CITY OF PLANO
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

CITY SECRETARY'S USE ONLY	
☒ Consent ☐ Regular ☐ Statutory	
Council Meeting Date:	5/11/2015
Department:	City Secretary's Office
Department Head	Lisa C. Henderson
Agenda Coordinator (include phone #):	**Lisa Henderson, ext. 7551**

CAPTION

A contract made and entered into by and between the City of Plano and Lannie Noble, the Elections Administrator of Denton County, Texas, pursuant to the authority in Subchapter D, Section 31.092, of Chapter 31, of the Texas Election Code, regarding the coordination, supervision, and running of the City's May 9, 2015 General Election in the amount of $7,312.00.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

☐ NOT APPLICABLE ☒ OPERATING EXPENSE ☐ REVENUE ☐ CIP

FISCAL YEAR: **2014-15**	**Prior Year (CIP Only)**	**Current Year**	**Future Years**	**TOTALS**
Budget	0	110,000	0	**110,000**
Encumbered/Expended Amount	0	-30,617	0	**-30,617**
This Item	0	-7,312	0	**-7,312**
BALANCE	0	72,071	0	**72,071**

FUND(S): GENERAL FUND

COMMENTS: This item, in the amount of $7,312, is included in the approved Budget. The remaining balance of $72,071 will be used for other election costs.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Partnering with Denton County to provide for city elections to Plano residents of Denton County relates to the City's goals of Financially Strong City with Service Excellence and Partnering for Community Benefit.

SUMMARY OF ITEM

To approve a contract with the Denton County Election Administrator for the City of Plano Joint General Election on May 9, 2015.

List of Supporting Documents:	Other Departments, Boards, Commissions or Agencies
Contract	

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DENTON

JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES

THIS CONTRACT for election services is made by and between the Denton County Elections Administrator and the following political subdivisions located entirely or partially inside the boundaries of Denton County:

Town of Argyle
City of Aubrey
Town of Bartonville
City of Celina
Town of Copper Canyon
City of Corinth
Town of Cross Roads
City of Denton
Town of DISH
Town of Flower Mound
City of Fort Worth
City of Frisco
City of Krum
City of Lake Dallas
City of Lewisville
Town of Little Elm
Town of Northlake
City of Oak Point
City of Pilot Point
City of Plano
Town of Prosper
Town of Providence Village
City of Sanger
Town of Shady Shores
City of Southlake
City of Westlake
Argyle Independent School District
Aubrey Independent School District
Celina Independent School District
Frisco Independent School District
Krum Independent School District
Lewisville Independent School District
Little Elm Independent School District
Pilot Point Independent School District
Prosper Independent School District
Sanger Independent School District

This contract is made pursuant to Texas Election Code Sections 31.092 and 271.002 and Texas Education Code Section 11.0581 for a joint May 9, 2015 election to be administered by Lannie Noble, Denton County Elections Administrator, hereinafter referred to as "Elections Administrator."

RECITALS

Each participating authority listed above plans to hold a general and/or special election on May 9, 2015.

The County owns an electronic voting system, the Hart InterCivic eSlate/eScan Voting System (Version 6.2.1), which has been duly approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to Texas Election Code Chapter 122 as amended, and is compliant with the accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities set forth by Texas Election Code Section 61.012. The contracting political subdivisions desire to use the County's electronic voting system and to compensate the County for such use and to share in certain other expenses connected with joint elections in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapters 31 and 271 of the Texas Election Code, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, agreements, and benefits to the parties, IT IS AGREED as follows:

I. ADMINISTRATION

The parties agree to hold a "Joint Election" with each other in accordance with Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code and this agreement. The Denton County Elections Administrator shall coordinate, supervise, and handle all aspects of administering the Joint Election as provided in this agreement. Each participating authority agrees to pay the Denton County Elections Administrator for equipment, supplies, services, and administrative costs as provided in this agreement. The Denton County Elections Administrator shall serve as the administrator for the Joint Election; however, each participating authority shall remain responsible for the decisions and actions of its officers necessary for the lawful conduct

of its election. The Elections Administrator shall provide advisory services in connection with decisions to be made and actions to be taken by the officers of each participating authority as necessary.

At each polling location, joint participants shall share voting equipment and supplies to the extent possible. The participating authorities shall share a mutual ballot in those polling places where jurisdictions overlap. However, in no instance shall a voter be permitted to receive a ballot containing an office or proposition stating a measure on which the voter is ineligible to vote.

II. LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Each participating authority shall be responsible for the preparation, adoption, and publication of all required election orders, resolutions, notices, and any other pertinent documents required by the Texas Election Code and/or the participating authority's governing body, charter, or ordinances, except that the Elections Administrator shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of all electronic voting equipment testing notices that are required by the Texas Election Code. Election orders should include language that would not necessitate amending the order if any of the Early Voting and/or Election Day polling places change.

Preparation of the necessary materials for notices and the official ballot shall be the responsibility of each participating authority, including translation to languages other than English. Each participating authority shall provide a copy of their respective election orders and notices to the Denton County Elections Administrator.

III. VOTING LOCATIONS

The Elections Administrator shall select and arrange for the use of and payment for all Election Day voting locations. Voting locations will be, whenever possible, the usual voting location for each election precinct in elections conducted by each participating city, and shall be compliant with the accessibility requirements established by Election Code Section 43.034 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The proposed voting locations are listed in Attachment A of this agreement. In the event that a voting location is not available or appropriate, the Elections Administrator will arrange for use of an alternate location with the approval of the affected participating authorities. The Elections Administrator shall notify the participating authorities of any changes from the locations listed in Attachment A.

If polling places for the May 9, 2015 joint election are different from the polling place(s) used by a participating authority in its most recent election, the authority agrees to post a notice no later than May 9, 2015 at the entrance to any previous polling places in the jurisdiction stating that the polling location has changed and stating the political subdivision's polling place names and addresses in effect for the May 9, 2015 election. This notice shall be written in both the English and Spanish languages.

IV. ELECTION JUDGES, CLERKS, AND OTHER ELECTION PERSONNEL

Denton County shall be responsible for the appointment of the presiding judge and alternate judge for each polling location. The Elections Administrator shall make emergency appointments of election officials if necessary.

Upon request by the Elections Administrator, each participating authority agrees to assist in recruiting polling place officials who are bilingual (fluent in both English and Spanish). In compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, each polling place containing more than 5% Hispanic population as determined by the 2010 Census shall have one or more election official who is fluent in both the English and Spanish languages. If a presiding judge is not bilingual, and is unable to appoint a bilingual clerk, the Elections Administrator may recommend a bilingual worker for the polling place. If the Elections Administrator is unable to recommend or recruit a bilingual worker, the participating authority or authorities served by that polling place shall be responsible for recruiting a bilingual worker for translation services at that polling place.

The Elections Administrator shall notify all election judges of the eligibility requirements of Subchapter C of Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, and will take the necessary steps to insure that all election judges appointed for the Joint Election are eligible to serve.

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the training and compensation of all election judges and clerks. Election judges and clerks who attend voting equipment training and/or procedures training shall be compensated at the rate of $7 per hour.

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the date, time, and place for presiding election judges to pick up their election supplies. Each presiding election judge will be sent a letter from the Elections Administrator notifying him of his appointment, the time and location of training and distribution of election supplies, and the number of election clerks that the presiding judge may appoint.

Each election judge and clerk will receive compensation at the hourly rate established by Denton County ($11 an hour for presiding judges, $10 an hour for alternate judges, and $9 an hour for clerks) pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 32.091. The election judge, or his designee, will receive an additional sum of $25.00 for picking up the election supplies prior to Election Day and for returning the supplies and equipment to the central counting station after the polls close.

The Elections Administrator may employ other personnel necessary for the proper administration of the election, including such part-time help as is necessary to prepare for the election, to ensure the timely delivery of supplies during early voting and on Election Day, and for the efficient tabulation of ballots at the central counting station. Part-time personnel working as members of the Early Voting Ballot Board and/or central counting station on election night will be compensated at the hourly rate set by Denton County in accordance with Election Code Sections 87.005, 127.004, and 127.006.

V. PREPARATION OF SUPPLIES AND VOTING EQUIPMENT

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for all election supplies and voting equipment including, but not limited to, the County's electronic voting system and equipment, sample ballots, voter registration lists, and all forms, signs, maps and other materials used by the election judges at the voting locations. The Elections Administrator shall ensure availability of tables and chairs at each polling place and shall procure rented tables and chairs for those polling places that do not have tables and/or chairs. The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for conducting all required testing of the electronic equipment, as required by Chapters 127 and 129 of the Texas Election Code.

At each polling location, joint participants shall share voting equipment and supplies to the extent possible. The participating parties shall share a mutual ballot in those precincts where jurisdictions overlap. Multiple ballot styles shall be available in those shared polling places where jurisdictions do not overlap. The Elections Administrator shall provide the necessary voter registration information, maps, instructions, and other information needed to enable the election judges in the voting locations that have more than one ballot style to conduct a proper election.

Each participating authority shall furnish the Elections Administrator a list of candidates and/or propositions showing the order and the exact manner in which the candidate names and/or proposition(s) are to appear on the official ballot (including titles and text in each language in which the authority's ballot is to be printed). Each participating authority shall be responsible for proofreading and approving the ballot and the audio recording of the ballot, insofar as it pertains to that authority's candidates and/or propositions.

The joint election ballots that contain ballot content for more than one joint participant because of overlapping territory shall be arranged in the following order: Independent School District, City, Water District(s), and other political subdivisions.

Early Voting by Personal Appearance and voting on Election Day shall be conducted exclusively on Denton County's eSlate electronic voting system.

The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for the preparation, testing, and delivery of the voting equipment for the election as required by the Election Code.

The Elections Administrator shall conduct criminal background checks on relevant employees upon hiring as required by Election Code Section 129.051(g).

VI. EARLY VOTING

The participating authorities agree to conduct joint early voting and to appoint the Election Administrator as the Early Voting Clerk in accordance with Sections 31.097 and 271.006 of the Texas Election Code. Each participating authority agrees to appoint the Elections Administrator's permanent county employees as deputy early voting clerks. The participating authorities further agree that the Elections Administrator may appoint other deputy early voting clerks to assist in the conduct of early voting as necessary, and that these additional deputy early voting clerks shall be compensated at an hourly rate set by Denton County pursuant to Section 83.052 of the Texas Election Code. Deputy early voting clerks who are permanent employees of the Denton County Elections Administrator or any participating authority shall serve in that capacity without additional compensation.

Early Voting by personal appearance will be held at the locations, dates, and times listed in Attachment "B" of this document. Any qualified voter of the Joint Election may vote early by personal appearance at any of the joint early voting locations.

As Early Voting Clerk, the Elections Administrator shall receive applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail in accordance with Chapters 31 and 86 of the Texas Election Code. Any requests for early voting ballots to be voted by mail received by the participating authorities shall be forwarded immediately by fax or courier to the Elections Administrator for processing. The address for the Denton County Early Voting Clerk is:

Lannie Noble, Early Voting Clerk
Denton County Elections
PO Box 1720
Denton, TX 76202

Any requests for early voting ballots to be voted by mail, and the subsequent actual voted ballots, that are sent by a contract carrier (ie. UPS, FedEx, etc.) should be delivered to the Early Voting Clerk at the Denton County Elections Department physical address as follows:

Lannie Noble, Early Voting Clerk
Denton County Elections
701 Kimberly Drive, Suite A101
Denton, TX 76208

The Elections Administrator shall post on the county website each participating authority's early voting report on a daily basis and a cumulative final early voting report following the close of early voting. In accordance with Section 87.121(g) of the Election Code, the daily reports showing the previous day's early voting activity will be posted to the county website no later than 8:00 a.m. each business day.

VII. EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD

Denton County shall appoint an Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) to process early voting results from the Joint Election. The Presiding Judge, with the assistance of the Elections Administrator, shall appoint two or more additional members to constitute the EVBB. The Elections Administrator shall determine the number of EVBB members required to efficiently process the early voting ballots.

VIII. CENTRAL COUNTING STATION AND ELECTION RETURNS

The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for establishing and operating the central counting station to receive and tabulate the voted ballots in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code and of this agreement.

The participating authorities hereby, in accordance with Sections 127.002, 127.003, and 127.005 of the Texas Election Code, appoint the following central counting station officials:

Counting Station Manager:	Lannie Noble, Denton County Elections Administrator
Tabulation Supervisor:	Brandy Grimes, Denton County Technical Operations Manager
Presiding Judge:	Kerry Martin, Deputy Elections Administrator
Alternate Judge:	Paula Paschal, Contract Manager

The counting station manager or his representative shall deliver timely cumulative reports of the election results as precincts report to the central and remote counting stations and are tabulated by posting on the Elections website. The manager shall be responsible for releasing unofficial cumulative totals and precinct returns from the election to the joint participants, candidates, press, and general public by distribution of hard copies at the central counting station (if requested) and by posting to the Denton County web site. To ensure the accuracy of reported election returns, results printed on the tapes produced by Denton County's voting equipment will not be released to the participating authorities at the remote collection sites or by phone from individual polling locations.

The Elections Administrator will prepare the unofficial canvass reports after all precincts have been counted, and will deliver a copy of the unofficial canvass to each participating authority as soon as possible after all returns have been tabulated. The Elections Administrator will include the tabulation and precinct-by-precinct results that are required by Texas Election Code Section 67.004 for the participating entities to conduct their respective canvasses. Each participating authority shall be responsible for the official canvass of its respective election(s), and shall notify the Elections Administrator, or his designee, no later than three days after Election Day of the date of the canvass.

The Elections Administrator will prepare the electronic precinct-by-precinct results reports for uploading to the Secretary of State as required by Section 67.017 of the Election Code. The Elections Administrator agrees to upload these reports for each participating authority, unless requested otherwise.

The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for conducting the post-election manual recount required by Section 127.201 of the Texas Election Code unless a waiver is granted by the Secretary of State. Notification and copies of the recount, if waiver is denied, will be provided to each participating authority and the Secretary of State's Office.

IX. PARTICIPATING AUTHORITIES WITH TERRITORY OUTSIDE DENTON COUNTY

Each participating authority with territory containing population outside Denton County agrees that the Elections Administrator shall administer only the Denton County portion of those elections.

X. RUNOFF ELECTIONS

Each participating authority shall have the option of extending the terms of this agreement through its runoff election, if applicable. In the event of such runoff election, the terms of this agreement shall automatically extend unless the participating authority notifies the Elections Administrator in writing within 3 business days of the original election.

Each participating authority shall reserve the right to reduce the number of early voting locations and/or Election Day voting locations in a runoff election.

Each participating authority agrees to order any runoff election(s) at its meeting for canvassing the votes from the May 9, 2015 election and to conduct its drawing for ballot positions at or immediately following such meeting in order to expedite preparations for its runoff election.

Each participating authority eligible to hold runoff elections agrees that the date of the runoff election, if necessary, shall be Saturday, June 13, 2015. This date may be negotiable based on the Secretary of State's calendar for elections in 2015.

XI. ELECTION EXPENSES AND ALLOCATION OF COSTS

The participating authorities agree to share the costs of administering the Joint Election. Allocation of costs, unless specifically stated otherwise, is mutually agreed to be shared according to a formula which is based on the average cost per election day polling place (unit cost) as determined by adding together the overall expenses and dividing the expenses equally among the total number of polling places. Costs for polling places shared by more than one participating authority shall be pro-rated equally among the participants utilizing that polling place.

It is agreed that charges for Election Day judges and clerks and Election Day polling place rental fees shall be directly charged to the appropriate participating authority rather than averaging those costs among all participants.

If a participating authority's election is conducted at more than one election day polling place, there shall be no charges or fees allocated to the participating authority for the cost of election day polling places in which the authority has fewer than 50% of the total registered voters served by that polling place, except that if the number of registered voters in all of the authority's polling places is less than the 50% threshold, the participating authority shall pay a pro-rata share of the costs associated with the polling place where it has the greatest number of registered voters.

Costs for Early Voting by Personal Appearance shall be allocated based upon the actual costs associated with each early voting site. Each participating authority shall be responsible for a pro-rata portion of the actual costs associated with the early voting sites located within their jurisdiction. Participating authorities that do not have a regular (non-temporary) early voting site within their jurisdiction shall pay a pro-rata portion of the nearest regular early voting site.

Costs for Early Voting by mail shall be allocated according to the actual number of ballots mailed to each participating authority's voters.

Each participating authority agrees to pay the Denton County Elections Administrator an administrative fee equal to ten percent (10%) of its total billable costs in accordance with Section 31.100(d) of the Texas Election Code.

The Denton County Elections Administrator shall deposit all funds payable under this contract into the appropriate fund(s) within the county treasury in accordance with Election Code Section 31.100.

The Denton County Elections Administrator reserves the right to adjust the above formulas in agreement with any individual jurisdiction if the above formula results in a cost allocation that is inequitable.

If any participating authority makes a special request for extra Temporary Branch Early Voting by Personal Appearance locations, that entity agrees to pay the entire cost for that request.

Participating authorities having the majority of their voters in another county, and fewer than 500 registered voters in Denton County, and that do not have an election day polling place or early voting site within their Denton County territory shall pay a flat fee of $400 for election expenses.

XII. WITHDRAWAL FROM CONTRACT DUE TO CANCELLATION OF ELECTION

Any participating authority may withdraw from this agreement and the Joint Election should it cancel its election in accordance with Sections 2.051 - 2.053 of the Texas Election Code.

The withdrawing authority is fully liable for any expenses incurred by the Denton County Elections Administrator on behalf of the authority plus an administrative fee of ten percent (10%) of such expenses. Any monies deposited with the Elections Administrator by the withdrawing authority shall be refunded, minus the aforementioned expenses and administrative fee, if applicable.

It is agreed that any of the joint election early voting sites that are not within the boundaries of one or more of the remaining participating authorities, with the exception of the early voting site located at the Denton County Elections Building, may be dropped from the joint election unless one or more of the remaining participating authorities agreed to fully fund such site(s). In the event that any early voting site is eliminated under this section, an addendum to the contract shall be provided to the remaining participants within five days after notification of all intents to withdraw have been received by the Elections Administrator.

XIII. RECORDS OF THE ELECTION

The Elections Administrator is hereby appointed general custodian of the voted ballots and all records of the Joint Election as authorized by Section 271.010 of the Texas Election Code.

Access to the election records shall be available to each participating authority as well as to the public in accordance with applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code and the Texas Public Information Act. The election records shall be stored at the offices of the Elections Administrator or at an alternate facility used for storage of county records. The Elections Administrator shall ensure that the records are maintained in an orderly manner so that the records are clearly identifiable and retrievable.

Records of the election shall be retained and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Section 66.058 of the Texas Election Code. If records of the election are involved in any pending election contest, investigation, litigation, or open records request, the Elections Administrator shall maintain the records until final resolution or until final judgment, whichever is applicable. It is the responsibility of each participating authority to bring to the attention of the Elections Administrator any notice of pending election contest, investigation, litigation or open records request which may be filed with the participating authority.

XIV. RECOUNTS

A recount may be obtained as provided by Title 13 of the Texas Election Code. By signing this document, the presiding officer of the contracting participating authority agrees that any recount shall take place at the offices of the Elections Administrator, and that the Elections Administrator shall serve as Recount Supervisor and the participating authority's official or employee who performs the duties of a secretary under the Texas Election Code shall serve as Recount Coordinator.

The Elections Administrator agrees to provide advisory services to each participating authority as necessary to conduct a proper recount.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. It is understood that to the extent space is available, other districts and political subdivisions may wish to participate in the use of the County's election equipment and voting places, and it is agreed that the Elections Administrator may contract with such other districts or political subdivisions for such purposes and that in such event there may be an adjustment of the pro-rata share to be paid to the County by the participating authorities.

2. The Elections Administrator shall file copies of this document with the Denton County Judge and the Denton County Auditor in accordance with Section 31.099 of the Texas Election Code.

3. Nothing in this contract prevents any party from taking appropriate legal action against any other party and/or other election personnel for a breach of this contract or a violation of the Texas Election Code.

4. This agreement shall be construed under and in accord with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Denton County, Texas.

5. In the event that one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof and this agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

6. All parties shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and codes of the State of Texas, all local governments, and any other entities with local jurisdiction.

7. The waiver by any party of a breach of any provision of this agreement shall not operate as or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach.

8. Any amendments of this agreement shall be of no effect unless in writing and signed by all parties hereto.

XVI. COST ESTIMATES AND DEPOSIT OF FUNDS

The total estimated obligation for each participating authority under the terms of this agreement is listed below. The exact amount of each participating authority's obligation under the terms of this agreement shall be calculated after the May 9, 2015 election (or runoff election, if applicable). The participating authority's obligation shall be paid to Denton County within 30 days after the receipt of the final invoice from the Denton County Elections Administrator.

The total estimated obligation for each participating authority under the terms of this agreement shall be provided within 45 days after the last deadline for ordering an election.

	Estimated	
Political Subdivision	**Cost**	
Town of Argyle	$2612.21	
City of Aubrey	$2164.07	
Town of Bartonville	$3253.01	
City of Celina	$400	
Town of Copper Canyon	$3375.91	
City of Corinth	$4467.38	
Town of Cross Roads	$1921.18	
City of Denton	$20955.99	
Town of DISH	$2245.29	
Town of Flower Mound	$5587.85	
City of Fort Worth	$7963.91	
City of Frisco	$13598.56	
City of Krum	$4142.45	
City of Lake Dallas	$4153.88	
City of Lewisville	$4614.24	
Town of Little Elm	$4831.97	
Town of Northlake	$3252.12	
City of Oak Point	$2290.29	
City of Pilot Point	$3958.42	
City of Plano	$7311.61	
Town of Prosper	$400	
Town of Providence Village	$2477.77	
City of Sanger	$4316.84	
Town of Shady Shores	$4153.88	
City of Southlake	$400	
City of Westlake	$400	
Argyle ISD	$3969.88	
Aubrey ISD	$3596.67	

Celina ISD	$400	
Frisco ISD	$14227.99	
Krum ISD	$4740.63	
Lewisville ISD	$32,864.27	
Little Elm ISD	$6923.62	
Pilot Point ISD	$4949.63	
Prosper ISD	$400	
Sanger ISD	$5166.30	

XVII. SIGNATURE PAGE (separate page)

Revised 5.4.2015 (9:00 a.m.)

XVII. JOINT CONTRACT ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

IN TESTIMONY HEREOF, this agreement has been executed on behalf of the parties hereto as follows, to-wit:

(1) It has on the _____ day of _____, 2015 been executed by the Denton County Elections Administrator pursuant to the Texas Election Code so authorizing;
(2) It has on the _____ day of _____, 2015 been executed on behalf of the City of Plano pursuant to an action of the Plano City Council so authorizing;

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY DENTON COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR:

APPROVED:

_____
LANNIE NOBLE, CERA

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY THE Plano City Council:

APPROVED:

_____
Bruce D. Glasscock, City Manager
City of Plano

ATTESTED:

_____
Lisa C. Henderson, City Secretary
City of Plano

Approved as to form:

_____
Paige Mims, City Attorney
City of Plano