

Lubbock County Clerk Technology Fund Plan For Account 099

I. Background (Statutory History)

The 81st Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 3637 which amends Chapter 102 by adding Article 102.0169 to Chapter 102, Code of Criminal Procedure. The amendment allows the Commissioners Court to adopt a Technology Fund Fee as a cost of court upon conviction in criminal cases. The fee collected and deposited with the County Treasurer shall be administered by or under the direction of the Commissioners Court, and can only be used for the following purposes:

- (1) for cost of continuing education and training for County Court, Statutory County Court, or District Court Judges and Clerks regarding technological enhancements for those courts;
- (2) and the purchase and maintenance of technological enhancements for a County Court, Statutory County court, or District Court, including:
 - a. computer systems
 - b. computer networks
 - c. computer hardware
 - d. computer software
 - e. imaging systems
 - f. electronic kiosks
 - g. docket management systems

II. Bill Summary

- ***Begins*** January 1, 2010.
- ***Criminal Technology Fund:*** The County Treasurer, or the official who discharges the duties commonly delegated to a County Treasurer, shall establish a county & district court technology fund.
- The \$4.00 fee is assessed upon conviction as defined by Art. 102.0169 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

III. Purpose

There is a movement within the court systems today to go “paperless”, to provide electronic means for transmitting clerk’s court records to the various Courts of Appeal and to provide various services through electronic means such as issuance of subpoenas or warrants. The Criminal Technology Fund Fee will help fund the additional needs for

enhancement of technology currently available or to replace existing systems, and to provide continuing education for County Court at Law Judges or the County Clerk regarding technological enhancements for the Courts.

IV. Cooperation:

- In cooperation between the Director of Court Administration and the County Clerk, the recommended expenditure of the Criminal Technology Fund shall be presented annually through the budgetary process, which upon approval by Commissioners Court, and expended accordingly.
- In the absence of agreement between the Director of Court Administration and the County Clerk, the Commissioners Court shall approve expenditures in a manner deemed by the Court to be the most expedient and efficient use of said fund.

V. Annual Revenue Estimate

Criminal convictions (estimate only based on 2024 filings) 1,774

- Revenue generated from the criminal Technology Fund Fee for fiscal year 2024-2025 will only be assessed on cases with an offense date of January 1, 2010 and after.
- In 2023 fees were consolidated and we now collect 3.2520% per conviction.

Summary

The Legislature has provided a means to raise revenue for counties to bring technology to the courtrooms and the clerks' offices. This criminal Technology Fund Fee should not be confused with the civil court preservation fee or the records management and preservation fee.