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Chairman Randall Crocker
Franklin County Board
Finance Commissioner
Campbell Building
Benton, IL 62812

re: replacement of employee full time position

Dear Chairman Crocker:

As you are aware, my office lost a full-time employee at the first of 2018 and we have been filling his position with part time workers. I would like to fill that full-time position by promoting a paralegal who has been working part time in my office for over a year. Our case load has grown exponentially and we now have a murder trial that will need more full time 'hands' than I currently have to get ready for trial.

I anticipate that the full-time position's compensation will be approximately \$25,000.00 per year, however, since the employee will not be an assistant state's attorney, I believe that we will have to notify the union and negotiate the final rate of pay as this a new position, not outlined in the present contract.

I know that the county is still experiencing financial difficulties. This replacement will cost the county substantially less than the 1st assistant that was lost in January of 2018 who had a salary of around \$65,000.00 at the time of his departure.

At some point, I will still need to fill the full-time attorney position, but at this time I have not found the 'right fit' for the job. It may be appropriate to designate the new full time paralegal as 'temporary' so the county can maintain some flexibility in the event that we determine that a full time assistant state's attorney is necessary to fulfill our obligations to protect the public and effectively prosecute crime.

Please let me know the board's thoughts in this regard. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Evan L. Owens
Franklin County State's Attorney

cc: file