



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER _____

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DATE: 11/5/2024

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF THE TARRANT COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE'S CIVIL DIVISION TO EXECUTE AN ATTORNEY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR OUTSIDE COUNSEL REGARDING ANTHONY JOHNSON, SR., ET AL. V. TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS, ET AL., CASE NO. 4:24-CV-686-O

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider authorizing the Chief of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's (CDA) Office civil division to execute an attorney employment agreement on behalf of Tarrant County for outside counsel regarding Anthony Johnson, Sr., et al. v. Tarrant County, Texas, et al., Case No. 4:24-cv-686-O.

BACKGROUND

On or about July 22, 2024, Plaintiffs filed suit against Tarrant County and its employees claiming the wrongful death of Anthony Johnson who died while he was in the custody of the jail. It has become necessary to hire outside counsel to defend the parties in this suit.

Several potential attorneys with the necessary specialized qualifications and experience to serve as outside counsel on this issue have been identified. Time is of the essence in selecting an attorney to provide legal services on this issue. By authorizing the chief of the CDA's civil division to execute an attorney employment agreement on behalf of Tarrant County with one (1) of the identified attorneys, Tarrant County will receive specialized legal services in a timely manner.

With approval of this item, Tarrant County will have representation from outside counsel in this matter.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 is available in account 61500-2025 Self-Insurance Fund/191200000 Self Insurance/585071 Litigation Expense.

If additional funding is required, the CDA's Office will seek additional approval at a later date.

SUBMITTED BY	Criminal District Attorney	PREPARED BY:	Polly Maxwell
		APPROVED BY:	Mark Kratovil