STATE OF TEXAS §

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COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

### ADDENDUM TO QUOTE

THIS ADDENDUM ("Addendum") is entered into by and between Fort Bend County, ("County"), a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, and NWN Corporation, ("NWN"), a company authorized to conduct business in the State of Texas (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "parties").

WHEREAS, subject to the changes herein, the parties have executed and accepted NWN's Quotation #Q-181116 (dated 3/12/2025), attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated fully by reference (collectively the "Agreement"), for the purchase of specified products and/or Services (collectively the "Products"); and

WHEREAS, County desires that NWN provide products and/or related services as will be more specifically described in the attached Quote; and

WHEREAS, NWN represents that it is qualified and desires to provide such products and/or services; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to utilize the Choice Partners Cooperative Contract, which is incorporated fully by reference, for the purchase of the Products and/or Services; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is not subject to competitive bidding requirements under Section 262.023 of the Texas Local Government Code because this Agreement is pursuant to a Cooperative Purchasing Program in accordance with Chapter 271 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the following changes are incorporated as if a part of the Agreement.

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

#### **AGREEMENT**

- 1. **Recitals.** The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this Agreement.
- 2. **Term**. The term of the Agreement is effective upon execution by County, and shall terminate one year from the date of execution of this Agreement, but no later than April 15, 2026, unless terminated sooner by written agreement of the parties.

This Agreement shall not automatically renew; however, may be subsequently renewed upon written agreement of the parties.

3.	<b>Scope of Services.</b> Subject to this Addendum and in accordance with the requirements of				
	the Choice Partners Cooperative Contract NWN will provide				
	Products and related services ("Services") to County as described in the Quote				
	#Q-181116, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated fully by reference.				

All performance of the Scope of Services by Consultant 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.

- 4. **Payment; Non-appropriation; Taxes.** Payment shall be made by County within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice. It is specifically understood and agreed that in the event no funds or insufficient funds are appropriated by Fort Bend County under this Agreement, Fort Bend County shall notify all necessary parties that this Agreement shall thereafter terminate and be null and void on the last day of the fiscal period for which appropriations were made without penalty, liability or expense to Fort Bend County. County is a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas and claims exemption from sales and use taxes. A copy of a tax-exempt certificate will be furnished upon request. Interest resulting from late payments by County shall be governed by Chapter 2251 of the Texas Government Code.
- 5. **Maximum Compensation and Approved Expenses.** NWN 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 of one hundred seventy-one thousand, nine hundred and ninety and 00/100 dollars (\$171,990.00), specifically allocated to fully discharge any and all liabilities County may incur. NWN does further understand and agree, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that NWN may become entitled to and the total maximum sum that County may become liable to pay to NWN shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed one hundred seventy-one thousand, nine hundred and ninety and 00/100 dollars (\$171,990.00). In no event will the amount paid by the County for all services under this Agreement exceed this Limit of Appropriation without an amendment executed by the parties.

Mutually approved travel and mileage expenses incurred in the performance of required services will be reimbursed to Consultant to the extent that those costs that do not exceed Fort Bend County travel reimbursement allowances. A copy of the County's Travel Policy with those reimbursement limits is attached and incorporated as Exhibit B to this Agreement. Consultant will not be reimbursed for costs in excess of those listed in Exhibit B.

6. **Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act.** NWN 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 NWN 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 and this Addendum are not proprietary or confidential information.

NWN expressly acknowledges that County is subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act, TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. §§ 551.001 *et seq.*, as amended, and notwithstanding any provision in the Agreement to the contrary, County will comply with the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act in relation to the Agreement.

- 7. **Indemnity.** The parties agree that under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, County cannot enter into an agreement whereby County agrees to indemnify or hold harmless another party; therefore, all references of any kind to County defending, indemnifying, holding or saving harmless NWN or any other party for any reason are hereby deleted.
- 8. **Limitation of Liability.** Neither party shall be liable to the other party for any incidental, indirect, collateral, punitive, exemplary, special or consequential damages, however caused and regardless of theory of liability (whether contract, tort, including negligence, or otherwise), including lost profits or business opportunity, even if advised of the possibility for such damages. Each party's total aggregate liability to the other party hereunder shall not exceed the total fees paid and payable by County to NWN under the Quote attached here as Exhibit B.
- 9. **Applicable Law; Arbitration; Attorney Fees.** 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. County does not agree to submit disputes arising out of the Agreement to binding arbitration. Therefore, any references to binding arbitration or the waiver of a right to litigate a dispute are hereby deleted. County does not agree to pay any and/or all attorney fees incurred by NWN in any way associated with the Agreement.

- 10. **Certain State Law Requirements for Contracts.** The contents of this Section are required by Texas Law and are included by County regardless of content. For purposes of Sections 2252.152, 2271.002, and 2274.002, Texas Government Code, as amended, NWN hereby verifies that NWN and any parent company, wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, and affiliate:
  - a. Unless affirmatively declared by the United States government to be excluded from its federal sanctions regime relating to Sudan or Iran or any federal sanctions regime relating to a foreign terrorist organization, is not identified on a list prepared and maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under Section 806.051, 807.051, or 2252.153 of the Texas Government Code.
  - b. If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, NWN does not boycott Israel and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to boycott Israel during the term of such contracts. "Boycott Israel" has the meaning provided in § 808.001 of the Texas Government Code.
  - c. If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, NWN does not boycott energy companies and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to boycott energy companies during the term of such contracts. "Boycott energy company" has the meaning provided in § 809.001 of the Texas Government Code.
  - d. If employing ten (10) or more full-time employees and this Agreement has a value of \$100,000.00 or more, NWN does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and is authorized to agree in such contracts not to discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association during the term of such contracts. "Discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" has the meaning provided in § 2274.001(3) of the Texas Government Code. "Firearm entity" and "firearm trade association" have the meanings provided in § 2274.001(6) and (7) of the Texas Government Code.
- 11. **Modifications and Waivers**. The parties may not amend or waive this Agreement, except by a written agreement executed by both parties. 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. 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. No other provisions to this Agreement apply except for the terms which appear and/or are incorporated in this Addendum, in Exhibit A, and in the Choice Partners Cooperative Contract
- 12. **Human Trafficking**. BY ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT, NWN ACKNOWLEDGES THAT FORT BEND COUNTY IS OPPOSED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THAT NO COUNTY FUNDS WILL BE USED IN SUPPORT OF SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS.

- 13. **Use of Customer Name**. NWN may use County's name without County's prior written consent only in any of NWN's customer lists, any other use must be approved in advance by County.
- 14. **Conflict.** In the event there is a conflict between this Addendum and the Agreement, this Addendum controls. In the event there is a conflict between this Addendum and the terms and conditions of Choice Partners Cooperative Contract and conditions of Choice Partners Cooperative Contract controls to the extent of the conflict.
- 15. **Understanding, Fair Construction.** By execution of this Addendum, the parties acknowledge that they have read and understood each provision, term and obligation contained in this Addendum. This Addendum, although drawn by one party, shall be construed fairly and reasonably and not more strictly against the drafting party than the non-drafting party.
- 16. **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.
- 17. **Electronic and Digital Signatures.** The parties to this Agreement agree that any electronic and/or digital signatures of the parties included in this Agreement are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as the use of manual signatures.
- 18. **County Data**. Nothing in this Agreement will be construed to waive the requirements of §205.009 of the Texas Local Government Code. Nothing in this Agreement will be construed to waive the requirements of any record retention laws applicable to County.
- 19. **Compliance with Laws**. The parties understand and agree that NWN is subject to the compliance of law terms and conditions as provided in the Choice Partners Cooperative Contract.
- 20. **Independent Contractor**. In the performance of work or services hereunder, NWN 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 NWN or, where permitted, of its subcontractors. NWN and its agents, assignees, 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.
- 21. **Remote Access.** As applicable to this Agreement, if NWN and/or NWN's Workforce requires remote access to County Systems for support, installation, integrations, configurations, and/or maintenance, except as otherwise agreed by the parties and

approved by the County's Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer in writing, the below requirements must be met before NWN and/or NWN's Workforce is granted remote access to County Systems:

- (A) NWN will adhere to the restricted and monitored channels that are provided by the County, or other technologies approved in advance in writing by the County's Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.
- (B) NWN will neither implement nor deploy a remote access solution which bypasses and/or is designed to bypass County provided or approved controls. NWN will not access County Systems via unauthorized methods.
- (C) NWNs' remote access to County Systems will only be requested and activated on as-needed basis and disabled when not in use.
- (D) Remote access is restricted only to County Systems necessary for NWN to provide Services to County pursuant to this Agreement.
- (E) NWN will allow only its Workforce approved in advance by County to access County Systems. NWN will promptly notify County whenever an individual member of NWN' Workforce who has access to County Systems leaves its employ or no longer requires access to County Systems. NWN will keep a log of access when its Workforce remotely accesses County Systems. NWN will supply County with evidence of access logs concerning remote access to County Systems upon written request from County. Such access logs will be provided to County, within three business days from the date of County's request. These requests may be used to confirm compliance with these terms and/or to investigate a security incident.
- (F) If any member(s) of NWN' Workforce is provided with remote access to County Systems, then NWN' Workforce will not remotely log-in to County Systems from a public internet access device (e.g., airport computer terminal, or Internet café). This is due to the possibility of sensitive information being monitored by video or computer surveillance in public areas.
- (G) Failure of NWN to comply with this Section may result in NWN and/or NWN' Workforce losing remote access to County Systems. County reserves the right at any time to disable remote access to protect County Systems.
- (H) For purposes of this Section, "Workforce" means employees, agents, subcontractors (where permitted), and/or other persons whose conduct, in the performance of work for NWN, is under the direct control of NWN, whether or not they are paid by NWN and who have direct or incidental access to County Systems.
- (I) For purposes of this Section, "Systems" means any: (i.) computer programs, including, but not limited to, software, firmware, application programs, operating systems, files and utilities; (ii.) supporting documentation for such computer programs, including, without limitation, input and output formats, program listings, narrative descriptions and operating instructions; (iii.) data and/or media; (iv.) equipment, hardware, servers, and/or devices; and/or (v.) network(s).

### 22. Insurance.

- a. Prior to commencement of the Services, NWN 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 thirty (30) days' prior written notice to County. NWN shall provide certified copies of insurance endorsements and/or policies if requested by County. NWN 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. NWN 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:
  - i Workers' Compensation insurance. 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.
  - ii 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.
  - iii Professional Liability insurance with limits not less than \$1,000,000.
- b. If required coverage is written on a claims-made basis, NWN 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 two (2) years beginning from the time that work under the Agreement is completed.

{Execution Page Follows}

{Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank}

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Addendum is signed, accepted, and agreed to by all parties by and through the parties or their agents or authorized representatives. All parties hereby acknowledge that they have read and understood this Addendum and the attachments and exhibits hereto. All parties further acknowledge that they have executed this legal document voluntarily and of their own free will.

### FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

CP George, County Judge

April 7, 2025

Date Approved by Commissioners Court on 3/6/2025

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

**NWN CORPORATION** 

DocuSigned by:

Danny Alberto

Authorized Agent – Signature

Danny Alberto

Authorized Agent-Printed Name

Assistant General Counsel

Title

4/3/2025

Date

**REVIEWED:** 

Robyn Doughtie, Director

Robyn Doughtie

Fort Bend County

Information Technology Department

### **AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that funds in the amount of \$\frac{171,990.00}{} are available to pay the obligation of Fort Bend County within the foregoing Agreement.

Robert Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor

Exhibit A: Quote #: Q-181116

 $I: AGREEMENTS \ 2025 \ Agreements \ Purchasing \ IT \ NWN \ (25-IT-100580) \ Addendum \ to \ Quote. docx \ (Isl \ 3.11.25, \ rev 3.26.25)$ 

# Exhibit A

(Quote #181116 follows behind)



### Q-181116

 Generated Date:
 03/12/2025

 Expiration Date:
 03/31/2025

Account Name: Fort Bend County Libraries
Opportunity Name: FBC Libraries - Exagrid

Opportunity Number: OP-138070

Contract Number: NWN\_NATIONAL Choice Partners

### **Client Contact Information**

Primary Contact: Clay Elliot

Contact Title: Director/Controller

Contact Phone: (281) 341-4588

Contact Email: clay.elliott@fortbendcountytx.gov

### **BILL TO**

Fort Bend County Libraries 1003 Golfview Dr

Richmond, TX 77469-3108

### **NWN Carousel Contact Information**

(281) 596-1113

Primary Contact: Kerry Cox

Contact Title: Account Executive Tola

Contact Email: kcox@nwncarousel.com

### **SHIP TO**

Contact Phone:

Fort Bend County Libraries

1003 Golfview Dr

Richmond, TX 77469-5141

### **Product**

#	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT PRICE**	EXT. TOTAL
1.			2	\$74,500.00	\$149,000.00
2.			1	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.			2	\$11,145.00	\$22,290.00
4.			1	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Total:	\$171,290.00

<sup>\*\*</sup>The Monthly/Unit Price shown above has been rounded to two decimal places for display purposes. As many as eight decimal places may be present in the actual price. The totals for this order were calculated using the actual price, rather than the Monthly/Unit Price displayed above, and are the true and binding totals for this order.

Financial Summary		
ITEM	TOTAL	
Quote Sub-Total:	\$171,990.00	
Estimated Shipping:	\$700.00	
One-Time Ext. Total:	\$149,000.00	
Recurring Ext. Total:	\$22,290.00	

Billing and Payment Terms		
ITEM	TERM	
Billing Terms:	Recurring - Annual	
Payment Terms:	Net 30 Days	
Payment Schedule:	100% on Completion	

### Statement of Confidentiality

This quote has been developed by NWN Carousel and is NWN Carousel's proprietary trade secret and business confidential information. This quote may not be released to another vendor, business partner or contractor without prior written consent from NWN Carousel.

## **Additional Information**

# Exhibit B

(Fort Bend County Travel Policy – Annex B follows behind)

# **Annex B Fort Bend County Travel Policy**

Approved in Commissioners' Court on November 3, 2009
Effective November 4, 2009
Revised September 7, 2010
Revised June 2, 2015, Effective August 1, 2015
Revised July 28, 2015, Effective August 1, 2015
Revised July 26, 2016, Effective August 1, 2016
Revised December 12, 2017, Effective January 1, 2018
Revised September 26, 2023, Effective October 1, 2023

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 (<a href="http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/index.aspx?page=55">http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/index.aspx?page=55</a>) with the travel reimbursement form.

### **LODGING (In and Out of State):**

### **Hotel:**

Hotel reimbursements are limited to the Federal Travel Regulations set forth by US General Services Administration (GSA) by location not including taxes. The rates are set annually and vary by month and location. The maximum rates for lodging per day can be found at:

http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/104877?utm\_source=OGP&utm\_medium=print-radio&utm\_term=perdiem&utm\_campaign=shortcuts\_based\_on\_travelers\_destination.

Fort Bend County is a 'Cooperative Purchasing Participating Entity' with the State of Texas. This gives County employees and officials access to the contract rates negotiated by the State for hotels. Participating hotels can be found at: <a href="https://portal.cpa.state.tx.us/hotel/hotel\_directory/index.cfm">https://portal.cpa.state.tx.us/hotel/hotel\_directory/index.cfm</a> (be sure to check the correct fiscal year). When making a reservation the traveler must ask for the State of Texas

Contract rate (not the government rate) and be prepared to provide the County's agency #: C0790. Traveler must verify confirmed rate matches the negotiated contract rates found on the State's website listed above and does not exceed the GSA daily allowance.

If the organizer of a conference/seminar has negotiated discount rates with a hotel(s), the traveler may choose these lodging services without penalty but the traveler must reserve the room at the group rate and provide documentation of the group rate with the reimbursement request.

If all rooms are booked at the host hotel and no accommodation is available at or below the GSA rate, you may book a room at another hotel at a rate equal to or lower than the conference/seminar rate.

If all rooms are booked at the host hotel and no accommodation is available at or below the GSA rate or at the conference/seminar rate, you may provide three (3) comps to support the higher rate. This will serve as the justification for the higher rate. The comparable hotels should be within five miles of the host event and should be of similar hotel class.

The traveler will be responsible for the excess charge over the GSA per diem rate for the city/county even if using the State rate. The Auditor's Office will deduct from the travelers' reimbursement any excess charges over the GSA per diem rate.

If a traveler cannot find a traditional hotel, a direct rental (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) is allowable. All previous maximum daily rates still apply. Any fees incurred through a direct rental must also be included in the daily rate calculation and remain below the limits. Fees may include, but are not limited to, cleaning fees, extra guest fees, or service fees. (Taxes are not included in this calculation, as they are charged to hotel stays as well).

Travel websites including but not limited to Expedia and Travelocity shall not be used to book lodging.

In order to qualify for any of the above-mentioned exceptions, a lodging reservation must be made 14 days prior to travel. If travel is required without 14-day notice, the traveler must provide back-up which explains why the 14-day advance booking was not possible.

**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 allowable: Self-parking

**Additional fees allowable with justification:** Valet parking is allowable if an extreme hardship exists due to physical disability of the traveler or if no self-parking is available.

Fees not allowable: Internet, phone charges, laundry, safe fees

**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:** A final settled hotel bill with a zero balance from the front desk is required even if lodging is paid by the procurement card. The hotel bill left under the door is not acceptable. The hotel bill should be scrutinized before traveler departs to make sure all charges are valid and notify hotel of any invalid charges and resolve issues before departing. Make sure all parking has been added to your bill and all personal incidentals have been paid by traveler. Any invalid charges will be the responsibility of the traveler. 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.

Changes/Modifications to Reservation – Any modifications including cancellation of reservation, the traveler must obtain a confirmation number and note the name of the person they spoke with in case the hotel charges the traveler. If the traveler does not obtain a confirmation number then any expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the traveler. Expenses resulting from changes or modifications to travel reservations will be paid by the County if the traveler produces documentation that a family emergency exists.

**County Exemption Status** – Fort Bend County Employees traveling on County Business are not exempt from State and local hotel taxes, state taxes, etc. with the exception of District Judges and the District Attorney.

### **MEALS:**

Meals including in-state and out-of-state will be reimbursed to the traveler at a flat rate of \$70 (full day). The travelers per diem on the departure day and final day will be at 75% of the per diem, which is \$52.50. The amount reimbursed will be paid through payroll and is subject to federal taxation.

Late Night Arrival – If a traveler arrives in Fort Bend County between midnight and 6am the traveler will receive a full day per diem for the previous day.

**Day trips:** Prior to 01/01/2024 – Meals will not be reimbursed for trips that do not require an overnight stay. Effective 01/01/2024 - The traveler is subject to per diem reimbursement. Day trip includes a trip outside the County that requires a traveler to leave Fort Bend before 7:00 AM and/or return to the County after 6:00 PM will be eligible for reimbursement at 75% of the per diem, which is \$52.50. Amount reimbursed for day trips will be paid through payroll and are subject to federal taxation.

**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 employees 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.

Allowable expenses: Parking and tolls with documentation.

**County Vehicle:** Fuel purchases when using a County vehicle should be made with the County Procurement card if available. Original receipts will accompany the Procurement Card statement but a copy must be provided with the travel reimbursement request.

Allowable expenses: Parking and tolls with documentation required.

**Airfare:** The County will only reimburse direct travel to and from a location where County-related business is being conducted. Airfare is reimbursable at the lowest available rate based on 14 day advance purchase of a discounted coach/economy full-service seat based on the required arrival time for the event. The payment confirmation and itinerary must be presented with the travel reimbursement form. The traveler will be responsible for the excess charges of an airline ticket purchase other than a coach/economy seat. When using Southwest Airlines a traveler should choose the "wanna get away" flight category.

**Allowable Expenses:** Bag fees. Fare changes are allowable if business related or due to family emergency.

**Unallowable Expenses/Fees:** Trip insurance, Early Bird Check In, Front of the line, Leg Room, Fare changes for personal reasons.

**Rental Car:** Rental cars are limited to the negotiated TPASS rates listed at: <a href="http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/vendor-comparison/">http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/stmp/stmp-rental-car-contract/vendor-comparison/</a>. The contact information for Enterprise for the State Travel Management Program is listed here: <a href="https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/programs/travel-management/rental/enterprise.php">https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/programs/travel-management/rental/enterprise.php</a>

When making a reservation traveler should provide the County's agency # \_\_\_\_\_. 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 should select a vehicle size comparable to the number of County travelers. The traveler may use a non-contract vendor at an overall 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. The traveler will be responsible for any excess charges not included in the TPASS rates or for choosing a vehicle size not comparable with the number of travelers on the trip. Insurance is included in the negotiated TPASS rates, if a traveler chooses to take out additional insurance the cost is on the traveler.

### **Enterprise:**

- Optional Customer, Coupon or Corporate number is
- Please enter the first 3 characters of your company's name or PIN number FOR
- Enterprise will automatically bill FBC when you reserve your vehicle so you need to have a purchase order before your departure.

**Unallowable Fees/Charges:** GPS, prepaid fuel, premium radio, child safety seats, additional insurance, one way rentals.

Allowable expenses: Parking and tolls allowed with documentation.

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

**Gratuities:** Gratuities are permitted if original receipt includes gratuity (20% maximum allowed) 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. Registration fees for golf tournaments, tours, guest fees and other recreational events are not reimbursable.

**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.

### TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FORM:

traveler must use the travel reimbursement form current https://econnect.fortbendcountytx.gov/documents-forms/auditors-office-forms for all 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. Travel reimbursement request should be submitted within 30 days from when traveler returns from trip. Mileage reimbursement request should be submitted no less frequently than quarterly. Mileage reimbursement request for the fourth quarter should be submitted no later than October 30th for yearend processing.

### **EXCLUSIONS:**

If the traveler has custody of a person pursuant to statue or court order or if the traveler is required by court or legal entity to appear at a particular time and place the traveler will not be penalized for accommodations that require a 14 day advance purchase ticket if travel is required with less than 14 days' notice.

If the traveler has custody of a person pursuant to statue to court order the traveler will not be held to the 75% per diem on the departure and final day of travel.