

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



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November 10, 2017

Dear Sheriff's and Jail Administrators,

In reference to the previous message dated November 10, 2017, regarding electronic monitoring under SB 1849, funding has been made available to offset costs associated with installation of these systems within facilities under the Commission's purview. In conjunction with Section 3.05 of SB 1849, Section 3.07, Chapter 511.019 - Prisoner Safety Fund, grant funding to the Commission for capital improvements required under Section 511.009 (a) (23). Facilities with capacities of 96-beds or less, may seek funding to provide the required electronic monitoring systems.

Facilities seeking funding by means of the grant will need to submit documentation to this agency indicating the locations of all at-risk cells and proposed locations for the electronic devices. Additionally, an itemized report must be provided indicating the number, type and model of each device being proposed, including the cost associated with each item. Facilities that have already installed electronic devices to meet the requirements of Section 511.009 (a) (23) after September 1, 2017, may provide documentation detailing the cost of each item to be reviewed for potential reimbursement. Facilities that installed equipment prior to September 1, 2017, will not be eligible for reimbursement.

The available funding is limited and intended to cover only the initial costs to purchase and install systems for monitoring at-risk cells; this will not include devices provided elsewhere in the facility. Ongoing maintenance costs associated with the systems will not be the responsibility of the Commission and funding will not be allocated for such. Any funds allocated to a facility must be utilized to purchase only the products approved through the proposal process. If a facility makes changes to a proposal after our initial review, documentation must be provided to our office for reevaluation. Systems considered excessive, above and beyond the minimum required, or considered to be too costly during the course of our review may be denied on a case by case basis.

Installation of the electronic monitoring systems for at-risk cells must be completed prior to January 1, 2020. Your regional Inspector will review these systems as part of the annual inspection process after installation has been verified by our office.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this message, do not hesitate to contact our office. For specific questions relating to the Prisoner Safety Fund grant, please contact Planner Jason Ross, jason.ross@tcjs.state.tx.us, to request additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brandon S. Wood".

Brandon S. Wood
Executive Director

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