



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/17/2024

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 CONTRACT WITH
GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF TARRANT
COUNTY**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider the FY 2025 contract with Guardianship Services, Inc. for the provision of professional services to legally incapacitated residents of Tarrant County.

BACKGROUND

State law charges Tarrant County Probate Courts with the responsibility of appointing guardians for residents of Tarrant County who have been legally determined to be incapacitated by the Probate Courts.

Tarrant County has historically engaged Guardianship Services, Inc., a non-profit organization, as a contractual partner to provide staff and volunteers to serve as guardians for legally incapacitated Tarrant County residents.

The term of this contract is from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

The Criminal District Attorney's Office has approved this agreement as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding in the amount of \$745,000.00 is available in the following accounts:

\$610,000 – T0450-2025 Public Health – 1115 Waiver Fund/1140100000/566084 Guardianship Services, Inc.

\$110,000 – 23100-2025 Guardianship Fund/1140100000 Non-Departmental/566084 Guardianship Services, Inc.

\$12,500 – 22600-2025 Probate Contributions Fund/4230100000 Probate Court No. 1/566084 Guardianship Services, Inc.

\$12,500 – 22600-2025 Probate Contributions Fund/4230200000 Probate Court No. 2/566084 Guardianship Services, Inc.

SUBMITTED BY: Budget and Risk Mgmt

PREPARED BY: Jason K. Adams
APPROVED BY: Helen H. Giese

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TARRANT §

AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Tarrant County Probate Courts are charged with appointing guardians for residents of Tarrant County who are incapacitated according to state law;

WHEREAS, when there are no relatives or friends who are willing or suitable to serve as guardians of incapacitated individuals of Tarrant County, the Probate Courts rely on and appoint **GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC.'s** staff and volunteers to serve that purpose;

WHEREAS, pursuant to §81.027 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court may provide for the support of paupers and residents of Tarrant County who are unable to support themselves;

WHEREAS, funding from **TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS** is essential to **GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC.'s** ability to provide qualified, professional services to residents who have been legally determined by the Probate Courts to be incapacitated, and hereby declares that this agreement is one of a professional service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, this **Agreement** is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2024, by and between **GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC. ("GSI")**, acting by and through its duly authorized agent, and **TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS ("COUNTY")**, acting by and through its County Judge.

GSI and the **COUNTY** agree as follows:

1. **GSI** agrees, via Probate Court appointments, to continue providing such services including, but not limited to, the furnishing of volunteers and staff, as reasonably available and as needed to act as guardians and such services as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties hereto for the residents of Tarrant County.
2. **COUNTY**, for and in consideration of the services provided, agrees to pay to **GSI** a lump sum payment of SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$745,000.00) for reimbursement of salaries and related benefits and training for staff and volunteers during the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.
3. **TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY TEXAS LAW, GSI HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS COUNTY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, OFFICIALS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, INJURY OR CLAIM ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENT OPERATION OF ITS PROGRAM. SAID INDEMNIFICATION WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, ALL AMOUNTS OF ALL CLAIMS, ATTORNEYS' FEES, AND COSTS OF COURT.**

4. Nothing contained in this **Agreement** shall be deemed or construed by the parties hereto, nor by any third party, as creating the relationship of principal and agent, partnership, joint enterprise, common enterprise, joint venture, joint owners, or joint tenants between the parties. The parties hereby declare and acknowledge that the relationship existing is one of independent contractor. This **Agreement** does not and shall not be construed to entitle either party or any of their respective employees or officials, if applicable, to any benefit, privilege or other amenities of employment from the other party.

5. This **Agreement** shall not be interpreted to inure to the benefit of a third party not a party to this **Agreement**. This **Agreement** may not be interpreted to waive any statutory or common law defense, immunity, including governmental and sovereign immunity, or any limitation of liability, responsibility, or damage of any party to this **Agreement**, party's agent, or party's employee, otherwise provided by law.

6. The parties to this **Agreement** will not sell, assign, transfer or convey any benefits or obligations of this **Agreement** in whole or part without the prior written consent of both parties.

7. If any one or more of the provisions contained in this **Agreement**, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability will not affect any other provision of this **Agreement**.

8. This **Agreement** constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and any and all prior negotiations are merged into this **Agreement**. Any amendment, change, or addition to this **Agreement** shall be made only in writing and signed by both parties.

9. This **Agreement** will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for any action or claim arising from this **Agreement** will be in Tarrant County, Texas, as to state court actions, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, as to federal court actions.

10. In providing the services required by this **Agreement**, **GSI** must observe and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations, including, without limitation, workers' compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, and non-discrimination laws and regulations. **GSI** shall be responsible for ensuring its compliance with any laws and regulations applicable to its business, including maintaining any necessary licenses and permits.

11. **GSI** agrees to provide **COUNTY** all records relating to the programs performed by **GSI** upon written request of **COUNTY** and to provide a final report detailing the manner in which such funds are expended and the program details of its services.

12. **GSI** must submit to **COUNTY** a final report as to the program outcomes achieved within sixty (60) days of the end of the requested funding year [by November 30, 2025] by providing the following:

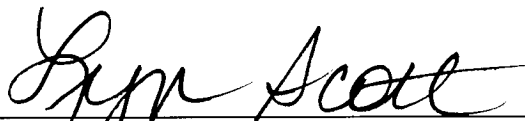
- (a) a program update on all outcomes accomplished and client populations served; and,
- (b) an accounting of all expenditures of **COUNTY** funds (salary, rent, training, etc.). *Any funds not used for the specified purposes or not used within the time limits specified in this contract are subject to be returned to **COUNTY**.*

Until receipt of this final report by **COUNTY**, all subsequent funding will be held in abeyance.

13. **GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC.** verifies that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract. The term "boycott Israel" is as defined by Texas Government Code Section 808.001, effective September 1, 2017.

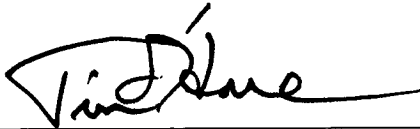
14. **GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC.** acknowledges and agrees that it has fully, accurately, and completely disclosed all interested parties in the attached Form 1295, and has acknowledged the completeness of this disclosure by filing the Form 1295, attached as Exhibit A, with the Texas Ethics Commission as required by law.

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.



**AUTHORIZED AGENT
GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES, INC.**

COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS



Tim O'Hare
County Judge

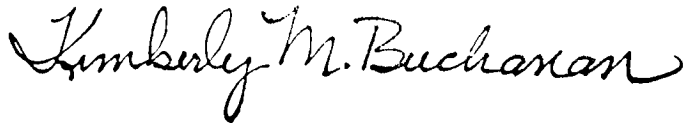
\$ 745,000.⁰⁰ CONTINGENT
UPON COMMISSIONERS COURT
APPROVAL IN FY 25

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Criminal District Attorney's Office*

CERTIFICATION OF
AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$ 745,000.⁰⁰



Tarrant County Auditor

*By law, the Criminal District Attorney's Office may only approve contracts for its clients. We reviewed this document as to form from our client's legal perspective. Other parties may not rely on this approval. Instead those parties should seek contract review from independent counsel.

Vendor Certification Addendum to Tarrant County Contracts
Entered Into on or After September 1, 2021
Required by New Texas State Laws
[Not required if all contracting parties are governments]

This Addendum relates to the following contract: Agreement between Tarrant County, Texas and Guardianship Services, Inc. (FY 2025)

FISCAL FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, Vendor acknowledges TARRANT COUNTY is a governmental entity and agrees TARRANT COUNTY (customer) may terminate this Agreement for future fiscal years if sufficient funding is not appropriated or allocated.

For All County Contracts Entered into on or after September 1, 2021, Vendor Must Certify:

Vendor is EXEMPT from Certification regarding Energy Companies and Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations:

Vendor is a sole proprietorship OR is a non-profit entity OR Vendor is a company that does NOT have 10 or more full-time employees AND/OR this contract does NOT have a value of \$ 100,00.00 or more that is to be paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental entity.

If the Vendor Cannot Certify that it is EXEMPT as Above, Vendor Must Certify as Follows:

Vendor is NOT EXEMPT and Certifies as follows:

Boycott of Energy Companies Prohibited. In compliance with Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (added by 87th Legislature, S.B. 13), Vendor verifies that it does not boycott energy companies and will not boycott energy companies during the term of the above-described contract. "Boycott energy company" is defined in Section 809.001(1) (added by 87th Legislature, S.B. 13) and means, without an ordinary business purpose, refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company: (A) engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or (B) does business with a company described by subsection (A).

Discrimination against Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations Prohibited. In compliance with Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (added by 87th Legislature, S.B. 19), Vendor verifies that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association; and will not discriminate during the term of the above-described contract] against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. "Discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" is defined in Section 2274.001(3)

(added by 87th Legislature, S.B. 19) and means, with respect to the entity or association, to: (i) refuse to engage in the trade of any goods or services with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; (ii) refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; or (iii) terminate an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; the term *does not include*: (i) the established policies of a merchant, retail seller, or platform that restrict or prohibit the listing or selling of ammunition, firearms, or firearm accessories; and (ii) a company's refusal to engage in the trade of any goods or services, decision to refrain from continuing an existing business relationship, or decision to terminate an existing business relationship: (aa) to comply with federal, state, or local law, policy, or regulations or a directive by a regulatory agency; or (bb) for any traditional business reason that is specific to the customer or potential customer and not based solely on an entity's or association's status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association.

Vendor Hereby Certifies (Mark Applicable Certification):

☒ Vendor is EXEMPT from Certification as set out above.

☐ Vendor is NOT EXEMPT from Certification as set out above, and Vendor Certifies that it does not and will not Boycott Energy Companies and that it does not and will not engage in prohibited Discrimination against Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations.

CERTIFIED by:

Lynn Scott
Signature of Certifying Person

Lynn Scott
Printed Name of Certifying Person

CEO
Title of Certifying Person

Guardianship Services, Inc.
Name of Vendor Company

9/10/24
Date Certified

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

FORM 1295

1 of 1

Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if there are interested parties.
Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 if there are no interested parties.

OFFICE USE ONLY CERTIFICATION OF FILING

1 Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.

Guardianship Services, Inc.
Fort Worth, TX United States

Certificate Number:
2024-1212043

Date Filed:
09/10/2024

Date Acknowledged:

2 Name of governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed.

Tarrant County

3 Provide the identification number used by the governmental entity or state agency to track or identify the contract, and provide a description of the services, goods, or other property to be provided under the contract.

FY 2025 Contract
FY 2025 Contract - Guardianship Services

4	Name of Interested Party	City, State, Country (place of business)	Nature of interest (check applicable)	
			Controlling	Intermediary

5 Check only if there is NO Interested Party.



6 UNSWORN DECLARATION

My name is Lyn Scott, and my date of birth is 11/29/65

My address is 1125 College Ave Ft Worth TX 76104 USA
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Tarrant County, State of Texas on the 10 day of Sept, 2024
(month) (year)

Lyn Scott

Signature of authorized agent of contracting business entity
(Declarant)