

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 27th day of April 2026, 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
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. Ben Bentley 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 DONATION OF FIRE SHELTERS AND USE AGREEMENT WITH LEPC

Brandon Strobe, LEPC Chair, presented the need for the county to have updated fire shelters. The county has fire shelters dated from 1988 and can lose their quality, they need to be replaced. Mr. Strobe went to the LEPC Board and asked for \$5,000.00 to help donate 8 Fire Shelters to the county for Road and Bridge. These are quick deploy shelters that if a maintainer gets stuck and caught up in a fire they can put on these fire-resistant suits, giving them protection inside the vehicle or piece of equipment. Craig Jones, County Attorney, has reviewed this Donation and Use Agreement and approves. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda

item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE AIRPORT MANAGER APPLYING FOR A DEPREDATION PERMIT WITH TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Baltazar Medrano, Airport Manager, presented this Depredation Permit Application, it is \$250.00 to apply – nonrefundable. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issues depredation permits to individuals who have evidence showing that protected wildlife is causing serious damage or poses a threat to public safety such as on the airport runway. Commissioner Alexander said the Airport Board wants to have a professional hunter do this. The airport does have a game fence, but the deer still jump over the fence or get on the property in some way. If the animal must be put down this permit covers us. Lesha Krieg, Auditor printed out some additional information if the permit is approved such as if any game animal is killed under the authority of this permit must be immediately field dressed, maintained in edible condition, and donated as well as reports that must be filed with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Commissioner Prock asked how Texas Parks and Wildlife regulates this with FFA requirements. What Mr. Medrano has read is that it's at the airport's discretion. Judge Irwin said the Depredation Permit info does state permits to kill protected wildlife causing serious damage to or is a threat to public safety (e.g., airports). It also states applicants are expected to have tried other reasonable control measures prior to seeking a depredation permit. Commissioner Kirksey asked if they could use funds from the RAMP Grant to raise the fence. It was suggested that Mr. Medrano come back to court with whom he would like to be put on this application as the harvester, how it will be staffed, communicate with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, FFA as well as possibly using RAMP Grant funds to raise the fence. Chris Prock made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Permit Application has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF A US BANK CREDIT CARD TO AG EXTENSION AGENT

Dwight Kirksey 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 APPLYING FOR UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE SURPLUS AUTHORIZATION FOR THE HUTCHINSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Judge Irwin presented this advising this has been approved over the last few years. Sheriff Langwell stated prior to him these items were acquired, rifles and a Hummer (tank). He has tried to get rid of these items as they don't use them but according to the government you could give them to another agency that wants them and no one wants them. Since these items are in our possession, Sheriff Langwell must do a report and application each year. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Application has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE COUNTY WEBSITE CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CHANGES

Richard Hein, IT Director, presented the ADA requirements for our website along with cost comparison for 3 Content Management Systems. The original deadline was next April but they have extended the deadline to 2 years from now. TAC is our current provider costing \$1,500.00 annually and is changing now to become ADA compliant costing \$9,550.00 annually with a migration fee of \$8,950.00. Mr. Hein explained his top 3 options in the cost comparison. He recommends GovStack as it is compatible with other websites within the county such as the Tax Office, Museum, Sheriff's Office site, pulling them in with our site saving the cost of their site going ADA compliant. Judge Irwin asked about social media ADA compliance and the deadline is April 2028 to make this happen, but we need to act now on the website due to TAC moving to

ADA and the cost increasing. GovStack has many municipal sites over the state of Texas as well as it is the lowest cost. They are ADA compliant and not the alternate conforming version which is good. It will be \$6,089.00 annually and a migration fee of \$14,949.00, Five-Year Total \$45,394.00. It will take 5-6 months for the migration and to get this set up. He has it in his budget for the migration fee, and it will need to be done by the end of September 2026 for this budget and that is when TAC site will end. It will be a process, and it will take each department's input. Most of the documents on our website are PDF's and it is hard to make them ADA compliant so there are tools we can budget for in the next budget year to make the PDF's ADA compliant with the alternate conforming version. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve moving forward with GovStack for our content management system, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Cost Comparison has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE NEW LEASE AGREEMENT WITH AW BROADBAND

Richard Hein, IT Director, had Craig Jones, County Attorney, review the agreement and he had a change. AW Broadband has not responded with revised agreement. He is asking to table this item. Gary Alexander made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE \$5,000.00 BOND FOR ALAN WELLS, COUNTY FIRE MARSHALL

Alan Wells has not received the bond and requested to table this item. Gary Alexander made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF TDEM HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR ANNEX GENERATOR

Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Grant has been made part of the minutes.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Commissioner Alexander reported the doors at the Annex have been installed.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Alan Wells, EMC/County Fire Marshall, reported that the drought index is 572-635. No action taken at this time.

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

Chris Prock submitted a schedule through September 25, 2026, for the Borger Library Clubroom. Dwight Kirksey submitted a schedule through May 27, 2026, for the Fritch Library Clubroom. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, 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

Nancy Criswell, Library Director and Sparklight presented a \$2,500.00 donation to the Hutchinson County Library from Sparklight. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the \$2,500.00 donation, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Alexander reported on getting a new sign for the JP's office at the Annex.

Commissioner Prock reported while attending the West Texas Conference, Judge Irwin was awarded Official of the year, a big congratulations to her.

Sheriff Langwell reported that the jail freezer is having to be repaired with hopes that it can be repaired. They had to purchase a smaller freezer until they get the large freezer repaired.

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

Fontaine M Parker III and Peggy Parker submitted an offer of \$250.00 for Lots 95, Unit 2, Double Diamond Est., Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value of the property is \$710.00. Dwight Kirksey made the motion to approve the offer of \$250.00, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Sanford-Fritch Independent School District's Tax Deed (R9609) in the amount of \$10.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Tax Deed has been made part of the minutes. Dwight recused himself from the motion.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Sanford-Fritch Independent School District's Tax Deed (R9610) in the amount of \$10.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Tax Deed has been made part of the minutes. Dwight recused himself from the motion.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Mangwenya LLC's Tax Deed (R12612) in the amount of \$600.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Tax Deed has been made part of the minutes.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Adrienne Bemis's Tax Deed (R13215) in the amount of \$300.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Tax Deed has been made part of the minutes.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Adrienne Bemis's Tax Deed (R12651) in the amount of \$250.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Tax Deed has been made part of the minutes.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Rebecca and Jeff Kersey's Tax Deed (R12630) in the amount of \$1,250.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Tax Deed has been made part of the minutes.

Christina Ruth Bohn submitted an offer of \$100.00 for Lot 56, Block 1, Section D, Lake Meredith Harbor, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value of the property is \$3,760.00. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to Counteroffer at \$250.00, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

Isaac Harris submitted an offer of \$200.00 for Lot 3, Tract 23, Bugbee Heights, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value of the property is \$690.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS)

Convened into Executive Session at 10:33 a.m.

Reconvened into Regular Session at 11:13 a.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action at this time.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Sheriff Langwell reported that SFISD approached him to provide services for a Resource Officer. This is not something that the Sheriff's Office has ever done. The question is how to fund it and if the Commissioner Court would fund it or approve it. He let the school know it would be a budgetary item and would have to be approved at budget time. He also advised them that the Sheriff's Office rate of pay is higher than the City of Fritch so the cost would be higher, and they were not concerned with that and would like a proposal to present to their board. Sheriff Langwell presented the court with School Resource Officer (SRO) Funding Options. Option 1: 80%/20% Split, Option 2: 70%/30% Split and Option 3: 60%/40% Split. Example School paying 80% of the salary and the County paying 20% of the salary, there are different options as well for benefits etc. This is a start and would like to know if he should continue the work on this if it is something the Commissioners' Court would consider. Fritch is the most populated unincorporated area in the county. City of Borger is providing SRO for Stinnett they are on an 80%/20% split. Judge Irwin asked what would happen in the summer for this position. He said the school said there would be some extracurricular activities this officer could work and otherwise could be pulled back into the field. This officer would always prioritize the school and when no activities were going on they would be a deputy with the Sheriff's office. They would be our employee, and the county would pay them, and the school would reimburse the county with the agreement. SFISD is on a Guardian program and Captain Hajjar has already done many trainings with them and purchased simunition ammo with HB22 funds for active shooter trainings and had range time with them. The county will provide the equipment being specific with what the Sheriff's Department carries. In regard to a vehicle maybe use one that is set to be auctioned off and put a little money into it and keep it around until we can get it on a rotation. The Commissioners would like for him to continue with this project.

Judge Irwin presented some salary survey questions that Commissioner Kirksey came up with for the elected officials and department heads. She asked if there was anything anyone would like to add or take off and if not, they will move forward on this.

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, reported department worksheets will be going out in the next week for budgets.

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 11:30 a.m.




CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:


KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK

