

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT



RICK BAILEY
Commissioner Pct. #1

ROGER HARMON
County Judge

JERRY D. STRINGER
Commissioner Pct. #3

KENNY HOWELL
Commissioner Pct. #2

Alison Hitchcock
Assistant to Commissioner's Court

LARRY WOOLLEY
Commissioner Pct. #4

RESOLUTION

STATE OF TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF JOHNSON

STATE FUNDS FOR INDIGENT CRIMINAL DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the right to assistance by legal counsel is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas is required to implement this right and provide legal counsel to indigent criminal defendants; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Fair Defense Act, adopted by the Texas Legislature in 2001, implements this right and requires certain procedures and attorney appointments; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has failed to provide sufficient funding to offset the costs of the Fair Defense Act and has shifted this cost to county taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, county expenditures for indigent criminal defense have increased over 100 percent of the indigent defense costs; and

WHEREAS, the state funding is totally inadequate, providing approximately 12 percent of the indigent defense costs; and

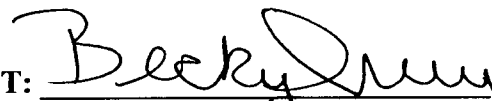
WHEREAS, indigent criminal defense is a state responsibility that should be adequately funded on a statewide basis, not a burden overwhelmingly borne by local property taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Commissioners Court of Johnson County, Texas, does hereby request that the Texas Legislature fully fund the costs of indigent criminal defense.

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause the Seal of Johnson County, Texas to be affixed on the 12th day of September, 2016.


Roger Harmon, Johnson County Judge

ATTEST: 
Becky Ivey, County Clerk

