

dead bodies. The church or charity would need to obtain the proper authorization to transfer the body to a licensed funeral home or crematorium before it could take action toward burial. Otherwise, the county remains responsible for disposition of the deceased pauper.

28. What if the county finds unidentified remains?

The county may dispose of the unidentified remains in the same manner as pauper burial under Code §716.101.

29. May the county acquire property to establish a cemetery for the burial of paupers?

Yes, see Question 2 above.

Veteran's Burial

30. May the county establish a cemetery for veterans?

Yes. The commissioners court is authorized to purchase burial grounds to be used exclusively for honorably discharged veterans who have served during a war and die without leaving sufficient means to pay funeral expenses, but only if there is not a national military cemetery or other military plot in the county where veterans may be buried free of charge.³²

31. May the county assist with the costs of burial for an honorably discharged veteran?

A veteran who dies without leaving sufficient means to pay funeral expenses may be buried by the county under the same circumstances as any other deceased pauper. There does not appear to be any authority, in Code §713.029 or elsewhere, for the commissioners court to provide additional services based on a deceased person's status as an honorably discharged veteran.

³² Code §713.029.