

July 10, 2020

Judge Barry Tidwell  
16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Dear Judge Tidwell:

Congratulations and thank you for applying for a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Court Security Grant Program in 2018. This initiative is a great example of all three branches of government collaborating to enhance the safety of Tennessee courthouses for you and for all who use them each day.

We received the Rutherford County's grant request for \$168,837.06 in June 2020. As we discussed, we are at the end of this grant process. This grant was first started in August of 2017 and additional funds were added for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The monies we are spending now have been rolled forward and we have actually allocated more than the \$4 million in the grant budget. We find that counties often do not spend their full grant amount (for example, in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, we made \$1,998,000 in grant allocations and received just over \$1,200,000 in requests for reimbursement). When this occurs, we reallocate the funds to another county. When the covid-19 pandemic started, we had just over \$864,000 in the court security grant fund. More than 30 counties have made emergency requests for court security materials – primarily video arraignment systems – since April 1 and we have been quickly approving and allocating these grant requests. We received five additional requests for video arraignment systems the day before we received your request.

At this point, we have closed the grant with your request. Today, I can provide you with a figure we can guarantee we will be able to reimburse Rutherford County. See the chart below. We anticipate, however, that all of the grants we have approved since April 1 will not be 100 percent funded. As I explained above, history tells us counties will submit reimbursements for less than the amount they received. I will not know an exact number until we close the reimbursement window, which should be in early August 2020. At that time, we will inform Rutherford County of the additional funds we can provide for your project, in addition to what is listed below.

Item	Amount Requested	10% Match	Total Approved
Radio system for courts	\$ 168,837.06	WAIVED	
			\$ 65,500*

*\*additional funds may be available in August 2020*

We truly hope that the above purchase will provide greater security for the judges, staff, and citizens who use your courthouse facilities. Please let Barbara Peck know if the arrangement described above is acceptable for your county. If it is, you may submit a request for reimbursement to Dalton Hensley, AOC Fiscal Services Director, at [Dalton.hensley@tncourts.gov](mailto:Dalton.hensley@tncourts.gov), or 615-741-6285 (Fax). Please include a cover letter that includes

the remittance address for reimbursement. Barbara Peck and Dalton Hensley will contact you in August to let you know the availability of additional funds. You may also choose to wait for one reimbursement in August. If you do not think your county will be able to work with the AOC given the circumstances, please let Barbara know.

Thank you again for applying for this year's court security grant. It is our pleasure to provide funding for these important security measures.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Taylor Tate". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Deborah Taylor Tate  
Administrative Office of the Courts