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Law Enforcement

September 12, 2022

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The Woodlands Township • 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard • The Woodlands, Texas 77381

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement By and Between Montgomery County, Texas and The Woodlands Township for Supplemental Law Enforcement Services

- “The Sheriff will assign 92 County Commissioned Personnel.”
- “The County law enforcement personnel assigned pursuant to this Agreement will be dedicated to patrolling the geographical limits of the Township as defined in Exhibit A.”
- “This agreement for supplemental law enforcement services specifically provides the County law enforcement **service costs which will be funded directly by the Township as enhanced services.**”
 - Salary and benefit costs for 92 personnel
 - Overtime programs
 - Patrol vehicles and equipment
 - Fuel for vehicles

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement By and Between Montgomery County, Texas and The Woodlands Township for Supplemental Law Enforcement Services

- “This Agreement is to commence January 1, 2021 and shall continue in effect through December 31, 2021. Thereafter, unless terminated in accordance with Article 5, Section A, this Agreement will automatically renew for successive one-year terms, not to exceed four such renewal terms or otherwise extend beyond December 31, 2025.”
- Article 5, Section A: “The Parties agree that this Agreement may not be terminated, except by:
 - Mutual written agreement of the Parties, or
 - Either Party giving the other Party at least 180 days advance written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement as of the end of the Agreement’s term.”

NEWS // THE WOODLANDS NEWS

Montgomery County proposes absorbing Woodlands Township's \$10M law enforcement payroll

Catherine Dominguez, Staff writer

Aug. 16, 2022 | Updated: Aug. 17, 2022 11:38 a.m.

Montgomery County commissioners want sheriff's office employees now dedicated to The Woodlands Township to be added to the county payroll, ending a longtime financial contract with the township.

Currently, the township funds 93 personnel along with other expenses for about \$10 million.

To prepare to absorb the \$10 million, the court agreed during an Aug. 2 budget hearing to fund half of that cost with reclassified federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funds and a half-cent of the county's proposed 2023 tax rate. The court would fund the remaining costs in 2024.

Prompted by last November's failed election to incorporate The Woodlands as a city, Sheriff Rand Henderson said it was time to address the decades-old contract.

“I’m not looking to stop contracting with the township. I just think all the county personnel should be county paid and we should move from their ledger to our ledger as far as how they are paid.”

Montgomery County approves proposed 2022 tax rate exceeding no-new-revenue rate



By Jishnu Nair | 3:55 PM Aug 9, 2022 CDT
Updated 3:55 PM Aug 9, 2022 CDT



According to Carter, increases to law enforcement personnel under the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and justices of the peace as well as a **5% countywide raise** contributed to the rate exceeding the no-new-revenue rate of \$.3312.

A renegotiation of The Woodlands' **interlocal agreement** with Montgomery County regarding law enforcement services also contributed. Carter did not have specifics on the contract, but said funding for part of the new contract would come from property tax revenue while the other part would come out of the county's fund balance.

Montgomery County approves \$397M budget for 2022-23, approves tax rate exceeding no-new-revenue rate



By Jishnu Nair | 3:56 PM Aug 26, 2022 CDT

Updated 9:16 AM Aug 27, 2022 CDT



Montgomery County's finalized 2022-23 budget will prioritize funding law enforcement, including additional positions for the sheriff's office and several county constables' offices. The \$397 million **budget** was approved unanimously by commissioners at an **Aug. 26 special session** and will run from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2023.

County Judge Mark Keough—who had been absent for **several workshops** due to illness but viewed the proceedings virtually—told *Community Impact Newspaper* the budget focused on law enforcement, especially on the county's shared border with Harris County.

"I think we came to some conclusions [in the budget process]," Keough said. "My emphasis is on law enforcement, and [the Woodlands Township contract]—which we had figured into the budget—is a huge expense, and that was part of it."

Video of Montgomery County Commissioners Court Budget Workshop on August 2, 2022 regarding The Woodlands Township's Supplemental Law Enforcement Agreement



The Woodlands Township Community Policing Program

	Township 2023 Budget Original Request by County JULY 2022	Township 2023 Budget REVISED Request by County AUGUST 2022	Township 2023 Budget Current <i>(pending decision by County)</i>
Vehicles	\$996,235	\$1,500,000	\$ 996,235
Fuel	394,000	500,000	384,000
Equipment	114,200	130,000	114,200
Overtime Program	1,301,856	2,400,000	1,199,600
MCSO Community Policing Personnel	9,187,623	0	9,187,623
MCSO/Constable Safe Harbor Program	368,765	0	368,765
Constable Pct. 3 ICAC Program	114,833	0	114,833
Justice of the Peace Clerk Pct. 3	64,754	0	64,754
TOTAL	<u>\$12,542,266</u>	<u>\$4,530,000</u>	<u>\$12,430,010</u>

Montgomery County proposed funding personnel expenses totaling \$9,735,975. This equates to a conservative estimate of a 3-cent reduction in the Township's tax rate.

Status of Law Enforcement Agreement

- **August 10, 2022:** Chairman Bunch and Montgomery County Sheriff Henderson met to discuss an amended supplemental law enforcement agreement as discussed at the August 2, 2022 Commissioners Court budget workshop meeting. Sheriff Henderson requested that the Township prepare a draft amendment to the existing agreement with the terms desired by the County.
- **August 19, 2022:** The Township emailed a draft amendment as requested by Sheriff Henderson in the August 10 meeting to Montgomery County Judge Mark Keough, Sheriff Henderson, and Montgomery County Attorney B. D. Griffin. To date, no acknowledgement of receipt or reply has been received by the Township.