



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/17/2024

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION COURT REMINDERS PROGRAM**

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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider the participation in the Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) Court Reminders Program.

BACKGROUND

The Texas OCA is offering notification messaging services authorized by HB4293 from the 87th Texas Legislature. The service, funded by the OCA, is provided at no cost to counties.

Court Reminders Program is designed to enhance court efficiency, the service aims to increase appearance rates, expedite payments, and facilitate seamless communication with the public. All Tarrant County courts are included in this program. The OCA has selected eCourtDate as its vendor to support the following objectives:

- Decrease failure-to-appear (FTA) rates
- Improve access to justice
- Reduce the number of warrants issued
- Expedite payments
- Reduce the volume of phone calls to the court
- Save on paper and postage
- Enhance communication with the public

Currently, Tarrant County Criminal Courts and Juvenile Services Departments send over 1.5M messages annually to support operations, incurring costs through an existing agreement with eCourtDate approved on March 5, 2024, through Court Order #142779. Transitioning to the OCA court reminder program invoicing will be shifted to OCA, resulting in an estimated \$50,000.00 annual savings for Tarrant County.

The transition to the OCA court reminder program for existing departments using eCourtDate for notifications will be seamless and will not affect day-to-day functionality.

The OCA contract between the State of Texas and eCourtDate is for a term of five (5) years. If the OCA contract ends or is not renewed with the State of Texas, Tarrant County will transition to the enterprise-wide notifications provider that is currently in place at that time.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

SUBMITTED BY:	Information Technology	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Theresa Lee André Mendes
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