

**From:** [City of Ocala - Contracting Officer](#)  
**To:** [Tammi Haslam](#); [Shayatta J. Roberts](#); [Daphne Robinson](#); [Megan Dugan](#); [Contracts](#); [Eileen M. Marquez](#); [Louis Joseph](#); [Ashley Presley](#); [David C. Williams](#); [Patricia Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** Your policy exception has been approved.  
**Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:36:25 PM

Your policy exception has been **approved**.

**Approval Comments: drobinson@ocalafl.org**

The department is approved to piggyback the contract awarded to Alfred Benesch & Company by Lake County, Florida (Contract No. 24-516) for the provision of public safety consulting services through fire equipment, supplies, and services. The Lake County agreement was for an initial term of one year (through December 31, 2025) and offered two subsequent two year renewals. These goods and services were competitively solicited by Lake County in August of 2024. Only one vendor, Benesch & Company, responded to the solicitation. Since the original award, the contract was renewed for both available one-year renewal terms with the most recent renewal expiring on December 31, 2026. Benesch & Co. has agreed to extend pricing and services to the City of Ocala under the same terms and conditions as Contract No. 24-516. This pricing has been found to be fair and reasonable by Budget Department staff. PLEASE ESTABLISH A MUNIS CONTRACT NUMBER AND ISSUE A REQUEST TO CONTRACTING SO THT A FORMAL PIGGYBACK AGREEMENT CAN BE PREPARED. IF THE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPARES SPENDING MORE THAN \$50,000 WITH THE VENDOR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE CONTRACT TERM, THEN THE CONTRACT NEEDS TO BE PLACED ON A COUNCIL AGENDA. PLEASE ENSURE THIS EXCEPTION APPROVAL IS ATTACHED TO THE MUNIS CONTRACT, CONTRACT REQUEST, AND AGENDA ITEM (IF ANY).



### Procurement/Contract/P-Card Exception

Select exception type:

Contract

Reason for contract exception:

Immediate Need

I am requesting to piggyback on a contract with Lake County for a fire assessment study update with Benesch. Benesch has been the vendor handling the successful implementation of the fire assessment studies and annual non-ad valorem tax roll updates for the City of Ocala since Fiscal Year 2020-21. The last complete study was dated June 26, 2023, with rates effective October 1, 2023, for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Benesch has continued to handle the

annual non-ad valorem assessment tax roll process since that time.

**Enter a brief description of your exception request:**

I am requesting an exception to continue using this firm to update and prepare a fire assessment study for Fiscal Year 2026-27 by piggybacking on the contract with Lake County. Benesch has been provided with City Fire call data from 2017 to 2024 through prior studies. Therefore, it would only require two years of data for the upcoming study. An outside firm would require at least five years of data, which would have to be reviewed and redacted for HIPPA information. Fire department personnel indicate this process would likely take months. The study update needs to begin in April for implementation by September 15, which is the statutory deadline for approval of the fire assessment methodology and rates by the governing body to be included on the ad valorem tax bills mailed by the Tax Collector.

Given that Benesch has the prior years' call data on hand and has an extensive understanding of the City's fire operations, an exception for best value is requested.

**Attach all documents related to the exception that can assist the Contracting Officer's decision.**

[City of Ocala Fire Assessment Study Pricing.pdf](#)  
[RFP and Exhibits A B C.pdf](#)  
[Executed Contract.pdf](#)

**Department**

(BUD) BUDGET

**Requestor Name**

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**Who authorized requesting this exception?**

Tammi Haslam