



**COMMISSIONERS COURT  
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER <#CourtOrderNumber#>

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DATE: 1/28/2025

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO SUBMIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION FOR THE TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider the submission of the FY 2026 Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants Program (Coverdell Program) application and resolution to the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office (TCMEO).

**BACKGROUND**

The Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, seeks applications for projects that improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services as well as projects seeking to address emerging forensic science. The total amount requested for the Coverdell Program is \$97,704.00.

This grant funding will be used to support personnel needs in the Medical Examiner's Evidence Section, for one (1) Senior Forensic Evidence Coordinator. Changes to evidence retention policies and increased volume of evidence that is transferred to and from the evidence section of TCMEO require additional personnel to ensure quality and timeliness of evidence dispositions.

This is a 12-month grant and is expected to start on October 1, 2025 and end on September 30, 2026.

The Budget and Risk Management Department has reviewed the budget for this grant application.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The grant application will be for the amount of \$97,704.00  
No match is required for this grant and no operating subsidy is needed.  
Indirect costs are allowed and have been added to the program budget.

SUBMITTED BY	Budget and Risk Management	PREPARED BY:	Rand Otten
		APPROVED BY:	Robert Cone



**TARRANT COUNTY  
RESOLUTION**

**State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division  
Tarrant County Medical Examiner, Forensic Laboratory Services, Evidence Department**

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Tarrant County, that the Evidence Department Support Program be operated for the 2026 fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County agrees to provide applicable matching funds for the said project as required by the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County designates the County Judge as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County approves submission of the grant application for the Evidence Department Support Program to the Office of the Governor.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*County Judge*

**Passed and Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2025**

Grant Number: 5317101