

Salaries for sheriff's office employees must be given priority over other uses.

Counties awarded money for sheriff's offices must use the grant funds to:

- provide a minimum annual salary of:
 - \$75,000 for a county sheriff;
 - \$45,000 for each deputy who makes motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of their duties;
 - \$40,000 for each jailer whose duties include the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of a jail operated by the county;
- increase the salary of those listed above;
- hire additional deputies or staff for the sheriff's office; and,
- purchase vehicles, firearms and safety equipment for the sheriff's office.

Before it can authorize the use of the grant money for the other allowable expenses, **the county must first use the grant money to meet minimum annual salaries** of the county sheriff, deputies who make motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of their duties and jailers whose duties include the safekeeping of prisoners and the security of a jail operated by the county.

Counties may use grant funds to increase salaries for those listed in Local Govt. Code Section 130.911(e)(1) above the established minimum amounts stated.

If a sheriff holds dual offices in the county, the portion of the salary attributable to the sheriff's duties must be increased to meet the minimum salary required in Local Government Code Section 130.911(e)(1).

If a sheriff's office employs part-time employees or pays its employees hourly rather than salary wages, the office must pay an hourly wage that would be the equivalent of the minimum annual salary as per Section 130.911(e) of the Local Government Code.

Additionally, if a county uses grant funds to increase the salary of the county sheriff, deputy sheriff, jailer or any additional staff hired under Local Government Code Sections 130.911(e)(1), (2) or (3), grant funds may be spent for the associated benefits that are incremental to the increase in salary. Benefits that are not tied to the increase in salary, such as longevity pay, cannot be paid for with grant funding.

For the purposes of this section, the definition of jailer has the same meaning as "county jailer" under Texas Occupations Code, Section 1701.001(2)