

Georgia Shepherd

From: Paul Elkins
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 10:39 AM
To: Keith Self Judge; Cheryl Williams; Duncan Webb; Joe Jaynes; Matt Shaheen
Cc: Bill Bilyeu
Subject: COMPREHENSIVE COST REDUCTION PROPOSAL FOR ALL 4 CONSTABLE'S OFFICES

JUDGE SELF, COMMISSIONERS AND BILL,

Given the proposal to remove all civil process from the Constables, I would like for you to consider, in my opinion, a better alternative. That would be to remove all criminal warrants to the Sheriff and take the Constables out of the Criminal side of Law Enforcement. This would allow for Constables and their staff to be "Strictly Civil". This would allow for Constables to continue doing their Constitutional requirement to serve civil process that comes to them and provide a bailiff to the Justice of the Peace Courts. This would mean that all offices work only civil – no traffic enforcement and no criminal warrants. I have already removed radars from the vehicles in my office and instructed deputies to turn in unused citations. This proposal is broken down below but would mean the layoff of 6 deputies and 3 clerks. This would allow for over 1 Million dollars to be cut from the budget of the Constables and a savings to taxpayers. This would allow for money to be saved or used to allow the Sheriff to hire additional deputies – if the court chooses to do that. This would not require, in my opinion, the Sheriff to hire additional warrant staff since that office already gets JP warrants after the Constables attempt to collect fines or make arrests.

I have shared some of my proposal with the other 3 Constables but not my entire proposal. There are some other proposals that have been suggested to Commissioner Williams by other Constables. I don't think they are this extensive in scope or money to be saved. I do not wish to cause undue hardship on anyone but I think the situation calls for a real savings to the taxpayers. This proposal does that.

I have thought long and hard on the Constable issue and this is my proposal for across the board cost reduction to make the Constable's Offices viable into the future. It requires sacrifice from the top down and the elimination of some positions.

1. Reduction of 3% in Constable Salary from \$89,762 level to \$87,069 (2008 level).

REDUCTION

**Cost savings of \$10,772.....\$
10,772.**

2. Elimination of 3 Chief Deputy Positions. Reclass those 3 people to "Deputy II" pay scale.

**Cost savings of \$249,324.....
\$249,324.**

3. Eliminating the position of "Deputy II" in the pay range.

Reduction of pay of 4 Deputy II positions in county to pay scale of Deputy Constable.

**Cost savings of \$16,127.....\$
16,127.**

4. Elimination of 3 Administrative Secretary positions.

**Cost savings of
\$120,784.....\$120,784.**

5. Reclass one Administrative Secretary position in Constable Pct. 2 to Clerk II.

Cost savings of
 \$7,492.....7,492.

6. Reduction in pay scale of 3 Clerk II positions to Clerk I.
 Cost savings of \$8,310..... \$
 8,310.

7. Elimination of 3 Deputy Constable Positions. (1 in Pct. 1, 1 in Pct.3 and 1 in Pct.4)
 Cost savings of
 \$269,967.....\$269,967.

8. Elimination of 6 vehicles from Constables Pct. 1, 3 and 4.
 Cost savings of
 \$68,523.....68,523.

9. Since Constable vehicles are driven by one individual – recommend increasing vehicle
 rating
 requirement from the present standard of 20 to a new standard of 25 for Constable vehicles.
 Cost savings estimated at \$11,400 per vehicle X 21 vehicles for a total savings of \$239,400.
 Cost savings of
 \$239,400.....\$239,400.

10. Reduction in Deputy Constable salaries to 5% less than Deputy Sheriff positions.
 Cost savings of estimated at \$52,226.....\$
 52,226.

I AM NOT SURE IF ALL AMOUNTS ARE THE “ACTUARIALS”. THE TRUE SAVINGS MAY BE HIGHER THAN THE AMOUNT STATED.

TOTAL SAVINGS OF ALL ITEMS
**\$1,042,925.**

(Elimination of a total of 6 law enforcement and 3 clerical positions in Pct. 1, 3, 4)

IN ADDITION – ALL CONSTABLES WILL AGREE TO DRIVE HYBRID OR HIGH GAS MILEAGE TYPE OF VEHICLES FOR THEIR ENTIRE FLEET AS VEHICLES GET REPLACED. I, myself, am getting a Ford Escape Hybrid very soon as my vehicle. (Additional cost savings in the future.)

I believe the other 3 Constables will agree to this proposal. We are serious in trying to reach a mutually beneficial result for the taxpayers, Collin County and our offices.

There are 2 things that I would request to increase in all Constable’s budgets in the future but are small. First being the approval of cell phones with data for any Constable requesting them. The second would be to increase our Education and Conference budget line item from \$1,000. to \$1,500 this year and increase by \$500 each fiscal year to a maximum of \$3,000. LEOSE money will no longer be available to law enforcement in the future and our line item needs to increase over the next several years to make up for those lost funds as we use up our LEOSE money.

Thank you.

Paul L. Elkins, Constable



**Collin County Constable's Office
Precinct 1
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 1136
McKinney, Texas 75071
972-548-4419**

Georgia Shepherd

From: Paul Elkins
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 10:53 AM
To: Keith Self Judge; Cheryl Williams; Duncan Webb; Joe Jaynes; Matt Shaheen
Cc: Bill Bilyeu
Subject: Additional information on my previous email

Judge Self, Commissioners and Bill,

I failed to add this additional thought.

If this proposal is accepted, I would prefer that our vehicles be unmarked in the future to avoid my deputies being viewed unfavorably by the public for not taking action on traffic offenses committed in their presence. This would amount to a significant cost savings of avoiding the cost of marking vehicles. If the court prefers they be marked, I think all Constables would be agreeable to do so.

Thanks.

Paul L. Elkins, Constable



**Collin County Constable's Office
Precinct 1
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 1136
McKinney, Texas 75071
972-548-4419**

Georgia Shepherd

From: Paul Elkins
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 1:00 PM
To: Bill Bilyeu
Subject: Confusion on my email

Bill,

My email may have been confusing in two or more aspects and I want to clarify. What I was trying to say was change the pay grade from Deputy II to read Chief Deputy. In other words for the Chief Deputy in the future is to receive the compensation that is currently titled Deputy II. The current Deputy II officers would receive only Deputy Constable pay and the title of Deputy II would go away as it would be listed as "Chief Deputy". Secondly to change the Administrative Secretaries to Clerk II pay grade and be listed as a "Clerk II" and Clerk II's to Clerk I pay grade. There would no longer be Administrative Secretaries in the Constable's Office, only Clerk II's and Clerk I's. Hope this clarifies that issue.

Paul L. Elkins, Constable



**Collin County Constable's Office
Precinct I
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 1136
McKinney, Texas 75071
972-548-4419**