



STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
JUSTICE BUILDING, LITTLE ROCK 72201

STEVE CLARK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(501) 371-2007

OPINION NO. 85-124

May 28, 1985

Honorable Lonnie P. Clark
State Representative
P.O. Box 307
Berryville, AR 72616

Dear Representative Clark:

This opinion is written in response to your request concerning city payment for the legal defense of local officials.

IN Hall v. Thompson, Mayor, 283 Ark. 26 (1984), the Arkansas State Supreme Court stated:

There is no statutory authority in Arkansas allowing payment of attorney's fees for public officials and employees when they are terminated or charged with criminal offenses. Even if a public employee is wrongfully discharged and subsequently ordered reinstatement, he is not authorized to collect attorney's fees from public funds.

The City of Eureka Springs does not have any statutory authority to pay for the legal defense of the mayor and city council members who were allegedly in violation of the Freedom of Information Act.

The foregoing opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by Chief Deputy Attorney General Rodney Parham.

Sincerely,


STEVE CLARK
Attorney General

SC/RP/ljm