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Texas Hoses Plan Taps First Independent Consultant

The \$40 million **Travis County** (Texas) **ESD #6 Firefighters' Relief & Retirement Fund** hired its first independent investment consultant last month, Board President **Scott Falltrick** said.

The plan selected **Robert Harrell Incorporated** to serve as its first independent investment consultant at a Jan. 26 board meeting following interviews with a total of seven firms in a search process that began in August, Falltrick said.

The plan narrowed its search to RHI, **CAPTRUST Financial Advisors** and **Southeastern Advisory Services**, opting for RHI with the presentation from the firm's Senior V.P. **Will Harrell** providing the difference, according to Falltrick.

"I felt that Will was trying to make that personal connection. Ultimately, everybody loved him the best and that was mainly the way he spoke and his confidence and his knowledge," Falltrick said.

The plan also interviewed **Dahab Associates**, **Graystone Consulting**, **PFM Advisors** and **UBS Financial Services**, Falltrick said, noting that the plan did not conduct a formal RFP process and accumulated prospective candidates based on referrals.

The plan was established in 2007 and received its first funding in 2008 with custodian **Frost Bank** having previously provided investment advisory services for the plan, which felt the time was right to move to a separate investment consultant, according to Falltrick.

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