



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

PAGE 1 OF 26

DATE: 10/03/2023

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUREAU OF JUSTICE
ASSISTANCE MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS
PROGRAM GRANT AWARD FOR THE TARRANT COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court accept the FY 2023 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Missing and Unidentified Human Remains Program Grant Award, in the amount of \$500,000.00 to hire staff, purchase equipment, and provide for genealogy testing of unidentified remains associated with cases managed by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's (TCME's) Office.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 2023, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #140641, approved the submittal of the FY 2023 Grant Award application to the BJA Missing and Unidentified Human Remains Program Grant for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

The goal of the Missing and Unidentified Human Remains Program is to provide funding for services focused on reporting and identifying missing persons and unidentified human remains cases in the United States. The funding will be used to hire a staff member (Forensic II Death Investigator) who will assist the Human Identification Laboratory with investigating and managing the TCME's District and contracting agencies long-term unidentified "cold" cases where standard identification modalities have been exhausted. The Forensic II Death Investigator will serve as a liaison to law enforcement partners in researching possible links to missing persons and unidentified cases. Funding will also be utilized for the following:

Travel to Washington, DC for BJA grant recipient training courses required each year during the three (3) year grant period.

Forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis (FGG)/forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and searching for approximately ten (10) unidentified cases (number may fluctuate based on final cost for each case).

Purchase of 3D scanner for digitizing cranium and mandible for digital facial reconstruction.

The program aims to provide investigatory leads and identify unidentified human remains that require approaches and resources beyond current capabilities.

SUBMITTED BY:	Budget and Risk Mgmt	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Claudia J. Del Toro Castro Helen Giese
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With acceptance of the Grant Award, the TCME's Office will use grant funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 to hire staff, purchase equipment, and provide for genealogy testing of unidentified remains associated with case management.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no grant match required.

No indirect costs allowed for this grant.

No operating subsidy required for this grant.

The grant award will be deposited in account GRANT-2004/L0021-2024/2310100000.