

**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**

DATE: November 18, 2013

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Paul Bargren, Corporation Counsel *PB*
Mark A. Grady, Deputy Corporation Counsel *MAG*

SUBJECT: Resolution to Amend Contract for Buelow Vetter for legal representation in labor relations matters

It is requested that this matter be referred to the Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit.

The County Board approved a contract with Buelow Vetter Buikema Olson & Vliet LLC on September 30, 2010 (File No. 10-294) for legal representation of Milwaukee County in labor relations matters. Over the past several years, the County Board has approved amendments to that contract, most recently in September of 2012 (File No. 12-650), bringing the total authorized amount to \$375,000.00. The largest expenditures under this contract related to the furlough days litigation, *Milwaukee County v. WERC and AFSCME*, Case No. 11-CV-12137. During 2013, the amount of litigation being handled by outside counsel has declined and it continues to do so. Buelow Vetter is currently representing Milwaukee County in a few matters:

- *MDSA v. Milwaukee County* (review of arbitration award on layoffs)
Case No. 12-CV-1984
- *MDSA grievance and WERC Prohibited Practice Complaint* (retiree health for deputy sheriffs)
- *Janik, Griffin and Duncan WERC Prohibited Practice Complaint* (discipline for engaging in protected activity), and

Most of these cases are nearing completion, but appeals and continuing litigation are possible. Consequently, although the need for outside counsel in this area should decline in 2014, funds are needed to complete the handling of the above matters and there may be an occasional new matter in which the expertise of outside counsel is needed.

Therefore, authority is requested to amend the contract amount by an additional \$50,000.00, to a total of \$425,000.00, in order to pay for the continued legal services required.

Sufficient funds exist in the 2013 Litigation Reserve Account, Org. Unit 1961, for this request.

cc: Kelly Bablitch
Amber Moreen
Janelle Jensen
Alexis Gassenhuber
Steve Cady
Jessica Janz-McKnight
Raisa Koltun