



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting October 20, 2020

DATE: October 20, 2020

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Gilbert Hernandez, Director of Municipal Court Services
GilbertH@cctexas.com
361-826-2540

Kim Baker, Director of Contracts and Procurement
KimB2@cctexas.com
361-826-3169

Collection Services for Municipal Court

CAPTION:

Motion authorizing a five-year service agreement with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, & Sampson, LLP for delinquent fine collection services for Municipal Court Class C misdemeanors like traffic violations, disorderly conduct, and public intoxication, in the amount of a 30% collection fee added to the fine with no funding required in the FY 2021 budget.

SUMMARY:

This motion authorizes a five-year service agreement for debt collection services for Municipal Court Class C misdemeanors such as traffic violations, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, city ordinance violation, etc.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Article 103.0031 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure authorizes a governing body to enter into contract with a private attorney or public or private vendor for the provision of collection services and authorizes the addition of a 30% collection fee to delinquent violations. The 30% is added to violations 60 days after warrants are issued or 60 days after violations are delinquent. The fee is paid by defendants and is payable to the vendor. This is a common tool used by courts throughout the state to bring violators into compliance.

Linebarger has been providing collection services to the Corpus Christi Municipal Court

since 2004. Linebarger has an office located in Corpus Christi with one of their call centers located in San Antonio and focuses on six main areas to drive results: Technology, Adaptability, Experienced Team members, Local Involvement, Proven Results, and Tailored Programs. Linebarger contacts violators by mailing letters, outbound call campaigns, skip-tracing, and provides regular performance reports and communications, among other available options.

Linebarger has recovered \$48.4 million for our court, along with resolving \$131.9 million in fines and fees since 2004. With Linebarger, every account is treated equally, no matter the age of the account.

The Contracts and Procurement Department conducted a competitive Request for Proposals process to obtain proposals from qualified firms to provide debt collection services. The City received 12 proposals and evaluated them against the published criteria. The City considered four firms as finalists, interviews were conducted, and pricing was evaluated. The final scores were tabulated for each firm to determine the highest-ranking firm offering the best value to the City. Staff is recommending award to Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP as the highest-ranking firm.

ALTERNATIVES:

An alternative is to not award a contract to any collections vendor and develop an in-house collections department. This would require added FTE's and software.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for Municipal Court Services because a 30% collection fee is paid from funds collected as a result of collection activities. Within the last five years, approximately \$2.6M has been collected per year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this motion authorizing a five-year service agreement with Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, & Sampson, LLP as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Service Agreement
Evaluation Matrix