



COMMISSIONERS COURT  
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER CO#142239

PAGE 1 OF 17

DATE: 12/05/2023

SUBJECT: **RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE FISCAL  
YEAR 2023 CHAPTER 59 ASSET FORFEITURE REPORT  
PREPARED BY THE CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court receive and file the Auditor's Report of the FY 2023 Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Report prepared by the Criminal District Attorney's (CDA) Office.

**BACKGROUND**

As required by Chapter 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Auditor's Office reviewed the FY 2023 Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Report by the Attorney Representing the State prepared by the CDA's Office. The report was electronically signed and submitted to the Office of the Attorney General on time.

Since no exceptions were noted, management elected not to provide a written response.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

SUBMITTED BY:	Auditor Office	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Kim D Trussell Kimberly M Buchanan
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**Kimberly M. Buchanan, CPA**  
Tarrant County Auditor



**Office of the Tarrant County Auditor**  
100 E. Weatherford, Room 506  
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0103

**Linda R. Castillo**  
First Assistant County Auditor

Phone (817) 884-1205  
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November 8, 2023

The Honorable Phil Sorrells, Criminal District Attorney  
The Honorable District Judges of Tarrant County  
The Honorable Tarrant County Commissioners Court  
Tarrant County, Texas

Re: Auditor's Report - FY2023 Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Report by Attorney Representing the State


As required by Chapter 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Auditor's Office reviewed the FY2023 *Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Report by Attorney Representing the State* prepared by the Criminal District Attorney's (CDA) Office. During FY2023, revenues from forfeiture funds, auction proceeds, and interest totaled \$845,882.58. Expenditures using state forfeiture funds totaled \$594,252.61. We determined that the amounts presented in the report were reasonable. The report was electronically signed and submitted to the Office of the Attorney General on time.

The CDA's Office records financial and non-financial case activities into the Time Matters database. Due to the volume of Chapter 59 seizures and forfeitures it is not possible for the auditor to inspect *all* relevant documents and supporting materials. The annual report focuses on two separate elements of the asset forfeiture process: financial activity and case activity.

1. Financial Activity: Sections I and II include monies under the control and custody of the CDA's Office. We reviewed selected cash transactions recorded in the database to supporting documents such as court orders, seizure reports, and receipts. We also traced cash transactions under the control of the CDA's Office to the County's general ledger without exception. Section VI includes expenditures made by the CDA's Office for activities related to the preservation, enforcement, and the administration of state law. We reconciled the amounts included on the report to the County's general ledger without exception.
2. Case Activity: Sections III, IV, and V of the report include non-cash assets, such as motor vehicles, firearms, and other property (i.e., TV's, PC's, etc.). On a test basis, we 1) traced the non-cash assets recorded in the Time Matters database to supporting documentation such as court orders and auction sales reports, and 2) performed a physical inspection of the assets under the control of the CDA's Office without exception.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Criminal District Attorney's staff during the review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

  
Kimberly M. Buchanan, CPA  
County Auditor

*Attachment:* FY2023 Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Report by Attorney Representing the State

*Distribution:* Ann Durfee, Business Manager, Criminal District Attorney's Office



# KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

## CHAPTER 59 ASSET FORFEITURE REPORT BY ATTORNEY REPRESENTING THE STATE

### Agency Information

#### Agency Information

Agency Name: Tarrant County  
Criminal District  
Attorney

Agency Mailing Street:  
401 W. Belknap St.

City: Fort Worth

ZIP: 76196

State: TX

County: Tarrant

Phone Number: (817) 884-1694

Agency Fiscal Beginning  
Month: September

Agency Fiscal Ending Month: August

### I. Seized Funds

**Do not include federal seizures and/or forfeitures on this form. This form is only for those seizures and/or forfeitures made pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.**

#### **Seized Funds Pursuant to Chapter 59**

*Funds that have been seized but have not yet been awarded/forfeited to your agency by the judicial system.*

A) Beginning Seized Funds  
Balance: \$2,544,032.79

#### **B) Seizures During Reporting Period:**

1) Amount seized by  
employees of your agency: \$0.00

2) Amount seized by other agencies: \$2,518,822.88

C) Total Amount of Forfeiture Petitions Filed for All Agencies You Represent: \$2,589,867.91

D) Total Amount of Forfeitures Pending for All Agencies You Represent: \$2,464,277.33

E) Interest Earned on Seized Funds During Reporting Period: \$112,319.67

F) Amount Returned to Defendants/Respondents: \$210,584.53

G) Amount Transferred to Forfeiture Account: \$1,941,849.62

H) Other Reconciliation Items (Must provide detail in box below): \$0.00

Description:

I) Seized Funds Ending Balance - This field will be auto-calculated when you SAVE or switch sections: \$3,022,741.19

Ending Balance-Mailed Form:

## II. Forfeited Funds

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### Forfeited Funds and Other Court Awards Pursuant to Chapter 59

*Funds awarded to your agency by the judicial system and which are available to spend.*

A) Beginning Forfeited Funds Balance: \$1,598,084.19

**B) Amount Forfeited For All Agencies You Represent and Covered by Local Agreement**

*Enter the total amount forfeited by all forfeiture judgments in your jurisdiction for the reporting year. Do not include judgments that are not yet final due to appeal or motions for new trial. Include interest that was forfeited as part of the judgment.*

1) Amount Forfeited and Transferred to all Agencies Covered by Local Agreement: \$1,167,788.01

2) Amount Forfeited and Received by Your Agency: \$774,061.61

3) Total Amount Forfeited and Transferred to all Agencies Covered by Local Agreement - This field will be auto-calculated when you hit save or switch sections: \$1,941,849.62

C) Interest Earned on Forfeited Funds During Reporting Period: \$71,820.99

**D) Amount Awarded For All Agencies You Represent Pursuant to 59.022**

*Enter the total amount awarded by the court for costs, forfeitures and money judgments pursuant to Article 59.022*

1) Amount Awarded and Transferred to All Agencies Pursuant to 59.022: \$0.00

2) Amount Awarded and Received by your agency pursuant to 59.022: \$0.00

3) Total Amount Awarded For All Agencies You Represent Pursuant to 59.022 - This field will be auto-calculated when you hit Save or switch sections: \$0.00

**E) Amount Awarded For All Agencies You Represent Pursuant to 59.023**

*Enter the total amount awarded by the court on lawsuits for proceeds filed pursuant to Article 59.023*

1) Amount Awarded and Transferred to All Agencies Pursuant to 59.023: \$0.00

2) Amount Awarded and Received By Your Agency Pursuant to 59.023: \$0.00

3) Total Amount Awarded For

All Agencies You Represent Pursuant to 59.023 - This field will be auto-calculated when you hit Save or switch sections: \$0.00

F) Proceeds Received by Your Agency From Sale of Forfeited Property: \$0.00

G) Amount Returned to Crime Victims: \$0.00

H) Other Reconciliation Items (Must provide detail in box below): \$0.00

Description:

I) Total Expenditures of Forfeited Funds During Reporting Period - This field will be auto-calculated based on your answers in the Expenditures section: \$594,252.61

J) Forfeited Funds Ending Balance (balance will be automatically calculated after expenditures are entered): \$1,849,714.18

Total Expenditures from Mailed Form:

Ending Balance from Mailed Form:

### III. Other Property

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#### Other Property

List the number of cases filed, pending, or disposed for each category. List as "pending" only cases where a petition was filed. List as "seized" only those seizures where a seizure is made by a peace officer employed by your agency. If

property is sold, list under "Proceeds Received by Your Agency From Sale of Forfeited Property" in Section II (F) in the reporting year in which the proceeds are received. Please note - this should be a number not a currency amount. Example 4 cars seized, 3 cars forfeited and 0 cars put into use.

**A) Motor Vehicles (Include cars, motorcycles, tractor trailers, etc.)**

Please note - this should be a number, not a currency amount. For example, 4 pending, 3 seized, 12 new petitions, etc

- 1) Pending for all agencies at beginning of reporting period: 101
- 2) Seized by your agency during reporting period: 116
- 3) New petitions filed for all agencies during reporting period: 116
- 4) Forfeited to your agency during reporting period: 136
- 5) Put into service by your agency during reporting period: 0
- 6) Pending for all agencies at end of reporting period: 81

**B) Real Property (Count each parcel seized as one item)**

Please note - this should be a number, not a currency amount. For example, 4 pending, 3 seized, 12 new petitions, etc

- 1) Pending for all agencies at beginning of reporting period: 0
- 2) Seized by your agency during reporting period: 0
- 3) New petitions filed for all agencies during reporting period: 0
- 4) Forfeited to your agency during reporting period: 0
- 5) Put into service by your agency during reporting period: 0
- 6) Pending for all agencies at end of reporting period: 0

**C) Computers (Include computer and attached system components, such as printers and monitors, as one item)**

Please note - this should be a number, not a currency amount. For example, 4 pending, 3 seized, 12 new petitions, etc

- 1) Pending for all agencies at beginning of reporting period: 1
- 2) Seized by your agency during reporting period: 22
- 3) New petitions filed for all agencies during reporting period: 22
- 4) Forfeited to your agency during reporting period: 3

- 5) Put into service by your agency during reporting period: 0
- 6) Pending for all agencies at end of reporting period: 20

**D) Firearms (Include only firearms seized for forfeiture under Chapter 59. Do not include weapons disposed under Chapter 18)**

*Please note - this should be a number, not a currency amount. For example, 4 pending, 3 seized, 12 new petitions, etc*

- 1) Pending for all agencies at beginning of reporting period: 121
- 2) Seized by your agency during reporting period: 140
- 3) New petitions filed for all agencies during reporting period: 140
- 4) Forfeited to your agency during reporting period: 160
- 5) Put into service by your agency during reporting period: 0
- 6) Pending for all agencies at end of reporting period: 101

**E) Other Property**

*To add a reporting box for each additional item to be itemized, click the "New Other Property DA" button. Please note - this should be a number not a currency amount. For example, 4 pending, 3 seized, 12 new petitions, etc. For each line added, you need to hit the SAVE icon in the Action column.*

Description	Pending For All Agencies (Beginning)	Seized By Your Agency	New Petitions Filed For All Agencies	Forfeited To Agency	Put Into Use by Agency	Pending For All Agencies (End)
Miscellaneous	68	351	351	91	0	328
Communication Devices	23	18	18	18	0	23
Jewelry	85	104	104	65	0	124
Electronics	39	71	71	40	0	70
Scales	1	0	0	1	0	0

## IV. Forfeited Property Received

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**Forfeited Property Received From Another Agency**

*Enter the total number of items transferred to your agency where the forfeiture judgment awarded ownership of the property to another agency prior to the transfer.*

- A) Motor Vehicles: 0



B) Real Property: 0

C) Computers: 0

D) Firearms: 0

E) Other: 0

## V. Forfeited Property Transferred/Loaned

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### Forfeited Property Transferred or Loaned From Another Agency

*Enter the total number of items transferred or loaned from your agency where the forfeiture judgment awarded ownership of the property to your agency prior to the transfer.*

A) Motor Vehicles: 0

B) Real Property: 0

C) Computers: 0

D) Firearms: 0

E) Other: 0

## VI. Expenditures: A - D

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### Expenditures

*This category is for Chapter 59 expenditures SOLELY for the official purposes of the office of the attorney representing the state - not for expenditures made pursuant to your general budget. List the total amount expended for each of the categories. If proceeds are expended for a category not listed, state the amount and nature of the expenditure under the Other category.*

#### A) Salaries

1) Increase of Salary, Expense

or Allowance for Employees (Salary Supplements): \$0.00  
2) Salary Budgeted Solely From Forfeited Funds: \$0.00  
3) Number of Employees Paid Using Forfeiture Funds: 0  
4) TOTAL SALARIES PAID OUT OF CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$0.00

Total Salaries from Mailed Form:

**B) Overtime**

1) For Employees Budgeted by Governing Body: \$0.00  
2) For Employees Budgeted Solely out of Forfeiture Funds: \$0.00  
3) Number of Employees Paid Using Forfeiture Funds: 0  
4) TOTAL OVERTIME PAID OUT OF CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$0.00

Total Overtime from Mailed Form:

**C) Equipment**

1) Vehicles: \$0.00  
2) Computers: \$13,428.97  
3) Firearms, Protective Body Armor, Personal Equipment: \$37,450.54  
4) Furniture: \$23,717.43  
5) Software: \$139,892.27  
6) Maintenance Costs: \$0.00  
7) Uniforms: \$0.00  
8) K9 Related Costs: \$0.00  
9) Visual Aid Equipment for Litigation: \$0.00  
10) Other (Must provide detail

in box below): \$0.00

Description:

11) TOTAL EQUIPMENT  
PURCHASED WITH  
CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This  
field will be auto-calculated  
once you hit save or switch  
sections: \$214,489.21

Total Equipment from Mailed  
Form:

**D) Supplies**

- 1) Office Supplies: \$25,792.95
- 2) Mobile Phone and Data  
Account Fees: \$0.00
- 3) Internet: \$0.00
- 4) Other (Must provide detail in  
box below): \$0.00

Description:

5) TOTAL SUPPLIES  
PURCHASED WITH  
CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This  
field will be auto-calculated  
once you hit save or switch  
sections: \$25,792.95

Total Supplies from Mailed  
Form:

## VI. Expenditures: E

**E) Travel**

**1) In State Travel**

- a) Transportation: \$45.00
- b) Meals & Lodging: \$1,066.40
- c) Mileage: \$1,243.19

d) Incidental Expenses: \$0.00

e) Total In State Travel - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$2,354.59

Total In State Travel from Mailed Form:

**2) Out of State Travel**

a) Transportation: \$0.00

b) Meals & Lodging: \$0.00

c) Mileage: \$0.00

d) Incidental Expenses: \$0.00

e) Total Out of State Travel: \$0.00

Total In State Travel from Mailed Form:

**3) Total Travel Paid Out of Chapter 59 Funds**

Total Travel Paid Out of Chapter 59 Funds - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$2,354.59

Total Travel from Mailed Form:

## VI. Expenditures: F - G

**F) Training**

1) Fees (Conferences, Seminars): \$93,549.37

2) Materials (Books, CDs, Videos, etc.): \$0.00

3) Other (Must provide detail in box below): \$0.00

Description:

4) TOTAL TRAINING PAID  
OUT OF CHAPTER 59  
FUNDS - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit  
save or switch sections: \$93,549.37

Total Training from Mailed  
Form:

**G) Investigative Costs**

- 1) Informant Costs: \$0.00
- 2) Buy Money: \$0.00
- 3) Lab Expenses: \$15,650.00
- 4) Other (Must provide detail in  
box below): \$0.00

Description:

5) TOTAL INVESTIGATIVE  
COSTS PAID OUT OF  
CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This  
field will be auto-calculated  
once you hit save or switch  
sections: \$15,650.00

Total Investigative Costs from  
Mailed Form:

**VI. Expenditures: H - N**

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**H) Prevention / Treatment Programs / Financial Assistance / Donation**

- 1) Total Prevention/Treatment  
Programs (pursuant to 59.06  
(d-3(6), (h), (j))): \$0.00
- 2) Total Financial Assistance  
(pursuant to Articles 59.06 (n)  
and (o))): \$0.00
- 3) Total Donations (pursuant to  
Articles 59.06 (d-2)): \$155,500.00

4) TOTAL  
PREVENTION/TREATMENT  
PROGRAMS/FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE/DONATIONS \$155,500.00  
(pursuant to Articles 59.06  
(d-3(6)),(h),(j),(n),(o),(d-2)) -  
This field will be  
auto-calculated once you hit  
save or switch sections:

Total  
PREVENTION/TREATMENT  
PROGRAMS/FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE/DONATIONS  
from Mailed Form:

**I) Facility Costs**

- 1) Building Purchase: \$0.00
- 2) Lease Payments: \$0.00
- 3) Remodeling: \$0.00
- 4) Maintenance Costs: \$36,854.04
- 5) Utilities: \$0.00
- 6) Other (Must provide detail in  
box below): \$0.00

Description:

7) TOTAL FACILITY COSTS  
PAID OUT OF CHAPTER 59  
FUNDS - This field will be \$36,854.04  
auto-calculated once you hit  
save or switch sections:

Total Investigative Costs from  
Mailed Form:

**J) Miscellaneous Fees**

- 1) Court Costs: \$6,730.81
- 2) Filing Fees: \$0.00
- 3) Insurance: \$0.00
- 4) Witness Fees (including  
travel and security): \$18,637.19
- 5) Audit Costs and Fees  
(including audit preparation  
and professional fees): \$0.00
- 6) State Bar Dues and Legal  
Association Dues: \$24,694.45

7) Legal Library Supplies and Access Fees: \$0.00

8) Other (Must provide detail in box below): \$0.00

Description of Other Miscellaneous Fees:

9) TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS FEES PAID OUT OF CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$50,062.45

Total Miscellaneous Costs from Mailed Form:

**K) Paid to State Treasury / General Fund / Health & Human Services Commission/ Office of the Attorney General**

1) Total paid to State Treasury due to lack of local agreement pursuant to 59.06 (a): \$0.00

2) Total paid to State Treasury due to participating in task force not established in accordance with 59.06 (q)(1): \$0.00

3) Total paid to General Fund pursuant to 59.06 (c-3) (C) (Texas Department of Public Safety only): \$0.00

4) Total forfeiture funds transferred to the Health and Human Services Commission pursuant to 59.06 (p): \$0.00

5) Total paid to the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to 59.06(k): \$0.00

6) TOTAL PAID TO STATE TREASURY/ GENERAL FUND/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION/ OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OUT OF CHAPTER 59 FUNDS - This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$0.00

Total Paid to State Treasury/General fund/ Health & Human Services Commission from Mailed Form:

**L) Total Paid to Cooperating Agency(ies) Pursuant to Local Agreement**

TOTAL PAID TO  
COOPERATING  
AGENCY(IES) PURSUANT TO LOCAL AGREEMENT: \$0.00

**M) Total Other Expenses Paid Out of Chapter 59 Funds Which Are Not Accounted For In Previous Categories**

TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES  
PAID OUT OF CHAPTER 59  
FUNDS WHICH ARE NOT  
ACCOUNTED FOR IN PREVIOUS CATEGORIES \$0.00  
(Must provide detail in box  
below):

Description:

**N) Total Expenditures**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES -  
This field will be auto-calculated once you hit save or switch sections: \$594,252.61

Total Expenditures from Mailed  
Form:

## Financial Professional Certification

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*After signing and pressing "Save", using your email address and password account access, and pursuant to the terms of service, you certify that you swear or affirm that the Commissioners Court, City Council or Head of Agency (if no governing body) has requested that you conduct the audit required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and that upon diligent inspection of all relevant documents and supporting materials, you believe that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of your Knowledge.*

Financial Professional  
Acknowledge Terms: Yes

Typed Name of  
Auditor/Treasurer/Accounting  
Professional/Preparer:: Kimberly M  
Buchanan

Title: Tarrant County  
Auditor



## Additional Signature Instructions

If you would like to have additional financial professional signatures, please click the "New Financial Professional Signature" button below.

Signature	Title	Date
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## Head of Agency Certification

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*After signing and pressing "Submit" using your email address and password account access, and pursuant to the terms of service you swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that you have accounted for the seizure, forfeiture, receipt, and specific expenditure of all proceeds and property subject to Chapter 59 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that upon diligent inspection of all relevant documents and supporting materials, this asset forfeiture report is true and correct and contains all information required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. You further swear or affirm that, to the best of your knowledge, all expenditures reported herein were lawful and proper, and made in accordance with Texas law.*

Do you acknowledge the above terms: : Yes

Year: 2023

NAME: Phil Sorrells

TITLE: District Attorney

DATE: 10/12/2023

Comments: