

BURNET COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Victim Services
Hot Checks Division**



**Criminal Division
Civil Division**

**Eddie Arredondo
Burnet County Attorney**

March 23, 2026

Judge Wilson,

As you know, the Burnet County Commissioners Court took steps to hire legal counsel for civil issues on a short-term basis. Listening to the discussion, it appears at least one member of the Court would like to see if any arrangement can be made with my office to provide such services on a long-term basis.

It is the statutory duty of the County Attorney's Office to represent the State in prosecuting misdemeanor criminal cases and all juvenile cases. Additionally, it handles protective order matters for victims plus mental health cases. Statutes do not require representation of the Commissioners Court but such representation is not prohibited. Over my years as the County Attorney, there have been times when the Commissioners Court has hired civil counsel and other times when my office has helped on civil matters.

The cost for civil representation can be very high. Civil firms bill at an hourly rate plus for associated costs such as legal research, travel, copying, postage, storage, etc. To assist the county and its citizens, I'd like to make a proposal that may help curb such costs.

The Burnet County Attorney's Office is willing to provide legal advice to the Commissioners Court and County Elected Officials. Such representation would be limited and subject to the continuing need for outside counsel. However, such an arrangement may greatly reduce the anticipated expenses associated with representation of private law firm. The County Attorney's Office can work with all county departments on handling civil legal issues and with the Commissioners Court in preparation of its meetings. Outside counsel can be utilized in matters that require specialized resources and/or time to handle. Such assignments can be made by the Court after consultation with my office.

For the remainder of FY 26 (six months), I propose a \$30,000.00 fee to be paid in salary supplements to Ms. Colleen Davis and myself evenly per month. For FY 27, I propose a \$60,000.00 fee to be paid in the same manner.

Should this become the final solution for Burnet County, please note that the Burnet County Attorney's office will need a reasonable amount of time to research issues and questions presented. On spot legal analysis will not be possible. When in Commissioners Court, please know that my attendance will be as civil counsel, not as the Burnet County Attorney. Should I ever appear before the Court in my capacity as an elected official, I will announce myself to the Court and the public. When providing an opinion, know that it is not instruction to the Court not its members on what action it should take on any matter.

A legal opinion may be followed or disregarded. Last, when in Commissioners Court, please note that the role of the attorney is not to be placed in a position to answer questions posed by the public. Representation is limited to the Court members in a private setting.

Should this proposal be of any interest to the Court, I would invite further discussion as to compensation. Please feel free to reach out to me as you desire.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E Arredondo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eddie Arredondo
County Attorney