

**THE STATE OF TEXAS**

**COUNTY OF LYNN**

On this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, the Lynn County Commissioner's Court of Lynn County met in a Regular Called meeting at 9:30 a.m., at the regular meeting place thereof in the County Court Room in the Courthouse in Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas, with the following members of court, to wit:

**Mike Braddock**  
**Matt Woodley**  
**John Hawthorne**  
**Don Blair**  
**Larry Durham**  
**Karen Strickland**

**County Judge**  
**Commissioner, Precinct One**  
**Commissioner, Precinct Two**  
**Commissioner, Precinct Three**  
**Commissioner, Precinct Four**  
**County Clerk and Ex Officio**  
**Clerk of the Court**

All being present, and the following member(s) absent: none, constituting a quorum of the Court present, at which time the following business, among other proceedings, was had:

County Judge, Mike Braddock, started the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags, and County Commissioner, Don Blair, lead the invocation.

**Public Comments pertaining to agenda items**

County Judge gave the public an opportunity to discuss any related agenda items. No one from the public addressed the court.

**Cal Huffaker to address court**

Cal Huffaker addressed the court with his concerns about Karen Strickland, County Clerk, digitizing the Official Public Records of Lynn County. He stated he knows she has a duty to fulfil, he has just invested a lot into his title company, Lynn County Abstract & Title, Inc., and is concerned about the future of his company, once those records go digital. Cal also mentioned how his title plant is indexed by Section and or Lot and Block Number, if you live in a city. He gave the opportunity for the Commissioner's to go over to his office and look at how everything is indexed in his title plant.

**Public Hearing on 2023-2024 Proposed Budget**

County Judge gave the public an opportunity to address the court on the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget. No one from the public addressed the court.

**Public Hearing on 2023-2024 Proposed Tax Rate**

County Judge gave the public an opportunity to address the court on the Proposed 2023-2024 Tax Rate of .689948. No one from the public addressed the court.

### **Discuss and act upon vehicle for county use**

County Judge, Mike Braddock and County Treasurer, Amy Schuknecht addressed the court with a vehicle that will be used for the Extension Office to transport the kids in 4-H to contests and stock shows, also when it is not being used there, if someone needs to use it to go a conference, it can be used in that area. Amy mentioned that the Extension Office is having to rent vehicles, as of right now, to transport the kids. There are two vehicles in Lubbock, that the County could have available to them, it is a White Ford Expedition Max. John Hawthorne stated that the Extension Office does haul a lot of kids around. Amy stated that they are also growing in the number of kids they have this year. Don Blair asked if this Expedition was a new vehicle, and Judge Braddock confirmed it was a new vehicle with a selling price of \$73,250. Amy said they have found several used vehicles, but the extended warranty was needed. Commissioner Woodley asked where the money for this vehicle was coming from and Amy and Judge Braddock stated it would be coming out of the general fund. Commissioner Hawthorne made the motion and seconded by Commissioner Woodley to purchase the vehicle for the Extension Office and County use. Motion carried all voted in favor.

### **Budget Work Session**

County Judge, County Commissioner's and Elected Officials spoke about the 2023-2024 FY budget. Amy went over the Tax Rate and how it is going to affect the county budget for the new FY. Amy stated that Judge Braddock came to her and stated that everyone wanted to change the District Clerk's Office from two full times to a full time and a part time starting in January 2024. Amy also stated that she and Wanda Mason, Sheriff, learned some things at the legislative conference pertaining to Senate Bill 22. Wanda cannot add a secretary into her budget, per those funds, so now they will add a secretary into her budget, and pay for a jailer out of the SB22 funds.

### **Discuss and act upon adopting 2023-2024 Budget**

Total revenue for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is \$5,433,154.00, the total expenses for the fiscal year 2023-2024 will be \$5,366,298.00, with a difference of \$66,856, in the general fund. Amy stated that she did redo the precincts and they are all behind, as follows:

Precinct 1 will budget: -\$16,929

Precinct 2 will budget: -\$6,148

Precinct 3 will budget: -\$24,287

Precinct 4 will budget: -\$88,795

Amy also stated that they are looking at transferring funds from the general fund this year to the precincts to help them out. Judge Braddock stated that, originally, they had discussed transferring \$50,000.00 to each precinct. Amy stated that the precincts and road and bridge are the only ones that can carry over their funds, everyone else has to turn their money back into the general fund. Judge Braddock said you can take money out of the general account and give to road and bridge but you cannot take money out of road and bridge and give to general. Motion was made by Commissioner Durham and seconded by Commissioner Blair to accept the 2023-2024 Budget. Motion carried all voted in favor.

### **Discuss and act upon adopting 2023-2024 Tax Rate**

The County went down a little over 2 cents this year on the tax rate. We were at .71 last year and now we are budgeting a .689948 tax rate. General Funds tax rate will be: .562049, Road and Bridge tax rate will be: .127899 making the total tax rate: .689948. Motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hawthorne to accept the 2023-2024 Tax Rate at .689948. Motion carried all voted in favor.

### **Consider and act upon Budget Amendments**

No Budget Amendments to approve

Amy also mentioned that she spoke with the auditors and they will be here the week of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

### **Approve County Finance Report**

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodley and seconded by Commissioner Durham to accept July and August finance report. Motion was carried all voted in favor.

### **Approve Bonds**

No bonds to approve.

### **Sheriff's Office to give report**

Sheriff Mason gave a report on the inmate totals for Lynn County, as follows:

Total inmates: 41

Lynn County: 23

Lubbock County: 18

Scurry County: 1 female, housed out.

### **Presentation of life saving awards to Deputy Amason – Motor vehicle fatality crash, Deputy Harrison – gunshot victim and Exemplary Service Award to Xavier Ortiz Communications Sergeant.**

Chief Deputy Derek Hester presented the awards to each Deputy and Communications Sergeant as follows:

Xavier Ortiz, Communications Sergeant: Xavier was recently promoted to Sergeant in dispatch; On August 8, 2023, Xavier answered a 911 call from a 10-year-old involved in a one vehicle rollover just inside Dawson County, he stayed on the line with the 10-year-old for 32 minutes until her and her family were located and helped by emergency medical services.

Deputy Harrison: Joe Harrison is our, Lynn County Sheriff's Office, newest and youngest Patro Deputy, he was also the sergeant in the Jail. On August 27, 2023, Deputy Harrison was working an Off-Duty job in Lubbock, as part of his job providing security for this establishment, a fight broke out inside, Deputy Harrison and another Officer removed the two people from the bar, shortly after removing the two people from the bar, Deputy Harrison was outside and one of the parties began shooting on the other party in the parking lot, striking two people outside in the parking lot, Deputy Harrison quickly moved to the two people that were shot and began rendering aid by applying his tourniquet to one of the men's leg, which stopped the bleeding, until medical services got there. He also assisted Lubbock PD as they began their investigation, which led to the arrest of the person.

Deputy Amason: Jake Amason, one of the K-9 handlers for the Lynn County Sheriff's Department, prior military and of the SWAT Members, and Assistant Lead for the SWAT Team. On August 6, 2023, Deputy Amason responded to a two-vehicle crash on HWY 380 and FM 179. He assisted Emergency Medical Services with treatment of several victims. He located a severely injured female victim with a large laceration to her right side, with his skills he had from the military medic training, Deputy Amason was able to stand by and provide aid until this female could be lifted to Lubbock for continued medical treatment, once the medical team arrived, because of this, she was able to recover and live. Judge Braddock thanked all the deputies for being there and thanked them for their service to the County.

**Approve and pay claims and payroll against the County**

Motion made by Commissioner Hawthorne and seconded by Commissioner Durham to accept and pay the claims and payroll against the county. Motion carried all voted in favor.

**Discuss any other items pertaining to County Business for information purposes only, no action may be taken on these items except to schedule them for future agenda.**

Amy said she had NFC forms that needed to be signed by some Commissioner's and Sheriff's Office employees. No one else address the court with any County Business.

**Adjourn or recess meeting**

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodley and seconded by Commissioner Hawthorne to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m. Motion was carried all voted in favor.