

STAFF REPORT



SUBJECT: Consider approval of Municipal Court Collections Contract

DEPARTMENT: Finance

STAFF CONTACT: Monica Harris

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting the Finance Committee to approve moving the contract for Municipal Court Collections with Linebarger Goggin Blair and Sampson LLP to council with a positive recommendation.

BACKGROUND:

When citations are issued, each defendant is given two chances to attend court to dispose the citation. When this does not occur warrants are issued; however, even that does not frequently result in the defendant contacting the Court to work on the disposition of the citation. As of September 30, 2022, Stephenville Municipal Court has 1,615 open citations with a balance of \$472,084.12. 1,024 citations are over 180 days old totaling \$322,466.62, which about 75% of those are anticipated uncollectible.

State statute allows for the Court to submit these cases for collection and the addition of the 30% collection fee added to the fines and fees as a pass-through to the defendant.

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY:

There is no additional cost to the City for these services, as the collection fee is added to the citation when it is sent to collections, but the fee is not paid until collected. Collection services should increase the revenue collected and/or disposition rate on citations issued.

ALTERNATIVES

Not approve the contract.