



HISTORIC  
FRANKLIN  
TENNESSEE

ITEM #36  
WRKS 06/12/2012

## MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2012

**TO:** Board of Mayor and Aldermen

**FROM:** Eric S. Stuckey, City Administrator *Eric*  
Shirley Harmon, Human Resource Director  
Russ Truell, Assistant City Administrator/CFO

**SUBJECT:** ICMA-RC Administrative Services agreement

### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) with information to consider approval of an agreement with ICMA-RC for administrative services for the City's 401/457 defined contribution plans.

### Background

The Board of Mayor & Aldermen has previously approved agreements with our incumbent vendor, ICMA-RC, to handle the administrative and investment services related to the City's 401 and 457 defined contribution (DC) plans. These are plans to which our employees contribute, either in lieu of or in addition to the City's defined benefit plan.

Like other DC vendors, ICMA-RC sets their fees based on the amount invested in the plans and the average employee account balance. There are three levels of administrative fees, and the City of Franklin is on the lowest investment level. A higher investment level translates to lower fees per dollar of investment.

For several years, staff has encouraged ICMA to reduce their fees to City employees. This was based on the forecast that our employee contributions would grow quickly and reach the next level, triggering a reduction in fees. That has not yet occurred. However, ICMA-RC has been persuaded to implement a reduction in fees based on the 2010 changes in the City's pension plan, which allows employees a choice between the traditional defined benefit plan and the defined contribution plans. Staff has argued the case that the new options will allow our plans to increase in size and also in the average employee account balance.

Fee reductions would cut the administrative costs (paid by employees from the earnings on their account) by roughly half on index fund investments and by roughly one-third on "name brand" mutual funds. Additionally, employees would be placed automatically in fund classes that have lower fees.

ICMA-RC has asked the City for a five year commitment to their company in exchange for the fee reductions. This would allow ICMA to justify the implementation of the reductions prior to the City actually achieving the normally required levels of investment. This period would, in their estimation, allow the city's account to grow to the appropriate level.



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Staff does not have a problem with a five-year commitment, as we are very satisfied with the historic level of service provided by ICMA and with the selection of investment options currently available. We have not received any employee complaints about the vendor in recent years.

### **Financial Impact**

No impact to City funds. Administrative fees are deducted from the earnings on employee accounts with the vendor. This is a substantial benefit to our employees, reducing fees by approximately 0.5% per year. All of the cost reductions are passed directly to employees; the City will receive no direct benefit from the new agreement.

### **Options**

Adopt the revised agreement or take no action.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Between

**ICMA Retirement Corporation**

and

City of Franklin

Type: 401

Account #: 108069, 106106

Type: 457

Account #: 304178, 306779

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This Administrative Services Agreement (“Agreement”), made as of the      day of      , 2012 (herein referred to as the “Inception Date”), between the International City/County Management Association Retirement Corporation (“ICMA-RC”), a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, and the City of Franklin (“Employer”), a City organized and existing under the laws of the State of Tennessee with an office at 109 Third Avenue South, Franklin, Tennessee 37064.

### **RECITALS**

Employer acts as public plan sponsor of a retirement plan (“Plan”), and in that capacity, has responsibility to obtain administrative services and investment alternatives for the Plan.

VantageTrust (the “Trust”) is a group trust established and maintained in accordance with New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated section 391:1 and Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 81-100, 1981-1 C.B. 326, which provides for the commingled investment of retirement funds held by various state and local governmental units for their employees.

ICMA-RC acts as investment adviser to VantageTrust Company, the Trustee of the Trust.

ICMA-RC has designed, and the Trust offers, a series of separate funds (the “Funds”) for the investment of plan assets as referenced in the Trust’s principal disclosure document, “Making Sound Investment Decisions: A Retirement Investment Guide.” (“Retirement Investment Guide”).

The Funds are available only to public employers and only through the Trust and ICMA-RC.

In addition to serving as investment adviser to the Trust, ICMA-RC provides a range of services to public employers for the operation of employee retirement plans including, but not limited to, communications concerning investment alternatives, account maintenance, account recordkeeping, investment and tax reporting, transaction processing, benefit disbursement, and asset management.

## AGREEMENTS

1. Appointment of ICMA-RC

Employer hereby reaffirms ICMA-RC as Administrator of the Plan to perform all nondiscretionary functions necessary for the administration of the Plan. The functions to be performed by ICMA-RC shall be those set forth in Exhibit A to this Agreement.

2. Adoption of Trust

Employer has adopted the Declaration of Trust of VantageTrust Company and agrees to the commingled investment of assets of the Plan within the Trust. Employer agrees that operation of the Plan and the investment, management, and distribution of amounts deposited in the Trust shall be subject to the Declaration of Trust, as it may be amended from time to time and shall also be subject to terms and conditions set forth in disclosure documents (such as the Retirement Investment Guide or Employer Bulletins) as those terms and conditions may be adjusted from time to time.

3. Exclusivity Agreement

Employer agrees that for the initial or succeeding term of this Agreement specified in Section 10, so long as ICMA-RC continues to perform in all material respects the services to be performed by it under this Agreement, Employer shall not obtain plan administration from anyone other than ICMA-RC. Employer acknowledges that ICMA-RC has agreed to the compensation to be paid to ICMA-RC under this Agreement in the expectation that ICMA-RC will be able to offset costs allocable to performing this Agreement with revenues arising from Employer's exclusive use of ICMA-RC at the rates provided herein throughout the initial or succeeding term.

4. Employer Duty to Furnish Information

Employer agrees to furnish to ICMA-RC on a timely basis such information as is necessary for ICMA-RC to carry out its responsibilities as Administrator of the Plan, including information needed to allocate individual participant accounts to Funds in the Trust, and information as to the employment status of participants, and participant ages, addresses, and other identifying information (including tax identification numbers). Employer also agrees that it will notify ICMA-RC in a timely basis regarding changes in staff as it relates to various roles. This is to be completed through the online EZLink employer contact options. ICMA-RC shall be entitled to rely upon the accuracy of any information that is furnished to it by a responsible official of the Employer or any information relating to an individual participant or beneficiary that is furnished by such participant or beneficiary, and ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for any error arising from its reliance on such information. ICMA-RC will provide reports, statements and account information to the Employer through EZLink, the online plan administrative tool.

Employer is required to send in contributions through EZLink, the online plan administration tool provided by ICMA-RC. Alternative electronic methods may be allowed, but must be approved by ICMA-RC for use. Contributions may not be sent through paper submittal documents.

5. Certain Representations and Warranties

ICMA-RC represents and warrants to Employer that:

- (a) ICMA-RC is a non-profit corporation with full power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform its obligations under this Agreement. The ability of ICMA-RC to serve as investment adviser to the Trust is dependent upon the continued willingness of the Trust for ICMA-RC to serve in that capacity.
- (b) ICMA-RC is an investment adviser registered as such with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. ICMA-RC Services, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of ICMA-RC) is registered as a broker-dealer with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and is a member in good standing with Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”).
- (c)(i) ICMA-RC shall maintain and administer the Plan in compliance with the requirements for eligible deferred compensation plans under Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and other applicable federal law; provided, however, that ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for the eligible status of the Plan in the event that the Employer directs ICMA-RC to administer the Plan or disburse assets in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of Section 457 or otherwise causes the Plan not to be carried out in accordance with its terms. Further, in the event that the Employer uses its own customized plan document, ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for the eligible status of the Plan to the extent affected by terms in the Employer’s plan document that differ from those in ICMA-RC’s standard plan document. ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for monitoring state or local law or for administering the Plan in compliance with local or state requirements unless Employer notifies ICMA-RC of any such local or state requirements.
- (c)(ii) ICMA-RC shall maintain and administer the Plan in compliance with the requirements for plans which satisfy the qualification requirements of Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code and other applicable federal law; provided, however, ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for the qualified status of the Plan in the event that the Employer directs ICMA-RC to administer the Plan or disburse assets in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of Section 401 or otherwise causes the Plan not to be carried out in accordance with its terms; provided, further, that if the plan

document used by the Employer contains terms that differ from the terms of ICMA-RC's standardized plan document, ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for the qualified status of the Plan to the extent affected by the differing terms in the Employer's plan document. ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for monitoring state or local law or for administering the Plan in compliance with local or state requirements unless Employer notifies ICMA-RC of any such local or state requirements.

Employer represents and warrants to ICMA-RC that:

- (d) Employer is organized in the form and manner recited in the opening paragraph of this Agreement with full power and authority to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement and to act for the Plan and participants in the manner contemplated in this Agreement. Execution, delivery, and performance of this Agreement will not conflict with any law, rule, regulation or contract by which the Employer is bound or to which it is a party.
- (e) Employer understands and agrees that ICMA-RC's sole function under this Agreement is to act as recordkeeper and to provide administrative, investment or other services at the direction of Plan participants, the Employer, its agents or designees in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Under the terms of this Agreement, ICMA-RC does not render investment advice, is not the Plan Administrator or Plan Sponsor as those terms are defined under applicable federal, state, or local law, and does not provide legal, tax or accounting advice with respect to the creation, adoption or operation of the Plan and the Trust. ICMA-RC does not perform any service under this Agreement that might cause ICMA-RC to be treated as a "fiduciary" of the Plan under applicable law.
- (f) Employer acknowledges and agrees that ICMA-RC does not assume any responsibility with respect to the selection or retention of the Plan's investment options. Employer shall have exclusive responsibility for the Plan's investment options, including the selection of the applicable mutual fund share class. Where applicable, Employer understands that the VantageTrust Retirement Income Advantage Fund is an investment option for the Plan and that the fund invests in a separate account available through a group variable annuity contract. By entering into this Agreement, Employer acknowledges that it has received the Important Considerations document and the Retirement Investment Guide and that it has read the information therein concerning the VantageTrust Retirement Income Advantage Fund.
- (g) Employer acknowledges that certain such services to be performed by ICMA-RC under this Agreement may be performed by an affiliate or agent of ICMA-RC pursuant to one or more other contractual

arrangements or relationships, and that ICMA-RC reserves the right to change vendors with which it has contracted to provide services in connection with this Agreement without prior notice to Employer.

- (h) Employer approves the use of its Plan in ICMA-RC external media, publications and materials. Examples include press releases announcements and inclusion of the general plan information in request for proposal responses.

6. Participation in Certain Proceedings

The Employer hereby authorizes ICMA-RC to act as agent, to appear on its behalf, and to join the Employer as a necessary party in all legal proceedings involving the garnishment of benefits or the transfer of benefits pursuant to the divorce or separation of participants in the Plan. Unless Employer notifies ICMA-RC otherwise, Employer consents to the disbursement by ICMA-RC of benefits that have been garnished or transferred to a former spouse, current spouse, or child pursuant to a domestic relations order or child support order.

7. Compensation and Payment

- (a)(i) **Plan Administration Fee.** The amount to be paid for plan administration services under this Agreement shall be 0.29% per annum of the amount of Plan assets invested in the Trust. Such fee shall be computed based on average daily net Plan assets in the Trust.
- (a)(ii) **VantageTrust PLUS Fund Plan Administration Fee.** There will be a 0.55% plan administration fee charged to all VantageTrust PLUS Fund assets held in the Plan. This fee will be deducted from the VantageTrust PLUS Fund assets held in the Plan and paid to ICMA-RC. This fee is in addition to any VantageTrust PLUS Fund Management Fee that is charged on all VantageTrust PLUS Fund assets. The VantageTrust PLUS Fund Management Fee is disclosed in the Retirement Investment Guide.
- (b) **Mutual Fund Services Fee.** There is an annual charge of 0.00% assessed against average daily net Plan assets invested in the Trust's non-proprietary Trust Series funds.
- (c) **Compensation for Management Services to the Trust, Compensation for Advisory and other Services to The Vantagepoint Funds and Payments from Third-Party Mutual Funds.** Employer acknowledges that in addition to amounts payable under this Agreement, ICMA-RC receives fees from the Trust for investment management services furnished to the Trust. Employer further acknowledges that certain wholly owned subsidiaries of ICMA-RC receive compensation for advisory and other services furnished to The Vantagepoint Funds, which serve as the underlying portfolios of a number of Funds offered through the Trust. The



fees referred to in this subsection are disclosed in the Retirement Investment Guide. These fees are not assessed against assets invested in the Trust's Mutual Fund Series. In addition, to the extent that third party mutual funds are included in the investment line-up for the Plan, ICMA-RC may receive payments from such third party mutual funds or their service providers, which may be in the form of 12b-1 fees, service fees, or compensation for sub-accounting or other services provided by ICMA-RC on behalf of the funds.

- (d) **Redemption Fees.** Redemption fees imposed by outside mutual funds in which Plan assets are invested are collected and paid to the mutual fund by ICMA-RC. ICMA-RC remits 100% of redemption fees back to the specific mutual fund to which redemption fees apply. These redemption fees and the individual mutual fund's policy with respect to redemption fees are specified in the prospectus for the individual mutual fund and referenced in the Retirement Investment Guide.
- (e) **Payment Procedures.** All payments to ICMA-RC pursuant to this Section 7 shall be paid out of Plan assets held by through the Trust. The amount of Plan assets held through the Trust shall be adjusted by the Trust as required to reflect such payments. In the event that the Employer agrees to pay amounts owed pursuant to this section 7 directly, any amounts unpaid and outstanding after 30 days of invoice to the Employer shall be withdrawn from Plan assets held through the Trust.

The compensation and payment set forth in this section 7 is contingent upon the Employer's use of ICMA-RC's EZLink system for contribution processing and submitting contribution funds by ACH or wire transfer on a consistent basis over the term of this Agreement.

#### 8. Contribution Remittance

Employer understands that amounts invested through the Trust are to be remitted directly to the Trust in accordance with instructions provided to Employer by ICMA-RC and are not to be remitted to ICMA-RC. In the event that any check or wire transfer is incorrectly labeled or transferred to ICMA-RC, ICMA-RC may return it to Employer with proper instructions.

#### 9. Indemnification

Only to the extent provided by law, and subject to the Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act, ICMA-RC shall not be responsible for any acts or omissions of any person with respect to the Plan or related Trust, other than ICMA-RC, and its agents or affiliates, in connection with the administration or operation of the Plan. Only to the extent provided by law, and subject to the Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act, Employer shall indemnify ICMA-RC against, and hold ICMA-RC harmless from, any and all loss, damage, penalty, liability, cost, and expense, that may be incurred by, imposed upon, or asserted against ICMA-RC by

reason of any claim, regulatory proceeding, or litigation arising from any act done or omitted to be done by any individual or person with respect to the Plan or related Trust, excepting only any and all loss, damage, penalty, liability, cost or expense resulting from ICMA-RC's or any affiliate or agent's negligence, bad faith, or willful misconduct.

10. Term

This Agreement shall be in effect and commence on the date all parties have signed and executed this Agreement ("Inception Date"). The term of this Agreement will commence on the Inception Date and extend five (5) years from that date. This Agreement will be renewed automatically two additional one-year terms and thereafter for each succeeding year unless written notice of termination is provided by either party to the other no less than 60 days before the end of such Agreement year. The Employer understands and agrees that, in the event the Employer terminates this Agreement (or replaces the VantageTrust PLUS Fund as an investment option in its investment line-up), ICMA-RC retains full discretion to release Plan assets invested in the VantageTrust PLUS Fund in an orderly manner over a period of up to 12 months from the date ICMA-RC receives written notification from the Employer that it has made a final and binding selection of a replacement for ICMA-RC as administrator of the Plan (or a replacement investment option for the VantageTrust PLUS Fund).

11. Amendments and Adjustments

- (a) This Agreement may be amended by written instrument signed by the parties.
- (b) ICMA-RC may amend this agreement by providing 60 days' advance written notice to the Employer prior to the effective date of such proposed amendment. Such amendment shall become effective unless, within the 60-day notice period, the Employer notifies ICMA-RC in writing that it objects to such amendment.
- (c) The parties agree that enhancements may be made to administrative and operations services under this Agreement. The Employer will be notified of enhancements through the Employer Bulletin, quarterly statements, electronic messages or special mailings. Likewise, if there are any reductions in fees, these will be announced through the Employer Bulletin, quarterly statement, electronic or special mailing.

12. Notices

All notices required to be delivered under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered, mailed, e-mailed or faxed to the location of the relevant party set forth below or to such other address or to the attention of such other persons as such party may hereafter specify by notice to the other party.

**ICMA-RC:** Legal Department, ICMA Retirement Corporation, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 600, Washington, D.C., 20002-4240

**Facsimile;** (202) 962-4601

**Employer:** at the office set forth in the first paragraph hereof, or to any other address, facsimile number or e-mail address designated by the Employer to receive the same by written notice similarly given.

Each such notice, request or other communication shall be effective: (i) if given by facsimile, when transmitted to the applicable facsimile number and there is appropriate confirmation of receipt; (ii) if given by mail or e-mail, upon transmission to the designated address with no indication that such address is invalid or incorrect; or (iii) if given by any other means, when actually delivered at the aforesaid address.

13. Complete Agreement

This Agreement shall constitute the complete and full understanding and sole agreement between ICMA-RC and Employer relating to the object of this Agreement and correctly sets forth the complete rights, duties and obligations of each party to the other as of its date. This Agreement supersedes all written and oral agreements, communications or negotiations among the parties. Any prior agreements, promises, negotiations or representations, verbal or otherwise, not expressly set forth in this Agreement are of no force and effect.

14. Titles

The headings of Sections of this Agreement and the headings for each of the attached schedules are for convenience only and do not define or limit the contents thereof.

15. Incorporation of Schedules

All Schedules (and any subsequent amendments thereto), attached hereto, and referenced herein, are hereby incorporated within this Agreement as if set forth fully herein.

16. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee applicable to contracts made in that jurisdiction without reference to its conflicts of laws provisions.

Plan numbers 108069, 106106, 304178, 306779

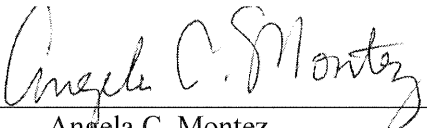
In Witness Whereof, the parties hereto certify that they have read and understand this Agreement and all Schedules attached hereto and have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized officers as of the Inception Date first above written.

CITY OF FRANKLIN

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title (Please Print)

INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION RETIREMENT CORPORATION

By   
Angela C. Montez  
Assistant Corporate Secretary

Please return fully executed contract to:      New Business Unit  
ICMA-RC  
777 North Capitol Street NE  
Suite 600  
Washington DC 20002-4240

## **Exhibit A**

### **Administrative Services**

The administrative services to be performed by ICMA-RC under this Agreement shall be as follows:

- (a) Participant enrollment services, including providing a welcome package and enrollment kit containing instructions and notices necessary to implement the Plan's administration. Employees will enroll online or through form. ICMA-RC will provide an enrollment link through the general ICMA-RC web site. Plan sponsor will also make available the online enrollment link in their Intranet site or via email to new employees. Employer can also enroll employees through EZLink.
- (b) Establishment of participant accounts for each employee participating in the Plan for whom ICMA-RC receives appropriate enrollment instructions. ICMA-RC is not responsible for determining if such Plan participants are eligible under the terms of the Plan.
- (c) Allocation in accordance with participant directions received in good order of individual participant accounts to investment funds offered under the Trust. Participants can complete allocations through Investor Services, Voice Response System or through Account Access, the secure participant online system provided by ICMA-RC.
- (d) Maintenance of individual accounts for participants reflecting amounts deferred, income, gain or loss credited, and amounts distributed as benefits.
- (e) Maintenance of records for all participants for whom participant accounts have been established. These files shall include enrollment instructions (provided to ICMA-RC through Account Access, EZLink or form), beneficiary designation instructions and all other and documents concerning each participant's account, and if applicable, records of any transaction conducted through the Voice Response Unit ("VRU"), Account Access or other electronic means.
- (f) Provision of periodic reports to the Employer through EZLink. Participants will have access to account information through Investor Services, Voice Response System, Account Access and through quarterly statements that can be delivered electronically through Account Access or by postal service.
- (g) Communication to participants of information regarding their rights and elections under the Plan.
- (h) Making available Investor Services Representatives through a toll-free telephone number from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays and days on which the securities

markets or ICMA-RC are closed for business (including emergency closings), to assist participants.

- (i) Making available a toll-free number and access to VantageLine, ICMA-RC's interactive VRU, and ICMA-RC's web site, to allow participants to access certain account information and initiate plan transactions at any time. Account access and VantageLine are normally available 24 hours a day, seven days a week except during scheduled maintenance periods designed to ensure high-quality performance. The scheduled maintenance window is outlined at <https://harper1.icmarc.org/login.jsp>
- (j) Distribution of benefits as agent for the Employer in accordance with terms of the Plan. Participants who have separated from service can request distributions through Account Access or via form.
- (k) Upon approval by the Employer that a domestic relations order is an acceptable qualified domestic relations order under the terms of the Plan, ICMA-RC will establish a separate account record for the alternate payee and provide for the investment and distribution of assets held there under.
- (l) Loans may be made available on the terms specified in the Loan Guidelines, if loans are adopted by the Employer. Participants can request loans through Investor Services or Account Access.
- (m) Guided Pathways – Participant Advice and Guidance may be made available through a third party vendor on the terms specified on ICMA-RC's website.
- (n) ICMA-RC will determine appropriate delivery method (electronic and/or print) for plan sponsor/participant communications and education based on a number of factors (audience, effectiveness, etc.)