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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Scott Ehlers

September 29, 2025

The Honorable Bryan E. Wilson
Burnet County Judge
Via E-mail: bwilson@burnetcountytexas.org

RE: FY2026 Statement of Grant Award – TR-26-002

Dear Judge Wilson:

I am pleased to inform you that the Texas Indigent Defense Commission has awarded Burnet County an **FY2026 Supplemental Improvement Grant** in the amount of **\$52,791** for the **North Hill Country Regional Public Defender** for equipment costs.

This supplemental funding is provided under TIDC's Temporary or One-Time Assistance for Existing Indigent Defense Programs Serving Rural Texas. (Your main sustainability grant also reflects supplemental funding under this program to temporarily reduce the matching contributions required of counties in the program.)

Your Statement of Grant Award is attached. Please sign page two of the award statement and return via e-mail to Grants@tidc.texas.gov to accept the award and become eligible for payments.

Congratulations to Burnet County on taking the lead in Texas by developing and continuing this indigent defense program. If you have any questions or need clarification of the information contained in this letter or the attached Statement of Grant Award, please contact me at (512) 463-2508 or ecolfax@tidc.texas.gov.

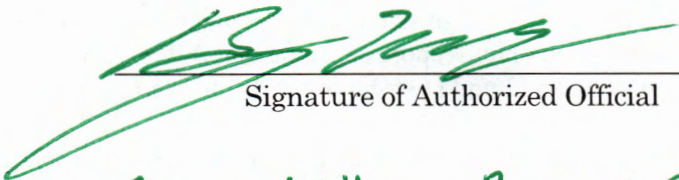
Sincerely,

Edwin Colfax
Director of Grant Funding

Copy: kglaeser@burnetcountytexas.org
pubdef@burnetcountytexas.org

Texas Indigent Defense Commission
209 West 14th Street, Room 202 • Austin, Texas 78701
www.tidc.texas.gov
Phone: 512.936.6994

The authorized official for this grant program has read the preceding and indicates agreement by signing the Statement of Grant Award included below.



Signature of Authorized Official

Bryan Wilson Burnet Co JUDGE
Name & Title (must print or type)

10/14/25
Date

2026 Burnet County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
NHCPD FY 26 Technology Grant
Single-year

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Blanco, Burnet, Llano**
Fiscal Year: **2026**
State Payee Identification Number: **74-6000454**
Division To Administer Grant: **Texas**
Program Title: **NHCPD FY 26 Technology Grant**
Requested Grant Amount: **\$65,350.65**
Authorized Official: **Bryan E. Wilson**
Financial Officer: **Kelley Glaeser**
Program Director: **Michelle Moore**
Mailing Address: **220 S. Pierce St; Burnet, TX 78611**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

Updated computer equipment will enhance the ability of Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties to ensure uninterrupted and effective representation of indigent, court-appointed clients across all three jurisdictions. The North Hill Country staff relies heavily on computers in their daily work. Newer technology will improve efficiency in handling client matters from the moment of arrest through every stage of the criminal process. This includes addressing mental health and addiction concerns, filing motions and writs, maintaining communication with counties and related agencies, and preparing for trials and hearings.

c. Problem Statement

The **North Hill Country Public Defender's Office (NHCPDO)** represents clients charged with approximately **840 misdemeanors and 720 felonies annually** across Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties. Many of NHCPDO's current computers are at or near the end of their life cycle. Several lack essential capabilities, such as Wi-Fi connectivity and video conferencing, which are critical for communicating with courts and opposing counsel. Inadequate access to reliable technology delays case access, creates logistical challenges, places additional burdens on defendants, and contributes to inefficiencies in the court system. This need is especially urgent given the **high percentage of mentally ill clients** the office serves weekly. To provide complete and holistic representation, NHCPDO attorneys must have fully functioning, up-to-date information technology equipment and software.

d. Objectives

Upgraded computers would significantly improve the efficiency and quality of client representation throughout the criminal justice process-from arrest through resolution-in the tri-county court system and in accessing available state resources. These technology upgrades would also strengthen the social worker program, enabling staff to respond to client needs in a more timely, comprehensive, and effective manner.

e. Activities

Purchase **fifteen (15) Microsoft Surface Laptop computers and fifteen (15) desktop towers**, each paired with **one (1) monitor** (for a total of fifteen monitors), along with all **required software and accessories**. This equipment will be utilized by the NHCPDO team, which includes **eleven attorneys, two legal assistants, two social workers, and one investigator**. These upgrades will ensure that all team members have access to reliable, efficient technology to support effective representation and client services across Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties.

f. Evaluation

Track client appointments and services provided:

Maintain a monthly record of the number of clients appointed to the North Hill Country Public Defender's Office. In addition, track all services provided to each client, including but not limited to **mental health support, social work involvement, and investigative services**. This data will be used to assess service delivery, identify resource needs, and support continuous improvement in client representation.

g. Future Funding

This grant application is intended to cover the costs of equipment and initial implementation. It includes funding for the first year of **Adobe Standard** licensing. Ongoing participation costs-such as future software license renewals and program maintenance-will be the responsibility of **Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties**.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Equipment

From: [Michelle Moore](#)
To: [Edwin Colfax](#)
Subject: Re: Application for new computer equipment
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:37:28 AM

Thank you.

On Tue, Aug 19, 2025 at 11:36 AM Edwin Colfax <EColfax@tidc.texas.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Michelle, I will take this as an amendment to your original request.

From: Michelle Moore <mmoore@burnetcountytexas.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Edwin Colfax <EColfax@tidc.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Application for new computer equipment

Edwin,

I wanted to meet with IT here since I was relying on them heavily for this quote. The IT director is suggesting that we have 8 towers total for workstations as backups. 3 towers would go to the Burnet main office, 3 towers to the 2nd Burnet office and 2 towers to the Llano office. (We are now in 2 portable buildings in Burnet as we have grown.) This would actually lower the price by \$10,221.89 for a total of \$52,790.56.

Edwin, if you have any questions, please let me know. You can call me on my cell anytime at 972-567-9018.

Michelle

On Mon, Aug 18, 2025 at 2:44 PM Edwin Colfax <EColfax@tidc.texas.gov> wrote:

Hello Michelle,

I am preparing materials for our board to consider the grant requests you have submitted. It was not clear why each staff member requires a desktop tower computer and a laptop and docking station. We would typically think that a laptop and dock would be sufficient when paired with the monitor and external keyboard. Please include the explanation in an email to me to