



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00113

Agenda Date: 2/11/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Employment-Based Visa for Current Information and Telecommunication Services Employees- Approval of Special Attorney

Presenter:

Courtney Wilson, Assistant County Attorney

Description:

Pursuant to Sec. 21.42, Alachua County Code, the Board may appoint special attorneys. The Information and Telecommunications Services Department has two employees seeking H-1B Visas – one seeking an extension of their current H-1B Visa for an additional three-year term and the other is a first-time applicant for the H-1B lottery.

Recommended Action:

Approve the hiring of special attorney Laura Cabrera, Esq. of dePaz Cabrera Immigration Law to complete and submit applications on behalf of the County for an extension H-1B Visa, and new H-1B visa.

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Fiscal Note:

H-1B application fees must be paid by the employees, and the employer cannot seek reimbursement for these fees from the employee(s). See schedule attached for new H-1B applications and legal costs. For the extension application, Ms. Cabrera's firm offers a discount fee for existing clients where the firm completed the original H-1B application as follows:

Legal Fee: \$3300 flat fee (per beneficiary) (+\$400 for premium processing, if desired)

USCIS Fee: Base fee:

- \$730 if filing online – employers with 25 or more employees
- \$780 if paper filing – employers with 25 or more employees

Asylum Program Fee (Required)

- \$600 – employers with 25 or more employees

ACWIA Fee (Required)

- \$1500 – employers with 25 or more employees

Premium Processing Fee (Optional)

- \$2,805

This estimated cost of \$14,000 will be paid from General Fund Special Expense

Strategic Guide:

All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Background:

County has previously entered the H-1B visa lottery in various years since 2020. One current employee was previously granted an H-1B visa and her three-year term is expiring this year, but is able to submit an application for a second three-year term.