



FREMONT COUNTY ATTORNEY

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County Commissioners: Kevin J. Grantham, District One ~ Debbie L. Bell, District Two ~ Dwayne McFall, District Three

June 27, 2024

Via E-Mail at: lstanley@dallthjd.org

Dear District Attorney Stanley:

In reviewing expenditures from your office during your term, it appears that you have been paying legal fees incurred by you and other members of your staff for the defense of alleged ethical violations from your office budget. Legal fees arising from violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct are not costs “necessarily incurred in the discharge of official duties for the benefit of the County” and cannot lawfully be paid from funds appropriated by the County for the operation of your office. I am confident that you are familiar with the relevant statute and case law, but I include them herewith for your convenient reference.

You are hereby notified that payment of any legal fees from your budget on your behalf or on behalf of any employee of your office without specific and prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners is a misappropriation of public funds and is in violation of Colorado law. It is also taxable income and will be reported to all taxing authorities.

Please provide an accounting of all funds expended from your office budget for legal fees incurred by or on behalf of any prosecutor in your office, including you, from January 1, 2021, through the date you submit your response.

If a professional discipline case results in dismissal or a finding of no professional misconduct, you are welcome and encouraged to submit a request for reimbursement or approval of legal fees paid in its defense. Otherwise, the County intends to recover all misappropriated funds from your office during your term, or from you personally after your term ends.

Sincerely,

Eric Bellas
Fremont County Attorney

Enclosures

