

The Falls on the Colorado Museum

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Mission: *to preserve our history, to further our heritage, to protect artifacts, and to provide an ongoing history of Marble Falls and the surrounding communities.*

FOCM is a 501(c) 3 non-profit

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Judge Oakley
Burnet, TX 78611

RE: Request for Burnet County HOT Funds

Honorable Judge Oakley:

Please consider this letter as an "invoice" requesting the Burnet County 2017-2018 HOT funds in the amount of \$3000.00 that The Falls on the Colorado Museum was awarded towards reconstruction of a ROCKIE, our prehistoric bison skeleton.

The UT Austin paleontologist, who is providing restoration services in his off-hours, now has seven (7) of nine (9) boxes of bones and is currently stabilizing bones, repairing those needing repairs for which we have the pieces, and will be building casts for any lower leg bones that were eroded while buried in the creek bank.

The paleontologist has uncovered two mysteries to date: (1) finding a fossilized "heart bone" or fossilized "cartilage", both of which are unheard of, and (2) signs of very specific flint butcher marks that were not suspected. We have located a fresh bison heart to dissect to see if something strange occurred with Rockie's anatomy compared to a modern day bison. Some scientific research is being done as we resurrect Rockie! It is so amazing to uncover interesting factors that were totally unexpected.

Our fundraising continues and currently we have exceeded our initial goal of \$12,000. However, since the museum has never salvaged nor reconstructed a 700 year old bison, we are still unsure what our bottom line costs will be. With the support of the community, we feel very encouraged that ROCKIE's bones will once again be able to tell her story.

Sincerely,

Darlene Farmer Oostermeyer
Chairman



