

MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commission

VIA: James Slaton, City Manager
Sarah B. Kirkland, Public Works Director

FROM: Nancy C Hernandez, Public Works Operation Manager

SUBJECT: Authorization to Proceed with Solid Waste Collection In-House Feasibility Study

SYNOPSIS: Staff is requesting authorization to proceed with a Solid Waste Collection In-House Feasibility Study to evaluate the operational, financial, and service impacts of providing solid waste collection services directly by the City as an alternative to the current contracted franchise model.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Commission consider taking the following action:

1. Authorize the City to proceed with a Solid Waste Collection In-House Feasibility Study as outlined in the attached task authorization with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$65,470.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary contract documents on behalf of the City.

BACKGROUND

The City of Lake Wales is currently served through an exclusive solid waste collection franchise agreement with Republic Services. As the City continues to evaluate long-term service delivery options, staff identified the need to assess whether providing solid waste collection services in-house could be a viable and cost-effective alternative.

As the City continues to evaluate long-term service delivery options, staff identified the need to better understand whether providing solid waste collection services in-house could be a viable alternative to the current contracted franchise model. While some municipalities operate in-house solid waste programs and others utilize contracted services, staff does not currently have sufficient comparative data to evaluate the operational, financial, and service-level impacts of each approach as applied to Lake Wales.

To ensure informed decision-making, staff is proposing a feasibility study to objectively evaluate in-house solid waste collection as a potential option, including associated costs, staffing

requirements, infrastructure needs, transition considerations, and long-term operational impacts, and to compare those findings to the City's existing service model.

OTHER OPTION

The City Commission may choose not to proceed with the feasibility study and continue operating under the existing franchise model without further evaluation of alternative service delivery options. In doing so, the City would forego an opportunity to assess potential operational efficiencies, service accountability considerations, workforce implications, and long-term financial impacts that could be associated with other service delivery models.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed feasibility study has a not-to-exceed cost of \$65,470. Funding for the study has been assigned within the capital improvement schedule.

ATTACHMENT

Raftelis Scope Agreement