

Joint Order Adopting Fee Schedule for Court-Appointed Attorneys Providing Indigent Defense
in the Courts of Lampasas County

Effective November 1, 2025, fees for indigent defense by court-appointed attorneys adopted by the Judges hearing criminal cases are as follows:

Fee Schedule for Non-Trial Dispositions in Felony Cases (Cases filed with the court by indictment or information; Plea and Sentence, discovery and dismissal; motions to adjudicate/revoke probation)	In limited circumstances, for non-standard cases, the Court may authorize payment based on hourly billing in advance of costs being incurred.
State Jail/MTR/MTA/Dismissal	\$500 per case
3 rd Degree/MTR/MTA/Dismissal	\$600 per case
2 nd Degree/MTR/MTA/Dismissal	\$700 per case
1 st Degree/MTR/MTA/Dismissal	\$800 per case
Capital Murder Cases/MTR/MTA/Dismissal	No fixed fee, hourly rate only. See below.
Motions to Substitute (less than 30 days)	\$250
Motion to Substitute (greater than 30 days but less than 90 days)	\$350
Motion to Substitute (90 days or more)	Flat fee plea on highest level of offense
Additional cases for same Defendant	\$100 per case

Hourly Fee Schedule for Non-Trial Dispositions in Felony Cases:

The flat fee presumption applies to all non-capital defendants. Only with prior Court approval may counsel submit an itemized (hourly rate) fee voucher. A voucher combining hourly itemizations and flat fees will not be approved. The Court may approve payment based on an itemized fee voucher where the flat fee would be inappropriate due to circumstances, complexity, or other issues that are clearly beyond the control of the appointed counsel and the Judge finds that the fixed fee is clearly inappropriate for representation of the defendant. A request to itemize shall not be authorized later than the initial request for a plea, trial, or other disposition setting unless approved by the Court based on issues beyond the control of the appointed counsel.

Unauthorized itemized hourly rate requests will be paid the flat fee.

Counsel shall submit itemized invoices reflecting the date, service performed, and time expended to the nearest 1/10th of an hour, based on the fee schedule below, and up to the maximum cap.

*Fees in excess of the cap must be specifically approved by the court **in advance of being incurred***

<u>Non-Trial Dispositions in Felony Cases</u>	<u>Rate per hour</u>
Non-Standard SJF	\$75 per hour, with cap of \$1000 per case
3 rd Degree	\$75 per hour, with cap of \$1000 per case
2 nd Degree	\$75 per hour, with cap of \$1500 per case
1 st Degree	\$75 per hour, with cap of \$2000 per case
Capital Murder	\$85 per hour

<u>Felony Fee Schedule for Cases Disposed by Trial</u>	<u>Rate per hour</u>
First Chair	
Full Day	\$850
Half Day	\$425
Trial preparation hours	See hourly fee schedule above
Second Chair	
Full Day	\$450
Half Day	\$225
Trial preparation hours Defined as substantive contributions to the defense of a case.	See hourly fee schedule above

<u>Investigator Fees</u>	<u>Rate per hour</u>
<i>Note: Investigator fees will not be paid for time in court without prior authorization from the Judge.</i>	
1 st Degree and Capital Cases	\$75 per hour with prior court approval
All other cases	\$75 per hour with prior court approval

Investigator and Expert Expense:

When expenses for investigation or expert testimony are required, a motion must be filed with the Court requesting the appointment and payment approval in the same manner as Art. 26.052(f) of the TX C.C.P. Reasonable and necessary expenses including expenses for investigation, mental health, and other experts shall be reimbursed pursuant to Art. 26.05(d) of the TX C.C.P. If approval was not received prior to incurring expenses, then counsel may be reimbursed for expenses, if reasonably necessary and reasonably incurred. Investigators or experts must submit an invoice, statement, or other supporting documentation for authorized services provided. Reimbursement of authorized expenses incurred for purposes of investigation, evaluation, or testimony will be paid directly to the provider of services.

Pre-Trial Ex Parte Confidential Request for Investigative and Expert Witness Expenses:

Appointed counsel may file with the Court a pretrial ex parte confidential request for payment of investigative and expert witness expenses. The request for expenses must state, as applicable;

1. The type of investigation to be conducted or the type of expert to be retained;
2. Specific facts that suggest the investigation will result in admissible evidence or that the services of an expert are reasonably necessary to assist in the preparation of a potential defense; and
3. An estimate of the cost of said investigator/expert.

<u>Felony Appeals</u> <i>(A copy of the brief must be attached to the voucher for payment).</i>	<u>Rate per hour</u>
Capital Murder	\$85 per hour
1 st -SJF	\$75 per hour

<u>Fee Schedule for Juvenile Cases</u> <i>(Juvenile cases shall ordinarily be paid on the fixed fee schedule below).</i>	<u>In limited circumstances, for non-standard cases, the Court may authorize payment based on hourly billing in advance of costs being incurred.</u>
Felony case disposition	\$500 per case
Misdemeanor case disposition	\$400 per case
Additional cases	\$50 for each additional case
Trial	\$425 per half day
Motions to Substitute (less than 30 days)	\$250
Motion to Substitute (greater than 30 days but less than 90 days)	\$350
Motion to Substitute (90 days or more)	Flat fee plea on highest level of offense

<u>Juvenile Appeals</u> <i>(A copy of the brief must be attached to the voucher for payment).</i>	<u>Rate per hour</u>
Appeals	\$75 per hour with a maximum of \$1500.
	Fees in excess of this case must be specifically approved by the court in advance of being incurred.

<u>Fee Schedule for Misdemeanor Cases</u> <i>(Misdemeanor cases filed with the court by information shall ordinarily be paid based on the fix fee schedule below).</i>	<u>In limited circumstances, for non-standard cases, the Court may authorize payment based on hourly billing in advance of costs being incurred.</u>
Misdemeanor case disposition (dismissal, plea, revocation, or motion to adjudicate)	\$300 per case
Additional case	\$50, up to a maximum of \$100
Jury or Bench Trial	\$400 half day/ \$800 full day
Motions to Substitute (less than 30 days)	\$125
Motion to Substitute (greater than 30 days)	\$250
Non-Standard Hourly Rate	\$75 per hour

<u>Misdemeanor Appeals</u> <i>(A copy of the brief must be attached to the voucher for payment).</i>	<u>Rate per hour</u>
Appeals	\$75 per hour with a maximum of \$1500.
	Fees in excess of this case must be specifically approved by the court in advance of being incurred.

Attorney Compensation:

Appointed counsel will, unless authorized by the Court, submit a single fee voucher for all Lampasas cases at the time of the defendant's disposition or representation ends. If a defendant has cases resolved by separate plea agreements in both the District and County Courts, counsel must submit a fee voucher for the disposition of the plea or trial in each of the respective courts. Defendant's cases not addressed on the fee voucher will result in waiver of further compensation.

Attorneys who have performed significant legal work on rejected cases (not filed with a court of court), may submit a voucher documenting that work for a case-by-case consideration of payment of a dismissal fee.

Payment request shall be submitted no more than 30 days after the date the case is concluded.

If the Judge fails to approve the compensation requested, the Judge shall state the amount approved for payment and shall state the reason for approval of a different amount.

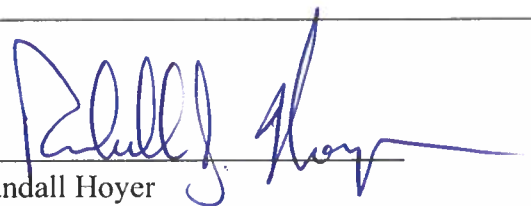
Attorney Payments will be processed in coordination with the Lampasas County Current Accounts Payable policies and procedures.

Mathematical Errors:

If the County Auditor's Office detects simple mathematical errors in pay vouchers, they will compute the voucher and pay it out based on the Auditor's office calculations without further approval.



Debbie Garrett
27th Judicial District Court
Lampasas County



Randall Hoyer
County Judge
Lampasas County