

**CITY OF STEPHENVILLE**  
**GUIDELINES UNDER TEXAS LAW FOR**  
**USE OF HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE**

**State Law:** By law of the State of Texas, the City of Stephenville collects a Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) from hotels, motels, inns, and bed-and-breakfast establishments. Chapter 351 of the Tax Code states that HOT funds may be used only if both parts of the following two-part test are met. Part One (1) requires that usage of HOT Funds must directly enhance and promote tourism and the convention, and hotel industry, and Part Two (2) limits the use of HOT Funds to the following:

1. **Convention center facilities or visitor information centers:** the acquisition of sites for and the construction, improvement, enlarging, equipping, repairing, operation, and maintenance of TVB center facilities or visitor information centers, or both;
2. **Registration of tourism and visitor's bureau delegates:** the furnishing of facilities, personnel, and materials for the registration of TVB delegates or registrants;
3. **Advertising, and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourists and visitor's delegates:** advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourists and visitor's delegates or registrants to the municipality or its vicinity;
4. **Promotion of the arts:** the encouragement, promotion, improvement and application of the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, design and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, motion picture, radio, television, tape and sound recording, and other arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of these major art forms;
5. **Historical restoration and preservation projects or activities:** historical restoration and preservation objects or activities or advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to encourage tourists and visitor's delegates to visit preserved historic sites or museums: (a) at or in the immediate vicinity of Tourism and Visitor's Bureau facilities or visitor information centers; or (b) located elsewhere in the municipality or its vicinity that would be frequented by tourists and visitor delegates;
6. **Sporting event expenses related to sporting events which substantially increase economic activity at hotels:** for a municipality located in a county with a population of 290,000 or less, expenses, including promotion expenses, directly related to a sporting

event in which the majority of participants are tourists who substantially increase economic activity at hotels and motels within the municipality or its vicinity.

7. **Signage:** Signage directing tourists to sights and attractions that are visited frequently by hotel guests in the municipality.
8. **Transportation systems for tourists:** Funding the costs for transporting tourists from hotels in and near the city to: the commercial center of the city, a convention center in the city, other hotels in or near the city, and tourist attractions in or near the city.

**City of Stephenville Process:** The City of Stephenville accepts applications from groups who request HOT Funds for events/activities/facilities, which fit into one or more of the above listed categories. All decisions of the City Council are final.

**City of Stephenville Policy:**

1. The purpose of HOT funding is to assist and support qualified events/activities/facilities, not to be the major patron or the majority funds provider (50% or more) for the event/activity/facility budget.
2. Priority will be given to those events and entities based upon documented ability to directly promote tourism and the hotel and convention industry in Stephenville by “demonstrating a proven record of increased hotel or tourism and visitor’s activity.” Such activity may result from hotel or tourism and visitor’s guests that are already in town and choose to attend the funded event or facility, or it may result from individuals coming from another city or county to stay in an area lodging to attend the funded event or facility. Applicants should document the potential to generate increased hotel or tourism and visitor’s activity by:
  - a. Providing historical information on the number of rooms nights used during previous years of the same event/activity/facility;
  - b. Providing current information on the size of room blocks reserved at area hotels to accommodate anticipated overnight guests attending the funded event/activity/facility.
  - c. Providing historical information on the number of guests at hotels or other lodging facilities that attended the funded event/activity/facility; and/or
  - d. Providing examples of marketing or programs and activities likely to generate or encourage overnight visitors to local lodging properties.



3. All applicants are encouraged to utilize local businesses for food, supplies, materials, printing, and the like. A minimum of 8% of the HOT Funds shall be spent with local businesses.
4. A portion of the revenues from any event/activity/facility receiving HOT Funds should be channeled back into the future costs of operating that same event/activity/facility or the continued operation of such.
5. It is critical that the Application/Request for funding be filled out completely and accurately. Under the application section "Fund Usage," it is responsibility of the applicant to specifically explain how the funds will be used only in eligible ways.
6. If applying under the Advertising category, please note the local requirement that advertising must be accomplished in advance of the event/activity/facility, and must utilize legitimate media for promotion outside of the area, i.e. direct mail, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards.
7. As a general rule, all funding requests should be for fifty percent (50%) or less of Applicant's total projected revenue from the event/activity/facility.
8. Applicants are on notice that while the City of Stephenville makes decisions based on estimated budgets and projections, documentation of how granted funds were spent must be actual costs supported by proofs of payment. Any monies not used or not used lawfully, must be returned or repaid to the City within sixty (60) days of the event, along with the completed Post-Funding Analysis.
9. The final accounting of funds must mirror the items outlined in the Applicant's original application, in its fund expenditure outline, and in its request letter.
10. City of Stephenville guidelines were duly adopted by City Council on \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

**FUNDING CONSIDERATION CHECKLIST**

**Name of** National Rambouillet Show & Sale and National Junior Rambouillet Show

**Event/Activity/Facility:** \_\_\_\_\_

Does your event/activity/facility pass Part One (1) of the statutory test, defined specifically as directly enhancing and promoting tourism and the convention, and hotel industry in Stephenville?  YES  NO

Does your event/activity/facility pass Part Two (2) of the statutory test, defined specifically as fitting into one of more of the following categories:

- Convention center facilities or visitor information centers
- Facilities, personnel and materials for registration of the Tourism and Visitor's Bureau delegates
- Advertising, and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourist and visitor's
- Promotion of the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, design and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, motion picture, radio, television, tape and sound recording
- Historical restoration and preservation projects or activities, or advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to encourage tourists to visit preserved historic sites or museums in the area
- Signage directing tourist to sights and attractions that are visited frequently by hotel guests in the municipality
- Funding the costs for transporting tourists from hotels in and near the city to: the commercial center of the city, a convention center in the city, other hotels in or near the city, and tourist attractions in or near the city
- Sporting event expenses, including promotion expenses, related to sporting events at which the majority of participants are tourists who substantially increase economic activity at hotels in the area
- Is your application filled out thoroughly and completely, and are all required pages attached?
- Is your request for funding in accordance with the maximum funding guidelines?
- If applicable, have you submitted the Post-Funding Analysis and proofs of payment for last year's event/activity/facility?
- If applicable, have you returned or repaid the City for any previous funds not used or not used lawfully?
- Have you documented how you will accurately track out-of-town guests, showing that your event will attract tourists that will directly support the Tourism and Visitor's Bureau and the Hotel industry in the area?
- Is your request for fifty percent (50%) or less of your total projected revenue from the event/activity/facility?
- If you are applying under the Advertising category, is your request for one hundred percent (100%) or less of your total projected advertising expenditures?
- If you are applying under the Advertising category, have you met the local requirement that advertising must be accomplished in advance of the event/activity/facility, and must utilize legitimate media for promotion outside of the area, i.e. direct mail, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards?
- Will all advertising indicate that the City of Stephenville is a direct sponsor of the event?



**APPLICATION**

**Organization Information**

Date: 3/04/2024

American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association

Name of Organization

P.O. Box 214

Address:

Hawley, TX 79525

City, State, Zip:

Robbie Eckhoff

Contact Name:

409-256-3687

Contact Phone Number:

www.rambouilletsheep.org

Website Address for Event/Activity/Facility:

Is your organization:  Non-Profit  Private for Profit

Tax ID#: [REDACTED]

Organization's Creation Date: Organized March 1889/Incorporated September 1991

Purpose for your organization:

Promotion of the Rambouillet breed of sheep in the United States as well as Canada as well as provide a marketing outlet for the membership of the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association.

In addition, provide a registry for Registered Rambouillet seedstock in the United States as well as provide scholarships for youth in the ARSBA Junior Association.

**Event/Activity/Facility Information**

2024 National Rambouillet Show & Sale and National Junior Rambouillet Show

Name of Event/Activity/Facility:

June 17-22, 2024

Date of Even/Activity:

Tarleton State University Animal Plant Science Center and APSC Arena

Primary Location of Event/Activity/Facility:

\$5000.00

Amount of HOT Funding Requested:

**Fund Usage:** How will the funds be used?

The funds will be used to offset a portion of the facility use fee for the Tarleton APSC and APSC Arena as well as the required insurance premiums to meet the TSU requirements. In addition, the funds will be used to provide awards in both the 2024 National Rambouillet Show as well as the 2024 National Junior Rambouillet Show. Any additional funds will be applied to the meeting of the general membership at the annual awards banquet as well advertising

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**Primary purpose if funded Event/Activity/Facility:**

Provide a location for the 2024 National Rambouillet Show and Sale & National Junior Show for the membership of the ARSBA.

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***Check that statutory categories apply to funding request and amount requested under each category:***

- Convention center facilities or visitor information centers:** the acquisition of sites for and the construction, improvement, enlarging, equipping, repairing, operation, and maintenance of convention center facilities or visitor information centers, or both; \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Registration of Tourism and Visitor's Bureau delegates:** the furnishing of facilities, personnel, and materials for the registration of tourism and visitor's bureau delegates or registrants; \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Advertising, and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourists and visitor delegates:** advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to attract tourists and visitor's delegates or registrants to the municipality or its vicinity; \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Promotion of the arts:** the encouragement, promotion, improvement, and application of the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, design and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, motion pictures, radio, television, tape, and sound recording, and other arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of these major art forms; \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Historical restoration and preservation projects or activities:** historical restoration and preservation projects or activities or advertising and conducting solicitations and promotional programs to encourage tourists and visitor's delegates to visit preserved historic sites or museums: (a) at or in the immediate vicinity of the Tourism and Visitor's Bureau center facilities or visitor information centers; or (b) located elsewhere in the municipality or its vicinity that would be frequented by tourists and visitors delegates; \_\_\_\_\_
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- Sporting event expenses related to sporting event which substantially increase economic activity at hotels:** for a municipality located in a county with a population of 290,000 or less, expenses, including promotion expenses, directly related to a sporting event in which the majority of participants are tourists who substantially increase economic activity at hotels and motels within the municipality or its vicinity. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Signage:** Signage directing tourists from hotels in and near the city to: the commercial center of the city, a convention center in the city, other hotels in or near the city, and tourist attractions in or near the city.
  
- Transportation system for tourists:** Funding the costs for transporting tourist from hotels in and near the city to: the commercial center of the city, a convention center in the city, other hotels in or near the city, and tourist attractions in or near the city.

*(Answer the following three (3) questions only if sporting event-related)*

**If sporting even-related: How many individuals are expected to participate?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**If sporting event-related: How many of the participants are expected to be from another city or county?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**If sporting event-related: Quantify how the funded event/activity/facilities will substantially increase economic activity at hotel and motels within the City or its vicinity?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions for all Funding Requests**

**How many years have you held this event/activity?**

Since 1889  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Expected attendance:**

150  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How many people attending the event/activity/facility will use Stephenville hotels, motels, inn s or bed-and-breakfast establishments?**

All attendees  
\_\_\_\_\_



**How many nights will they stay?**

Most will be 4 nights, some will be 5 nights

**Do you reserve a room block for this event/activity/facility at an area hotel and if so, for how many rooms and at which hotels?**

LaQuinta Inn & Suites 105 Christy Plaza Drive | Stephenville, TX 76401 | Tel: 254.918.2444

Block of 30 rooms

**Please list other years (over the last three years) that you have hosted your event/activity/facility, and list the amount of assistance given from HOT funding and the number of hotel rooms used:**

Motel/Year Held	Assistance Amount	Number of Hotel Rooms Used

**How will you measure the impact of your event/activity/facility on area hotel activity?**

Entries by National Sale Consignors; Entries by National Junior Show Exhibitors; Registration of buyers at the 2024 National Rambouillet Sale; Registration of members at the 2024 committee and general meeting

**Please list all other organizations, government entities and grants that have offered financial support to your event/activity/facility, and respective amounts:**

Action Dry -- \$500

Tractor Supply -- \$1000

Hamilton Commission Company -- \$150

Keese International Wool -- \$350

**Please check all promotion efforts your organization is coordinating, and list the financial amounts committed to each media outlet:**

Paid Advertising    Newspaper    Radio    TV    Social Media    Press Releases

Direct mailing to out-of-town recipients    Other

What specific geographic areas do your advertising materials and promotions reach?

We advertise from coast to coast as the membership and producers of Rambouillet sheep are located across the country as well as Canada and Mexico.



**What number of individuals located in another city or county will your proposed marketing reach?**

We normally use print publications for advertising as well as social media. We do use some agriculture publications that do email blasts that reach 10,000 individuals

**The above application for HOT funds received for the City of Stephenville, and the explanation of how such funds will be utilized, is true and accurate.**

  
Authorized Signature

3/04/2024

Date Signed

This Pre-Fund Analysis must be completely and accurately filled out and returned to the City of Stephenville, Attn: Tourism Coordinator, 298 W. Washington St. Stephenville, Texas 76401, no later than **sixty (60) days** before the event/activity/facility. If the total amount of the HOT funds were not used or were not lawfully used, then those funds must be returned or repaid to the City of Stephenville with the Post-Funding Analysis. Questions may be directed to the Tourism Coordinator at (254) 918-1212 or email [tourism@stephenvilletx.gov](mailto:tourism@stephenvilletx.gov).