

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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