



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Jim Gray  
Mayor

Janet M. Graham  
Commissioner

TO: Jim Gray, Mayor  
Urban County Council Members

FROM: Department of Law

DATE: May 7, 2012

RE: Westlaw On-line Legal Research Contract

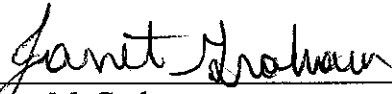
The Department of Law is requesting approval to amend its contract with Thomson West ["West"] for on-line legal research. The current contract price for on-line research is \$2641.32 monthly subject to a 2% increase at the beginning of each fiscal year. We are in the third year of this contract and it is up for renewal. The renegotiated contract price is a *decrease* from what we are currently paying Westlaw.

The renegotiated price will immediately decrease to \$1543.46 per month for five months with CLEAR at \$341.00 per month. Total monthly costs for five months will be \$1,884.46 per month. The Westlawnext platform will commence in lieu of Westlaw at the end of the five months at \$1,953.00 per month with CLEAR remaining at \$341.00. This will make our monthly total \$2,294.00, subject to 2% increases each fiscal year.

It is the general consensus of the Law Department that the West on line legal research is far superior to Lexis, the other legal online service provider. West is more recognized by and familiar to the Courts and Judges. West offers more legal research resources (that are recognized as the best resources on various topics) than Lexis. We were, however, able to use Lexis to leverage a better deal from West. West was willing to negotiate prior to the end of the current contract to keep our business. West is the larger of the two companies and offers a program called "CLEAR", a people search tool (which the Police Department also utilizes). The new contract with West will include CLEAR, which will improve Law's ability to locate people for service in lawsuits. After five months, West will move us to the Westlawnext platform which is an enhanced research tool.

In addition, this contract allows us to receive any book publications from West at a 50% discount. We have stopped the majority of all paper publications with a few exceptions. In addition, a non-availability of funding clause was incorporated into the agreement.

Although more expensive than Lexis, West, as indicated above, has the better product for the Law Department. Accordingly, I request your approval of these contracts.

  
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Janet M. Graham *by MKH*  
Commissioner of Law

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