

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/13/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0032

LOG NAME: 35TARRANT COUNTY JAIL LEASE AMENDMENT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize a First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Tarrant County for Additional Space at the Tarrant County Jail Located at 350 West Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 and Approve a One-Time Additional Lease Payment of \$40,000.00 to Increase and Renovate Space That Will Allow for Magistration of Arrestees through Video Conferencing Technology

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council authorize a first amendment to the lease agreement with Tarrant County for additional space at the Tarrant County Jail located at 350 West Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 and approve a one-time payment of \$40,000.00 to increase and renovate space that will allow for magistration of arrestees through video conferencing technology.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor & Council Communication (M&C) is to amend the lease agreement with Tarrant County, Fort Worth City Secretary Contract (CSC) Number 49057, authorizing the increase and renovation of space by 460 square feet for a total of 14,415 square feet for the purpose of magistration of arrestees by video conference. Renovation of the additional leased space will be provided by Tarrant County but paid for by the City as a one-time additional lease payment in the amount of \$40,000.00.

In 1984, construction of the criminal justice complex at 350 West Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas was completed to provide space for various Fort Worth and Tarrant County law enforcement operations. On March 28, 2017, the City authorized the sale of 350 West Belknap to Tarrant County and authorized a lease for City, as tenant, to lease 13,955 square feet of space (M&C L-16018) to be operated by the City of Fort Worth for the purposes of providing holding cells for arrestees and inmates pending booking into the Tarrant County Jail.

This M&C will enable the City of Fort Worth to utilize additional space at the Jail for Tarrant County's Remote Video Magistration Program. Remote Video Magistration Program allows Tarrant County Magistrates to carry out initial appearance hearings via video conference for defendants who are located at the City holding facilities. Documents required for the process are managed electronically. If the defendant is able to make bond, or if the magistrate finds that no probable cause exists for the arrest, the defendant is released without ever being transported to the main Corrections Center in Fort Worth. The program is intended to 1) reduce costs for defendant transport and housing, 2) reduce impact and inconvenience on defendants who are released or can make bond, and 3) ensure more consistent legal outcomes by ensuring magistrates perform all initial appearance hearings.

Funding for the lease is budgeted in the Other Contractual Services account within the General Fund for the Police Department as appropriated.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Tarrant County

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the General Fund to support the approval of the above recommendation and authorization of the amendment. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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Expedited