

**GRANT AGREEMENT**  
**For The**  
**Rural Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Program**  
**Award # IA-0000000517**

This grant agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts ("Comptroller") and the Office of the County Attorney of Titus ("Grantee") located at 100 west First Street Mount Pleasant Texas 75455. For purposes of this Agreement, Comptroller and Grantee are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Parties" or individually as a "Party."

**Article I. Recitals**

**Whereas**, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 22 (S.B. 22) to establish a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified sheriff's offices, constable's offices, and prosecutor's offices in rural counties (the "Program");

**Whereas**, Comptroller has authority to implement and administer the Program and award grants to eligible applicants pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 130, Subchapter Z, Sections 130.911, 130.912, and 130.913;

**Whereas**, Grantee warrants that it is eligible to participate in the Program;

**Whereas**, Grantee certifies that it has not and will not reduce the amount of funds provided to its sheriff's office, constable's office or prosecutor's office, as applicable, because of an award of grant funds under this Agreement;

**Whereas**, Grantee timely submitted an application for a grant;

**Whereas**, Comptroller has reviewed and approved Grantee's application for a grant;

**Whereas**, the Parties desire to set forth their mutual expectations and obligations for participation in the Program; and

**Now, therefore**, in consideration of Grantee's compliance with all requirements of this Agreement, Comptroller awards this Agreement to the Grantee and the Parties do hereby represent, covenant, and agree as follows:

**Article II. Authority**

This Agreement is entered into pursuant to the authority granted and in compliance with the provisions of Local Government Code, Sections 130.911, 130.912, or 130.913, as applicable. This Agreement is funded by state funds appropriated by the State Legislature.

**Article III. Grant**

In consideration of the various obligations to be undertaken by Grantee, Comptroller awards Grantee the amount of \$ 175000.00, to be disbursed to Grantee for the purposes of funding a Rural Prosecutor's Office Salary Assistance Grant, subject to the following:

1. Grantee shall use grant funds only for the authorized uses set forth in Article V of this Agreement, and only for the Rural Prosecutor's Office Salary Assistance Grant as indicated on the Grantee's application.

2. Grantee shall fully comply with all terms and conditions of this Agreement; the requirements of Local Government Code, §§ 130.911, 130.912, or 130.913, as applicable; the relevant provisions of the Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) and the State of Texas Procurement and Contract Management Guide, or their successors, adopted in accordance with Texas law; and all applicable state or federal statutes, rules, regulations, or guidance applicable to the grant award, including 34 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Part I, Chapter 16, Subchapter D.
3. Grantee specifically assures compliance with the provisions of Appendix 6 of TxGMS (Uniform Assurances by Local Governments) that are applicable to this Grant.

#### **Article IV. Term**

This Agreement is effective from the date signed by Comptroller (“Effective Date”), after first having been signed by Grantee, to and including an expiration date of September 30, 2024, unless terminated earlier in accordance with other provisions of this Agreement.

#### **Article V. Authorized Uses of Grant Funds; Limitations**

Section 1 of this Article applies only to a Rural Sheriff’s Office Salary Assistance Grant, Section 2 of this Article applies only to a Rural Constable’s Office Salary Assistance Grant, Section 3 of this Article applies only to a Rural Prosecutor’s Office Salary Assistance Grant, and Section 4 of this Article applies to all grants except as otherwise set out in Section 4.

##### **Section 1. Rural Sheriff’s Office Salary Assistance Grant (Local Government Code, § 130.911)**

**A. Authorized Uses.** Grantee may only use grant funds to cover the following costs:

1. to provide a minimum annual salary of at least:
  - a. \$75,000 for the county sheriff (as defined by 34 TAC §16.300(3));
  - b. \$45,000 for each deputy sheriff (as defined by 34 TAC §16.300(4)) who performs motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of their duties; and
  - c. \$40,000 for each jailer (as defined by 34 TAC §16.300(2)) whose duties include the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of a jail operated by the county; and
2. provided that each county sheriff that meets the definition in 34 TAC § 16.300(3), and each deputy sheriff that meets the definition in 34 TAC §16.300(4), and county jailer that meets the definition in 34 TAC §16.300(2) that is employed by the county sheriff receives the minimum salary described by paragraph (1) of this section:
  - a. to increase the salary of a person described by paragraph (1) of this section;
  - b. to hire additional deputies or staff for the sheriff’s office; or
  - c. to purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety equipment (as defined by 34 TAC §§ 16.300(13) and 16.300(14)) for the sheriff’s office.

**B. Deficient Grant Funds.** If Grantee does not have sufficient grant funding to fund the minimum annual salaries required by this Section 1, Grantee may use grant funds to increase the salaries of the persons described in this Section 1 on a pro-rata basis.

##### **Section 2. Rural Constable’s Office Salary Assistance Grant (Local Government Code, § 130.912)**

**A. Authorized Uses.** Grantee may only use grant funds as follows:

1. to provide a minimum annual salary of \$45,000 to a qualified constable (as defined by 34 TAC § 16.300(10)); and
2. for each qualified constable whose salary is funded in part by the Grant, Grantee must contribute at least 75% of the money required to meet the minimum annual salary requirement.

**B. Contribution for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023.** If Grantee's fiscal year began October 1, 2023, Grantee's contribution shall include county funds used to pay an annual minimum salary from October 1, 2023 through the end of the grant agreement awarded for Fiscal Year 2024.

### **Section 3. Rural Prosecutor's Office Salary Assistance Grant (Local Government Code, § 130.913)**

**A. Authorized Uses.** Grantee may only use grant funds to cover the following costs:

1. to increase the salary of an assistant attorney, an investigator, or a victim assistance coordinator (as defined by 34 TAC § 16.300(14) employed at the prosecutor's office; or
2. to hire additional staff for the prosecutor's office.

### **Section 4. Additional Terms**

**A. Nonmonetary Benefits and Taxes.** A minimum annual salary as described in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article does not include any overtime compensation. A salary increase includes increases required to bring a salary to the minimum annual salary as described by Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, and salary increases described by Sections 1 and 3 of this Article, and will be measured based on the salary provided on the last day of the entity's fiscal year ending in 2023, excluding any overtime. The cost of a salary increase as described in this Article includes the increase of legally required nonmonetary benefits and taxes for that salary. A salary increase does not include overtime and the cost of a salary increase does not include an increase of legally required nonmonetary benefits and taxes for overtime compensation. Grantee may only use grant funds for the legally required nonmonetary benefits and taxes for a salary if Grantee provides the minimum annual salary required by Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, if applicable. Grantee may not reduce a salary below a minimum salary required by Sections 1 and 2 of this Article to use grant funds for legally required nonmonetary benefits and taxes for that salary.

**B. Minimum Hourly Wage Calculation.** If a person described in Sections 1 or 2 of this Article is a part-time or hourly employee, or holds a dual office or otherwise divides work hours between a position described in this Article and another position, the minimum annual salary required by Sections 1 or 2 of this Article may be converted to a minimum hourly wage and will apply only to the hours of work performed for a position described in this Article as follows:

1. for an employee with a 40-hour work week, the minimum hourly wage shall be the product of:
  - a. the minimum annual salary described in this Article; and
  - b. a quotient:
    - i. the numerator of which is equal to the number of hours the employee normally works performing duties for a position described in this Article each week, not to exceed 40; and
    - ii. the denominator of which is equal to 40; and
2. for an employee with a county adopted work period as authorized by Section 7(k), Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C.A § 207(k), the minimum hourly wage shall be the product of:
  - a. the minimum annual salary described in this Article; and
  - b. a quotient:

- i. the numerator of which is equal to the number of hours the employee normally works performing duties for a position described in this Article each period, not to exceed the number of hours that are nonovertime as determined under the Fair Labor Standards Act; and
  - ii. the denominator of which is equal to the number of hours that are nonovertime as determined under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- C. A person whose salary increase may be paid with grant funds under Sections 1 and 3 of this Article may be paid an increase in hourly wages if they are paid an hourly wage rather than an annual salary.
- D. **Expenditure of Grant Funds.** Subject to Article VI, Section D of this Agreement, Grantee shall expend the funds during the grant period. Funds for purchases are considered expended when Grantee is legally obligated to expend the funds.

#### **Article VI. Reimbursement**

- A. **Advance Payment.** Comptroller shall disburse the grant funds as soon as practicable following the Effective Date. By making advance payment, Comptroller does not waive any requirements for the reimbursement of costs. Upon Comptroller's request, Grantee shall submit records in support of reimbursement requests.
- B. **Deposit of Funds.** Whenever possible, grant funds must be deposited and maintained in insured, interest-bearing accounts. Interest earned on grant funds is not considered program income, and Grantee must use any accrued interest for grant purposes only and on allowable costs under this Agreement.
- C. **Eligibility for Cost Reimbursement.** Comptroller will reimburse Grantee for necessary and reasonable allowable costs paid by Grantee in performance of this Agreement. Allowable costs are restricted to costs that comply with the Agreement, TxGMS, and state law. The parties agree that all the requirements of TxGMS apply to this Agreement, including the criteria for allowable costs.
- D. **Pre-award Costs.** Comptroller will reimburse Grantee for pre-award costs provided (a) the costs are incurred during the portion of Grantee's fiscal year in which this grant period occurs that precedes the date of award, if any, and (b) the costs would have been allowable under the terms of this Agreement if incurred during the grant period.

#### **Article VII. Reporting and Compliance**

- A. **Compliance Reports.** Grantee shall submit a compliance report certifying compliance and detailing expenditures of grant funds using Comptroller's electronic form no later than 30 days following the expiration or termination of this Agreement. Comptroller may request supporting documentation regarding expenditures and any other information required to substantiate that grant funds are being used for the intended purpose and that Grantee has complied with the terms, conditions, and requirements of the applicable statute, the Agreement and 34 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 16, Subchapter D. Grantee shall submit any information requested by Comptroller within fourteen (14) calendar days of the request.
- B. **Remedies for Non-Compliance.** If Comptroller finds that Grantee has failed to comply with terms and conditions of this Agreement or any other requirement described in Article III, Section 2 of this Agreement, Comptroller may:
  1. require Grantee to return the grant funds or a portion of the grant funds;
  2. withhold grant funds from the current grant or future grants to be received by Grantee pending correction of the deficiency;

3. disallow all or part of the cost of the activity or action that is not in compliance;
4. terminate the Agreement in whole or in part;
5. bar Grantee from future consideration for grant funds under 34 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 16, Subchapter D; or
6. exercise any other legal remedies available to Comptroller under this Agreement, at law, in equity, or otherwise.

#### **Article VIII. General**

- A. **Audit Requirements.** Funds allocated in connection with this Agreement are considered to be state financial assistance for the purpose of determining the audit requirements under the Texas Grant Management Standards. If an audit is required to comply with the requirements of Texas Grant Management Standards, Grantee shall complete an audit at the end of Grantee's fiscal year. Grantee agrees that in the event of any audit findings related to state awards provided by Comptroller, Grantee will inform Comptroller within two (2) business days following Grantee's receipt of any written audit findings or reports (whether in draft or final form), and thereafter submit any documentation related to the audit findings upon Comptroller's request (including, but not limited to, a copy of the final audit report, a response to the current status of the prior year's questioned costs, copies of management letters written as a result of the audit, and action plans, if any).
- B. **Texas Public Information Act.** Comptroller is bound by the provisions of the Texas Public Information Act ("TPIA"), Chapter 552, Texas Government Code. Information, documentation, and other material in connection with this Agreement may be subject to public disclosure pursuant to the TPIA. If Grantee receives a request for information related to this Agreement from a third party, Grantee shall forward the request to Comptroller within three (3) days of receipt.
- C. **Records; Right to Audit.** Grantee acknowledges that acceptance of funds under this Agreement acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor (or any successor agency), under the direction of the legislative audit committee, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Under the direction of the legislative audit committee, Grantee or other entity that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the state auditor shall provide the state auditor with access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit. Comptroller further reserves the right to monitor and audit Grantee's compliance with the requirements of this Agreement.
- D. **Funding Limitation.** The Agreement shall not be construed as creating a debt on behalf of Comptroller in violation of Article III, Section 49a of the Texas Constitution. All obligations of Comptroller under the Agreement are subject to the availability of grant funds. The Agreement is subject to termination or cancellation, either in whole or in part, without penalty to Comptroller if such funds are not appropriated or become unavailable.
- E. **Records Retention.** Grantee shall maintain and retain all records relating to the performance of the Agreement, including supporting fiscal documents adequate to ensure that claims for grant funds are in accordance with applicable State of Texas requirements. These records will be maintained and retained by Grantee for a period of five (5) years after the Agreement expiration date or until all audit, claim, and litigation matters are resolved, whichever is later. Comptroller reserves the right to direct grantee to retain documents for a longer period of time or transfer certain records to Comptroller custody when it is determined the records possess longer term retention value.
- F. **NO INDEMNIFICATION. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT COMPTROLLER WILL NOT INDEMNIFY GRANTEE FOR ANY LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, OR ANY RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, OR EXPENSES ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM ANY ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF GRANTEE IN PERFORMANCE OF THE AGREEMENT.**

- G. **Limitations on Grants.** Grantee acknowledges and agrees that funds received under this Agreement will be expended subject to the limitations and reporting requirements similar to those provided by the following: Parts 2 and 3 of the Texas General Appropriations Act, Art. IX, except there is no requirement for increased salaries for local government employees; Sections 556.004, 556.005, and 556.006 of the Texas Government Code; and Sections 2113.012 and 2113.101 of the Texas Government Code.
- H. **Law Enforcement Agency Grant Restriction.** If Grantee is a law enforcement agency regulated by Chapter 1701 of the Texas Occupations Code, Grantee represents and warrants that it will not use appropriated money unless the law enforcement agency is in compliance with all rules adopted by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, or the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement certifies that it is in the process of achieving compliance with such rules.
- I. **Force Majeure.** Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any delay in, or failure of performance, of any requirement included in this Agreement caused by force majeure. The existence of such causes of delay or failure shall extend the period of performance until after the causes of delay or failure have been removed provided the non-performing Party exercises all reasonable due diligence to perform. Force majeure is defined as acts of God, war, fires, explosions, hurricanes, floods, failure of transportation, pandemic/quarantine orders or other causes that are beyond the reasonable control of either Party and that by exercise of due foresight such Party could not reasonably have been expected to avoid, and which, by the exercise of all reasonable due diligence, such Party is unable to overcome.
- J. **Independent Contractor.** The Parties agree that each Party is contracting as an independent contractor.
- K. **Assignment.** No assignment of this Agreement or of any right accruing hereunder shall be made, in whole or part, by either Party without the prior written consent of the other.
- L. **Headings.** The headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of the Agreement.
- M. **No Waiver.** This Agreement shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver of any of the privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to either Party as an agency of the State of Texas or otherwise available to the Party. The failure to enforce or any delay in the enforcement of any privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities available to a Party under this Agreement or under applicable law shall not constitute a waiver of such privileges, rights, defenses, remedies, or immunities or be considered as a basis for estoppel.
- N. **Survival.** The expiration or termination of this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the effective date of expiration or termination and such rights and obligations shall survive and remain enforceable.
- O. **Severability.** If one or more provisions are deemed invalid, illegal, or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision and this Agreement shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.
- P. **Governing Law.** This Agreement is governed by and construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

#### **Article IX. Notices; Liaison**

Any notice relating to this Agreement, which is required or permitted to be given under this Agreement by one party to the other party shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the receiving party at the address specified below. The notice shall be deemed to have been given immediately if delivered in person to the recipient's address specified below. It shall be deemed to have been given on the date of certified receipt if placed in the United States mail, postage prepaid, by registered or certified mail with return receipt

requested, addressed to the receiving party at the address specified below. Registered or certified mail with return receipt is not required for copies.

The address of Comptroller for all purposes under this Agreement and for all notices hereunder shall be:

Comptroller: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts  
ATTN: Contracts Section  
111 E 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 310C  
Austin, Texas 78774  
*With copy sent via electronic mail to contracts@cpa.texas.gov*

The address of Grantee for all purposes under this Agreement and for all notices hereunder shall be:

Grantee: Office of the County Attorney of Titus  
100 West First Street Mount Pleasant Texas 75455

Contact Person: john mark cobern  
County attorney  
tituscountyattorney@gmail.com  
9035750382

**Article X. Signatories**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their undersigned, duly authorized representatives. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which is an original, and all of which constitute only one agreement between the Parties.

**Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

Office of the County Attorney of Titus

BY \_\_\_\_\_

BY  \_\_\_\_\_

Lisa Craven  
Deputy Comptroller

john mark cobern  
County attorney

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 3/24/2024 | 11:16 AM CDT

