



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 03/19/2024

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 COUNTY ESSENTIAL SERVICES GRANT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE, TO SUPPORT THE TARRANT COUNTY COURT COSTS PROGRAM

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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the submission of the FY 2024 County Essential Services Grant Application and Resolution to the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office, to support the Tarrant County Court Costs Program.

BACKGROUND

The County Essential Services Grant Program considers applications on a case-by-case basis with preference given to counties seeking reimbursement for costs incurred for the investigation and/or prosecution of capital murder or crimes committed because of bias or prejudice as defined in Article 104.004 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Eligible costs may include trial exhibit costs, additional courtroom security, investigative services, court reporter fees, and prosecution costs.

State funds are authorized under the Texas General Appropriations Act, Article I, Trustee Programs within the Office of the Governor, Strategy B.1.2. All awards are subject to the availability of funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Tarrant County is seeking \$21,471.98 in grant funds to help reimburse expenses associated with The State of Texas VS. Maurice Kelso Smith, Indictment No. 1648480D, capital murder of multiple persons. The jury trial commenced on February 26, 2024 and concluded on March 4, 2024, with a conviction sentencing the defendant to life in prison without parole.

The grant request is for \$15,526.00 in trial expenses incurred by the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office and \$5,945.98 for the costs of three (3) additional bailiffs assigned to the trial by the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant request is for \$21,471.98. Match is not required for this grant.

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Rand Otten
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