



FORT BEND COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL

Fort Bend County, Texas

MARK V. FLATHOUSE
County Fire Marshal

(281) 238-1500
Fax (832) 471-2440

To: Members of Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court

From: Mark Flathouse, Fort Bend County Fire Marshal

RE: Cost Recovery Fees for Fort Bend County Arson Investigations

Date: October 25, 2022

The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office Fire Investigation Division provides a critical service to the citizens of Fort Bend County. The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office Fire Investigation Division is a very active team and sees significant call volume. As a result of this, a significant amount of money is being spent to resupply equipment and materials that are used on calls without a method to recover those costs.

The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office requests Commissioner's Court approve the fee schedule based on FEMA's nationally approved rates, the average Fort Bend County hourly salary for assigned Fire Investigators, and comparable fees set forth by related field industries. The Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office proposes establishing fees that will be applied as restitution fees when charges have been filed with the District Attorney's Office. The restitution fees will be applied to the responsible party at an hourly rate based on the below fees listed in the document. These fees are for the time the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office Fire Investigators have spent on an investigation case.

Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office will set the parameters for the fees and the reimbursement. We will receive the payment within our office and provide documentation as required by the District Attorney's Office. We can utilize current personnel and software that we currently have in place to administrate the logistical aspects of the receiving process for the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office.

Item	Cost
<i>Response Vehicle (Example: Truck, Pickup, SUV)</i>	<i>\$20.00/hr</i>
<i>Personnel / Investigator</i>	<i>\$140.00/hr</i>
<i>Personnel / Supervisor</i>	<i>\$155.00/hr</i>
<i>Drone Deployment</i>	<i>\$225.00/hr</i>
<i>K-9</i>	<i>\$75.00/hr</i>