

Franklin County Commissioners Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Workshop Session
March 10, 2025

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Workshop Session on March 10, 2025, at 2:00 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
Scott Newsome, Commissioner Precinct 3
Scott Smith, Commissioner Precinct 4

Members absent: Brook Bussell, County Clerk

VISITORS: Marla White, Marie Redar, Yesi Valenzuela Castro, Max Cannaday, Robert Zinn, Ellen Jagers, Paris Tillery, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, Jim Emery, Mary McLennan, Rick Thomas, Matt Downs, Josh Tucker, and Blake Sheffield.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Items discussed:

1. Tax Abatement Policy – The policy approved in this morning's meeting is null and void. It needs to be put back onto a future agenda and need a public hearing. Guidelines and criteria have to be approved every two years per Tax Code Chapter 312. Much discussion on whether or not to even have an abatement policy.
2. Sports Complex – Commissioner Newsome provided information regarding FCYBSA and 2D Sports. Concession stand equipment needs were discussed. Electric will be paid by FCYBSA and 2D Sports will reimburse them for their part.
3. 2026 Budget.
4. West Annex – push to get it finished.
5. Stove for the HUB – tentative installation the week of the 17th.
6. County Cleanup Week – April 4-12, 2025, put on next agenda.
7. Bank depository.
8. Phone and internet needs.
9. Courthouse generator.
10. Courthouse geothermal system – purge truck will have to come from the Houston area once leaks are repaired.
11. PAWS – tentative opening date of March 11, 2025.
12. Insurance evaluations – went up approximately \$4.5M.
13. Old fire training facility property – PAWS plans to deed back to the county. They do still currently have some kennels stored there. The property can be used for the county extension agent/4H.
14. Winnsboro Building – enlarge and improve parking area.

15. Fire departments – Discussed how \$200k will be implemented and how it will be split between the departments. Split equally and allow expenditures up to \$50k for each of the four departments. Purchases can either be reimbursed or the county can be billed directly. Need to get W-9s to each department. PCs are being ordered this afternoon. Departments need to be getting their priority lists together for the 2026 budget.
16. Cybersecurity training.
17. Storm damages at Precinct 4 barn – Everything that was damaged has been demoed. Waiting to hear back from insurance adjuster. All four personal vehicles were damaged and are not covered under the county insurance.

Adjourn – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Workshop Session on March 10, 2025.

Witnessed and recorded this 19th day of March, 2025.

Brook Bussell, County Clerk