
Council Policy and Valuation Committee

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

FROM: Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager

MEETING: January 24, 2024

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the pursuit of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program which recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts. (Staff Presenter: Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager)

SUMMARY:

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program recognizes local governments for going above and beyond in their transparency efforts. The program recognizes government entities that accomplish the following:

- Open their books not only in their traditional finances, but also in the areas of contracts and procurement, economic development, public pensions, and debt obligations; and
- Provide clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations, downloadable data, and other relevant information.

You can apply for one or more Stars, up to five. Entities must first receive a [Traditional Finances Star](#), but may apply for Stars in up to four other areas:

- [Contracts and Procurement;](#)
- [Economic Development;](#)
- [Public Pensions; and](#)
- [Debt Obligations.](#)

The program recognizes great breadth and depth in the information presented for each specific Transparency Star awarded, making each star a prestigious achievement. The Stars stand on their own and are not awarded along a continuum or with an expectation that entities should attain five out of five stars.

Currently, the City of Burleson only posts the check register, budget, and annual financial reports on our website. For security risks and threats, it would be better to truncate the names of the payee on the check register, like other recipients of the Transparency Stars.

For more detailed information, see the attached Frequently Asked Questions document.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Committee discuss the merits of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program and direct staff to:

- Apply for the program; and
- Truncate the names of the payee on the check register

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

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