

Grant Title/Project Name:	445P
Department:	0425
Requestor:	Laura Barker
Contact Email:	laura.barker@wilcotx.gov
Contact Phone Number:	512-943-1411
Start Date:	12/1/2026
End Date:	10/1/2027
Please select request category:	Personnel
Describe the purpose of the grant in detail to include all requirements.	In February 2022, the Court approved ARPA funds, not to exceed \$250,000, for the use of visiting judges and visiting court reporters to assist with the surge in mental health filings and hearings. Those funds will be depleted by November of this year.
Select the type of grant your department is applying for:	
What is the amount of the grant?	
Please provide a breakdown of the total cost above.	Since the funds will be exhausted in November 2026, the County Courts are requesting approval to continue use of visiting judges to handle the mental health docket and related duties and request funds in the amount of \$40,000 for visiting judges (4,000 x 10) and \$23,000 for visiting court reporters (275.24 x 70 hearings) to fund professional services line item in 0100-0425-004100.
Is there a match requirement?	
What is the source of the match?	
Does the grant cover the cost of the request 100%?	
If not, how much is left unpaid?	
What is the plan to obtain grants/funds for the remaining amount?	
List other similar assets in the County and/or region and if they are available for use?	
How is this asset request different from any similar assets currently in the County and/or region?	
What types of events/purpose would this asset be used for that cannot be accomplished with a current County asset?	
How often do these events occur?	
Identify the number of personnel required to operate this asset and/or be available for the function where it is to be used? How much time is required of those personnel? What is the cost of the personnel?	
Where will the asset be stored?	
What is the useful life of the asset?	
Will a replacement be requested from general funds when useful life has been exhausted?	
Will other agencies be billed for the use of this asset (e.g. vendors paid, employee worked hours and paid, inventory costs etc.)?	

Does this asset require insurance coverage?	
If yes, what is the estimate of asset insurance coverage?	
Will this asset require on-going maintenance? Please describe the maintenance required along with an estimate for these costs.	
How will this asset be funded when the grant ends?	
What is the impact if the grant is not received?	
New Personnel position is:	Part Time
Where will this position office?	virtual - or any available space
Who will this position report to?	Judge Laura Barker, Presiding Judge of County Court at Law No. 2
What tasks will this position perform? Include the five primary functions and the percentage of time spent to be spent on each function.	<p>Monitoring the Mental Health Case queue - review incoming Applications for Temporary Mental Health and Applications for Protective Custody filings. Due to the nature of the filings, the queue must be monitored and a Judge available to review filings immediately. If warranted, the Judge would sign an order taking the patient into temporary custody (to be placed in a mental health facility), appoint an attorney and set both a probable cause and commitment hearing.</p> <p>The judges would review and consider Applications for Orders to Administer Psychoactive Medications. If supported, sign the order, appoint an attorney and set hearing.</p> <p>Presides over Probable Cause hearings - the initial hearing on temporary mental health services cases and determine whether probable cause exist to continue protective custody.</p> <p>Presides over Commitment hearings - determines whether or not the patient is a continued threat to self and others.</p> <p>Consider and if appropriate, sign dismissals and related documents.</p> <p>Ensure compliance with statutory requirements</p>
Will this position take over tasks from current County employee?	
If yes, please explain the impact to current employee.	
How will this position be funded when the grant ends?	The request is for the Commissioners Court to fund Professional Services line item 0100-0425-004100 in the amount of \$40,000 for visiting judges (4,000 x 10 months) and \$23,000 for visiting court reporters (275.24 x 70 hearings)
Does this position or a similar position currently exist within the department?	
If yes, how many of these similar positions exist?	
Describe any alternatives considered to achieve desired outcome in lieu of a position (i.e. equipment, software, technology or change in business practice).	The alternative would be to create an Associate Judges position to assist the County Courts at Law or request to establish an additional County Court at Law.

Describe how workload will be accomplished/re-allocated should grant not be approved.	<p>If the funding is not approved, the workload will need to be reallocated among existing staff and court resources. This would require moving dockets around or, in some instances, removing dockets entirely to provide Judge sufficient time to conduct hearings and manage essential court functions. Such changes would negatively impact on the court's ability to meet the OCA's performance expectations and reporting numbers.</p> <p>In addition, commitment hearings are governed by strict statutory timelines that must be met. An attorney must be appointed within 24 hours after the application is filed, the probable cause hearing must be conducted within 72 hours of the appointment, and the commitment hearing must be heard within 14 days of the filing. These deadlines require immediate attention and scheduling priority, which places additional strain on an already heavy docket.</p> <p>Additionally, the Judge already carries a significant administrative burden due to the responsibilities associated with specialty courts. Without funding support, those administrative duties would increase substantially, placing further strain on current operations and limiting efficiency. While the work will still be completed, it will be accomplished under intensified conditions, with increased pressure on existing personnel, reduced flexibility in scheduling, and a greater risk of delays or reduced capacity in court services.</p>
List other similar items in the County and/or region and if they are available for use?	
How is this item request different from any similar assets currently in the County and/or region?	
What types of events/purpose would this item be used for that cannot be accomplished with a current County asset?	
Identify the number of personnel required to operate this item and/or be available for the function where it is to be used?	
Please explain how this item will create the need for more or less personnel (or mark n/a for no change)?	
Where will the item be stored?	
What is the useful life of the item?	
Will other agencies be billed for the use of this item (e.g. vendors paid, employee worked hours and paid, inventory costs etc.)?	
Does this item require insurance coverage?	
Will this item require any form of licensing?	
Will this item require on-going maintenance? Please describe the maintenance required along with an estimate for these costs?	
How will this item be funded when the grant ends?	
What is the overall budgetary impact? (i.e. revenue generation, expense reduction, etc.)	Funding of Professional services line item in 0100-0425-004100 in the amount of \$40,000 for visiting judges (4,000 x 10 months) and \$23,000 for visiting court reporters (275.24 x 70 hearings) from the general fund.
Please identify any additional equipment needed/required (now or in the future) should the grant/asset is awarded.	The position would require laptop computers for virtual hearing and access Enterprise Justice.
What is the cost and frequency to maintain/update the additional equipment?	New laptop every 3 years per IT guidelines and lease expiration

What is the impact of this grant application on other internal/county departments?	N/A
If yes, what is the estimate of that license fee?	
If yes, what is the estimate of insurance coverage?	
Will a replacement be requested from general funds when useful life has been exhausted? (OR)	
If yes, how much is the match amount?	
Please identify any known decrease in funding at this time.	The ARPA funds allowed for the project will be depleted in November 2026.
Is this a new program to your department/office?	No
Please provide data points to be collected to show program success	
Please show historical data points or performance measures, statistics, services provided, etc. or any/all updates for re-application	<p>There have been 1301 Applications for Temporary Mental Health Services, Applications for Protective Custody, and Applications for Order to Administer Psychoactive Medications filed since February, 2022.</p> <p>There have been 423 hearings held.</p>
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