

From: "Renan Ramirez" <renan.ramirez@co.hidalgo.tx.us>
To: "josephine ramirez" <josephine.ramirez@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:04:48 PM
Subject: Request to purchase equipment from the JP Technology Fund

Josey,

I have been asked by the *JP Enhanced Collections Project Committee* to purchase equipment using the JP Technology Fund for their project. I have included the email from Rey Salazar below.

The first step is to purchase one set of the equipment that is being recommended (I have attached the quote); which entails a PC, a switch that will share the peripherals and a credit card reader. This equipment will be configured exclusively to access the JP collection website and will be switched away from when not in use. I would like to request your office's opinion before I place these items of the agenda. This is the first kit of the many that will be necessary for this project.

I thank you for your time and attention to this process.

Renán Ramírez
CIO
County of Hidalgo, Texas

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Good Morning Renan,

Please proceed in placing an item on the agenda requesting approval to purchase equipment for the JP Enhanced Collections Project. The first set of equipment will be for installation and testing purposes. After we have run successful trials at the Tax Office, we can proceed in purchasing the rest of the equipment. Let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Rey Salazar
Director, Strategic Planning Division
Department of Budget and Management
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From: "Josephine L. Ramirez" <josephine.ramirez@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Date: March 28, 2012 10:30:42 AM CDT
To: "Renan Ramirez" <renan.ramirez@co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Cc: <rene.querra@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Subject: **RE: Request to purchase equipment from the JP Technology Fund**
Reply-To: <josephine.ramirez@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

As we have discussed, Mr. Guerra has given conditional approval on the use of the JP Technology Fund for the purchase of computer equipment to be used by the Tax Office in assisting with the JP Enhanced Collection project (his understanding is that one unit will be purchased for a trial run of the enhanced collections model). However, it will be up to Commissioners Court to make the determination that the computer equipment is a technological enhancement that will assist the Justice Courts in the collection of the outstanding fines and fees.

As our office previously opined, citing reference to Attorney General Opinion GA-0560, the Justice Court Technology Fund established under Article 102.0173 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure may be used only for technological enhancements for the justice court and continuing education and training for justice court judges and clerks regarding technological enhancements. The Attorney General's opinion goes on to state that the purchase of computer equipment for constable(s) may be a technological enhancement for the justice court if so determined by the commissioners court. Commissioners court has made the determination for the purchase of equipment for the constables. In addition, the Auditor's Office has recommended that the specific equipment be identified with an explanation of how it will be used as a technological enhancement for the JP's. I would suggest using this same model when submitting this item for approval to commissioners court.

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