



Barbara Shurbet

*County Auditor
Titus County Courthouse*

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BY *js* DEPUTY

September 20, 2022

The Honorable Brian Lee, Titus County Judge
The Honorable Commissioners' Court of Titus County
100 W. 1st Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

RE: Proposed Fire Contract with City of Mt. Pleasant

Dear Judge Lee and Commissioners:

Thank you for asking me to serve on the advisory board regarding the proposed contract with the City of Mt. Pleasant for fire protection services for the residents of Titus County. I understand the importance of this matter regarding the safety of Titus County residents. With this understanding, I have reviewed the proposed contract. At this time, this contract has not been approved by the Titus County Commissioners' Court. Please accept this letter as my official notification to you of the concerns that I have with regard to this proposed contract.

My concerns are:

- 1) This proposed contract does not state a maximum annual dollar amount payable to the City of Mt. Pleasant. Instead, the proposed contract requires that Titus County pay a percentage of the City's fire department budget each year with increasing percentages and no limit on the amount of annual increase. Titus County Commissioners proposed a 5% maximum annual increase which was promptly refused by the City Council.
- 2) This proposed contract does not allow for confirmation by an external independent auditor of any amounts possibly due to the City of Mt. Pleasant.
- 3) This proposed contract does not allow for termination until after September 30, 2027 except in the instance of default.
- 4) This proposed contract has not been evaluated by legal counsel of Titus County. The City of Mt. Pleasant purchased the services of an external attorney who practices law in San Antonio, Ms. Lea Ream, who also participated in the drafting of the proposed contract on behalf of the City.

Based on my review of the contract as the Titus County Auditor, I am unable to support the proposed contract as currently written, and I caution against proceeding without modifications.

Sincerely,

Barbara Shurbet

Barbara Shurbet, CPA
Titus County Auditor

CC: Honorable John Mark Cobern, Titus County Attorney
Honorable Joan Newman, Titus County Clerk

100 W. First Street, Suite 106
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

Telephone 903-572-8101
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Real Property

From: Brian Lee <titusjudge@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:16 AM
To: 'Barbara Shurbet'; 'Jeff Parchman'; 'John Fitch'; danawapplewhite@yahoo.com; jparker@co.titus.tx.us; 'John Mark Cobern'; 'Joan Newman'; 'Real Property'
Subject: RE: Letter of Concerns from Titus County Auditor regarding Proposed Fire Contract

Thanks Barbara, yes I have received and read it. As a minimum I personally support The addition of verbiage to address confirmation by external auditor regarding a net Zero impact from the sending of "missionary firefighters" AND reserving the right to Have John Cobern and the attorney of our choice review the document and suggest Appropriate changes

Brian

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Shurbet [mailto:bshurbet@co.titus.tx.us]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 8:12 AM
To: 'Brian Lee' <titusjudge@gmail.com>; 'Jeff Parchman' <jparchman@co.titus.tx.us>; 'John Fitch' <jfitch@co.titus.tx.us>; danawapplewhite@yahoo.com; jparker@co.titus.tx.us; 'John Mark Cobern' <tituscountyattorney@gmail.com>; 'Joan Newman' <jnewman@co.titus.tx.us>; 'Real Property' <realproperty@co.titus.tx.us>
Subject: Letter of Concerns from Titus County Auditor regarding Proposed Fire Contract

Good Morning: I drafted this letter yesterday and wanted to be certain that you each had a copy of it before Commissioners' Court this morning.

If I can assist you in any manner, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

-----Original Message-----

From: auditor@co.titus.tx.us <auditor@co.titus.tx.us>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 8:22 AM
To: bshurbet@co.titus.tx.us
Subject: Scanned image from Titus County -Auditor TH1062

Reply to: Auditor's Scan <auditor@co.titus.tx.us> Device Name: Titus County -Auditor TH1062 Device Model: MX-3051
Location: Not Set

File Format: PDF (Medium)
Resolution: 200dpi x 200dpi

Attached file is scanned image in PDF format.

Use Acrobat(R)Reader(R) or Adobe(R)Reader(R) of Adobe Systems Incorporated to view the document.

Adobe(R)Reader(R) can be downloaded from the following URL:

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