

STATE OF TEXAS            §  
  §  
COUNTY OF FORT BEND    §

**AGREEMENT FOR AUDIT SERVICES BETWEEN  
SANDERSON, KNOX AND CO., LLP AND FORT BEND COUNTY**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between Fort Bend County, (hereinafter "County"), a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, and Sanderson Knox & Co., LLP (hereinafter "Contractor"), a company authorized to conduct business in the State of Texas.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, County desires that Contractor provide professional Audit Services; and

WHEREAS, County has determined that this Agreement is for personal or professional services and therefore exempt from competitive bidding under Chapter 262 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, Contractor represents that it is qualified and desires to perform such services.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

**AGREEMENT**

**Section 1. Scope of Services**

- A. Contractor shall render Audit Services in accordance with Exhibit A to this Agreement.
- B. Contractor shall provide County with written reports upon completion of Audit Services in both paper and electronic form, to include all charts, schedules and other appended documentation.
- C. This Agreement is effective upon execution of the Parties and continues until the Services have been performed, unless earlier terminated as provided in this Agreement.

**Section 2. Personnel**

- A. Contractor represents that it presently has, or is able to obtain, adequate qualified personnel in its employment for the timely performance of the Scope of Services required under this Agreement and that Contractor shall furnish and maintain, at its

own expense, adequate and sufficient personnel, in the opinion of County, to perform the Scope of Services when and as required and without delays.

- B. All employees of Contractor shall have such knowledge and experience as will enable them to perform the duties assigned to them. Any employee of Contractor who, in the opinion of County, is incompetent or by his conduct becomes detrimental to the project shall, upon request of County, immediately be removed from association with the project.

### **Section 3. Compensation and Payment**

- A. Contractor's fees shall be calculated in accordance with Exhibit A and the below hourly billing rates: Partner \$250; Manager \$200; Senior \$175; In-charge \$150 and Staff \$120.
- B. The Maximum Compensation for the performance of Services within the Scope of Services described in Exhibit A is an amount not to exceed seventy five thousand dollars and 00/100 (\$75,000.00). In no case shall the amount paid by County under this Agreement exceed the Maximum Compensation without an approved change order.
- C. All performance of the Scope of Services by Contractor including any changes in the Scope of Services and revision of work satisfactorily performed will be performed only when approved in advance and authorized by County.
- D. Mutually approved travel and mileage expenses incurred in the performance of required services will be compensated only in accordance with the County's Travel Policy, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B to this Agreement.
- E. Copy costs shall not exceed \$.10 per page, which is the maximum amount the County would be allowed to charge per the Texas Public Information Act.
- F. County will pay Contractor based on the following procedures: Upon completion of the tasks identified in the Scope of Services, Contractor shall submit to County two (2) original copies of invoices showing the amounts due for services performed in a form acceptable to County. County shall review such invoices and approve them within 30 calendar days with such modifications as are consistent with this Agreement and forward same to the Auditor for processing. County shall pay each such approved invoice within thirty (30) calendar days. County reserves the right to withhold payment pending verification of satisfactory work performed.

### **Section 4. Limit of Appropriation**

- A. Contractor clearly understands and agrees, such understanding and agreement being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that County shall have available the total maximum sum certified as available by the Fort Bend County Auditor, specifically allocated to fully discharge any and all liabilities County may incur.

- B. Contractor does further understand and agree, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Contractor may become entitled to and the total maximum sum that County may become liable to pay to Contractor shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed seventy five thousand dollars and 00/100 (\$75,000.00).

**Section 5. Time of Performance**

Contractor shall perform the Audit Services on or before July 30, 2105. Timing of performance of Audit Services is of the essence. If the completion date cannot be met, Contractor must inform the County Auditor immediately. Providing this information does not change the delivery or completion dates unless this Agreement is amended.

**Section 6. Modifications and Waivers**

- A. The parties may not amend or waive this Agreement, except by a written agreement executed by both parties.
- B. No failure or delay in exercising any right or remedy or requiring the satisfaction of any condition under this Agreement, and no course of dealing between the parties, operates as a waiver or estoppel of any right, remedy, or condition.
- C. The rights and remedies of the parties set forth in this Agreement are not exclusive of, but are cumulative to, any rights or remedies now or subsequently existing at law, in equity, or by statute.

**Section 7. Termination**

- A. Termination for Convenience: County may terminate this Agreement at any time upon thirty (30) days written notice.
- B. Termination for Default
  - 1. County may terminate the whole or any part of this Agreement for cause in the following circumstances:
    - a. If Contractor fails to perform services within the time specified in the Scope of Services or any extension thereof granted by the County in writing;
    - b. If Contractor materially breaches any of the covenants or terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement or fails to perform any of the other provisions of this Agreement or so fails to make progress as to endanger performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, and in any of these circumstances does not cure such breach or failure to County's reasonable satisfaction within a period of ten

(10) calendar days after receipt of notice from County specifying such breach or failure.

2. If, after termination, it is determined for any reason whatsoever that Contractor was not in default, or that the default was excusable, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the County in accordance with Section 7A above.
- C. Upon termination of this Agreement, County shall compensate Contractor in accordance with the Compensation and Payment Section above, for those services which were provided under this Agreement prior to its termination and which have not been previously invoiced to County. Contractor's final invoice for said services will be presented to and paid by County in the same manner set forth in the Compensation and Payment Section above.
  - D. If County terminates this Agreement as provided in this Section, no fees of any type, other than fees due and payable at the Termination Date, shall thereafter be paid to Contractor.

#### **Section 8. Ownership and Reuse of Documents**

The written report(s) created by Contractor in fulfillment of its work under this Agreement, shall become the property of County upon completion of this Agreement, or in the event of termination or cancellation thereof, and at the time of payment under the Compensation and Payment Section for work performed. Any restriction on County's use of the report for lawful purposes is hereby excepted from Exhibit A.

#### **Section 9. Inspection of Books and Records**

Contractor will permit County, or any duly authorized agent of County, to inspect and examine the books and records of Contractor for the purpose of verifying the amount of work performed under the Scope of Services. County's right to inspect survives the termination of this Agreement for a period of four years.

#### **Section 10. Insurance**

- A. Prior to commencement of the Services, Contractor shall furnish County with properly executed certificates of insurance which shall evidence all insurance required and provide that such insurance shall not be canceled, except on 30 days' prior written notice to County. Contractor shall provide certified copies of insurance endorsements and/or policies if requested by County. Contractor shall maintain such insurance coverage from the time Services commence until Services are completed and provide replacement certificates, policies and/or endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to completion of Services. Contractor shall obtain such insurance written on an

Occurrence form from such companies having Bests rating of A/VII or better, licensed or approved to transact business in the State of Texas, and shall obtain such insurance of the following types and minimum limits:

1. Workers' Compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Substitutes to genuine Workers' Compensation Insurance will not be allowed. Employers' Liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per injury by accident, \$1,000,000 per injury by disease, and \$1,000,000 per bodily injury by disease.
  2. Commercial general liability insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the annual aggregate. Policy shall cover liability for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage and products/completed operations arising out of the business operations of the policyholder.
  3. Business Automobile Liability insurance with a combined Bodily Injury/Property Damage limit of not less than \$1,000,000 each accident. The policy shall cover liability arising from the operation of licensed vehicles by policyholder.
  4. Professional Liability insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000.
- B. County and the members of Commissioners Court shall be named as additional insured to all required coverage except for Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability. All Liability policies written on behalf of Contractor shall contain a waiver of subrogation in favor of County and members of Commissioners Court.
- C. If required coverage is written on a claims-made basis, Contractor warrants that any retroactive date applicable to coverage under the policy precedes the effective date of the Contract and that continuous coverage will be maintained or an extended discovery period will be exercised for a period of 2 years beginning from the time the work under this Contract is completed.
- D. Contractor shall not commence any portion of the work under this Contract until it has obtained the insurance required herein and certificates of such insurance have been filed with and approved by Fort Bend County.
- E. No cancellation of or changes to the certificates, or the policies, may be made without sixty (60) days prior, written notification to Fort Bend County.
- F. Approval of the insurance by Fort Bend County shall not relieve or decrease the liability of the Contractor.

**Section 12. Indemnity**

**CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY AND DEFEND COUNTY AGAINST ALL LOSSES, LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION, AND OTHER EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS FEES, ARISING FROM ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTOR, ITS AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES, PERFORMED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT THAT RESULT FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION OF CONTRACTOR OR ANY OF CONTRACTOR'S AGENTS, SERVANTS OR EMPLOYEES.**

**Section 13. Confidential and Proprietary Information**

- A. Contractor acknowledges that it and its employees or agents may, in the course of performing their responsibilities under this Agreement, be exposed to or acquire information that is confidential to County. Any and all information of any form obtained by Contractor or its employees or agents from County in the performance of this Agreement shall be deemed to be confidential information of County ("Confidential Information"). Any reports or other documents or items (including software) that result from the use of the Confidential Information by Contractor shall be treated with respect to confidentiality in the same manner as the Confidential Information. Confidential Information shall be deemed not to include information that (a) is or becomes (other than by disclosure by Contractor) publicly known or is contained in a publicly available document; (b) is rightfully in Contractor's possession without the obligation of nondisclosure prior to the time of its disclosure under this Agreement; or (c) is independently developed by employees or agents of Contractor who can be shown to have had no access to the Confidential Information.
- B. Contractor agrees to hold Confidential Information in strict confidence, using at least the same degree of care that Contractor uses in maintaining the confidentiality of its own confidential information, and not to copy, reproduce, sell, assign, license, market, transfer or otherwise dispose of, give, or disclose Confidential Information to third parties or use Confidential Information for any purposes whatsoever other than the provision of Services to County hereunder, and to advise each of its employees and agents of their obligations to keep Confidential Information confidential. Contractor shall use its best efforts to assist County in identifying and preventing any unauthorized use or disclosure of any Confidential Information. Without limitation of the foregoing, Contractor shall advise County immediately in the event Contractor learns or has reason to believe that any person who has had access to Confidential Information has violated or intends to violate the terms of this Agreement and Contractor will at its expense cooperate with County in seeking injunctive or other equitable relief in the name of County or Contractor against any such person. Contractor agrees that, except as directed by County, Contractor will not at any time during or after the term of this Agreement disclose, directly or indirectly, any Confidential Information to any person, and that upon termination of this Agreement or at County's request, Contractor will

promptly turn over to County all documents, papers, and other matter in Contractor's possession which embody Confidential Information.

- C. Contractor acknowledges that a breach of this Section, including disclosure of any Confidential Information, or disclosure of other information that, at law or in equity, ought to remain confidential, will give rise to irreparable injury to County that is inadequately compensable in damages. Accordingly, County may seek and obtain injunctive relief against the breach or threatened breach of the foregoing undertakings, in addition to any other legal remedies that may be available. Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the covenants contained herein are necessary for the protection of the legitimate business interest of County and are reasonable in scope and content.
- D. Contractor in providing all services hereunder agrees to abide by the provisions of any applicable Federal or State Data Privacy Act.
- E. Contractor expressly acknowledges that County is subject to the Texas Public Information Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. §§ 552.001 et seq., as amended, and notwithstanding any provision in the Agreement to the contrary, County will make any information related to the Agreement, or otherwise, available to third parties in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. Any proprietary or confidential information marked as such provided to County by Consultant shall not be disclosed to any third party, except as directed by the Texas Attorney General in response to a request for such under the Texas Public Information Act, which provides for notice to the owner of such marked information and the opportunity for the owner of such information to notify the Attorney General of the reasons why such information should not be disclosed. The terms and conditions of the Agreement are not proprietary or confidential information.

#### **Section 14. Independent Contractor**

- A. In the performance of work or services hereunder, Contractor shall be deemed an independent contractor, and any of its agents, employees, officers, or volunteers performing work required hereunder shall be deemed solely as employees of contractor or, where permitted, of its subcontractors.
- B. Contractor and its agents, employees, officers, or volunteers shall not, by performing work pursuant to this Agreement, be deemed to be employees, agents, or servants of County and shall not be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of County employment.

**Section 15. Notices**

- A. Each party giving any notice or making any request, demand, or other communication (each, a "Notice") pursuant to this Agreement shall do so in writing and shall use one of the following methods of delivery, each of which, for purposes of this Agreement, is a writing: personal delivery, registered or certified mail (in each case, return receipt requested and postage prepaid), or nationally recognized overnight courier (with all fees prepaid).
- B. Each party giving a Notice shall address the Notice to the receiving party at the address listed below or to another address designated by a party in a Notice pursuant to this Section:

County: Fort Bend County  
ATTN: Auditor  
301 Jackson St.  
Richmond, TX 77469

With a copy to: Fort Bend County  
Attn: County Judge  
401 Jackson Street  
Richmond, Texas 77469

Contractor: Sanderson Knox & Co., LLP  
130 Industrial Blvd. Ste. 130  
Sugar Land, TX 77478

- C. Notice is effective only if the party giving or making the Notice has complied with subsections 15(A) and 15(B) and if the addressee has received the Notice. A Notice is deemed received as follows:
  - 1. If the Notice is delivered in person, or sent by registered or certified mail or a nationally recognized overnight courier, upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt.
  - 2. If the addressee rejects or otherwise refuses to accept the Notice, or if the Notice cannot be delivered because of a change in address for which no Notice was given, then upon the rejection, refusal, or inability to deliver.

**Section 16. Compliance with Laws**

Contractor shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, and the orders and decrees of any courts or administrative bodies or tribunals in any matter affecting the performance of this Agreement, including, without limitation, Worker's Compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, licensing laws and regulations. When required by County, Contractor shall furnish County with certification of compliance with said laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, and decrees above specified.

**Section 17. Performance Warranty**

- A. Contractor warrants to County that Contractor has the skill and knowledge ordinarily possessed by well-informed members of its trade or profession practicing in the greater Houston metropolitan area and Contractor will apply that skill and knowledge with care and diligence to ensure that the Services provided hereunder will be performed and delivered in accordance with the highest professional standards.
- B. Contractor warrants to County that the Services will be free from material errors and will materially conform to all requirements and specifications contained in the attached Exhibit A.

**Section 18. Assignment and Delegation**

- A. Neither party may assign any of its rights under this Agreement, except with the prior written consent of the other party. That party shall not unreasonably withhold its consent. All assignments of rights are prohibited under this subsection, whether they are voluntarily or involuntarily, by merger, consolidation, dissolution, operation of law, or any other manner.
- B. Neither party may delegate any performance under this Agreement.
- C. Any purported assignment of rights or delegation of performance in violation of this Section is void.

**Section 19. Applicable Law**

The laws of the State of Texas govern all disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The parties hereto acknowledge that venue is proper in Fort Bend County, Texas, for all legal actions or proceedings arising out of or relating to this Agreement and waive the right to sue or be sued elsewhere. Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed to waive the County's sovereign immunity.

**Section 20. Successors and Assigns**

County and Contractor bind themselves and their successors, executors, administrators and assigns to the other party of this Agreement and to the successors, executors, administrators and assigns of the other party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement.

**Section 21. Third Party Beneficiaries**

This Agreement does not confer any enforceable rights or remedies upon any person other than the parties.

**Section 22. Severability**

If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain in full force, if the essential terms and conditions of this Agreement for each party remain valid, binding, and enforceable.

**Section 23. Publicity**

Contact with citizens of Fort Bend County, media outlets, or governmental agencies shall be the sole responsibility of County. Under no circumstances whatsoever, shall Contractor release any material or information developed or received in the performance of the Services hereunder without the express written permission of County, except where required to do so by law.

**Section 24. Captions**

The section captions used in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

**Section 25. Entire Agreement**

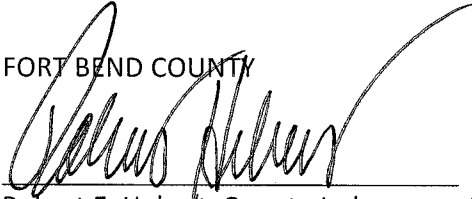
This Agreement contains the entire Agreement among the parties and supercedes all other negotiations and agreements, whether written or oral. Attached hereto is Exhibit A :Scope of Services dated May 15, 2015 and Exhibit B: County's Travel Policy; all of which are incorporate by reference as if set forth herein verbatim for all purposes.

**Section 26. Conflict**

- A. If there is a conflict between the terms of this document and the Attachments to it, the terms of this document overrides all Exhibits.
- B. With regard to conflicts between the Exhibits, Exhibit B overrides Exhibit A.

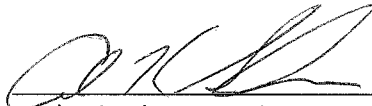
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed or have caused their respective names to be signed to multiple counterparts to be effective on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

FORT BEND COUNTY

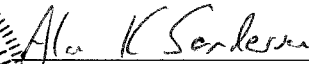
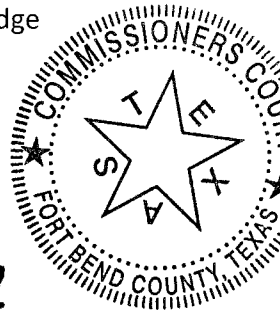


Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

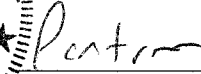
SANDERSON KNOX & CO., LLP



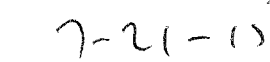
Authorized Agent- Signature



Authorized Agent- Printed Name



Title



Date

ATTEST:



Laura Richard, County Clerk

MTR/I/Agreements/2015/Purchasing 7.15.15

**AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that funds are available in the amount of \$ 75,000.00 to accomplish and pay the obligation of Fort Bend County under this contract.



Robert Edward Sturdivant, County Auditor

Exhibit A

Audit Services

Letter dated June 26, 2015



130 Industrial Blvd, Suite 130 • Sugar Land, Texas 77478 • 281/242-3232 • fax 281/242-3252 • www.sktc.com

June 26, 2015

County Judge and Members of Commissioner's Court  
Fort Bend County  
Richmond, Texas

In accordance with our understanding, we are to perform the following agreed upon procedures in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) with regard to the review of internal controls in connection with Asset Management. Our engagement will be limited to an examination of the documentation submitted for the engagement by the respective parties and will be for the purpose of evaluating a cross section of assets in regards to current cost carried as depreciation and recommendations for methodologies and subsequent work required to classify, categorize and monitor going forward.

This engagement to apply agreed upon procedures will be performed in accordance with standards established by the AICPA. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Fort Bend County (the Board). Consequently, we will make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures either for the purpose of which this report has been requested or for any other purpose. The procedures will be performed as summarized below:

1. We will trace fixed assets capitalized from the end of the most recently completed fiscal year to the date of GASB 34 conversion through current and legacy systems provided by you as the "Asset Registry" for this assignment in order to:
  - a. Evaluate the appropriate amount capitalized to include the relationship of capital projects to their funding source.
  - b. Evaluate if the amount is appropriately classified as a fixed asset (ownership)
  - c. Evaluate and classify the depreciation methodology attached
  - d. Evaluate and classify the risk management methodology associated,
  - e. Evaluate potential impairment and impairment identification methodologies, and
  - f. Evaluate asset classifications as they relate to the County's existing strategic asset management program.
2. We will prepare schedules listing assets identified by sub classification in each category indicated above along with potential redistributions or proposed adjustments based on criteria provided by the County.

Fort Bend County, Texas  
Agreed upon Procedures  
June 26, 2015

3. We will provide a list of findings based on the existing strategic asset management program of Fort Bend County, and/or based upon appropriate benchmarks provided by the County Auditor.
4. We will recommend action going forward in regards to further refinement and development of the fixed asset program for Fort Bend County based on best practices and processes for public entities to the extent they become apparent through application of the procedures specified above.

The subsequent benefit of this agreed upon procedures engagement will be to assist you in evaluating the extent and correctness of the current asset registry and the begin to bring into focus the adequacy of your current strategic asset management plan verses best practices for public agencies from the perspective of a benchmarking exercise. In that regard, the development or refinement of a strategic asset management plan typically involves the following highlights:

- Defining what the organization wants to achieve in Asset Management activities, not only in terms of capitalization policies, but in terms of depreciation policies, maintenance policies, risk management policies as well as a variety of other inter related policies aimed at maximizing the return on the taxpayer's investment.
- Identifying risks and opportunities going forward
- Delivering a system record of implementation plan
- Reviewing business processes and recommending changes for improvement
- Reviewing and defining information technology platform alternatives
- Ongoing asset data collection and condition assessments guided towards a condition rating process in accordance with GASB 34
- And others

The highlights delineated above are shown in order to communicate that the strategic asset management process is a complex effort and that these agreed upon procedures only touch a portion of what can be done under the current or alternate GASB 34 methodology. It is a methodology to start a process that can lead to potential benefits with good future follow through.

This report of agreed upon procedures for this assignment is for the exclusive use of the Fort Bend County and should not be distributed or made available to persons outside the parties indicated, nor should the report be associated with any presentation of the financial data of the Fort Bend County, except as required by the Texas Open Records Act.

The fee for this engagement will be computed at our standard rates, and bills for services rendered will due and payment when rendered. You will also be billed for travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, typing, postage, etc. We estimated that our fee for the work described in this engagement will be in the range of \$75,000 to \$125,000. The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In

Fort Bend County, Texas  
Agreed upon Procedures  
June 26, 2015

accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes sixty days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

We look forward to working on this engagement. If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding, please sign the letter in the space provided and retain a copy for your files.



**Sandersen Knox & Co., LLP**

Accepted:

Fort Bend County

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit B

County Travel Policy

# Fort Bend County Travel Policy

Approved in Commissioners' Court on November 3, 2009

Effective November 4, 2009

Revised September 7, 2010

The Commissioners' Court allocates funds annually for the payment of travel expenditures for county employees and officials within the individual departmental budgets. Travel expenditures paid from these budgets must serve a public purpose for Fort Bend County. These expenditures may be paid directly to the vendor or provided as a reimbursement to the employee/official upon completion of their travel. Advance payments to vendors may be accommodated by issuance of a check or use of a County procurement card. Eligible expenditure categories under this policy include: Lodging, meals, transportation, registration fees, and other fees (with justification). Each category is further defined below.

## **CONTRACT RATES:**

Fort Bend County is a 'Cooperative Purchasing Participating Entity' with the State of Texas. This program is also known as TPASS (Texas Procurement and Support Services) State Travel Management Program (STMP). This gives County employees and officials access to the contract rates negotiated by the State for hotels and rental cars. Procurement procedures for these contract services are explained within the categories below.

## **OUT OF STATE TRAVEL:**

**Authorization:** The traveler must obtain Commissioners' Court approval for out-of-state travel before departure. The duration must include travel days along with the event scheduled days. To prevent delays in processing travel reimbursement, ensure that the travel duration is accurately defined when submitting the agenda request.

**Documentation:** The traveler must provide an excerpt from the Commissioners' Court minutes (<http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/getSitePage.asp?sitePage=7269>) with the travel reimbursement form.

## **LODGING:**

### **Hotel:**

**Texas:** Hotel reimbursements are limited to contract hotel rates near the event site. Participating contract hotels are listed at [http://portal.cpa.state.tx.us/hotel/hotel\\_directory/index.cfm](http://portal.cpa.state.tx.us/hotel/hotel_directory/index.cfm). When making a reservation the traveler must ask for the State of Texas Contract rate and be prepared to provide the County's agency #: C0790. Contract hotels must be used unless a non-contract hotel provides a lower total cost or no contract hotel is available. If the organizer of a conference/seminar has negotiated discount rates with a hotel(s), the traveler may choose these lodging services without penalty. The traveler will be responsible for the excess charge over the contract hotel rates near the event site if they choose not to stay at a contract hotel or a conference

sponsored discounted hotel. The traveler may choose any hotel that is less than the contract hotel rates near the event site to save additional county funds. If no contract hotels are listed for the destination city, the traveler is required to choose lodging services near the event site that meet their needs at an economical rate.

**Out-of-State:** The traveler is required to choose lodging services near the event site that meet their needs at an economical rate.

**Travel Days:** If the traveler must leave before 7:00AM to arrive at the start of the event and/or return to the County after 6:00PM after the event concludes, an additional night's lodging is allowable before and/or after the event.

**Additional fees:** Fees for additional services (internet, telephone, valet, parking...) require justification to be allowable.

**Gratuities:** Gratuities are not reimbursable for any lodging services.

**Overpayments by County:** Any lodging overpayment by the County must be reimbursed by the hotel before processing a reimbursement to the traveler for any of the categories addressed in this policy. Prepaid lodging services should be accurately calculated or underestimated by excluding the taxes to prevent delays in processing travel reimbursements.

**Procurement Card:** The traveler may use the procurement card to make lodging reservations. Contact Purchasing to arrange or use the procurement card assigned to the department or traveler.

**Documentation:** The original itemized hotel statement must be submitted with the travel reimbursement claim showing a zero balance. A copy of the itemized hotel statement must be submitted with the travel reimbursement claim if the traveler used a County procurement card to purchase lodging services or prepaid by County check. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required. If utilizing conference negotiated hotel rates, documentation of rates is required.

#### **MEALS:**

**Texas:** Meals including gratuities will be reimbursed to the traveler at a flat rate of \$36/day. If a traveler departs after 2:00PM or returns by 12:00PM the reimbursement rate will be \$18/day for that day.

**Out-of-state:** Meals including gratuities will be reimbursed to the traveler at a flat rate of \$48/day. If a traveler departs after 2:00PM or returns by 12:00PM the reimbursement rate will be \$24/day for that day.

**Day trips:** Meals will not be reimbursed for trips that do not require an overnight stay.

**Procurement Card:** No meal purchases are allowed on any County procurement card.

**Documentation:** No meal receipts are required for reimbursement. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required.

#### **TRANSPORTATION:**

**Personal Vehicle:** Use of personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the current rate/mile set by Commissioners' Court. Mileage should be calculated using the County

office location of the traveler and the event location. Mileage may not be calculated using the traveler's home. Mileage should be calculated using an employee's vehicle odometer reading or by a readily available online mapping service for travel out of Fort Bend County. If using the mileage of an online mapping service, state which mapping service was used or provide a printout of your route detailing the mileage. For local travel, odometer readings or mapping service details are not required. Departments should develop a mileage guide for employees for local travel points, if a department does not have a mileage guide, the Auditor's Office will determine if the mileage listed is reasonable.

**County Vehicle:** Fuel purchases when using a County vehicle must be made with the County fuel card. Original receipts must be provided with reimbursement request.

**Airfare:** Airfare is reimbursable at the lowest available rate based on 14 day advance purchase of a discounted coach/economy full-service seat. The payment confirmation and itinerary must be presented with the travel reimbursement form. Trip insurance is not an allowable expense.

**Rental Car:** Rental cars are limited to the negotiated TPASS rates listed at: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/vendor-comparison/>. The contact information for Avis is listed here: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/Avis/>. The contact information for Enterprise is listed here: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/Enterprise/>. You will need to make your reservations at least 14 days in advance and provide the County's agency #: C0790. The instructions for reserving with each agency are explained at the individual web sites above. The traveler will not be reimbursed for any amount over the negotiated contract rates if a non-contract company is used at a higher rate. The traveler may use a non-contract vendor at a rate lower than the contract rates with no penalty. The original contract/receipt must be presented with the travel reimbursement form or a copy if a County procurement card is used. Optional rental car fees are not reimbursable such as GPS, prepaid fuel, premium radio, child safety seats and additional insurance.

**Other Transportation:** Other forms of transit (bus, taxi, train) are reimbursable with an original receipt.

**Additional fees:** Fees for additional services (tolls, parking...) require justification to be allowable. Optional rental car fees are not reimbursable (GPS, prepaid fuel, premium radio, additional insurance, child safety seats...). Original receipts or documentation are required for allowable fees.

**Gratuities:** Gratuities are not reimbursable for any transportation services.

**Procurement Card:** The traveler may use a County procurement card to make transportation reservations for air travel and rental car services. Contact Purchasing to arrange or use the procurement card assigned to the department or traveler.

**Documentation:** Original receipts are required for all transportation reimbursements paid by the traveler. Transportation services obtained with a County procurement card require a copy of the receipt. Additional requirements are noted within each

category above. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required.

**REGISTRATION:**

**Registration fees:** Registration fees are reimbursable for events that serve a Fort Bend County purpose.

**Procurement Card:** The traveler may use a County procurement card to register for an event. Contact Purchasing to arrange or use the procurement card assigned to the department or traveler.

**Documentation:** An original receipt must be obtained upon registration and submitted with the reimbursement request if paid by the traveler. A copy of the receipt must be provided if registration is paid on a County procurement card. Event agenda/documentation or a letter from the traveler describing the event/meeting is required.

**GRANTS:**

Travel expenditures from Federal and State grants must also conform to the granting agency's funding requirements.

**PACKAGE AND GROUP TRAVEL RATES:**

The traveler may obtain a package travel rate for airfare, hotel, and/or rental car services for a combined rate of less than the individual rates pursuant to the category requirements above without penalty. The traveler may also participate in group lodging or rental car services for a combined rate of less than the individual per person rates pursuant to the category requirements without penalty.

**TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FORM:**

The traveler must use the current travel reimbursement form <http://econnect/index.aspx?page=55>) for all travel related services addressed in this policy. No other expenditures may be submitted for reimbursement on the travel reimbursement form. After completing all required information, the travel form must be signed/dated by the traveler and the department head/elected official.