

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Mayor via City Secretary

RCA #

SUBJECT: Ordinance amending ordinance # 2008-806 to increase the maximum contract amount to Pay for Time and Materials costs by CourtView Justice Solutions (formerly Maximus Inc.).

Category #

Page 1 of 1

Agenda Item#

FROM: (Department or other point of origin):

Richard Lewis, Director/CIO – CITD

Sahira Abdool – MCA Director

Origination Date

December 1, 2009

Agenda Date

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE:

Council Districts affected:

ALL

For additional information contact:

Richard Lewis

Phone: (832) 393-0082

Sahira Abdool

Phone: (713) 247-4105

Date and identification of prior authorizing Council Action:

RECOMMENDATION: (Summary)

The Municipal Courts Administration Department recommends that City Council approve an amendment to Ord. No. 2008-806 to delete the spending cap, approve a supplemental allocation of \$405,000 for the remainder of FY2010, and require Council approval for subsequent supplemental allocations of Fund 2207 to the contract.

Spending Authority: Additional Funding (FY10) - \$405,000

Finance Budget:

SOURCE OF FUNDING: General Fund Grant Fund Enterprise Fund Other (Specify)

Municipal Courts Technology Fund 2207

SPECIFIC EXPLANATION:

BACKGROUND

The City of Houston Municipal Courts is the largest fine-only court system in the United States. Its mission involves the interaction of six City Departments, processing 1.2 million cases annually. In April 2003, the City contracted with MAXIMUS, Inc. (now CourtView Justice Solutions) to design and implement an Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) for the Houston Municipal Courts to migrate from paper to electronic record keeping. During the course of the project disputes arose that resulted in the City filing claims against MAXIMUS. As a result, the City and MAXIMUS representatives entered into Mediation. The mediation produced a tentative settlement, which the City subjected to a third party review to determine if the settlement was in the City's best interest. On September 10, 2008, Council adopted Ordinance No. 2008-806, approving a compromise and settlement agreement, by which the City was awarded \$5 million dollars, plus \$1.7 million in payables due to MAXIMUS, returning to the City \$6.7 of the \$8.6 million paid MAXIMUS.

After determining that there is no "off the shelf" software that meets Houston's requirements, Council subsequently approved a contract with Sogeti USA, Inc. in September 2009 to develop and design a unique case management system. That endeavor is expected to be complete during FY2012. The compromise and settlement agreement with MAXIMUS recognized that there would be a need to utilize MAXIMUS' services to some degree during the transition to a new system. To that end, the settlement provided that beginning June 1, 2008 that all work performed by MAXIMUS, Inc. would be based on time and material costs. The City was granted sole authority to determine and order the scope of any and all services and would not be obligated to any stipulated contract sum.

At the time of the settlement, given the City's relationship with Maximus and having not yet determined what alternative system would be used, it was extremely difficult to estimate what time and materials costs would be. The ordinance provided an initial allocation of \$2.3 million and authorized supplemental allocations up to a total of \$3 million. From the settlement to date, MCA has paid Maximus' successor, CourtView Justice Solutions, a total of \$2.7 million and seeks an additional \$705,000 for the remainder of FY2010, which is \$405,000 over the spending cap. The source of funding will be the Municipal Courts Technology Fee Fund (2207). This fund consists of the proceeds of a \$4 fee added to every Municipal Courts conviction, and which under state law may be used only for Municipal Courts technology improvements.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION

Richard Lewis
Chief Technology Officer
Information Technology

Sahira Abdool
Director and Chief Clerk
Municipal Courts Administration