

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
Motorcycle Lease (Stipend Cost Increase Proposal)

Problem Statement:

Due to increased costs of motorcycles, their service, insurance, repair, and maintenance, existing Fort Bend County Motorcycle Lease Agreements no longer render the leases tenable. Deputies in Traffic Enforcement are leaving the unit and seeking reassignment elsewhere, and incumbents experience difficulty and hardship with meeting repair, insurance, service, and maintenance costs. The purchase price of new and used motorcycles has also risen.

Background:

Since 2006, Fort Bend County entered into formal lease agreements with deputies assigned to Enforcement's Solo Motorcycle Detail so that deputies could use their motorcycles during the course of their duties as an employee of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. The Agreement terms and conditions provided for effective law enforcement visibility in marked vehicles and deputy participation with initiatives to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities and assisting with administering the Transportation Code. The assigned duties for the Solo Unit included the aforementioned responsibilities.

The Lease Agreements enabled deputies to purchase a motorcycle manufactured within the prior 3 years, and with less than 30,000 miles of use. Over the 19 years which followed, to the present time, the agreement has remained the same and there have not been any amendments to the Agreement.

The earliest available agreement, dated 2014, is attached. The source for this Agreement is Commissioners Court Online.

Of significant importance, and emphasized in this request for stipend increase, is that the 2006 Consideration of a \$600.00 monthly allowance has not been adjusted in the past 19 years.

Considerations:

The purchase price of a motorcycle has increased substantially, as have the costs for repairs, replacement of parts, service costs, and maintenance. The attachments included in this proposal include cost for a motorcycle and warranties, emergency lighting, wiring, and police equipment, service, maintenance, and repairs.

Replacement parts, particularly tires, range from \$224.95 (front tire) to \$376.95 (rear tire). The tires are replaced at each 20k-25k mile interval, or twice per year. The table below considers oil changes conducted at each quarter of the year, or every 5,000 miles, and \$100/hour labor costs associated with maintenance and repair. A sample 20k service cost is included as an attachment to this proposal.

Motorcycle Costs	
New or used vehicle cost	\$37,440.00 (monthly installments of an estimated \$703.00)
Emergency equipment cost	\$13,859.51 (lights, siren, radio wiring, mount, and switches)
Annual comprehensive insurance	\$ 2,100.00
Replacement tires and labor	\$ 1,603.80 $(224.95 + 376.95) \times 2 + (100 \text{ labor cost} \times 4 \text{ tires})$
Oil change, brakes, and labor	\$ 2,158.68 $(530 (20k \text{ service}) + 1,628.68)$

Recommendation:

To enable the Sheriff's Office to continue its traffic enforcement and crash investigations initiatives while attracting and employing deputies with the skills to perform effectively as a Solo Detail Deputy, it is necessary to increase the monthly allowance to at least \$1,200.

There are six authorized solo detail positions, so the current cost for the motorcycle allowance is up to \$43,200.00.

An increase of \$600 to enable continuation of this program and ensure that a deputy can meet the maintenance obligations of a motorcycle increases the allowance by a similar amount, or \$43,200.00.

The cost for this program will be a total of \$86,400.

Conclusion:

By approving the first stipend adjustment in 19 years, deputies who lease motorcycles to Fort Bend County can meet their obligations for purchasing, insuring, maintaining, and servicing a viable asset that is important to enforce traffic laws, investigate crashes and fatalities, and reach emergency calls with greater ease of mobility than patrol vehicles.

The funding for this allowance can be achieved through obligation of existing Enforcement funds.