

Franklin County Commissioners Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Workshop Session  
August 1, 2024

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Workshop Session on August 1, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse located at 200 North Kaufman Street, Mount Vernon, Texas.

Members present: Scott Lee, County Judge  
Jerry Cooper, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Toby Godfrey, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Charlie Emerson, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Scott Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
Brook Bussell, County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Lisa Lawrence, Paris Tillery, Melissa Clawson, Yesinia Castro, Max Cannaday, Marla White, Chris Taliaferro, Craig Lindholm, Blake Sheffield, Ricky Jones, Gary Boren, Kathy Boren, Mary McLennan, Joel Dihle, Laurie Dihle, Brantin Carr, Janet Middleton, and Landon Ramsay.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Smith offered prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited.

Items discussed:

1. City Manager Craig Lindholm introduced the new Fire Chief, Blake Sheffield.
2. Judge Lee asked Yesi Castro if voting could be moved from the HUB side to the other unused side of the building.
3. Lisa Lawrence reminded everyone tomorrow is Watermelon Day at the library.
4. Budget –
  - Health insurance – increased emergency room copay. Leave the rest the same for now and explore alternative options in the future;
  - Retirement – increase county/employer match from 2.0 to 2.25, and increase retirees to 30% of CPI. Elective rate is currently 12% and will increase to 12.63%. Instead of 99% funded, we will be 92% funded. There are currently 41 active retirees and there hasn't been an increase since 2007;
  - NNR rate is .35228 and valuations are \$1.982B. That brings in \$4,612,683 to the general plus \$460K for Over 65 and Disabled for a total of \$5,072,000. With a 2% delinquent rate estimate, that leaves \$4,971,000.
  - Debt Services payment for next year is \$370,000;
  - Lateral Road & Bridge valuations are \$1.977B which brings in \$1,719,176 to County Wide Road & Bridge plus \$165,000 Over 65 and Disabled totaling \$1.884M;
  - Road & Bridge Special is \$333K with a net of \$326K;
  - Budget increases:
    - A. Health/Dental Life Insurance.
    - B. Portion of 8<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Court/DA costs.

- C. Utilities.
- D. Salaries – elected officials and 7% COLA for employees.
- E. PAWS - \$10K.
- F. CDL training - \$10K (\$5K reduction).
- G. Appraisal District budget.
- H. Retirement.
- I. Sheriff's Office deputy overtime. Cannot pay overtime out of SB22 funds.
- J. Volunteer Fire Departments – increased to \$20K for Purley, South Franklin, and North Franklin. Winnsboro remains at \$2K.

- Requests/items not included:
  - A. Maintenance – pull-along sprayer;
  - B. Airport – Community room roof and culvert repair;
  - C. Full-time assistant for County Judge - \$54K;
  - D. One part-time to full-time at the library - \$29K;
  - E. Part-time for Extension Agent - \$8K;
  - F. 3 full-time deputies for S.O. paid from Inmate Housing - \$254K;
  - G. Remodel existing JP's office on bottom floor for County Attorney and staff;
  - H. New windows for County Judge's office;
  - I. Possible remodel at S.O. when tax office moves out;
  - J. Installation of courthouse generator;
  - K. Awnings for the exterior doors on the bottom floor.
- Future needs/items to consider: Airport bathrooms, dugout awnings, and potential lease of sports complex.
- Sheriff – Fund 3 new deputy positions out of Inmate Housing. Would like to see the county eventually cover these if funds allow.
- Total revenue is approximately \$7.4M. Total expenses with addition of employee raises, elected official salary increases, increases to retirement, and a full-time assistant for the County Judge are \$7.6M, leaving a deficit of \$149K.
- Discussed whether or not to increase proposed tax rate. Leave as is for now.

5. Meet Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, to set proposed tax rate.

**Adjourn** - Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Workshop Session on August 1, 2024.

Witnessed and recorded this 5th day of August, 2024.

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk