



**ORDINANCE NO. 555-2017-04**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VENUS, TEXAS, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW NETWORK SERVER, COURT LAPTOP COMPUTER, TICKET WRITERS, COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND MISCELLANEOUS IT RELATED PURCHASES, TO PROVIDE THAT THESE PURCHASES BE MADE FROM DEDICATED COURT TECHNOLOGY COURT COSTS, INSTRUCTING THE CITY SECRETARY TO MAKE SAID AMENDMENT TO THE 2016-2017 BUDGET AND TO POST THIS BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE ONLINE AND TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR REVIEW; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Venus (“City”), Texas is Type A General Law municipality located in Johnson and Ellis Counties, Texas organized under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS**, the TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, Chapter 102 requires the City to prepare and adopt a budget annually;

**WHEREAS**, the City adopted the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget on September 12, 2016 by a recorded vote of the City Council (“Council”);

**WHEREAS**, the City has a duty to provide due process to people charged with Class C misdemeanor crimes within the city, owners of dogs facing dangerous dog determinations, owners of vehicles alleged to be junked vehicles, property owners facing a dangerous structure determination and those asserting property interests in lost, seized or recovered property – all of which are matters handled in the Venus Municipal Court;

**WHEREAS**, in this day and age, Texas municipal courts operate digitally and with advanced computer software and technologies – creating efficiencies and cost savings,

**WHEREAS**, the Venus Municipal Court assesses and collects a state authorized<sup>1</sup> court cost to every Defendant; a cost that is dedicated to the advancement of court technology purchases and system enhancements;

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<sup>1</sup> TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, Chapter 102, Article 102.0172.

**WHEREAS**, these dedicated court costs must be only used for technology enhancements and other technology related purchases directly beneficial to the Venus Municipal Court and not for any other general purpose<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, since adopting the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget, it has come to the attention of city staff and the Venus Municipal Court staff that a new network server, court laptop computer, ticket writers, computer software and other Information Technology (“IT”) purchases are needed to maintain the technological effectiveness of the court system and to increase the productivity of court personnel;

**WHEREAS**, court personnel and city staff have researched for the best pricing and vendors/providers for the above listed items; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds that it will be necessary to amend the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget, as adopted by Ordinance 439-2016.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF VENUS, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1. BUDGET AMENDMENT**

The City of Venus fiscal year 2016-2017 budget is hereby amended as follows:

Account Number	Fund	Account Name	Budget Amount	Requested Increase	Budget As Amended
10-5-0060-0497	10	Court Information Technology	\$0.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00

**SECTION 2. CITY SECRETARY FILING**

The City Secretary is hereby directed to file a copy of this budget amendment ordinance as required by state law and to post it online at the city’s web site for public review.

**SECTION 3. PUBLIC PURPOSE/NECESSITY**

The amendment of the City of Venus fiscal year 2016-2017 budget to provide funding for the new network server, court laptop computer, ticket writers, computer software and miscellaneous IT related purchases are needed and necessary purchases. The municipal court holds court sessions in the city council chambers. The court clerk relies on the use of a laptop at court settings, as her computer and equipment are not located at the city council chambers but back at city hall. Having updated, effective equipment is essential to her work duties and to provide faster, more reliable service to those we serve in the court every month. And, the evidence collection capabilities – namely the photograph capabilities of the ticket writers – allow the prosecuting attorney and municipal judge evidence collection that assists in solving

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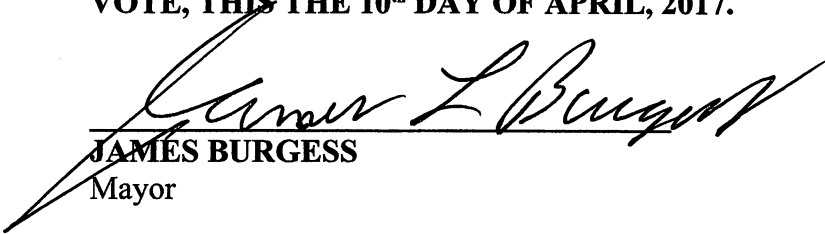
<sup>2</sup> TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, Chapter 102, Article 102.0172(d).

false identification/stolen identity related issues and trial preparation purposes. Council finds these purchases not to have been contemplated when the budget was prepared and necessary to act quickly rather than waiting until the next budget year. Council further finds that a budget amendment is required based on the direct advice of the City's accountant, Gilliam, Wharram & Company, P.C..

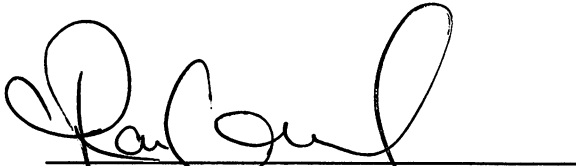
**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This amendment of the City of Venus fiscal year 2016-2017 budget shall take effect immediately upon passage by Council.

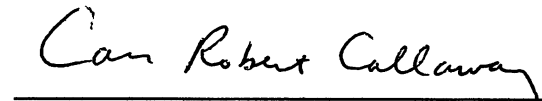
**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE VENUS CITY COUNCIL BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, THIS THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2017.**

  
**JAMES BURGESS**  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
**RANA GAMEL**  
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
**CASS ROBERT CALLAWAY**  
City Attorney

