



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** 12/06/2011

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Meg Seville, 4-9804

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Sheriff Greg Hamilton, 4-9788

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Sam Biscoe

### **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Consider and take appropriate action on Sheriff's Office request for additional training funds.

### **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

See attached memo

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

### **REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

**AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE:** All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, [Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us) by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.



JAMES SYLVESTER  
Chief Deputy

# GREG HAMILTON

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

P.O. Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767  
(512) 854-9770  
www.tcsheriff.org

DARREN LONG  
Major - Corrections

PHYLLIS CLAIR  
Major - Law Enforcement

MARK SAWA  
Major - Administration & Support

**TO:** Travis County Commissioners' Court  
**FROM:** Sheriff Greg Hamilton *GH*  
**SUBJECT:** Request for additional training funds  
**DATE:** November 28, 2011

In July 2011, we learned that the Texas Legislature, in their passage of the state budget stripped out 100% of the funding for Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (LEOSE) that goes to law enforcement agencies based on the number of sworn officers they employ. These funds are directly received by the law enforcement agency from the State of Texas via the State Comptroller's Office. The Travis County Sheriff's Office has averaged receipt of \$74,969.21 annually over the last ten years with the 2011 allocation being \$73,429.99.

LEOSE funds come from the court fees that are assessed on criminal offenses and that Travis County collects on behalf of the State. Five percent of those funds are used to fund LEOSE training funds. The State Agency Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) keeps one-third of the funds, the other two-thirds are distributed by the Comptroller's Office to supplement continuing education for law enforcement and corrections personnel. The expenditures are governed under and in accordance with the Texas Occupations Code Sec. 1701.157, to wit;

*"A local law enforcement agency shall use the money received only as necessary to ensure the continuing education of persons licensed under this chapter or to provide necessary training, as determined by the agency head, to full-time fully paid law enforcement support personnel in the agency."*

Historically the Travis County Sheriff's Office has used these funds to augment locally budgeted funds for travel, training and seminars for staff. The funds have also been utilized to provide for necessary equipment used in training of our staff at our academy and other training sites and units. The funds are meant to supplement local funding and not supplant them. Thus, for many years we have been able to keep our county funded training dollars stable despite increased costs for training and travel, as well as increased staffing levels throughout those years.

The funding levels from LEOSE for the last five years are as follows;

2006 Allocation	74,162.15
2007 Allocation	76,452.41
2008 Allocation	75,487.40

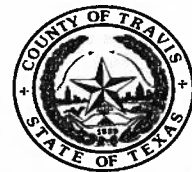
2009 Allocation	78,598.76
2010 Allocation	75,079.72
<b>2011 Allocation</b>	<b>73,429.99</b>

The elimination of these funds leaves our agency in the position of having lost a valuable and necessary tool for ensuring that our staff receives up-to-date and proper training. While our training academy handles the bare minimum training that is mandated by the state for staff, and our normal county training funds handle some other outside training, it has been our fortune to have LEOSE funding to help provide the best training for our staff which we feel is one of the most cost effective manners of ensuring our staff perform to the standards expected in our community and it has enabled us to not have to request significant increases in the county's contribution to those training funds over time.

While we have been diligent in monitoring our spending related to the use of LEOSE funds, on November 23, 2011 we had \$7,744.32 left in our account. Based on the funds currently in the account and those received in the past please consider this request for an additional \$70,000 in funding to cover the loss of LEOSE funding for the remainder of FY 12.

Cc. File

**PLANNING AND BUDGET OFFICE**  
**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**



314 W. 11th Street  
P.O. Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members of the Commissioners Court

FROM: Travis R. Gatlin, Sr. Planning and Budget Analyst *Travis R. Gatlin*

DATE: November 30, 2011

RE: Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Request for Additional Training Funds

TCSO has submitted a mid-year request for \$70,000 of additional training funds based on the State no longer providing approximately \$75,000 per year of Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (LEOSE) resources. The office has a little over \$7,000 left from last year's LEOSE allocation that can be used to mitigate a small portion of the loss of not receiving the funds in FY 12. The LEOSE funds are intended to supplement County or local training resources. Please see the memo from TCSO for additional details.

The office was informed about the change from the State late in the budget process and submitted a request right before the Preliminary Budget was filed. The request was included in the Budget Agenda Request Form for FY 12 consideration and was discussed during Budget Markup. However, no action was taken. The Commissioners Court did establish a \$300,000 Reserve for State Cuts that was originally intended for Austin Travis County Integral Care, should it be needed. No action has been taken by the Commissioners Court on the use of these funds so far this year. In addition, the Commissioners Court established earmarks against the General Fund Allocated Reserve for potential reductions to existing grant programs in the Criminal Courts and Civil Courts. The earmark is \$347,012 for the Criminal Courts' Drug Court and Veterans Court grants and \$193,169 for the Civil Courts' Family Drug Court. PBO has been informed by the Criminal Courts that the Veterans Court grant from the Texas Veterans Commission will not be renewed. PBO is working with the department to request \$50,000 of the earmark to continue this portion of the program. It is not clear at this time if the Criminal Courts or Civil Courts will request any additional earmarked funds.

It should also be noted that TCSO received an additional 78 FTE in the FY 12 Adopted Budget without any increase in travel and training resources. The FY 12 TCSO General Fund Adopted Budget for travel and training is \$139,286. Should the Commissioners Court approve the mid-year request of \$70,000 for training resources, PBO's recommended funding source is the General Fund Allocated Reserve and requests, if

approved, that PBO be directed to process the following budget adjustments as automatics.

From	001-9800-981.98-92 (Allocated Reserve)	-\$70,000
To	001-3705-561.6504 (Training Line Item in Division 3705)	\$35,000
To	001-3706-583.6504 (Training Line Item in Division 3706)	\$35,000

Unless specifically directed by the Commissioners Court that an on-going increase be added to TCSO's FY 13 target budget, the office would need to submit any further requests through the budget process.

cc: Sheriff Greg Hamilton  
Jim Sylvester, TCSO  
Phyllis Clair, TCSO  
Darren Long, TCSO  
Mark Sawa, TCSO  
Paul Matthews, TCSO  
Michael Hemby, TCSO  
Meg Seville, TCSO

Leroy Nellis, PBO  
Jessica Rio, PBO  
Diana Ramirez, PBO