



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/17/2024

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT TO
THE ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS
SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENT**

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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider an amendment to the Order authorizing payment of certain time sensitive claims.

BACKGROUND

On March 7, 2023, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #140399, approved an Order, requiring the County Auditor pay certain time-sensitive claims that must then be presented to the Commissioners Court for ratification.

On April 18, 2023, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #140686, amended the Order to add emergency rent, utility, food, hygiene, and transportation payments related to various programs administered by the Tarrant County Department of Human Services to the list of claim types approved for payment.

On September 19, 2023, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #141720, further amended the Order to add rent payments made to landlords in the Tarrant County Housing Assistance Office Housing Assistance Program (HAP) to the list of claim types approved for payment. This was done to ensure accurate payment amounts are determined in time for inclusion on the Claims Addendum and timely payments to landlords are made. This prevents the County from being charged late fees.

On March 17, 2024, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #142800, approved an extension of the order for six (6) months. This approval is set to expire on September 19, 2024.

Staff seeks approval from the Commissioners Court to extend the Order until September 30, 2025, twelve (12) months following the date of approval. In addition, it is requested the Commissioners Court consider amending the order to allow payment of claims to attorneys providing appointed counsel services and to attorneys serving as outside counsel in civil litigation pursuant to a contract with Tarrant County. In both cases, payment will not be made by the Auditor unless ordered by a court judge or approved by Tarrant County Risk Management and in the event a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commissioners Court is cancelled or if the month in which the payment is due includes a fifth Tuesday.

All time-sensitive claims will be presented to the Auditor with appropriate documentation and authorization and will follow the audit approval process.

SUBMITTED BY:	Administrator's Office	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Miriam Garza Kandice S. Boutté
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The Criminal District Attorney's Office has approved the Order as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.