UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION - DETROIT

IN THE MATTER OF:

Fieldstone A&E, LLC, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture & Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone A & E, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture, Debtor.	Bankruptcy Case No. 26-48494-tjt Hon. Thomas J. Tucker Chapter 11 *Subchapter V*

FIRST DAY MOTION FOR ENTRY OF ORDER (A) AUTHORIZING DEBTOR TO PAY EMPLOYEE OBLIGATIONS; AND (B) DIRECTING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO HONOR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE-OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

NOW COMES Fieldstone A&E, LLC, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture & Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone A&E, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture (the "Debtor"), as Debtor and Debtor in possession, by and through its counsel, Stevenson & Bullock, P.L.C., and hereby requests that this Court enter an Order substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1 (A) Authorizing Debtor to Pay Employee Obligations; and (B) Directing Financial Institutions to Honor Outstanding Employee-Obligation Payments.

Debtor, in support of its First Day Motion for Entry of Order (A) Authorizing Debtor to Pay Employee Obligations; and (B) Directing Financial Institutions to Honor Outstanding Employee-Obligation Payments (the "Motion") states:

JURISDICTION

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334.

2. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).

3. Venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409(a).

BACKGROUND

4. On July 30, 2026 (the "Petition Date") the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief in this Court under chapter 11, subchapter V, of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1330, as amended (the "Bankruptcy Code").

5. The Debtor continues to manage and operate its business as debtor-in-possession pursuant to § 1184 of the Bankruptcy Code.

6. A subchapter V Trustee has not yet been appointed or designated in this case.

7. Ryan Rasmussen is the responsible person for the Debtor.

8. The factual background relating to the Debtor's commencement of the chapter 11 case is set forth in detail in the Declaration of Ryan Rasmussen in Support of First Day Pleadings (the "Rasmussen Declaration"), which is being filed contemporaneously herewith and is incorporated herein by reference.

9. As of the Petition Date, the Debtor employs approximately one hundred twenty-four (124) employees (the "Employees") in the ordinary course of its business and incurs obligations to them for compensation for their services. Fifty-one (51) of the Employees are paid hourly wages while seventy-three (73) receive a salary. Three (3) of the Employees are insiders, as defined in § 101(31) of the Bankruptcy Code.

10. The Debtor has costs and obligations with respect to the Employees relating to the period before the Petition Date. Certain of these costs and obligations are due and payable, while others will become due and payable after the Petition Date in the ordinary course of the Debtor's business.

11. Before the Petition Date, and in the ordinary course of its business, the Debtor typically paid obligations relating to wages (the "Wages") on a bi-weekly basis each Friday for the pay period including two weeks prior to the week of the payment date. The Debtor uses Bank of America to assist with payroll processing.

12. The Debtor is also required by law to withhold from its Employees' Wages applicable amounts related to federal, state, and local income taxes, as well as social security and Medicare taxes (collectively, the "Withholding Taxes") and to remit the same to the appropriate taxing authorities (collectively, the "Taxing Authorities").

13. Furthermore, the Debtor is required to make payments from its own funds on account of social security and Medicare taxes, and to pay, based on a percentage of gross payroll and subject to state-imposed limits, additional amounts to the Taxing Authorities for, among other things, state and federal unemployment insurance (collectively, the "Employer Payroll Taxes" and together with the Withholding Taxes, the "Payroll Taxes").

14. In addition to the foregoing and in the ordinary course of its business, the Debtor maintains Employee benefit programs (the "Benefits"), for which the Debtor contributes all or a part of the expenses. These Benefits include:

a. Health Insurance: The Debtor provides Employees with the ability to choose between HSA and PPO with Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network, administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network. The Debtor pays approximately 70% of its Employees' annual covered cost;

b. Dental Insurance: The Debtor provides Employees dental coverage administered by Principal. The Debtor pays approximately 50% of the premiums for dental insurance coverage for its Employees;

c. Vision Insurance Plans: The Debtor provides Employees vision insurance coverage administered by Principal. The Debtor pays 50% of the vision insurance premiums of its Employees;

d. 401(k): The Debtor offers all full-time Employees over the age of twenty-one (21) the ability to participate in a 401(k)-plan administered through American Funds. Included in this Benefit is an employer-match up to 4%, with the first 3% being a dollar-for-dollar match;

e. Flexible Time Off: All full-time Employees who work an average of 40 hours per work week may take paid leave as needed, subject to the following guidelines: Employees are expected to maintain a 90/10 ratio (working hours should account for more than 90% of total hours, with less than 10% allocated to flexible time off);

f. Holidays: The Debtor observes the following paid holidays per year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day;

g. Life Insurance: The Debtor offers term life insurance coverage provided through Principal Life Insurance with a $50,000 benefit at no cost to the Employee. Additional Voluntary Life Insurance available, cost per month based on age;

h. Short Term Disability: The Debtor provides coverage through Principal Life Insurance Company at no cost to the Employee;

i. Long Term Disability: The Debtor provides coverage through Principal Life Insurance Company at no cost to the Employees;

j. Norton LifeLock: The Debtor provides Norton LifeLock identity protection for its Employees and their families; and

k. Cellular Phones: The Debtor pays a $100.00 cellular phone reimbursement for certain Employees that require job-related phone access.

15. Collectively hereafter, the Wages, Payroll Taxes, and Benefits are referred to as the "Employee Obligations."

RELIEF REQUESTED

16. Pursuant to §§ 105(a), 363(b), and 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtor respectfully requests that the Court enter an order (a) authorizing the Debtor to pay and honor the Employee Obligations; and (b) directing financial institutions to honor outstanding employee-obligation payments.

BASIS FOR RELIEF

17. Under § 507(a)(4)(A), each Employee is entitled to a priority claim of up to $17,150.00 for "wages, salaries, or commissions, including vacation, severance, and sick leave pay" earned within 180 days before the Petition Date. Also, § 507(a)(5) provides up to $17,150.00 of priority status for Employees' claims for contributions to certain employee-benefit plans, less amounts paid under § 507(a)(4).

18. Section 363(b)(1) provides that "[t]he trustee, after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 363(b)(1), and § 105(a) provides, *inter alia*, that "[t]he court may issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Title."

19. The Debtor believes that most of the Employee Obligations owed by the Debtor and relating to the period before the Petition Date constitutes priority claims under sections 507(a)(4) and (a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code. As priority claims, the Debtor's estate must pay the Employee Obligations in full before satisfying any of the Debtor's general unsecured obligations. Accordingly, the relief requested may affect only the timing of the payment of these priority obligations, and it will not prejudice the rights of general unsecured creditors or other parties in interest.

20. As of the Petition Date, the Debtor believes that no Employees have claims for Employee Obligations in excess of $17,150.00. See 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4).

21. Any delay or failure to pay wages, salaries, benefits, and other similar items would irreparably impair the Employees' morale, dedication, confidence, and cooperation and would adversely impact the Debtor's relationship with its Employees at a time when the Employees' support is critical to the success of the

chapter 11 case. The Debtor simply cannot risk the substantial damage to the value of its business that would inevitably attend any decline in the Employees' morale.

22. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 6003, the Court may grant relief regarding a motion to pay all or part of a prepetition claim within 21 days after the filing of the petition if the relief is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm. Absent an order granting the relief requested in this Motion, the Employees will suffer undue hardship and, in many instances, serious financial difficulties, as the amounts in question are needed to enable certain of the Employees to meet their own personal financial obligations. Without the requested relief, the stability of the Debtor will be irreparably undermined because otherwise loyal Employees will seek alternative employment. The Debtor will suffer imminent and irreparable harm if the relief requested is not granted. Accordingly, the Debtor submits that the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003 are met and the relief sought herein should be granted immediately.

23. With respect to Payroll Taxes in particular, the payment of such taxes will not prejudice other creditors of the Debtor's estate, as the relevant Taxing Authorities generally hold priority claims under section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code in respect of such obligations. Moreover, the portion of the Payroll Taxes withheld from an Employee's wages on behalf of the applicable Taxing Authority is held in trust by the Debtor. As such, these Payroll Taxes are not property of the

Debtor's estate under section 541. See, e.g., *Begier v. IRS*, 496 U.S. 53, 67 (1990) (withholding taxes are property held by a debtor in trust for another and, as such, are not property of the debtor's estate).

24. Any delay in paying the obligations relating to the above-mentioned obligations would be detrimental to the Debtor, its creditors, and the estate. Accordingly, and to successfully implement the foregoing, the Debtor seeks a waiver of the notice requirements under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and any stay of the order granting this motion, whether imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6004(g) or otherwise.

25. The Debtor further requests that the Court authorize the Debtor's banks and other financial institutions (collectively, the "Banks") to receive, process, honor, and pay all prepetition and post-petition checks issued or to be issued, and electronic fund transfers requested or to be requested, by the Debtor in respect of the Employee Obligations. The Debtor also seeks authority to issue new post-petition checks or effect new electronic fund transfers on account of the Employee Obligations to replace any prepetition checks or electronic fund transfer requests that may be dishonored or rejected.

26. As a result of the commencement of the chapter 11 case, and in the absence of an order of the Court providing otherwise, the Banks may dishonor or reject the Debtor's checks, wire transfers, and direct deposit transfers in respect of the Employee Obligations.

27. The Debtor represents that each of these checks or transfers is or will be drawn on the Debtor's payroll and general disbursement accounts and can be readily identified as relating directly to payment of the Employee Obligations. Accordingly, the Debtor believes that the Banks will not inadvertently honor prepetition checks and transfers other than those for Employee Obligations.

28. Authorization to pay all amounts on account of Employee Obligations shall not be deemed to constitute post-petition assumption or adoption of any contract, program, or policy pursuant to §§ 365 or 1113 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtor is in the process of reviewing these matters and reserves all of its rights under the Bankruptcy Code with respect thereto. Moreover, authorization to pay all amounts on account of Employee Obligations shall not affect the Debtor's right to contest the amount or validity of any Employee Obligations, including, without limitation, the Payroll Taxes that may be due to any Taxing Authority.

29. For the foregoing reasons, the Debtor believes that granting the relief requested herein is appropriate and in the best interests of the estate.

NOTICE

30. Notice of this Motion has been provided to the Office of the United States Trustee, the subchapter V trustee, and the Debtor's twenty largest unsecured creditors. In light of the nature of the relief requested, the Debtor submits no further notice is necessary.

31. The Debtor intends to request that the Court consider this Motion on an expedited basis, and has, contemporaneously with the filing of this Motion, requested the same from the Court as is authorized pursuant to E.D. Mich. LBR 9013-1(c).

NO PRIOR REQUEST

32. No previous motion for the requested relief sought herein has been made to this or any other court.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Debtor respectfully requests entry of an Order, in sufficiently the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit 1, granting the relief requested herein and granting the Debtor such other and further relief as may be just.

Respectfully submitted,
STEVENSON & BULLOCK, P.L.C.

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Dated: July 30, 2026

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION - DETROIT

IN THE MATTER OF:

Fieldstone A&E, LLC, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture & Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone A & E, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture, Debtor.	Bankruptcy Case No. 26-48494-tjt Hon. Thomas J. Tucker Chapter 11 *Subchapter V*

ORDER (A) AUTHORIZING DEBTOR TO PAY EMPLOYEE OBLIGATIONS; AND (B) DIRECTING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO HONOR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE-OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

This matter is before the Court on the Debtor's First Day Motion for Entry of Order (A) Authorizing Debtor to Pay Employee Obligations; and (B) Directing Financial Institutions to Honor Outstanding Employee-Obligation Payments (the "Motion")[1] filed by Fieldstone A&E, LLC, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture & Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone A & E, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Engineering, *d/b/a* Fieldstone Architecture (the "Debtor"). The Court having considered the Motion and finding that it has jurisdiction over this proceeding; that this is a core proceeding; that the service and notice of the Motion was sufficient under the circumstances; that no further notice is necessary; that the relief sought in the Motion is in the best interests

[1] Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings as set forth in the Motion.

of the Debtor, its estate, and its creditors; and that good and sufficient cause exists for such relief.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The Motion is GRANTED.

2. The Debtor is authorized, but not directed, to continue to pay and honor the Employee Obligations as described in the Motion, in the ordinary course of the Debtor's business, and to pay all related costs and expenses, as of the Petition Date.

3. The Debtor's banks and all other financial institutions at which the Debtor maintains those accounts which are utilized to pay the Employee Obligations are directed to honor checks presented for payment, and to honor all fund transfer requests made by the Debtor related to the foregoing, to the extent sufficient funds are on deposit in such accounts.

4. Under 11 U.S.C. §§ 507(a)(4) and (5), no payment(s) to any single Employee on account of any Employee Obligation shall exceed, in the aggregate, $17,150.00. Similarly, the Debtor shall not make any payment to any Employee on account of any Employee Obligation that was not earned within 180 days before the date that the Debtor filed its bankruptcy petition with this Court.

5. Notwithstanding the possible applicability of Bankruptcy Rules 6004(g), 7062, 9014, or otherwise, the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon their entry.

6. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from the implementation of this Order.