

Firm	Approx. Annual Cost (Audit Prep + Grant/Compliance)	Capital Assets	Hourly Rate Range	Municipal / Comparable Clients	Highlights & Observations
Lauterbach & Amen (L&A)	~\$19,000	Hourly (\$150–\$155/hr)	\$150–\$285/hr	600+ Illinois municipalities (e.g., Libertyville, Lake Forest, Mundelein)	Most recognized IL municipal accounting firm. Comprehensive audit prep & compliance support. Proven reliability and experience. Very strong references. Slightly higher hourly rates but clear deliverables.
RSM	~\$56,000 (audit & compliance) + \$6–8k (capital assets)	Separate hourly	~\$140–\$450/hr	Large national gov. practice; clients include City of Naperville, DuPage County, and Lake County	Strong technical expertise and depth; trusted by Mary. Excellent audit prep and ACFR experience. Higher price but unmatched bench strength. Not current auditor – preserves independence.
Craib Accounting	~\$34,000 (includes capital assets)	Included	\$60–\$70/hr	Lake County, Antioch, and regional agencies	Clear scope breakdown. Transparent pricing by RFP category. Local experience with Lake County. Great value and flexibility. Smaller firm but seems responsive and practical.
Sikich	~\$17,000	Included	\$170–\$360/hr	450+ IL government clients; current Village auditor	Lowest cost. Familiar with Village systems/staff. Reliable performance. Must discuss independence safeguards if selected due to dual role. Strong operational fit otherwise.
BerryDunn	~\$83,000 (may vary)	Hourly	\$100–\$405/hr	National public-sector firm; clients include Midwest cities & utilities	Very professional and collaborative approach; strong government experience. Higher cost; more national than local presence.
Eide Bailly	~\$26,000	Hourly	\$170–\$410/hr	Regional firm; serves multiple Midwest municipalities	Solid proposal with government focus. Reasonable pricing. Less local familiarity but adequate qualifications.
Maher Duessel	~\$35,000	Hourly	\$155–\$260/hr	Pennsylvania-based government specialist	Reputable government-only firm. Midrange cost. Limited Illinois presence; potential learning curve on local reporting.
CPBS / Creative Planning	~\$92,000	Included	TBD (“rate card”)	Serves nonprofits and local governments nationally	Full-service outsourcing model. Comprehensive support but costly. Less IL-municipal specialization. Best fit if seeking ongoing outsourced finance dept.