
Finance Committee

DEPARTMENT: Finance

FROM: Michael Franklin, Deputy Director of Finance

MEETING: August 5, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide recommendation to the city council 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 Contact: Michael Franklin, Deputy Director of Finance*)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 High Performing City Organization Providing Exceptional, People Focused Services	1.2 Continue to improve the efficiency and productivity of operations 1.3 Deliver high-quality service and communications to external and internal customers 1.4 Be a responsible steward of the city's financial resources by providing rates and fees that represent a strong value to our citizens; providing timely, accurate and transparent financial reporting; and utilizing long-range planning.

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, debt obligations, and Open Government and Compliance; and

- Provide clear and meaningful financial information not only by posting financial documents, but also through summaries, visualizations, downloadable data, and other relevant information.

A government entity can apply for one or more Stars, up to a maximum of six. Entities must first receive a Traditional Finances Star, but may apply for Stars in up to five other areas:

- Contracts and Procurement;
- Economic Development;
- Public Pensions;
- Debt Obligations; and
- Open Government and Compliance

The program recognizes the remarkable breadth and depth of 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 six out of six Stars.

For more detailed information, please refer to the attached Frequently Asked Questions document.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Committee discuss the status of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' Transparency Stars program.

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

On July 23, 2025, the Policy and Valuation Committee received a report on the progress of the Transparency Stars Program and supported the pursuit of the additional Stars in the program.

On August 4, 2025, the City Council received a report on the progress of the Transparency Stars Program and supported the pursuit of the additional Stars in the program.

On December 17, 2025, the Finance Committee received a report on the progress of the Transparency Stars Program and supported the pursuit of the additional Stars in the program.

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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