



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER CO#117238

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DATE: 3/11/2014

SUBJECT: **RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUDITOR'S REPORT OF JURY SERVICES'
JUROR PAYMENTS AND STATE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013**

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

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Commissioners Court receive and file the Auditor's Report of Jury Services' juror payments and State reimbursements for FY 2013.

BACKGROUND:

The Auditor's Office performed routine monitoring of payments made by Jury Services to petit and grand jurors during FY 2013. During FY 2013, Tarrant County Jury Services issued payments totaling \$1,209,522.00 to 55,030 jurors who served the court system.

In accordance with Government Code 61.0015, the Auditor's Office submitted quarterly reports during FY 2013 to the Texas Comptroller's Office requesting reimbursement of \$734,810.00 paid to petit and grand jurors. The County's expense, net of the comptroller's reimbursement, was \$474,712.00.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The State of Texas reimbursed Tarrant County \$734,810.00 during FY 2013.

SUBMITTED BY: Auditor

PREPARED BY: S. Renee Tidwell
APPROVED BY:



TARRANT COUNTY

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February 14, 2014

The Honorable District Judges
The Honorable Commissioners Court
Tarrant County, Texas


Re: Auditor's Report – Jury Services, Juror Payments and State Reimbursements for fiscal year 2013

The Auditor's Office performed routine monitoring of payments made by Jury Services to petit and grand jurors during fiscal year 2013. As required by Government Code, Section 61.001(a), jurors were paid \$6.00 for their first day and \$36.00 per day for each additional day of service. The rate for additional days of service pay was increased to \$40.00 per day as of September 1, 2013. During fiscal year 2013, Jury Services issued payments totaling \$1,209,522 to 55,030 jurors who served the court system.

In accordance with Government Code 61.0015(a), the Texas Comptroller's Office (Comptroller) reimburses counties \$30 for amounts paid to a grand or petit jurors for each day or fraction of each day served after the first day. As of September 1, 2013, the Comptroller increased the reimbursement rate to \$34 for each day served after the first day. The code also allows the Comptroller to reduce the amounts paid to each county if sufficient money is not available to satisfy the claims for reimbursement filed by the counties. The Auditor's Office submitted quarterly reports to the Comptroller requesting reimbursement of \$734,810 paid to jurors. The Comptroller reimbursed Tarrant County for this full amount. The county's expense, net of the Comptroller's reimbursement, was \$474,712.

We appreciate the cooperation of Jury Services staff during this routine review. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


S. Renee Tidwell, CPA
County Auditor

Distribution: Paula Morales, Jury Bailiff

Audit Team: Kim Trussell, Audit Manager
Dan Thompson, Senior Auditor