

PROPOSAL FOR EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT SERVICES

**City Attorney
City of Clearwater, Florida**

**January 9, 2026
This proposal is valid for 60 days**



Strategic Government Resources
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Rebecca L. Fleury, President of Executive Recruitment
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January 9, 2026

Hon. Mayor Bruce Rector & City Council
City of Clearwater, Florida

Dear Mayor Rector & Councilmembers,

Strategic Government Resources (SGR) is thankful for the opportunity to submit this proposal to assist the City of Clearwater in your recruitment for a City Attorney. Our nationwide reach, deep municipal expertise, and servant leadership mindset help us deliver tailored recruitment services that will strengthen your culture and community.

We would like to highlight some key aspects that set SGR apart from other firms:

- **Local government experience:** Our team brings decades of direct local government experience, giving us an insider's understanding of your unique challenges. We've conducted executive searches for over 450 local governments across 37 states, including recent experience with Estero, FL; Dundee, FL; and Hollywood, FL. This experience provides us with valuable insight into the unique needs of recruiting a City Attorney in Florida.
- **National reach and candidate pipeline:** With over 21,000 LinkedIn followers, 35,000 subscribers to our Servant Leadership e-newsletter, and opt-in Job Alert subscribers, your SGR recruitment will be seen by a vast audience engaged in the profession.
- **Active engagement in the profession:** As recognized thought leaders in local government management, we are directly involved in the latest operations, challenges, and best practices. This ongoing engagement ensures we are attuned to the evolving skills and leadership qualities needed in today's local government leaders.

Executive Recruiters Doug Thomas, Kevin Knutson, and Michael Malinoff, Esq. each have over 30 years of local government experience, providing vast expertise to lead this recruitment successfully.

We are eager to partner with the City of Clearwater to identify your next leader. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss our proposed approach in more detail and are available for a meeting at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Fleury, President of Executive Recruitment
RebeccaFleury@GovernmentResource.com

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About SGR

Strategic Government Resources, Inc. (SGR) exists to help local governments become more successful by recruiting, assessing, and developing innovative, collaborative, and authentic leaders. SGR was incorporated in Texas in 2002 with the mission to facilitate innovative leadership in local government. SGR is fully owned by former City Manager Ron Holifield, who spent two high-profile decades in city management and served as a City Manager in several cities.

SGR's business model is truly unique. Although we are a private company, SGR operates like a local government association. Most of SGR's principals are former local government officials, allowing SGR to bring a perspective and depth of local government expertise to every project that no other firm can match.

SGR's Core Values are Customer Service, Integrity, Philanthropy, Continuous Improvement, Agility, Collaboration, Protecting Relationships, and the Golden Rule.

SGR is a full-service firm, specializing in providing solutions for local governments in the areas of recruitment and retention, leadership development and training, innovation and future readiness, and everything in between.

With 21 full-time employees, 21 recruiters, 18 facilitators, and multiple consultants who function as subject matter experts on a variety of projects, SGR offers comprehensive expertise.

The company operates as a fully remote organization, with team members located in Texas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

View all SGR team members and their bios at: GovernmentResource.com/Meet-the-Team

SGR's Unique Qualifications

Extensive Network of Prospects

SGR is intent on being a leader in executive recruitment and firmly believes in the importance of proactively building a workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We leverage an extensive and diverse network to reach potential applicants.

- Your position will be announced in SGR's Servant Leadership e-newsletter, which reaches over 35,000 subscribers across all 50 states.
- We will send targeted emails to opt-in subscribers of SGR's Job Alerts.
- Your position will appear on SGR's Website which attracts approximately 20,000 visitors per month. GovernmentResource.com/Open-Recruitments
- Your position will be posted on SGR's Job Board which typically has over 2,000 job listings at any given time and receives approximately 16,000 unique visitors per month. SGRJobs.GovernmentResource.com
- SGR implements a comprehensive social media marketing campaign that includes custom-made graphics and distribution on SGR's LinkedIn page.
- We frequently collaborate with various local government associations, including the League of Women in Government, Alliance for Innovation, and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators.
- Approximately 65% of semifinalists selected by our clients learn about open recruitments through our website, servant leadership e-newsletter, job board, job alert emails, social media, or personal contact.

Collective Local Government Experience

Our recruiters have decades of experience in local government, as well as regional and national networks of relationships. Our executive recruiters leverage the professional networks of all SGR recruiters when recruiting for a position, enabling outreach to a wide and diverse array of prospective applicants. SGR team members are active on a national basis in local government organizations and professional associations. Many SGR team members frequently speak and/or write on issues of interest to local government executives. SGR can navigate relevant networks as both peers and insiders.

Equal Opportunity Commitment

SGR does not discriminate and believes that equal opportunity is an ethical issue. SGR will not enter an engagement with an entity or organization that directs bias or expects bias to be demonstrated on any basis other than factors that affect the ability of the candidate to do the job. Although SGR cannot guarantee the makeup of the semifinalist or finalist groups, SGR has relationships and contacts nationwide to encourage the meaningful participation of underrepresented groups, and we continue to evaluate and improve our processes by embedding a lens of equity and inclusion into our recruitment practices.

Listening to Your Unique Needs

SGR devotes significant time to actively listening to your organization and helping you define and articulate your needs. We work diligently to conduct a comprehensive recruitment process tailored specifically to your organization. SGR dedicates a prodigious amount of energy to understanding your organization's unique culture, environment, and local issues to ensure an alignment in terms of values, philosophy, and management style perspectives.

While we have established systems for achieving success, we are a "boutique" firm capable of adapting to meet a client's specific needs and providing insights on the pros and cons of their preferred approach.

Trust of Candidates

SGR has a track record of providing remarkable confidentiality and wise counsel to candidates and next-generation leaders, earning their trust. As a result, we can bring exceptional prospects to the applicant pool. Candidates trust SGR to assess the situation accurately, communicate honestly, and maintain their confidentiality to the greatest extent possible.

Accessibility and Communication

Your executive recruiter will keep you informed of the search status and will be readily accessible throughout the recruitment process. Candidates and clients can reach the recruiter at any time via cell phone or email. Additionally, the recruiter maintains communication with active applicants, ensuring they are well-informed about the community and the opportunity.

Comprehensive Evaluation and Vetting of Candidates

SGR offers a comprehensive screening process designed to ensure a thorough understanding of candidate backgrounds and to minimize surprises. Our vetting process for a full-service recruitment includes the following key components:

- Prescreening questions and technical review of resumes
- Cross-communication among our recruiters regarding candidates who have been involved in previous searches, providing greater insight into their background and skills.
- Written questionnaires to gain insights beyond what is available through a resume.
- Recorded semifinalist interviews.
- Media search reports incorporating both internet and social media results tailored to each candidate based on their previous places of residence and work.
- Thorough, automated, and anonymous reference checks that provide feedback on candidates from a well-rounded group of references.
- Background checks completed by a licensed private investigation firm.

Executive Recruitment Clients

SGR has partnered on executive recruitments with more than 450 local government clients in 37 states. We take great pride in the long-term relationships we have developed with many of our clients who continue to partner with us on future recruitment needs.

Project Personnel

Doug Thomas, Executive Vice President

Email: douglasthomas@governmentresource.com
Phone: 863-860-9314



Doug has close to 35 years of senior local government executive management experience. He joined Strategic Government Resources (SGR) in 2015 to serve as their first Regional Director to serve both Florida and the southeast, and subsequently as Executive Vice President. He assists clients nationwide in the areas of executive recruitment, governing body/senior staff governance and servant leadership training, strategic visioning, and priority-based budgeting, evaluation of the Chief Executive, and is a regular speaker at local government state and national conferences.

Prior to his work with SGR, Doug served as City Manager for the City of Lakeland, Florida for roughly 12 years. Lakeland is centrally located along the I-4 corridor between Tampa and Orlando with a resident population of over 100,000 and a service population of over 250,000. The City provides its residents a full array of municipal services, including a municipal-owned electric generation and distribution utility that is the 3rd largest in the state and among the top 25 nationwide. The organization has an annual budget of approximately \$600 million and employs roughly 2,500 personnel. The city is home to the Detroit Tigers during Major League Baseball's Spring Training; the Experimental Aircraft Association's Annual Sun 'n Fun Fly-in, recognized as America's second largest aviation event of its type; Florida Southern College, which features the world's largest one-site collection of buildings designed by the legendary architect, Frank Lloyd Wright; and the state's 12th university, Florida Polytechnic University, which opened in the fall of 2014.

Prior to Lakeland, Doug previously served as City Manager for the City of Alma, Michigan for close to 15 years. Prior to his service in Alma, he represented the City of Grand Haven, Michigan as Assistant City Manager, (1986-1989) and as Administrative Assistant to the City Manager (1984-1985). He also has held local government posts with the City of Rockville, Maryland, and the Town of Landover Hills, Maryland.

His academic credentials include attainment of a Master of Public Administration from the American University, Washington, D.C. in 1983 with a concentration in Urban Affairs, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Bowling Green State University, Ohio in 1981.

Project Personnel

Kevin Knutson, Senior Vice President

KevinKnutson@GovernmentResource.com
727-754-0407



Kevin Knutson joins SGR with more than 30 years of experience in local government. He is considered a national expert in local government performance management, long-term financial planning, and strategic communications.

Most recently Kevin served as an Assistant County Administrator for Pinellas County, Florida. There he oversaw the Department of Administrative Services, Office of Management & Budget, Communications, Construction Services, Pinellas County Economic Development, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, and the St. Pete/Clearwater International Airport. His prior municipal experience includes serving as interim City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Director of Community Relations in Reno, Nevada. He was also the Director of Communications and Marketing, as well as Budget & Strategic Planning Manager for Coral Springs, Florida. In Coral Springs, he was part of a team that implemented quality management practices that led to the City being the first local government to earn the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Before joining Pinellas County, Kevin worked for Envisio, a private sector software company known for its extensive work with local governments. As Vice President of Planning & Performance Solutions he helped local governments implement strategy, and track and report performance. He also served as Regional Vice President for Management Partners, a government consulting firm, where he oversaw all the firm's activities on the East Coast. In that role, he specialized in facilitating governance and strategic planning projects.

An ICMA-credentialed manager, in 2020, Kevin was named one of the top local government influencers in the nation by Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL). He previously earned recognition as Communicator of the Year by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association.

A career-long proponent of servant leadership in local government, Kevin is committed to listening to and empowering team and community members, making decisions that are transparent and inclusive, and being a champion for continuous learning and improvement. He takes pride in demonstrating integrity, humility, and a commitment to service.

Project Personnel

Michael Mallinoff, Senior Vice President
Email: MDMallinoff@governmentresource.com
Phone: 443-336-5772



Michael D. Mallinoff joins SGR as Sr. Vice President of Executive Recruitment after serving more than 30 years in State, county and municipal government. A lifetime member of ICMA and experienced state, city and county manager, Michael's career includes impactful roles in Annapolis, Maryland, Newport, Rhode Island, Charles County, Maryland and the State of Maryland contributing to his expertise in leadership and team building, budget and finance, public safety, technology, and sustainability and the environment. His tenure in diverse states and situations, working with jurisdictions ranging from 30,000 to six million, has equipped him with experience, perspective and a unique ability to collaborate with elected officials and assist community leaders in developing high performing teams and transforming their visions into actionable plans.

Michael holds a bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland and a Juris Doctorate from The University of Baltimore School of Law. Michael is a member of the Maryland Bar. Michael currently serves as a member of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) Global Engagement Committee, is chair of the affiliates subcommittee, held various other leadership positions with ICMA, state associations, and has served on a number of non-profit boards. His global perspective and extensive network enhance his contributions to SGR and its clients.

Attending the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service provided a foundation for creating High Performance Organizations. He has used that expertise to support teams, leadership at all levels, and understanding strategy to build up organizations across the country to be innovative and effective. Michael has also twice attended the ICMA Gettysburg leadership institute; the second time introducing the Charles County leadership team to the historical and empirical lessons of leadership in that watershed moment of our nation's history. He was awarded an ICMA Tranter-Leong Fellowship where he travelled to the Netherlands and Belgium to study and publish on mobility and sustainability.

At SGR, Michael specializes in executive recruitment, bringing his wealth of knowledge and experience to support local governments nationwide. Michael is passionate about traveling and engaging with like-minded public servants. He lives near Baltimore with his partner Cathy, dog Ash and has three adult children.

Approach and Methodology

A full-service recruitment typically entails the following steps:

1. Organization/Position Insight and Analysis

- Project Kickoff Meeting and Develop Anticipated Timeline
- Stakeholder Interviews and Listening Sessions
- Develop Recruitment Brochure

2. Recruitment Campaign and Communication with Candidates

- Advertising and Marketing
- Sourcing Prospective and Active Candidates
- Communication with Prospective Applicants
- Communication with Active Applicants

3. Initial Screening and Review by Executive Recruiter

4. Search Committee Briefing to Review Applicant Pool and Select Semifinalists

5. Evaluation of Semifinalists

- Written Questionnaires
- Recorded Semifinalist Interviews
- Media Searches

6. Search Committee Briefing to Select Finalists

7. Evaluation of Finalists

- Background Investigation Reports
- DiSC Management Assessments (if desired, supplemental cost)
- First Year Plan or Other Advanced Exercise
- Press Release Announcing Finalists (if requested)

8. Interview Process

- Face-to-Face Interviews
- Stakeholder Engagement (if desired)
- Deliberations
- Reference Checks (may occur earlier in process)

9. Negotiations and Hiring Process

- Determine Terms of an Employment Offer
- Negotiate Terms and Conditions of Employment
- Press Release Announcing New Hire (if requested)

Step 1: Organization/Position Insight and Analysis

Project Kickoff Meeting and Develop Anticipated Timeline

SGR will meet with the organization at the outset of the project to discuss the recruitment strategy and timeline. At this time, SGR will also request that the organization provide us with photos and information on the community, organization, and position to assist us in drafting the recruitment brochure.

Stakeholder Interviews and Listening Sessions

Stakeholder interviews and listening sessions are integral to SGR's approach. SGR devotes tremendous energy to understanding your organization's unique culture, environment, and goals to ensure you get the right match for your specific needs. Obtaining a deep understanding of your organizational needs is the crucial foundation for a successful executive recruitment. In collaboration with the organization, SGR will compile a list of internal and external stakeholders to meet with regarding the position. These interviews and listening sessions will identify potential issues that may affect the dynamics of the recruitment and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the position, special considerations, and the political environment. This process fosters organizational buy-in and will assist us in creating the position profile.

Develop Recruitment Brochure

After the stakeholder meetings, SGR will develop a recruitment brochure, which will be reviewed and revised in partnership with your organization until we are in agreement that it accurately represents the sought-after leadership and management attributes.

View sample recruitment brochures here: GovernmentResource.com/Open-Recruitments

Step 2: Recruitment Campaign and Communication with Candidates

Advertising and Marketing

The Executive Recruiter and the client work together to determine the best ways to advertise and recruit for the position. SGR's Servant Leadership e-newsletter, with a reach of over 35,000 subscribers in all 50 states, will announce your position. Additionally, we will send targeted emails to opt-in subscribers of SGR's Job Alerts, and your position will be posted on SGR's website and Job Board. SGR provides a comprehensive social media marketing campaign that includes custom-made graphics and distribution on SGR's LinkedIn page. Furthermore, we will provide a recommended list of ad placements to be approved by the client, targeting the most effective venues for reaching qualified candidates for that particular position.

Sourcing Prospective and Active Candidates

SGR's innovative recruitment strategies are designed to give our clients a competitive edge in attracting and retaining top-tier talent. By employing a dual approach of passive and active candidate sourcing, we tap into a broader talent pool that includes high-caliber professionals who may not be actively job-seeking. Our advanced technology and deep industry connections enable us to identify candidates with the precise skills and cultural fit for your organization. We

round out sourcing efforts through personalized candidate engagement and outreach with a constant focus on transparency and relationship building.

Communication with Prospective Applicants

SGR maintains regular communication with interested prospects throughout the recruitment process. Outstanding candidates often conduct thorough research on the available position before submitting their resumes. As a result, we receive a significant number of inquiries, and it is crucial for the executive search firm to be well-prepared to respond promptly, accurately, and comprehensively, while also offering a warm and personalized approach. This initial interaction is where prospective candidates form their first impression of the organization, and it is an area in which SGR excels.

Communication with Active Applicants

Handling the flow of resumes is an ongoing and significant process. On the front end, it involves tracking resumes and promptly acknowledging their receipt. It also involves timely and personalized responses to any questions or inquiries. SGR maintains frequent communication with applicants to ensure they remain enthusiastic and well-informed about the opportunity. Additionally, SGR communicates with active applicants, keeping them informed about the organization and community.

Step 3: Initial Screening and Review by Executive Recruiter

SGR uses a triage process to identify high-probability, medium-probability, and low-probability candidates. This triage ranking is focused on overall assessment based on interaction with the applicant, qualifications, any known issues concerning previous work experience, and evaluation of cultural fit with the organization.

In contrast with the triage process mentioned above, which focuses on subjective assessment of the resumes and how the candidates present themselves, we also evaluate each candidate to ensure that the minimum requirements of the position are met and determine which preferred requirements are satisfied. This sifting process examines how well candidates' applications align with the recruitment criteria outlined in the position profile.

Step 4: Search Committee Briefing to Review Applicant Pool and Select Semifinalists

At this briefing, SGR will conduct a comprehensive presentation to the Search Committee and facilitate the selection of semifinalists. The presentation will include summary information on the process to date, outreach efforts, the candidate pool demographics, and any identified trends or issues. Additionally, a briefing on each candidate and their credentials will be provided.

Step 5: Evaluation of Semifinalists

The review of resumes is a crucial step in the executive recruitment process. However, resumes may not fully reveal an individual's personal qualities and their ability to collaborate effectively

with others. In some instances, resumes might also tend to exaggerate or inflate accomplishments and experience.

At SGR, we understand the significance of going beyond the surface level of a resume to ensure that candidates who progress in the recruitment process are truly qualified for the position and a suitable match for the organization. Our focus is to delve deeper and gain a comprehensive understanding of the person behind the resume, identifying the qualities that make them an outstanding prospect for your organization.

During the evaluation of semifinalist candidates, we take the initiative to follow up when necessary, seeking clarifications or additional information as needed. This approach ensures that we present you with the most qualified and suitable candidates for your unique requirements. At SGR, our ultimate goal is to match your organization with individuals who possess not only the necessary qualifications but also the qualities that align with your organizational culture and values.

Written Questionnaires

As part of our thorough evaluation process, SGR will request semifinalist candidates to complete a comprehensive written exercise. This exercise is designed to gain deeper insight into the candidates' thought processes and communication styles. Our written instrument is customized based on the priorities identified by the Search Committee. The completed written instrument, along with cover letters and resumes submitted by the candidates, will be included in the semifinalist briefing book.

Recorded Semifinalist Interviews

Recorded one-way or two-way interviews will be conducted for semifinalist candidates. This approach provides an efficient and cost-effective way to gain additional insights to aid in selecting finalists to invite for an onsite interview. The interviews allow the Search Committee to evaluate technological competence, demeanor, verbal communication skills, and on-camera presence. Additionally, virtual interviews provide an opportunity for the Search Committee to ask candidates questions on specific topics of special interest.

Media Searches

Our media search process involves web-based and social media research, enabling efficient and thorough vetting of candidates and minimizing the risk of overlooking critical information. These media reports have proven helpful by uncovering issues that may not have been previously disclosed by prospective candidates. The recruiter will communicate any "red flags" or noteworthy media coverage to the Search Committee as part of the review of semifinalists with the Search Committee.

Step 6: Search Committee Briefing to Select Finalists

Prior to this briefing, SGR will provide the Search Committee with links to the recorded online interviews and a briefing book on the semifinalist candidates. The briefing book includes cover letters, resumes, and completed questionnaires. The objective of this meeting is to narrow the

list to finalists who will be invited to participate in onsite interviews.

Step 7: Evaluation of Finalists

Background Investigation Reports

Through SGR's partnership with a licensed private investigation firm, we are able to provide our clients with comprehensive background screening reports that include the detailed information listed below.

- Social security number trace
- Address history
- Driving record (MVR)
- Federal criminal search
- National criminal search
- Global homeland security search
- Sex offender registry search
- State criminal court search for states where candidate has lived in previous 10 years
- County wants and warrants for counties where candidate has lived or worked in previous 10 years
- County civil and criminal search for counties where candidate has lived or worked in previous 10 years
- Education verification
- Employment verification for previous 10 years (if requested)
- Military verification (if requested)
- Credit report (if requested)

DiSC Management Assessments (if desired, supplemental cost)

SGR utilizes the DiSC Management assessment tool, which is among the most validated and reliable personal assessment tools available. The DiSC Management assessment provides a comprehensive analysis and report on the candidate's preferences in five crucial areas: management style, directing and delegating, motivation, development of others, and working with their own manager.

For assessments of more than two candidates, a DiSC Management Comparison Report is included, offering a side-by-side view of each candidate's preferred management style.

First-Year Plan or Other Advanced Exercise

SGR will collaborate with your organization, if desired, to create an advanced exercise for the finalist candidates. One such example is a First-Year Plan, where finalist candidates are encouraged to develop a first-year plan based on their current understanding of the position's opportunities and challenges. Other exercises, such as a brief presentation on a topic to be identified by the Recruiter and Search Committee, are also typically part of the onsite interview process to assess finalists' communication and presentation skills, as well as critical analysis abilities.

Step 8: Interview Process

Face-to-Face Interviews

SGR will arrange interviews at a date and time convenient for your organization. This process can be as straightforward or as elaborate as your organization desires. SGR will aid in determining the specifics and assist in developing the interview schedule and timeline. We will provide sample interview questions and participate throughout the process to ensure it runs smoothly and efficiently.

Stakeholder Engagement

At the discretion of the Search Committee, we will closely collaborate with your organization to involve community stakeholders in the interview process. Our recommendation is to design a specific stakeholder engagement process after gaining deeper insights into the organization and the community. As different communities require distinct approaches, we will work together to develop a tailored approach that addresses the unique needs of the organization.

Deliberations

SGR will facilitate a discussion about the finalist interviews and support the Search Committee in making a hiring decision or determining whether to invite one or more candidates for a second interview.

Reference Checks

SGR uses a progressive and adaptive automated reference check system to provide insights on candidates' soft skills from a well-rounded group of references. References may include elected officials, direct supervisors, direct reports, internal organizational peers, professional peers in other organizations, and civic leaders. SGR's reference check platform is anonymous, proven to encourage more candid and truthful responses, thus providing organizations with more meaningful and insightful information on candidates. SGR delivers a written summary report to the organization once all reference checks are completed. The timing of reference checks may vary depending on the specific search process and situation. If finalists' names are made public prior to interviews, SGR will typically contact references before the interview process. If the finalists' names are not made public prior to interviews, SGR may wait until the organization has selected its top candidate before contacting references to protect candidate confidentiality.

Step 9: Negotiations and Hiring Process

Determine Terms of an Employment Offer

Upon request, SGR will provide draft employment agreement language and other helpful information to aid in determining an appropriate offer to extend to your preferred candidate.

Negotiate Terms and Conditions of Employment

SGR will assist to whatever degree you deem appropriate in conducting negotiations with the chosen candidate. SGR will identify and address any special needs or concerns of the selected candidate, including potential complicating factors. With our experience and preparedness, SGR is equipped to facilitate win-win solutions to resolve negotiation challenges.

Press Release (if requested)

Until employment negotiations are finalized, you should exercise caution to avoid the embarrassment of a premature announcement that may not materialize. It is also considered best practice to notify all senior staff and unsuccessful candidates before any media exposure. SGR will assist in coordinating this process and in crafting any necessary announcements or press releases.

Satisfaction Surveys

SGR is committed to following the golden rule, which means providing prompt, professional and excellent communication while always treating every client with honor, dignity and respect. We request clients and candidates to participate in a brief and confidential survey after the completion of the recruitment process. This valuable feedback assists us in our ongoing efforts to improve our processes and adapt to the changing needs of the workforce.

Post-Hire Services

As part of our commitment to ensuring long-term success, SGR is pleased to offer a complimentary, four-hour, leadership development workshop for your organization within 12 months of the successful completion of the executive search. SGR Executive Recruitment clients would be responsible for the travel costs associated with facilitation only—no professional fee (a cost savings of up to \$4,750)! Leadership development workshops are designed to support the newly appointed leader and foster a servant leadership culture within your team, enhancing collaboration and alignment across the organization. Standard leadership development workshops include the following topics:

- Creating a Servant Leadership Culture
- Governance
- Team Building
- Strategic Planning
- Strategic Visioning

We offer additional post-hire services such as executive coaching, team-building retreats, and performance review assistance at the six-month or one-year mark. For more information or to request a customized proposal, please email training@governmentresource.com or visit GovernmentResource.com/leadership-and-professional-development/leadership-development-services/.

Typical Timeline

The timeline below is an example only, and we will work with you to finalize and approve a timeline, with adjustments made if needed after the position is posted. *

Initial Steps Prior to Posting Position:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contract Execution• Kickoff Meeting to Discuss Recruitment Strategy and Timeline• Organization/Position Insight and Analysis• Stakeholder Interviews and Listening Sessions• Deliverable: Draft Recruitment Brochure• Deliverable: Recommended Ad Placements• Organization Approves Ad Placements• Search Committee Reviews and Approves Brochure	<i>Timing varies. Estimated to take 2 weeks.</i>
Task	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post Position and Firm up Timeline• Recruitment Campaign and Outreach to Prospective Applicants• Initial Screening and Review by Executive Recruiter	Weeks 1-4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search Committee Briefing to Review Applicant Pool and Select Semifinalists	Week 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questionnaires• Recorded Semifinalist Interviews• Media Searches	Week 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliverable: Semifinalist Briefing Books via Electronic Link• Deliverable: Recorded Interviews	Week 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search Committee Briefing to Select Finalists	Week 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background Investigation Reports• Disc Management Assessments (if desired, supplemental cost)• First-Year Plan or Other Advanced Exercise (if desired)	Weeks 9-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliverable: Finalist Briefing Books via Electronic Link	Week 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face-to-Face Interviews• Stakeholder Engagement (if desired)• Deliberations• Reference Checks (may occur earlier in process)• Negotiations and Hiring Process	Week 12

* Timeline is dependent upon Search Committee availability and Holidays. Organization agrees to timely provide photos/graphics and information necessary to develop recruitment brochure, narrow candidate field, and conduct candidate screening; failure to do so, may in SGR's reasonable discretion, extend timeline and can negatively impact the outcome of the process.

Fee Proposal

Not-to-Exceed Price: \$28,419

Not-to-Exceed Price is comprised of:

- **Fixed Fee of \$25,919**
- **Up to \$2,500 in Ad Placements (billed at actual cost)**

The Fixed Fee includes:

- Stakeholder Interviews and Listening Sessions
- Production of a Professional Recruitment Brochure
- Recruitment Campaign and Outreach:
 - Outreach to Prospective Applicants
 - Custom Graphics for Email and Social Media Marketing
 - Announcement in SGR's Servant Leadership e-Newsletter
 - Post on SGR's Website
 - Ad on SGR's Job Board
 - Two (2) Targeted Job Blasts to SGR's Opt-In Subscriber Database
 - Promotion on SGR's LinkedIn
- Application Management, Screening, and Evaluation
- Semifinalist Evaluation:
 - Questionnaires for up to 15 Semifinalists
 - Recorded Interviews for up to 15 Semifinalists
 - Media Searches for up to 15 Semifinalists
- Semifinalist Briefing Books via Electronic Link
- Background Investigation Reports for up to Five (5) Finalists
- Finalist Briefing Books via Electronic Link
- Reference Checks for up to Five (5) Finalists
- Up To Two (2) Onsite Visits by the Recruiter for 1-3 days each, Inclusive of Travel Costs

Reimbursable Expenses included in the not-to-exceed price:

- Ad placements up to \$2,500 will be billed at the actual cost with no markup for overhead and are incorporated into our not-to-exceed price.

Reimbursable Expenses not included in the not-to-exceed price:

- Ad placements over and above \$2,500 will be billed back at actual cost with no markup for overhead.

Supplemental Services/Other Expenses not included in the fixed or not-to-exceed price:

- There may be additional charges for substantial and substantive changes made to the recruitment brochure after the brochure has been approved by the Organization and the position has been posted online. Organization would be notified of any supplemental costs prior to changes being made.
- At your request, SGR can conduct an online stakeholder survey for \$1,531 to help identify key issues or priorities that you may want to consider prior to launching the search. SGR provides recommended survey questions and sets up an online survey. Stakeholders are directed to a web page or invited to take the survey by email. A written summary of results is provided to the Organization. Please note that this type of survey may extend the recruitment timeline.
- Additional questionnaires over and above the 15 included in the Fixed Fee - \$230 per candidate.
- Additional recorded interviews over and above the 15 included in the Fixed Fee - \$256 per candidate.
- Additional media search reports over and above the 15 included in the Fixed Fee - \$766 per candidate.
- Additional background investigation reports over and above the maximum of five (5) included in the Fixed Fee - \$511 per candidate.
- Additional reference checks over and above the maximum of five (5) included in the Fixed Fee - \$256 per candidate.
- DiSC Management assessments - \$179 per candidate.
- Semifinalist and finalist briefing materials will be provided to the Organization via an electronic link. Should the Organization request printing of those materials, the reproduction and shipping of briefing materials will be outsourced and be billed back at actual cost.
- Additional onsite visits by the recruiter over and above the quantity included in the fixed price are an additional cost. Travel time and onsite time are billed at a professional fee of \$1,021 per day. Meals are billed back at a per diem rate of \$18 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch, and \$32 for dinner. Mileage will be reimbursed at the current IRS rate. All other travel-related expenses are billed back at actual cost with no markup for overhead.
- SGR Executive Recruitment clients wishing to utilize the complimentary leadership development workshop would be responsible for the travel costs associated with facilitation only. Meals are billed back at a per diem rate of \$18 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch, and \$32 for dinner. Mileage will be reimbursed at the then-current IRS rate. All other travel-related expenses are billed back at actual cost with no markup for overhead.
- The organization bears the cost of candidate travel, and candidates are reimbursed directly by the organization.
- If the organization desires any supplemental services not mentioned in this fee proposal, an estimate of the cost will be provided at that time, and no work shall be done without approval.

Billing

SGR will bill the fixed fee in three (3) installments: 35% upon contract execution, 35% after the applicant pool is presented, and 30% after finalist interviews. Ad placement expenses and supplemental services/other expenses will be billed as incurred or provided. Balances that are unpaid after the payment deadline are subject to a fee of 5% per month or the maximum lawful rate, whichever is less, on the owed amount every month, charged monthly until the balance is paid.

Terms and Conditions

- The organization agrees not to discriminate against any candidate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status, or any other basis that is prohibited by federal, state, or local law.
- The organization agrees to refer all prospective applicants to SGR and not to accept applications independently during the recruitment process.
- The organization agrees to provide SGR with any candidates that were previously accepted as applicants for the given position before engaging SGR to conduct the recruitment for the subject position.
- If the organization wishes to place ads in local, regional, or national newspapers, the organization shall be responsible for paying directly for the ads and for placing the ads using language provided by SGR.
- The organization bears the cost of candidate travel, and candidates are reimbursed directly by the organization.

Placement Guarantee

SGR is committed to your satisfaction with the results of our full service recruitment process. If, for any reason, you are not satisfied, we will repeat the entire process one additional time, and you will be charged only for expenses as described in the Fee Proposal under Supplemental Services. Additionally, we promise not to directly solicit any candidate selected under this engagement for another position while they are employed with your organization.

In the event that you select a candidate fully vetted by SGR, who subsequently resigns or is released for any reason within 12 months of their hire date, we are committed to conducting a one-time additional executive search to identify a replacement. In this case, you will only be charged for related expenses as described in the Fee Proposal.

If your organization circumvents SGR's recruitment process and selects a candidate who did not participate in the full recruitment process, the placement guarantee will be null and void. Additionally, SGR does not provide a guarantee for candidates placed as a result of a partial recruitment effort or limited scope recruitment.

SGR Similar Recruitments

City & County Attorney Recruitments, 2019-Present

In Progress

- Benton County, OR (pop. 97,800) – County Counsel
- North Texas Municipal Water District, TX - Director of Legal Services/General Counsel

2025

- Amarillo, TX (pop. 200,000) - Deputy City Attorney *
- Carlsbad, NM (pop. 32,000) - City Attorney
- Hollywood, FL (pop. 153,000) - City Attorney
- North Port, FL (pop. 94,700) - Police Legal Advisor
- Port Arthur, TX (pop. 55,700) - Assistant City Attorney *
- The School Board of Polk County, FL - General Counsel
- North Port, FL (pop. 94,700) - City Attorney

2024

- Commerce City, CO (pop. 62,000) - City Attorney
- West Linn, OR (pop. 27,000) - City Attorney
- Port Arthur, TX (pop. 57,000) - City Attorney
- Indian River County, FL (pop. 165,000) - County Attorney
- Lubbock, TX (pop. 265,000) - City Attorney

2023

- North Port, FL (pop. 81,000) - Assistant City Attorney
- Lawton, OK (pop. 90,400) - City Attorney
- Commerce City, CO (pop. 62,400) - City Attorney

2022

- Clark County Aviation Department, NV - Senior Attorney
- Fort Worth, TX (pop. 900,000) - City Attorney
- North Port, FL (pop. 78,000) - Assistant City Attorney-Police Legal Advisor
- Sherwood, OR (pop. 20,000) - City Attorney

2021

- Fate, TX (pop. 19,000) - City Attorney
- Nacogdoches, TX (pop. 33,000) - City Attorney
- Nassau County, FL (pop. 88,000) - Assistant County Attorney *
- Waco, TX (pop. 140,000) - Assistant City Attorney *

2019

- Aurora, CO (pop. 366,000) - Chief Public Defender
- Boerne, TX (pop. 15,000) - City Attorney *
- Messer Rockefeller & Fort - Associate or Senior Attorney *
- North Port, FL (pop. 70,000) - Assistant City Attorney
- Temple, TX (pop. 79,000) - City Attorney

* *Limited scope recruitment*



CITY ATTORNEY

Executive (Legal) Department

Annual Salary:
\$163,279

Carlsbad, New Mexico

Are you an experienced attorney who can safeguard a fast-growing energy hub's legal interests, guide elected officials, and lead a small but high-impact legal team? If so, apply to become Carlsbad's next City Attorney!

We are searching for an approachable, solutions-oriented advisor who is:

- Versed in municipal or governmental law
- Adept at drafting and negotiating complex contracts and ordinances
- A confident courtroom advocate and collaborative executive partner

Carlsbad—A Place to Live, Work, & Play! – read on to learn more about this opportunity.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Carlsbad is a dynamic, growing city of 31,999 residents nestled along the Pecos River in southeastern New Mexico's Permian Basin. Fueled by potash mining, oil & gas, nuclear research, and a flourishing tourism sector anchored by world-renowned Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the city blends small-town charm with global energy expertise.

Located just 25 miles from the Carlsbad Caverns and 140 miles northeast of El Paso, Carlsbad offers year-round sunshine, riverfront recreation, and family-friendly festivals such as the Christmas on the Pecos and CavernFest. Settled in the late 1800s as a health resort, Carlsbad today features a revitalized downtown, robust infrastructure investments, and a regional airport.



POPULATION
\$31,999



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$78,277



MEDIAN HOME VALUE
\$187,900

AVERAGE MONTHLY RENT
\$1,206

[Tourism & Activities](#)



GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

Carlsbad operates under a Mayor–Council system with a professional City Administrator. The Mayor and eight Councilors are elected by district to four-year staggered terms with no term limits. The City delivers a full slate of services with over 500 professional staff, including:

- Public Safety (Police & Fire)
- Utilities & Public Works
- Community Development, Parks & Recreation

²¹





ABOUT THE JOB

The Executive Department's Legal Division safeguards Carlsbad's legal and ethical integrity, providing civil counsel, contract review, ordinance drafting, and representation in all judicial and administrative forums.

Reporting to the City Administrator, the new City Attorney will:

- Serve as chief legal advisor to the Mayor, Council, Administrator, and City departments
- Draft, review, and approve ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and real-property instruments
- Represent the City in litigation and coordinate outside counsel as needed
- Monitor legislative/regulatory changes and ensure compliance city-wide
- Lead and mentor a four-person legal/administrative team while managing a \$3.7 million division budget

DEPARTMENT QUICK FACTS

EMPLOYEES
 4

DEPT. BUDGET
 \$3.7 MILLION

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2025

- WATER-RIGHTS PROTECTION AND RELATED LITIGATION STRATEGY
- COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF CITY ORDINANCES



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate is an accomplished attorney with local government law experience. A persuasive communicator and ethical advisor, they build consensus across politically diverse stakeholders, translate complex legal concepts into plain English, and balance risk mitigation with pragmatic problem-solving. Calm under pressure, and they thrive in the courtroom, council-chamber, and community settings; model transparency and accountability; mentor emerging legal talent; and embrace Carlsbad residency to immerse themselves in community life.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Juris Doctor from an ABA-accredited law school
- Minimum 7 years' legal practice, including 4 years in municipal/government law and 3 years supervisory experience
- Applicants must hold a current law license in good standing and meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the New Mexico Bar through reciprocity or admission on motion pursuant to New Mexico Rules Governing Admission to the Bar.
- Ability to obtain New Mexico driver's license & establish City residency within six months

Preferred:

- Significant oil & gas or natural-resources law background
- Experience advising Mayor–Council jurisdictions
- Advanced training in public-sector labor, procurement, and land-use law



SALARY & BENEFITS

- **Compensation:** \$163,279
- **Insurance:** Medical, dental, vision, and life insurance
- **PTO:** 21 hours personal leave per month + 13 paid holidays
- **Retirement:** PERA defined-benefit plan — 9.16 % employee / 19.20 % employer contributions
- **Wellness: Optional** \$15-per-month gym subsidy
- **Relocation:** Assistance provided for out-of-area hires
- **Vehicle and cell phone allowances:** City vehicle stipend and cell-phone allowance for directors

HOW TO APPLY

[Apply Here](#)



For more information on this position, contact:

Andy Kancel, Sr. Vice President of Executive Recruitment

andykancel@governmentresource.com | 817-994-6295

The City of Carlsbad is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.

**Agreement for Full Service Executive Recruitment Services ("PROJECT")
to City of Clearwater, Florida ("CLIENT") between
CLIENT and Strategic Government Resources, Inc., DBA SGR ("SGR")**

SGR and CLIENT (together, "Parties") agree as follows, effective upon the date of the later signature below, in consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which each Party hereby acknowledges.

1. SGR promises and agrees:

- A. To perform the services described in SGR's Proposal for PROJECT dated January 9, 2026 ("PROPOSAL") substantially in the timeframe projected in the PROPOSAL.
- B. To honor the Placement Guarantee stated in the PROPOSAL.
- C. To comply with all applicable open records, public information and similar laws, and consult with CLIENT if SGR is asked for information before disclosure, unless prevented by court order or law from doing so.

2. CLIENT promises and agrees:

- A. To pay SGR promptly as billed or invoiced for such services in accordance with the amounts stated in PROPOSAL, including Reimbursable Expenses and costs of any Supplemental Services or Other Expenses that CLIENT selects. Balances that are unpaid after the payment deadline are subject to a fee of 5% per month or the maximum lawful rate, whichever is less, on the owed amount every month, charged monthly until the balance is paid.
- B. To timely provide photos/graphics and information necessary to develop recruitment brochure, narrow candidate field, and conduct candidate screening and interviews; failure to do so may, in SGR's reasonable discretion, extend timeline and can negatively impact the outcome of the process.
- C. To respond to drafts of documents and reports in a timely manner; failure to do so may, in SGR's reasonable discretion, extend timelines and can negatively impact the outcome of the process.
- D. To refer all prospective applicants to SGR and not to accept applications independently during the recruitment process.
- E. To provide legal opinions to SGR regarding when and if any information relating to the PROJECT must or should be released in accordance with public information laws or legal process.
- F. That if CLIENT receives an open records request related to this PROJECT, CLIENT shall notify and share the request with SGR in writing as soon as possible but within no more than three (3) business days of receipt and that CLIENT shall provide sufficient time for SGR to notify and provide advance notice to the impacted individuals prior to CLIENT releasing the required information with protected information redacted.
- G. To directly reimburse finalists for travel-related expenses relating to in-person interviews.
- H. That CLIENT is ultimately responsible for candidate selections and CLIENT will not discriminate against any candidate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status, or any other basis that is prohibited by federal, or applicable state, or local law.
- I. To comply with the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- J. To cooperate with SGR and not impede SGR from performing its obligations to CLIENT.

3. Additional Terms and Conditions:

- A. The PROPOSAL is incorporated herein for all purposes including all terms defined therein, but if there is any conflict or inconsistency between the terms or conditions of this Agreement, this Agreement controls.
- B. SGR may substitute personnel other than those initially placed, who have substantially equivalent training and experience and subject to approval of CLIENT, due to factors such as SGR employee/consultant turnover, developing needs of the PROJECT, or CLIENT's request.
- C. CLIENT grants SGR permission to use any name, logo, or other identifying mark of CLIENT in SGR's social media content to refer to the relationship established by this agreement.
- D. Remedies
 - i. CLIENT can terminate this agreement at any time for no reason upon giving SGR seven (7) days advance written notice of the termination date. In such an event, SGR shall be compensated for all work satisfactorily performed up to and through the termination date.
 - ii. SGR can terminate this agreement upon seven (7) days advance written notice of the termination date to CLIENT if CLIENT has failed to promptly pay in full any undisputed portion of any bill or invoice (if the dispute is in good faith) or has failed to perform its contractual promises in a manner that materially impedes SGR's ability to successfully perform its obligations, including identifying and attracting qualified candidates. In such an event, SGR shall be compensated for all work satisfactorily performed up to and through the termination date.
- E. CLIENT acknowledges that the nature of executive recruitment is such that SGR engages in discussions with prospects through the process who may or may not ultimately become a candidate, and that SGR is utilizing its proprietary network of relationships to identify and engage prospective candidates, and that premature release of such proprietary information, including names of prospective candidates with whom SGR may be having conversations as part of the recruitment process, may be damaging to the prospects, CLIENT, and SGR. Accordingly, CLIENT acknowledges and, to the extent permitted by law, agrees that all information related to this search is proprietary, and remains the property of and under the exclusive control of SGR, regardless of whether such information has been shared with CLIENT.
- F. There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement.
- G. If any term or condition of this Agreement is invalidated by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction or becomes impossible to perform, the Parties will confer about whether to continue performance without amending the Agreement, without prejudice to either Party's right to terminate the Agreement without cause.
- H. This Agreement embodies the complete and final understandings, contract, and agreement between the Parties, superseding any and all prior written or verbal representations, understandings, or agreements pertaining to this PROJECT. This Agreement can be modified only by signed written amendment. Electronic communications purporting to amend this Agreement will be effective only if the electronic communication includes specific reference to this Agreement or PROJECT.
- I. This Agreement will be governed by the substantive laws of the State of Florida without regard to the jurisdiction's choice-of-law doctrines. Venue for any litigation relating to this Agreement will be exclusively in Pinellas County of the State of Florida.

J. To the extent it may be permitted to do so by applicable law, CLIENT does hereby agree to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify SGR, and all officers, employees, and contractors of SGR, from any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, judgments, expenses, and attorneys' fees incurred in any legal proceedings brought against them as a result of action taken by SGR, its officers, employees, and contractors, providing the incident(s), which is (are) the basis of any such demand, claim, suit, actions, judgments, expenses, and attorneys' fees, arose or does arise in the future from an act or omission of SGR acting within the course and scope of SGR's engagement with CLIENT; excluding, however, any such demand, claim, suit, action, judgment, expense, and attorneys' fees for those claims or any causes of action where it is determined that SGR committed official misconduct, or committed a willful or wrongful act or omission, or an act or omission constituting gross negligence, or acted in bad faith. In the case of such indemnified demand, claim, suit, action, or judgment, the selection of SGR's legal counsel shall be with the mutual agreement of SGR and CLIENT if such legal counsel is not also CLIENT's legal counsel. A legal defense may be provided through insurance coverage, in which case SGR's right to agree to legal counsel provided will depend on the terms of the applicable insurance contract. The provisions of this paragraph shall survive the termination, expiration, or other end of this agreement and/or SGR's engagement with CLIENT.

K. Notices related to this Agreement will go to the respective Parties as follows but either Party can change the addressee for notices to that Party by written notice to the other Party.

- i. For the purposes of this Agreement, legal notice shall be required for all matters involving potential termination actions, litigation, indemnification, and unresolved disputes. This does not preclude legal notice for any other actions having a material impact on the Agreement.
- ii. Any notice required be given by this Agreement shall be deemed to have been given within three (3) days of emailing or depositing in the mail.

Legal Notices:

SGR

Attn: Melissa Valentine, Corporate Secretary
 PO Box 1642
 Keller, TX 76244

Melissa@GovernmentResource.com

CLIENT

Attn:
 Address:

Email:

PROJECT Representative:

SGR

Rebecca L. Fleury
 President of Executive Recruitment
RebeccaFleury@GovernmentResource.com
 817-337-8581

CLIENT

Name:
 Title:
 Email:
 Phone:

Billing and Invoicing:

SGR

Attn: Finance
Finance@GovernmentResource.com
817-337-8581

CLIENT

Name:
Title:
Email:
Phone:

- L. Unless sooner terminated, this Agreement shall terminate at such time as the PROJECT is completed and the requirements of this Agreement are satisfied, except that duties of payment, information disclosure, placement guarantee, and any representations and warranties survive this Agreement.
- M. The Parties and each individual who executes this Agreement on behalf of a Party represent and warrant to the other Party that as to each Party's respective signatory, that signatory is authorized by their Party to execute this Agreement and to bind their Party hereto.
- N. Time is of the essence to this Agreement.
- O. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts which together will comprise the Agreement.
- P. This Agreement is subject to appropriation of funds by CLIENT.

SGR

CLIENT

Signature

Printed Name:

Title:

Date:

Signature

Printed Name:

Title:

Date: