

Policy on Tax Abatement and Other Economic Development Incentives for the County of Hamilton, Texas

Section A. Purpose

The County of Hamilton, Texas, (County hereinafter), is committed to the promotion of economic development in all parts of the County and to improving the quality of life for its citizens. In order to help meet these goals, the County will consider providing tax abatement and/or other incentives to stimulate economic development in the County. It is the policy of the County that such incentives will be provided to appropriate businesses in accord with the procedures and criteria outlined in this document. However, nothing in this policy shall imply or suggest, or be construed to imply or suggest, that the County is under any obligation to provide any incentive to any applicant. All such applicants for tax abatement and/or other economic incentives shall be considered on an individual basis.

Section B. Criteria for Tax Abatement and other Economic Development Incentives

The following criteria must be met for an applicant to be considered eligible to contract for tax abatement and/or any other economic development incentive:

1. An investment by the applicant of at least \$ 100,00.00 in property improvements is required. This shall include personal (capital equipment) or real property improvements. Tax abatement may be granted to owners of real and personal property for projects where real property is leased and special terms and conditions may be set in the agreement governing each specific tax abatement. Inventory and supplies shall not be included.
2. The project must meet the requirements of the building codes and other applicable County requirements and City Codes where in the city limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of the cities of Hamilton or Hico.
3. In addition to the minimum requirements stated above, the following criteria will be considered in determining what level of tax abatement and/or other incentives will be provided to the applicant:
 - a. Expansion of the local tax base.
 - b. Creation of permanent full-time employment with a minimum of 2 new employees and projected 5-year growth in number of employees. Tax abatement shall encourage employee benefits such as health insurance and allow the tax-collecting entities to request information during the term of the abatement regarding employee benefits.
 - c. The types and cost of public improvements (e.g. streets, water, sewer, drainage) and services (e.g. fire, police) which will be required of the City and County.
 - d. The types and cost of public improvements which will be made by the applicant.
 - e. The type of Commercial activity (e.g. office, retail, etc.).
 - f. The amount of time necessary to complete the project by the property owner.