



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX. AO
2/25/2025

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Letter of Engagement with the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust and Phillips Murrah P.C. for legal services related to the case of *Ty Ree Huckleberry vs. Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust, and City of Oklahoma City, a political subdivision*, CJ-2025-5, retroactive to February 13, 2025.

Background:

On July 30, 2019, the Oklahoma City Utilities Trust (OCWUT) awarded a public construction contract, Project WC-0875, Atoka Pipeline Raw Water Transmission Line, Canadian River Crossing, Atoka, Oklahoma, to Vadnais Trenchless Services, Inc., to which The City of Oklahoma City (City) concurred on August 13, 2019. On April 16, 2024, Ty Huckleberry filed a Notice of Tort Claim alleging damage to his property due to blasting conducted under the WC-0875 contract. On January 7, 2025, Ty Huckleberry filed a state action in Seminole County against OCWUT and the City for alleged damages. The Letter of Engagement retains Eric S. Eissenstat and the Phillips Murrah P.C. firm to provide legal services to OCWUT and the City and to pursue counterclaims for costs, damages, and expenses incurred and to be incurred by OCWUT and/or the City.

Due to the timing of the summons to appear and the meeting schedule of OCWUT and Oklahoma City Council, the Letter of Engagement was immediately initiated when received on February 13, 2025.

Review:

Utilities

Recommendation: Letter of Engagement be approved.