

Firm	Approx. Annual Cost (Audit Prep + Grant/Compliance)	Capital Assets	Hourly Rate Range	Municipal / Comparable Clients	Highlights & Observations
<b>Lauterbach &amp; Amen (L&amp;A)</b>	~\$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.
<b>RSM</b>	~\$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.
<b>Craig Accounting</b>	~\$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.
<b>Sikich</b>	~\$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.
<b>BerryDunn</b>	~\$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.
<b>Eide Bailly</b>	~\$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.
<b>Maher Duessel</b>	~\$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.
<b>CPBS / Creative Planning</b>	~\$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.