

**DuPAGE AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FINANCE, BUDGET, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

A meeting of the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee of the DuPage Airport Authority Board of Commissioners was convened at the DuPage Flight Center Building, Third Floor Conference Room, 2700 International Drive, West Chicago, Illinois on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. Committee Chairman Ledonne called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. A physical quorum was present for the committee meeting. Commissioner Giunti attended the meeting telephonically, due to employment purposes.

Commissioners Present: Chavez, Davis, Giunti, Ledonne, Ligino-Kubinski, Puchalski
Commissioners Absent: None

DuPage Airport Authority Staff Present: Mark Doles, Executive Director; Patrick Hoard, Director of Finance; Dan Barna, Director of Operations and Facilities; Kristine Klotz, Executive Assistant and Board Liaison; Karin Kietzman, Procurement Manager.

Others: Dan Pape, CMT; Mary Soderstrum, Avcon.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Resolution 2025-2722; Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Marquardt & Humes, Inc. for Lobbyist Services.

Committee Chairman Ledonne read into record Proposed Resolution 2025-2722. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Davis to recommend Board approval of Proposed Resolution 2025-2722; Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Marquardt & Humes, Inc. for Lobbyist Services. The **motion was seconded** by Commissioner Chavez. Executive Director Doles presented a proposal for a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option. The Authority has utilized lobbying services for the past 10 years. The current firm Marquardt & Humes has provided exemplary service during the past three years. Mr. Doles advised that in accordance with the DuPage Airport Authority Procurement Policy, no contract may exceed five years without going back out for proposal or at the discretion of the Board. Mr. Doles communicates with Mr. Humes at least weekly, and Mr. Marquardt maintains in monthly contact, both tracking aviation-related issues in Springfield that could positively or negatively affect the Airport. Through negotiations, the Authority and Humes reached an agreement of \$5,000 per month, with an increase to \$5,500 in the final year. Mr. Doles noted that Chicago Executive Airport pays its lobbyist \$5,000 per month. Rockford Airport lobbying fees are approximately \$10,000 per month. DuPage County also contracts with Marquardt & Humes for \$7,875 monthly. Commissioner Ligino-Kubinski stated the weekly Friday reports contain valuable information and appreciates receiving the emails. Commissioner Davis added that the proposed rates remain well within industry standards. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by roll (5-0).

Proposed Resolution 2025-2723; Approving the Use of Sikich LLP as Outside Auditors for the Year 2026.

Committee Chairman Ledonne read into record Proposed Resolution 2025-2723. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Davis to recommend Board approval of Proposed Resolution 2025-2723; Approving the Use of Sikich LLP as Outside Auditors for the Year 2026. The **motion was seconded** by Commissioner Chavez. Executive Director Doles advised that in accordance with the DuPage Airport Authority By-Laws, the Board of Commissioners must approve both legal counsel and the outside auditing firm. In 2022, Sikich was chosen through an evaluation process. In 2024, the cost of auditing services was \$34,610. The proposed fee for 2025 is \$35,995, representing a 4% increase. These expenses will be paid from the operating budget. Committee Chairman Ledonne noted that Sikich has consistently performed well, providing thorough and in-depth presentations. Commissioner Davis inquired whether the new fee reflects services for the DuPage Airport Authority, DuPage Flight Center and Prairie Landing Golf Club. Executive Director Doles confirmed that the fee covers all three entities. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by roll call vote (5-0).

Proposed Resolution 2025-2724; Authorizing the Execution of a Non-Federal Reimbursable Agreement Between Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration and the DuPage Airport Authority to provide Airport Traffic Control Services at the DuPage Air Traffic Control Tower.


Committee Chairman Ledonne read into record Proposed Resolution 2025-2724. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Davis to recommend Board approval of Proposed Resolution 2025-2724; Authorizing the Execution of a Non-Federal Reimbursable Agreement Between Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration and the DuPage Airport Authority to provide Airport Traffic Control Services at the DuPage Air Traffic Control Tower. The **motion was seconded** by Commissioner Ligino-Kubinski. Executive Director Doles provided background, advising that in 1998 the FAA reviewed towers nationwide and determined that, as a smaller non-commercial facility, DuPage would not be staffed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The Airport would remain open during these hours as an uncontrolled field. At that time, staff and the Board determined it was in the best interest of safety, tenants, snow removal crews, and night operations to fund Air Traffic Control (ATC) staffing during the overnight period. In 2011, following nationwide incidents of ATC staff fatigue, the FAA required two controllers to be present during overnight shifts. Overnight staffing by the FAA at their cost is only allowed if a tower averaged four operations per hour throughout the entire overnight period. DuPage meets this operation number from 10:00 p.m. to midnight but falls short between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Mr. Doles advised that the FAA is required to provide pricing 90 days before the end of its fiscal year. However, the FAA submitted a 12% increase for the upcoming year on September 8, 2025. While no increases were imposed over the past two years, FAA labor union contracts have increased by approximately 6% annually. Funds that are not utilized will be returned to the Airport. Mr. Doles emphasized that discontinuing overnight staffing would negatively impact airport safety, snow removal, and tenant operations. Approximately \$250,000 in tax funds are allocated annually to offset the cost, though the balance comes from the operating budget. Committee Chairman Ledonne noted that there was a major funding increase approximately eight years ago and pointed out that while the annual ATC cost has nearly doubled since 2014, the Airport's tax levy has not increased. Commissioner Davis stated that safety must remain the priority and suggested engaging the Authority's lobbyist to

pursue federal assistance. Mr. Doles reported that prior requests to Senators Durbin and Duckworth's offices to share the overnight staffing costs were declined, as FAA policy requires four operations per hour across the entire shift. Commissioner Lignino-Kubinski agreed that maintaining two overnight controllers is necessary. Mr. Doles noted that 5% of the Airport's operations occur between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and as the third-busiest airport in Illinois, DuPage provides critical safety benefits such as U.S. Customs, 24-hour snow removal, ARFF, and other services. He further observed that only O'Hare and Midway, the other two 24-hour towers in Chicagoland, are fully funded by the FAA. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by roll call vote (5-0).

OTHER BUSINESS

None

Commissioner Davis made a **MOTION** to adjourn the Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee Meeting; the **motion was seconded** by Commissioner Chavez and was passed by a unanimous voice vote. The committee meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.



Michael V. Ledonne, Chairman
Finance, Budget, and Audit Committee