

AUTHORIZE SPENDING FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY26) LEGAL FEES

Finance and Audit Committee

April 10, 2026

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend this item to the Executive Committee for placement on the June 2026 Board of Directors agenda:

- Authorize spending authority for an additional \$100,000 in legal fees (up to \$200,000 total) for fiscal year (FY) 2026

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

- **FY 2026 budget for outside legal services provided by Gembala McLaughlin Pecora (GMP) set at \$100,000 based on FY 2025 invoices and routine Agency and Board needs**
- **Some unique legal issues have arisen, resulting in additional need for legal guidance and therefore costs**
 - amendments to the Code of Regulations
 - legal advice on the new human resources structure and related matters
 - lawsuit filed against the Agency

BACKGROUND

- Based on these factors, legal fees will exceed the Executive Director's spending threshold
- NOACA's practice requires Board of Directors approval for contracts up to the threshold contained in [Ohio Revised Code 307.86](#)
 - The threshold for CY 2026 is \$79,568

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

- **Additional \$100,000 for payment of legal fees, for a total not to exceed \$200,000 for FY 2026**
- **Increase in spending will not result in an increase in overall Agency expenditures. Rather, other indirect costs not anticipated to be spent down in FY 2026 will be reallocated.**

NEXT STEPS

- Pending Board approval, payments not to exceed a total of \$200,000 will be made for legal services performed during fiscal year 2026
- NOACA will work with GMP to identify cost-saving measures

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**Motion
Second
Discussion
Put the Question**





NOACA

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

NOACA will **strengthen** regional cohesion, **preserve** existing infrastructure, and **build** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **support** economic development and **enhance** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.