



Legislation Text

File #: 22-4604, **Version:** 1

Department: District Courts

Department Head/Elected Official: Richard Woods

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Grant

Project ID (if applicable): 100001000001300

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable):

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable):

MWDBE Current Participation (if applicable):

Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: N/A - Goal not applicable to request

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request by the District Courts for approval to accept from the Supreme Court of Texas grant funds in the amount of \$1,716,318, with no required match, for the Court Backlog Reduction - ARPA Program, and to create four positions for the District Courts, three positions for Pretrial Services, and three positions for the District Clerk effective August 13, 2022.

Background and Discussion:

Hurricane Harvey (August 2017) and the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 and ongoing) severely impacted the entire criminal justice system. As a result, the courts' criminal case backlog reached the highest levels in the history of Harris County. These positions are critical to the execution of the District Courts overall strategy to address criminal case backlog via adding staff needed for the Emergency Relief Dockets and staff needed to increase the volume and efficiency of processing warrants.

Expected Impact:

These positions will provide the Harris County justice agencies with some of the resources needed to implement new and enhance existing case backlog mitigation initiatives. The additional staff will be assigned to provide adequate support to the existing 3 Emergency Relief Dockets (ERD) and for two (2) new ERDs; and to help expedite the processing of warrants.

Alternative Options:

These initiatives tackle the problem of resolving the criminal backlog by adding resources needed across the difference justice agencies (i.e. DCA, DCO, PTS, and HCSO) to enhance the volume of work completed by the ERDs. Not investing these additional resources will result in a prolonged backlog.

Alignment with Goal(s):

- ☒ Justice and Safety
☐ Economic Opportunity
☐ Housing
☐ Public Health
☐ Transportation
☐ Flooding
☐ Environment
☐ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken

Location:

Address (if applicable): 1201 Franklin St.

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name			
	SFY 22	FY 23	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$429,080.00	\$1,287,238.00	
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$429,080.00	\$1,287,238.00	
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Grant	\$429,080.00	\$1,287,238.00	
Choose an item.	\$	\$	
Choose an item.	\$	\$	
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$429,080.00	\$1,287,238.00	
Total Funding Sources	\$429,080.00	\$1,287,238.00	
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	0	15	

Additional Positions Requested	15	0	
Total Personnel	15	15	

Anticipated Court Date: August 2, 2022

Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date): Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department: Richard Woods

Attachments (if applicable): 3441, Award Documents, Court Order, Conveyance.