

COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: George Garrett, City Manager

Agenda Item: **Resolution 2025-95**, Authorizing The City To Extend The Agreement With Ballard Partners, Inc. For Professional Consulting And Lobbying Services Before The Legislature Of The State Of Florida; Authorizing The City Manager To Expend Budgeted Funds, And Execute The Extension Agreement; And Providing An Effective Date

BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:

The City has contracted with Ballard Partners for lobbying and professional consulting services before the State of Florida since 2013. Ballard Partners has been very effective on the City's behalf before the Florida Legislature, the executive branch of the Florida government and various regional and local governments. Ballard Partners has also kept the City informed on budget and policy differences, funding items affecting the Florida Keys, including economic development incentives, and the State's tourism marketing activities.

The yearly rate of \$60,000 is included in the City's proposed budget for FY 2026. The contract extension otherwise does not otherwise change from the language in the previous version of the contract; other than the term.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No
1. Comprehensive Plan	<u>X</u>	_____
2. Other _____	_____	_____
3. Not applicable _____	_____	_____

FISCAL NOTE:

Funding for this agreement is included in the adopted FY26 City Council and Wastewater Utility Budgets (50%/50% split)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Resolution

Sponsored by: Council

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2025-95**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT WITH BALLARD PARTNERS INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING AND LOBBYING SERVICES BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS, AND EXECUTE THE EXTENSION AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon (the “City”) recognizes the importance of monitoring and participating in the State legislative process in order to protect the interests of the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Consultant and City, through mutual negotiation, have agreed upon a scope of services and fee for legislative consulting services on behalf of the City before the Florida Legislature, the executive branch of the Florida government, and various regional and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Ballard Partners, Inc. (the “Consultant”), wishes to extend the term of the agreement for one year in order to continue to provide professional legislative consulting and lobbying services before the legislature of the State of Florida on behalf of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The extension to the professional services agreement between the City and Consultant, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit “A,” together with such non-material changes as may be acceptable to the City Manager and approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney, is hereby approved.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON,
FLORIDA, THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.**

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

Mayor

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**

Steve Williams, City Attorney

**EXTENSION TO CONTRACT
FOR
LOBBYING SERVICES**

This extension to the Contract for Lobbying Services (the "Extension") made and entered into this ___ day of October, 2025 between the City of Marathon, Florida, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, with its address at 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida, 33050 (hereinafter referred to as "City") and Ballard Partners Inc., a Florida corporation, with its address at 403 East Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, (hereinafter referred to as "Consultant").

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2013, the City and Consultant entered into a Contract for Lobbying Services (the "Contract"); and

WHEREAS, the City and Consultant have extended the contract every year for an additional year since; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Consultant desire to extend the term as set forth in contract herein.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth in this Extension and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereby amend the Agreement to read as follows:

Section 2. Term/Commencement Date

2.1 TERM:

This Contract shall continue through September 30, 2026 unless terminated earlier in accordance with Section 8.

[THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE SHALL REMAIN BLANK]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, City and Contractor have set their hands and seals, as of the day and year first above written.

Attest:

City Of Marathon, Florida

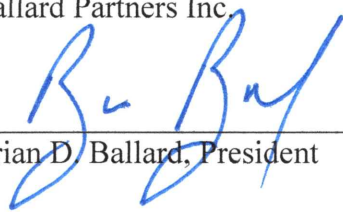
Diane Clavier,
City Clerk

George Garrett,
City Manager

Approved As To Form And Legality For The Use And Reliance Of The City Of Marathon,
Florida Only:

Steve Williams, City Attorney

Ballard Partners Inc.



Brian D. Ballard, President