

TRAVEL POLICY OF JOHNSON COUNTY

Effective 11/14/16

Commissioners Court does not require Court approval for travel to seminars, conferences or training that is required by law or for any travel that will be completed within the same day, i.e., a destination that is close enough that there is no over-night stay needed. In this case, "required" travel would be that which is incurred to meet the legal education requirements of an individual's position with the county as set by Texas statute or required to maintain a license required for the position.

All other education-related travel must continue to be placed on the agenda for approval by the Commissioners Court.

Travel Reimbursement Rates

Johnson County will reimburse for meals using a per diem rate when employees are traveling on official County business.

The per diem rates are as follows:

\$37.00---EACH FULL DAY

\$10.00---MORNING MEAL

\$12.00---NOON MEAL

\$15.00---EVENING MEAL

Per diem or reimbursement for meals for same-day trips (there and back in the same day) will be permitted. Being a taxable fringe benefit, the invoice transmittal for the meal(s) will be handled as a payroll item by the Personnel Department for same-day trips. All others will be reimbursed through the Accounts Payable Division of the County Auditor.

NO RECEIPTS are required on a per diem rate policy.

Partial day reimbursements for departure and return days:

For date of departure, the employee is entitled to the lunch and evening meal reimbursement.

For date of return, generally, the employee is entitled to the morning and noon meals. If the return trip does not start until late in the day, then the evening meal is also reimbursable if it was purchased.

Generally, if the meal was purchased, a reimbursement is in order. If not, the employee should not request a reimbursement.

MILEAGE reimbursement will be paid at the same rate as is allowed by the IRS allowance. The current rate can be found on the Travel Reimbursement Form.

Travel distance will be determined by Google Maps or Mapquest, using the departure address of your work location to your destination address and the same method will be used for travel from your hotel to your meeting location. This same reimbursement method will be used regardless of the travel method used, i.e., airline. If the alternative method costs more or less than the determined mileage reimbursement, the lesser of the determined mileage and the actual cost will be reimbursed. The Auditor's Office is expected to verify the mileage reimbursement request to check for accuracy and modify the reimbursement request as needed to correct errors or comply with this policy.

Advance of Travel Expenses

Employees have the option of requesting advance payment on meals and lodging only.

Travel reimbursement requests must be turned in to the Auditor's Office no later than 10 days after returning from the trip. No subsequent travel advance checks will be issued until this requirement is satisfied.

The Travel Advance form can be obtained from the Auditor's Office.

Out-Of-State Travel

Any out-of-state travel must be approved by the Commissioners Court. The traveler must show that such a trip is beneficial to the County. Most all out-of-state travel should be avoided if possible.

Intra-County Mileage Reimbursement

If the employee reports to a location other than their normal workplace for work or training on any given work day and does not report to their normal workplace at all that day – NO mileage reimbursement.

If the employee reports to their normal workplace during their regular work hours and must travel to another location (midday travel) for work purposes and return, mileage may be claimed from the normal workplace to the other location and back (ROUND TRIP).

If the employee reports to the normal workplace during regular work hours with midday travel to another location with no return that day, mileage may be claimed ONE WAY.

Note: An internet map with beginning and ending addresses showing the miles to and from must be used to determine and support the mileage reimbursement request and approved by the department head as noted on the form located on the Johnson County intranet, "County forms".