

ORDINANCE NO. O-19-15

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF GARLAND COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-16-54 ESTABLISHING A CREDIT CARD, REIMBURSEMENT AND TRAVEL POLICY FOR GARLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT”

WHEREAS, Ordinance O-12-52 established a travel reimbursement policy for Garland County Elected Officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance O-12-52 was amended by Ordinance O-16-54; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance O-16-54 contains conflicting language and requires revisions; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the County credit card policy and the Legislative History and determined that amendments should be made; now therefore, Ordinance O-16-54 is hereby amended and reaffirmed as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF GARLAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The Garland County Judge, Treasurer and Comptroller will collectively select a company to obtain necessary credit cards and establish a line of credit with that financial services institution or company. Consideration will be given to the financial services institution or company who can meet the general purchasing needs of the various County offices and departments, as well as the billing and payment requirements of the County. Credit cards should be issued with the County logo, if available.

SECTION 2. Each Elected Official will determine how many cards are needed for their office, not to exceed (3), and which employees will be allowed to use them. All credit cards issued must be logged out and in when being actively used. The Elected Official or authorized department head will be responsible to secure cards not in active use and to maintain a log of active users, including date logged out, purpose, and date logged in. When cards are logged in, all receipts for charges should be turned in with the card to be processed by the Finance Department. When cards are not actively in use, the cards should be locked in a secure location by the Elected Official or department head. All employees issued a credit card must sign an acknowledgement form recognizing their responsibility to comply with the County’s policy regarding credit cards. An Elected Official, at any time and without notice to the employee, may cancel credit card use authorization for any of their employees.

SECTION 3. The use of credit cards is restricted for Garland County Government to acquire goods and services which are appropriate for the conduct of County business. No personal expenditures are allowed with the County credit cards. Any such purchase will be considered unauthorized and the employee will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. The Elected Official or employee will be personally liable for their respective unauthorized charges.

SECTION 4. Each Elected Official is responsible for the use of the cards by their offices. The Elected Official is responsible to make sure that any charges are authorized County expenditures and that adequate monies are available within the department’s approved budget. No card assigned to one office

or department can be used to incur charges by another office or department except for Information Technology (IT), Maintenance Department, or Finance Department purchases made on behalf of another office or department. All credit card balances, shall be paid in full, within 30 days to avoid interest charges and late fees.

SECTION 5. Original itemized receipts for all credit card purchases are to be submitted to the Finance Department for processing, along with the entire credit card itemized statement. Itemized receipts should include 1) the date of purchase; 2) the name and address of the vendor from whom the purchase is made; 3) each specific item purchased; 4) the purchase order (P.O.) number authorizing the purchase, where applicable. Copies of receipts will not be accepted without an express written explanation by the Elected Official stating why the original receipt cannot be produced. The Finance Department shall not be responsible for obtaining receipts. Receipts must have itemized detail of the purchase as required in this Article. Receipts with the total purchase amount but without detailed explanation are not allowed. Purchases for which receipts cannot be produced or that are not itemized will be considered unauthorized purchases and may constitute grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination. The person that authorized the charge, whether an Elected Official or employee, may be personally liable for their respective charges, if the appropriate documentation is not submitted. Any late fees incurred as a result of insufficient or untimely submitted documentation shall be paid out of the responsible Office's budget.

SECTION 6. The Finance Department will submit a monthly report to all Elected Officials if their office has made credit card purchases for that month. Each Elected Official will be required to review and sign a form acknowledging that they have reviewed their office's credit card purchases. A report detailing credit card expenditures for the County will be submitted to the Quorum Court as requested by the Court.

SECTION 7. Maximum amounts established for purchases. The maximum amount for a single purchase on a county credit card by an employee is \$2,500. The maximum amount for a single purchase on a county credit card by a Department Head or Elected Official is \$5,000. In the event of a declaration of local disaster pursuant to A.C.A. § 12-75-108, the County Judge may double the limits established by this Section for the duration of the declaration.

SECTION 8. Contractual personnel are not eligible to carry or use County credit cards. County credit cards are the property of the County and must personally be surrendered to the proper Elected Official or Department Head upon separation from employment or when otherwise requested by the Elected Official. Employees placed on administrative leave or suspension will also be required to surrender their cards for the duration of said leave or suspension.

SECTION 9. Credit cards shall be kept in a secure location. Each Elected Official or department head will be directly responsible for the physical security of the card assigned to his/her office. Cardholders shall not permit anyone other than the cardholder to use the card for any purpose. Immediately upon discovering that a card has been lost or stolen, the cardholder is required to contact the Finance Department.

SECTION 10. No inventory items are allowed to be purchased with a county credit card without prior written approval of the Elected Official. A copy of the authorization for the inventory purchase

shall be provided to the Fixed Assets Coordinator, so that proper adjustments may be made to the county inventory at the time of purchase.

SECTION 11. Ineligible Uses of the County Credit Card. The following credit card transactions are strictly prohibited: charges that are for the personal and private benefit of the Elected Official or employee; cash advances; no-show charges for hotels and car rentals; conference/convention meals if already included in registration fees; first or business class airfare upgrades; parking fines or traffic tickets; clothing rental; laundry, valet, or dry-cleaning charges; personal or adult entertainment such as hotel room movies, newspapers, magazines, health club facilities, event tickets, spa services, etc.; repairs or towing of personal vehicles; expense for non-employee or non-elected official travel companions; mini-bar refreshments or other snacks; hotel telephone charges; and alcohol.

SECTION 12. Meals: County credit cards shall only be used by Elected Officials or employees for the purchase of meals when the Elected Official or employee is out of the county on official county business. The county credit card may not be used to buy the meal of another person other than the Elected Official or employee or other Garland County Elected Officials or employees. Meals provided in-house for work-related training or meetings shall be exempt from this Section.

- A. The maximum amount that may be charged to a County credit card for meals shall be in accordance with and based on U.S. General Services Administration rates in effect on the day of the purchase for the location of the purchase. Such rates may be obtained from the Finance Department prior to travel authorization. The maximum amount allowed for each meal shall be applied only to the respective meal purchase and shall not accumulate, e.g. breakfast funds shall be spent on breakfast only, lunch funds shall be spent on lunch only, dinner funds shall be spent on dinner only; they shall not be accumulated and combined. The amounts shall be per person and are exclusive of tax. Tips are allowed but shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the purchase amount of the meal as provided by A.C.A §14-14-1207. Tips not itemized on the receipt will be the responsibility of the Elected Official or employee.

SECTION 13. Registration Fees: Registration fees for conferences, meetings, etc., may be charged to a County credit card provided that a receipt and agenda is submitted to the Finance Department at the time of registration.

SECTION 14. Lodging: Fees for lodging may be charged to a County credit card when the travel is for official County business outside of Garland County. The maximum amount that may be charged to a County credit card for a single night's stay shall be in accordance with and based on the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rates in effect on the day of the purchase for the location of the purchase. Such rates may be obtained from the Finance Department prior to travel authorization.

SECTION 15. Reimbursement: If an Elected Official or employee uses their personal credit/debit card or cash to pay for expenses that would otherwise be paid by the County, that Elected Official or employee may be reimbursed if the receipt contains the items as requested in Section 5. The same spending limits apply to reimbursements as apply to the use of County credit cards; see Section 11, Section 12, Section 13 and Section 14.

SECTION 16. Travel: If an Elected Official or employee must travel for the County, receipts for expenses incurred, whether by County credit card or for reimbursement, must contain the items as

requested in Section 5. The same spending limits apply to travel as apply to the use of County credit cards; see Section 11, Section 12, Section 13 and Section 14.

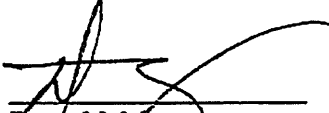
SECTION 17. SEVERABILITY. If any portion of this Ordinance or the application thereto to any person or circumstances are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 18. CODIFICATION. This Ordinance shall be codified in the Garland County Code of Ordinances and the Sections may be re-numbered and re-lettered to accomplish such intention.

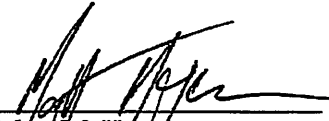
SECTION 19. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. This Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public property of the people and to ensure legitimate use of taxpayer funds for the conduct of public business. An emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

ATTEST: 

Sarah Smith
Garland County Clerk

APPROVED: 

Darryl Mahoney
Garland County Judge

SPONSOR: 

Matt McKee
Justice of the Peace

DATE: 4/8/19