereunder shall be deemed solely as employees of Consultant or, where permitted, of its subcontractors.
- B. Consultant and its agents, employees, officers, or volunteers shall not, by performing work pursuant to this Agreement, be deemed to be employees, agents, or servants of County and shall not be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of County employment.

Section 14. Notices:

Notice. Any and all notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, or personally delivered to the following address:

If to County:

Fort Bend County
Attn: County Judge
401 Jackson Street, 1st Floor
Richmond, Texas 77469

If to PFMAM:

PFM Asset Management LLC
Attn: Chief Administrative Officer
213 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Notices may also be sent via electronic mail (email) if expressly agreed to by the Parties.

Section 15. Compliance with Laws

Consultant shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, and the orders and decrees of any courts or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of this Agreement, including, without limitation, Worker’s Compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, licensing laws and regulations. When required by County, Consultant shall furnish County with certification of compliance with said laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, and decrees above specified.

Section 16. Performance Warranty

- A. Consultant warrants to County that Consultant has the skill and knowledge ordinarily possessed by well-informed members of its trade or profession practicing in the greater Houston metropolitan area and Consultant will apply that skill and knowledge with care and diligence to ensure that the Services provided hereunder will be performed and delivered in accordance with the highest professional standards.
- B. Consultant warrants to County that the Services will be free from material errors and will materially conform to all requirements and specifications contained in the attached Exhibit A.

Section 17. Assignment and Delegation

- A. Neither party may assign any of its rights under this Agreement, except with the prior written consent of the other party. That party shall not unreasonably withhold its consent. All assignments of rights by Consultant are prohibited under this subsection, whether they are voluntarily or involuntarily, without first obtaining written consent from County.
- B. Neither party may delegate any performance under this Agreement.
- C. Any purported assignment of rights or delegation of performance in violation of this Section is void.

Section 18. Applicable Law

The laws of the State of Texas govern all disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The parties hereto acknowledge that venue is proper in Fort Bend County, Texas, for all legal actions or proceedings arising out of or relating to this Agreement and waive the right to sue or be sued elsewhere. Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed to waive the County's sovereign immunity.

Section 19. Successors and Assigns

County and Consultant bind themselves and their successors, executors, administrators and assigns to the other party of this Agreement and to the successors, executors, administrators and assigns of the other party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement.

Section 20. Third Party Beneficiaries

This Agreement does not confer any enforceable rights or remedies upon any person other than the parties.

Section 21. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain in full force, if the essential terms and conditions of this Agreement for each party remain valid, binding, and enforceable.

Section 22. Publicity

Under no circumstances shall Consultant release any material or information developed or received in the performance of the Services hereunder without the express written permission of County (by and through the County Judge), except where required by law.

Section 23. Captions

The section captions used in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

Section 24. Conflict

In the event there is a conflict between this Agreement and the attached exhibit, this Agreement controls.

Section 25. Certain State Law Requirements for Contracts For purposes of section 2252.152, 2271.002, and 2274.002, Texas Government Code, as amended, Consultant hereby verifies that Consultant and any parent company, wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, and affiliate:

- A. Unless affirmatively declared by the United States government to be excluded from its federal sanctions regime relating to Sudan or Iran or any federal sanctions regime relating to a foreign terrorist organization, is not identified on a list prepared and maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under Section 806.051, 807.051, or 2252.153 of the Texas Government Code.
- B. If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, Consultant does not boycott Israel and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to boycott Israel during the term of such contracts. "Boycott Israel" has the meaning provided in section 808.001 of the Texas Government Code.
- C. If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, Consultant does not boycott energy companies and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to boycott energy companies during the term of such contracts. "Boycott energy company" has the meaning provided in section 809.001 of the Texas Government Code.
- D. If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, Consultant does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association during the term of such contracts. "Discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" has the meaning provided in section 2274.001(3) of the Texas Government Code. "Firearm entity" and "firearm trade association" have the meanings provided in section 2274.001(6) and (7) of the Texas Government Code.

Section 26. Human Trafficking

BY ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT, CONSULTANT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT FORT BEND COUNTY IS OPPOSED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THAT NO COUNTY FUNDS WILL BE USED IN SUPPORT OF SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS

Section 27. Entire Agreement

This executed instrument is understood and intended to be the final expression of the parties' agreement and is a complete and exclusive statement of the terms and conditions with respect thereto, superseding all prior agreements or representations, oral or written, and all other communication between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this instrument shall be of no force or effect excepting a subsequent modification in writing signed by all the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed or have caused their respective names to be signed to multiple counterparts to be effective on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

PFM ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

Daniel Wong, County Judge

Authorized Agent – Signature

ATTEST:

Authorized Agent- Printed Name

Laura Richard, County Clerk

Title

Date

Date

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that funds are available in the amount of \$ _____ to accomplish and pay the obligation of Fort Bend County under this contract.

Robert Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor