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By Opinion Committee at 4:35 pm, Mar 24, 2022

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RQ-0451-KP

FILE# ML-49095-22

I.D.# 49095

ROBERT H. TRAPP
San Jacinto County District Attorney
1 State Hwy 150 Rm. #21
Coldspring, Texas 77331-0403

RE: Request for Attorney General Opinion-San Jacinto County, Texas

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

In a March 23rd Commissioner's Court Meeting, an item was raised to "give a pay raise for every position of the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Department". The current budget does not allocate funds for the proposed raise. The Court believes the only way to use either a fund balance or other special designated funds would be to declare an emergency.

We are requesting an opinion addressing the following issues:

1. Whether Commissioner's Court could grant a blanket raise to every Sheriff's Office employee in the middle of the budget year in the absence of an emergency;
2. Does high turnover and subsequent low staffing levels at the Sheriff's Office due to low wages constitute an emergency;
3. Can the County use the Care Act funds to fund a raise proposed above in the middle of a budget year?

If your office requires additional information to formulate an opinion, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert H. Trapp".

Robert H. Trapp
Criminal District Attorney
San Jacinto County, Texas