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Four City employees received \$125 each for a TIP that they submitted to save the City money.

Honored at the Sept. 15 Burleson City Council meeting were Margie Kallmayer, accounting technician with the City's finance department, and Terry Hambley, Lee Westcott and CaShan Clark, city marshals with municipal court.

Kallmayer submitted the winning suggestion to the City's TIPS program. She said that staff was asked to look at getting a courier service to replace the bank run service that has been provided by the city marshals. Two outside options were considered, but after taking a second look at the current process, the four were able to come up with a way to streamline the bank run service to minimize the time required by the marshals (no more waiting at the bank for the return of bags, deposit slips and requests for change).

"This would be the same service that we receive from an outside courier service, but without the added expense to the City," Kallmayer explained.

Mayor Shetter said, in presenting the award, that "anytime it involves handling the public's money there is a lot that has to be done to protect the safety of our employees and ensure the highest level of accountability to our citizens."

The TIPS program was developed in response to the council's desire to incentivize employees toward a leaner city government. The TIPs program is designed to motivate City employees and departments as a whole to share ideas and feedback and to encourage improvements in productivity, efficiency, effectiveness, safety and quality of government services. Suggestions that result in a monetary savings, increased revenues, improved quality of services or otherwise benefits the City and its residents are eligible for recognition and reward. There are three categories – Innovation (\$500 award), Process Improvement (\$250 award) and Distinguished Contribution (\$25 gift card).

Kallmayer was hired by the City in March 2010. She has worked in the finance department as a staff accountant and most recently as an accounting technician. She also worked as a customer service attendant at the BRiCk.

Hambley is the senior city marshal. He was hired in January 2007. Westcott was hired in January 2008 and Clark came on board in February 2013. The three handle arrest warrants and court security.

The first TIPS award went to a public works employee, Kevin Freeman, a traffic maintenance crew leader. In January 2014 Freeman was awarded \$500 for his suggestion to replace less cost efficient signal and overhead lights with full LED lights.

The second TIPS award went to Jay Hutchison, also a public works employee, in July. Hutchison is a utility superintendent. He won \$500 for being innovative with his TIP on streamlining the City's water meter installation procedure.

To see the TIPS reward presentation to the City employees go to the Sept. 15 city council meeting video at <http://bit.ly/1tYyj1C> and click on "Presentations."