

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2023-23 report, dated October 3, 2023 regarding the Extension of the Legal Services Agreement report be received; and
That Council approve the one-year extension with Aird & Berlis LLP for legal services for the Township of Douro-Dummer.

Overview:

At the August 3, 2021 Council meeting, a recommendation was provided to approve entering into an agreement with Aird & Berlis LLP for the provision of legal services for the Township. Council approved that recommendation for a two-year period with the option to extend the contract twice for a one-year period.

Over the last two years we have received great service and guidance from various lawyers within the law firm on a vast number of issues. We do use other firms for specific files that began previous to the establishment of this contract as well as specific items related to Fire Department related issues, Labour and Employment Law and general real estate matters.

The rates for each lawyer were re-negotiated in March of this year and are included in the attached extension agreement. These rates will remain through the duration of this extension and have already been approved by the County of Peterborough and the Township of Selwyn.

Conclusion:

Staff receive excellent service from the lawyers associated with Aird & Berlis and they are working on a number of files currently. Should we decide not to extend the agreement the hourly rate will likely increase 10-20% as of January 1, 2024. Staff will come back to Council in July to address the final extension option at that time.

Financial Impact:

The fees as presented are 2023 rates and will remain in place for the duration of the extension of the contract.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To ensure and enable an effective and efficient municipal administration.

