

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

In re:)	
)	
FARMLAND INDUSTRIES, INC., et al.,)	Case No. 02-50557-JWV
)	Joint Administration
Debtors.)	

ORDER

At the conclusion of the Court's docket in this case on October 22, 2002, counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors ("Committee") asked the Court to enter a Final Order concerning the Committee's retention of Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin Financial Advisors, Inc., ("Houlihan Lokey") as the Committee's financial advisors in this Chapter 11 proceeding. The issue that has held up entry of a Final Order, and the issue on which the various parties involved have been unable to agree, is whether the Transaction Fee (if any is allowed) payable to Houlihan Lokey pursuant to the terms of its engagement letter should be allowed and paid as an administrative expense pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503 or whether any such fee should be paid out of any distribution to the unsecured creditors. Counsel for the Committee asked the Court to rule on this issue in issuing the Final Order, and urged the Court to authorize payment of any Transaction Fee as an administrative expense pursuant to § 503.

Inasmuch as the parties have been unable to agree on this issue, it would be appropriate to allow the parties a short period of time in which to submit briefs on this issue, for the Court's guidance in deciding this question. Therefore, it is

ORDERED that any party wishing to submit a brief on this issue, as set out hereinabove, shall file such briefs no later than October 31, 2002. Any such briefs shall be limited to five (5) pages.

SO ORDERED this 23rd day of October, 2002.

/s/ Jerry W. Venters
United States Bankruptcy Judge