

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 28th day of July 2025, A.D., the Commissioners Court met in a Regular Session with the following members present to wit:

Cindy Irwin	County Judge
Gary Alexander	Commissioner Precinct #1
Dwight Kirksey	Commissioner Precinct #2 - ABSENT
Ben Bentley	Commissioner Precinct #3
Chris Prock	Commissioner Precinct #4
Kelly Ratliff	County Clerk & Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER FOR REGULAR MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Judge Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Judge Irwin led the pledge and prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENT; 5 MINUTES PER PERSON (WITH SIGNED PARTICIPATION FORM)

None at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE COUNTY AUDITOR'S TABULATED REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS COURT PURSUANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 114.024

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYROLL

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE OFFICE EQUIPMENT AS REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENTS

ACCEPT CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION FROM ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REPORTS FROM ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS REQUIRED BY STATE LGC 114.044

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SALVAGE OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT 2024 FORD EXPLORER OR DISPOSING OF VEHICLE WITH TAC

Sheriff Langwell reported that he got ahold of IAA and they were going to send an official salvage bid and he never received it. He called CoPart and was directed to some place in New Braunfels and they do not show information for that VIN. TAC salvage value was \$5,000.00. IAA gave a salvage bid of \$12,162.00 and CoPart gave a salvage bid of \$13,408.00. After discussion they will continue to try and get ahold of these companies as well as the 3rd party vendor Alacrity Solutions. Gary Alexander made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock.

All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Documents have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ADDING COUNTY VEHICLES TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SAMSARA FLEET MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Judge Irwin and Lesha Krieg, Auditor presented adding all of the county vehicles on this program. Sheriff Langwell has his squad cars on this program. The program provides GPS tracking with the ability to upload digital fuel receipts, fuel usage, idle times, maintenance alerts and codes the vehicle may show. Sheriff Langwell currently uses this program for his squad cars. This would be beneficial for all county vehicles to make sure all vehicles are routinely maintained, and we know how they are being used. There are 2 packages, one for routine vehicles and one for heavy equipment only. If the heavy equipment is out of the manufacturer's warranty this could be helpful. Based on our asset list the cost would be \$173.40. per device for each powered asset we own and \$234 per device for each vehicle we own roughly totaling \$12,759.00 per year for the additional vehicles and equipment. Commissioner Bentley asked who the contact will be. Ms. Krieg said there are permissions within the system to give Department Heads/Supervisors/Commissioners permission to view data for specific equipment/vehicles. Samsara provides a trial period. Looking to start this effective October 1, 2025. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Samsara Overview has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PER DIEM AMOUNTS FOR TRAVEL

Judge Irwin presented the 2025 per diem rates for Texas. After discussion they decided to increase the meal per diem to the Standard Rate. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the Standard Rate of \$16 for breakfast, \$19 for lunch and \$28 for dinner effective immediately, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Documents have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE OPTING IN TO THE PURDUE/SACKLER OPIOD SETTLEMENT

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Documents have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ARP GRANT PROJECTS

ARP Updates:

Commissioner Bentley reported that the Stinnett Annex parking lot lights are completed.

Commissioner Prock reported that the Borger Library project is complete.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Alan Wells, EMC, reported that the drought index is 36-280. No action taken at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REQUESTS FOR USE OF CLUBROOMS AT BORGER LIBRARY OR FRITCH

Chris Prock had no requests for the Borger Library Clubroom.

Chris Prock submitted a schedule on behalf of Dwight Kirksey through 8/30/2025 for the Fritch Library Clubroom. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE LINE ITEM CHANGES, TRANSFERS, AND/OR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item to include moving \$359,000.00 from Hutchinson County Relief Fund back to the General Fund, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Order has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ADVERTISING, OPENING, ACCEPTING OR AWARDING BIDS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Ashey Keeney, Museum Director, presented donations to the Hutchinson County Historical Museum. \$100.00 Crown Supply, \$20.00 Sue Hooten, \$500.00 Dr YiantSou totaling \$620.00. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Presentation has been made part of the minutes.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Judge Irwin reported she and Commissioner Bentley have discussed some structural issues and repairs that need to take place with the Courthouse. The Texas Historical Commission has grant funding that we can apply for starting in September. They advised us that Hutchinson County does qualify for the grant application due to having an updated Master Plan. If approved, it will be awarded July 2026.

Commissioner Alexander reported that No Smoking/Vaping, No Pets and No Soliciting signs have been posted at the Borger Annex.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SALE OF STRUCK OFF TAX PROPERTIES AND TAX DEEDS

None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY) SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS) SECTION 551.076 (DELIBERATIONS ABOUT SECURITY DEVICES)

Convened into Executive Session 10:02 a.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvened into Regular Session 11:14 a.m.

Ben Bentley made a motion to raise Richard Hein's salary to \$80,000.00 effective immediately, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Chris Prock made a motion for the Sheriff to pursue the purchase of in-car laptops through a state CO-OP and if not available to go out for formal bid, funds taken from contingency, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR BUDGET YEAR 2025-2026

County Clerk budget. Kelly Ratliff, County Clerk, reported there will be a reduction in the Salary line item due to having one Deputy I, requesting to raise Tami Brown to Deputy II salary and there are 2 new employees at the Deputy III starting salary at a lower rate. Requesting an increase in the Postage line item totaling \$3,000.00 due to the County Attorney and County Judge advising they will be holding additional jury trials this year. Mr. Ratliff would like to reduce her Bond line item back down to the recommended \$252.00. Also, after speaking with Richard Hein about computer needs in the office the Computer Expense line item can be reduced to \$500.00. No questions.

Elections budget. Kelly Ratliff, County Clerk, requested a reduction in Election Workers line item to \$40,000.00. This line item was increased this budget year due to staffing up for the Presidential Election and planning for a potential Run Off Election. Requesting an increase in Training & Education line item totaling \$4,500.00 for Election Trainings provided by SOS, TAC and TACEO. Ms. Ratliff reported an Executive Order that will be voted on in September, potentially removing all barcode technology from election equipment. If this passes with no grace

period, we could have to order more paper ballots so she would like to keep the Ballot Expense line item at \$15,000.00. Also, if this passes, we will need new equipment when it becomes available due to the removal of barcode technology. If a grant is provided to assist with this the county portion could be 20% of \$96,543.00 in equipment rounding to \$20,000.00 to budget for. This includes a possible reduction in equipment needed due to HB 2753 that passed introducing a Voting Period of 13 consecutive days. SOS will advise soon on this HB as this is a high priority. I would like to start the process and purchase 5 DS300 tabulator machines that will work with the new Expressvote 3 ballot marking devices (no barcodes) with trade of our existing DS200 tabulators. She is requesting \$60,000.00 in her Equipment line item for this. It was decided if the Executive Order passes, she will come back to Commissioner Court and request this from contingency. Agreed to put this line item back to \$3,500.00. No further questions.

District Clerk budget. Judge Irwin reported for Tammy McBrayer, District Clerk, she had no changes to the recommended budget.

Tax Assessor/Collector budget. Carrie Kimmell, Tax Assessor, requested to increase Jessica West and Amber Ortiz to Deputy II salary. No further questions.

Treasurer budget. Amy Back, Treasurer, reported she reduced the Training & Education line item to \$4,000.00, reduced Bonds line item to \$50.00 and reduced Dues line item to \$315.00. No further questions.

Ms. Back wanted to suggest a raise for the part-time employees with the county from \$12.50 up to \$16.00. All agreed. No further questions.

Auditor budget. Lesha Krieg, Auditor, reported she reduced the Postage line item to \$100.00, increased Training & Education line item so both auditor & assistant can attend Spring & Fall conferences to \$7,000.00, reduced Dues line item to \$255.00, reduced Computer Support & Maint. to \$19,000.00 and requesting an increase in the Computer Exp. line item for a laptop and a heavy duty MICR printer. No further questions.

Information Technology budget. Richard Hein, IT Director, reported that he has only been with the county for a few months, so he left many of the accounts the same. He would like Ms. Krieg to double check the \$130,000.00 Tyler expense within the Renewal Services line item to make sure that it is accurate and if not get that corrected. He is requesting \$305,750.00 in total Renewal Services line item which is an increase of \$54,750.00 due to being short this year and having to move from contingency. Mr. Krieg recommended \$302,550.00, a reduction of \$3,200.00 for the Camera Server license to come out of Courthouse Security and not IT Renewal Services line item. He is requesting \$17,000.00 in the Equipment line item for 2 new Camera Servers, Replacement of POE Switches and WIFI replacement. After discussion, leaving Fuel line item at \$3,000.00. No further questions.

Airport budget. Judge Irwin reported for Baltazar Medrano, Airport Manager, he had no changes to the recommended budget. Ms. Krieg suggested reducing the Fuel Expense line item to \$2,600.00. All agreed. No further questions.

Museum budget. Ashley Keeney, Museum Director, reported she has only been in the position for 6 months now, so the budget is still new to her. She did question the recommended budget for Copier Exp. line item being lowered. Ms. Krieg will check into this. Ms. Keeney is requesting to add \$300.00 to the Membership & Dues line item to become a member of the Texas Association of Museums and American Alliance of Museums which allows for beneficial trainings. No further questions.

Library budget. Judge Irwin reported for Nancy Criswell, Library Director, she requested an increase in the Copier Exp. line item to \$3,300.00 due to an increase in the children's programs, increase in the Children's Programs line item to \$1,000.00 due to an increase in attendance and increase in Training Education line item to \$2,500.00 due to additional training for grant requirements. No further questions.

Juvenile Probation budget. Jeremy Sharp reported taking \$2,600.00 from Detention line item and moving it to the Counseling line item making it \$37,000.00. Ms. Krieg explained the Bond line item was reduced to \$350.00 to be in line with the bond cost. No change to Fuel line item at

\$3,100.00. Commissioner Prock questioned the Detention line item of \$115,100.00 as previous years actuals have not come close to this. Mr. Sharp explained that they apply for State and Regional Funding that offsets this line item when approved. It is a costly line item including Psych, meds, beds and placements that vary. He also applies for emergent money that can off set this line item when approved. Ms. Krieg suggested no transfers allowed from this fund. After discussion it was suggested to reduce the Detention line item to \$80,000.00 and request contingency if needed with plans to revisit it next year. Mr. Sharp will present this to the Juvenile Board for approval.

Adult Probation budget. Judge Irwin reported for Jennifer Rhoden she was ok with the recommended budget.

County Extension Agent budget. Racheal Oeleis, Agent reported the Ag Agent position has been posted with AgriLife internally as of June 23rd. She requested an increase to \$2,100.00 to the Supplies, Home Economist line item due to a cut in federal grant funding. Reducing Fuel & Oil line item back to \$2,300.00. No further questions.

Sheriff budget. Sheriff Langwell presented his Budget Change Request Summary. This summary has been made part of the minutes. Office Supplies line item, he requested it to be increased to \$8,000.00 after discussion is leaving it at \$5,000.00 recommended budget. Moving \$5,000.00 from Training and Education line item to Travel and Lodging line item so the Travel and Education line item is \$5,000.00 and Travel and Lodging line item is \$16,000.00 this change is reflected on the recommended budget. Computer Expense line item reduced to \$2,500.00. No change to Fuel line item. No further questions.

Jail budget. Sheriff Langwell presented his Budget Change Request Summary. This summary has been made part of the minutes. Travel & Lodging line item was created with \$4,000.00, Training & Education line item is \$6,000.00 making it a total of \$10,000.00 for travel as reflected on the recommended budget. Employee Medical line item was also created with \$1,500.00. Office Supplies he requested an increase to \$3,500.00 after discussion is leaving it at \$2,500.00 as recommended. Copier Exp. line item reduced to \$2,000.00 as recommended. The Sheriff asked why there are 3 supply line items, he would prefer it just be in one Jail Supply line item. All agreed. Ms. Krieg asked about the \$1,500.00 increase to Computer Support & Maint. line item, he said it is an annual service for the camera server, and he will get more info to her in regard to that. No change to Fuel line item. No further questions.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 budget. Judge Wysong reported that she has no changes to the recommended budget.

Maintenance budget. Ms. Krieg, Auditor, advised the Commissioners the Janitor Salary line items will be adjusted and with any new rates for part-time employees up to \$16.00. She will just need an estimate of hours the janitors are working per week, and she can get the budget adjusted. Commissioner Bentley confirmed Jan. Supplies, Stinnett Annex can be zeroed out. Commissioner Alexander requested an increase of \$5,000.00 in the Maint. & Equip., Annex line item for new flooring in the rooms in Adult Probation and a carport that needs to be repaired. It was suggested to complete some of that within this budget considering there is money left in this line item. Training & Edu-Pct 1, 2 and 4 increase to \$3,500.00. Capital Imp., Annex it was discussed to take the \$40,000.00 out of the recommended budget for possible county portion of a grant for the Annex generator and pull from contingency if we receive the grant, putting this line item at \$20,000.00. Capital Improvements are for planned projects. Capital Imp., Crt. Hse. line item reduced to \$75,000.00. Capital Imp., Stinnett Annex line item, Commissioner Bentley presented a cost estimate for planned renovation project for the Stinnett Annex it was decided to increase this line item to \$225,000.00. The cost estimate for the planned renovation project for Stinnett Annex has been made part of the minutes. No further questions.

Non-Departmental budget. Judge Irwin reported, Retired Employee's Insurance line item was reduced to \$70,000.00, Death Benefit line item was reduced to \$30,000.00, State Court Costs line item reduced to \$115,000.00, Safety Program reduced to \$2,000.00 and Health and Wellment line item was reduced to \$1,500.00 as the recommended budget reflects. No further questions.

County Welfare budget. Judge Irwin reported, Burial Aid line item reduced to \$12,000.00 as the recommended budget reflects. No further questions.

Child Welfare budget. No changes and they will be here August 11th.

Fire Protection budget. Judge Irwin and Alan Wells, EMC reported at one time we had a contract with Skellytown for fire protection, but they are in Carson County and not associated with a municipality we found out we can't give them money and Borger absorbed their response area. The Emergency Services District was just put in place in Carson County and is interested in contracting with us for the East side of the county. Hutchinson County Attorney has researched and said this can be done, Health and Safety Code Chapter 775.0366. Mr. Wells would like to add a Skellytown Support line item for \$15,000.00 in anticipation of this being approved and the contract signed. They would go back out and evaluate the response area. Crutch Ranch took over some of the Skellytown area but only support wildland fires, if their funding was increased for taking over Skellytown it may need to be reduced back down. After discussion they would like to see the response areas if we are paying for this support and resolve any dispatch issues to be presented in the next budget workshop.

Lesha Krieg, Auditor asked how they would like the raise options for county employees, and they advised they would like the same options and scenarios as they were presented with before. Agreed.

Proposed tax rate and Proposed Budget will need to be approved August 11th.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gary Alexander made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Adjourn 1:25 p.m.




CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:


KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK