

Grants to Sheriff's Offices in Rural Counties

- SB 22 (2023) establishes a “salary assistance” grant program for sheriff’s offices in “rural” counties
- All counties (236) with populations under 300,000 qualify for an annual grant.
- To apply, a county must submit an electronic application to the Comptroller’s office.

Annual Grant Amounts Based Upon County Population*

- \$250,000 if the county has a population of less than 10,000; or
- \$350,000 if the county has a population of 10,000 – 49,999; or
- \$500,000 if the county has a population of 50,000 – 300,000.

**Population as determined by the 2020 Decennial Census.*

Permissible Expenditures

First

To provide a minimum annual salary of at least:

- \$75,000 for the county sheriff;
- \$45,000 for each deputy who makes motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of their duties; and
- \$40,000 for each jailer whose duties include the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of a jail operated by the county

Permissible Expenditures

Second

(After fully funding the required salary increases)

- To hire additional deputies or staff for the sheriff's office; or
- To purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety equipment for the sheriff's office.

Budget May Not Be Reduced

- A county may not reduce the amount of funds provided to the sheriff's office because of grant funds.

Comptroller's Role

The Comptroller is required to adopt rules necessary to administer the grant program. Including:

- A standardized application process, including the form to be used to apply for a grant and the manner of submitting the form;
- Deadlines to apply for the grant;
- Disbursement of grant money;
- Spending grant money;
- Procedures for monitoring the disbursement of grant money; and
- The return of grant money that was not used by a county for a permissible purpose.

Important Dates

- **FY 2024 Budget Adoption:** Counties intending to apply for the grant should budget for the salary increases.
- **October 2023:** The Comptroller filed proposed rules with the Secretary of State for public comment.
- **December 2023:** Program rules will be finalized.
- **January 1, 2024:** Grant application filing opens for all eligible counties (no paper applications). In subsequent years, applications must be submitted within 30 days of the beginning of the county fiscal year.

For More Information:
Russell Gallahan
Manager
Local Government
&
Transparency

Russell.Gallahan@cpa.Texas.gov

(512) 463-6073