

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ALIEN DETENTION PROGRAM**

Congress has earmarked \$3 million in the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) appropriation for technology grants to state and local law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the grant is to allow law enforcement agencies to purchase video teleconferencing equipment necessary to assist state and local law enforcement in contacting Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to allow them to confirm the identification of illegal and criminal aliens in their custody.

Williamson County Sheriff's Department has applied for this grant and the grant was approved. The grant amount is \$58,245.00. There is no County match. The COPS grant funding is administered by INS.

*approved 2-20-01*

*John O. Daefler*

The grant will be used to purchase and install the equipment. The Sheriff's Department can use the equipment for any purpose deemed necessary when not in use by the INS. All first year costs including purchase, installation, training, 3 year warranty, phone lines, renovation and furniture are paid by the grant. After one year, the County must pay recurring costs of approximately \$3,000 per year.

With the equipment in place, INS agents will remotely interview suspected criminal aliens identified during the booking process. If the alien is determined to be removable, INS lodges a detainer and the alien is released to INS custody.

**Benefits to the County:**

1. Because this program will improve the efficiency of INS, fewer criminal and illegal aliens will be released back into the community.
  2. The equipment will belong to the Williamson County Sheriff's Department and can be used for other purposes such as hearings, training, etc.
  3. Cooperation between INS and the Williamson County Sheriff's Department will improve the identification of criminal and illegal aliens, resulting in increased reimbursement under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.
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**AGENDA ITEM 34**

Discuss and consider approving entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) for Williamson County alien detention program.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To approve entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) for Williamson County alien detention program.

Vote: **4 – 0** with Commissioner Heiligenstein absent from the dais.

**AGENDA ITEM 35**

Discuss and take appropriate action on tax abatement for ERCOT.

Commissioner Limmer stated that ERCOT is building a new facility in Taylor, and would bring approximately 180 jobs to the Taylor area.

Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Commissioner Hays**

Motion: To approve standard county 5-year tax abatement for Electrical Routing Council of Texas in Taylor, Texas.

Vote: **5 – 0**

< Attachment >

*The Tax Abatement Agreement was not received by the time the minutes were scanned. It has been added to the February 20, 2001 minutes as pages 230 through 236.*



February 13, 2001

Honorable Williamson County Commissioners Court  
Attn: Commissioner Frankie Limmer, Precinct 4  
412 Vance, Suite 213  
Taylor, TX 76574

Dear Commissioner Limmer:

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is planning a substantial expansion of its facilities in Taylor. We plan to break ground in a few weeks on a new 85,000 sq. ft. facility to house our operations, engineering, and technical staff, approximately 180 employees. The new facility will be adjacent to our current building located at 2705 W. Lake Drive. Total cost of the project is approximately \$34 million.

We have been working with the City of Taylor over the last several months to receive a tax abatement on this new project. The Taylor Commissioners approved an abatement based on an assessed value of \$26 million at its February 8, 2001 meeting. The \$26 million figure represents a \$24 million estimate for construction plus an additional \$2 million for furniture and fixtures not previously purchased.

ERCOT respectfully requests the Williamson County Commissioners Court to consider a tax abatement on this project over a five-year period as your abatement regulations set out. We will be happy to provide additional information on the project and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Jones  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

*5 year  
starting at 100% first year  
decreasing by 20% each following year  
approved 2-20-01  
John C. Daerfler*

xc: Frank Salvato, City Manager, City of Taylor