MEMORANDUM

TO: BLOUNT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK – CHRIS CANTRELL

FROM: CRAIG L. GARRETT; J. SCOTT STUART

DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2025

RE: LEXIS LEGAL RESEARCH SYSTEM

The Blount County Attorney's Office has recently reviewed the current legal research platform utilized by the County through Lexis to determine whether access to new features may be useful for the County. Specifically, we have reviewed whether there would be a benefit to the County to shift from the current Lexis+ governmental package to the new Lexis+ AI governmental package. This review included a meeting and demonstration provided by our Lexis representative as well as a two (2) week free trial of the Lexis+ AI research platform.

After our review of the new Lexis+ AI platform, we are of the opinion that the County would benefit from access to this program. In addition to the current legal research systems we have, the Lexis+ AI platform would provide the following additional services:

- Fifty (50) state survey for laws and legal opinions: Currently, our governmental research access is limited to statutes and case law for the State of Tennessee and related Federal Courts (i.e., Tennessee District Courts, 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States Supreme Court). Frequently, however, we find ourselves reviewing new questions of law that have not been thoroughly addressed by the Tennessee Courts – such as issues with agrotourism – and we would benefit from being able to expand our field of research to see how other states and governments deal with these issues.

- AI assisted legal research search engine: Our current legal research search engine is based on key word searching. The AI assisted search engine would allow us to also search by asking questions or stating a general legal issue. The AI assistant then searches the Lexis legal database and provides a list of cases that appear to address the questions/key words/issues requested. The AI assistant also provides a summary of these cases that can be reviewed to more quickly determine whether the statute/case is relevant to the topic being researched. While we would certainly need to review these cases ourselves to ensure they are applicable, the AI assistant noticeably cut down on the amount of time needed to find relevant case law.

- AI assisted document review program: This feature would allow us to upload documents into a private server for document review. For instance, the document review program would allow us to upload lengthy pleadings and discovery and have the AI assistant provide a key word search of the documents and generate a list of pages on which the term(s) appears. The document review program can also provide a summary of documents uploaded. These documents are not made part of the general Lexis database but are kept localized to our system and confidential.

- AI Drafting features: This feature will draft documents based on legal research and uploaded materials. As an example, the program would let you upload a legal complaint and then draft discovery requests (interrogatories, etc.) based on the lawsuit. While these materials would be reviewed by the attorney, the drafting features saved time and integrated the legal research functions of the program directly into the drafting of legal documents. The AI Drafting can also be used to provide transcripts of audio files.

In summary, the Lexis+ AI with Drafting program will provide numerous additional features that will allow the County Attorney's Office to provide more in-depth legal research in a more efficient manner. While there is some additional cost with the program over our current legal research system, we believe the increased efficiency would likely offset those costs and provide more comprehensive legal services for the County. We would recommend the Lexis+ AI Drafting program be added to the County legal research materials. We would further note that Lexis provides an additional upgrade package (Lexis+ AI Drafting Create+) with more features and integration with the Microsoft Office program. After reviewing that program, however, we do not believe that the benefits of that program would be worth the additional costs.

Craig L. Garrett

J. Scott Stuart