

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF LYNN

On this, the 23rd day of March 2026, 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	County Judge
Matt Woodley	Commissioner, Precinct One (1)
John Hawthorne	Commissioner, Precinct Two (2)
Tate Gass	Commissioner, Precinct Three (3)
Larry Durham	Commissioner, Precinct Four (4)
Karen Rendon	County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of the Court

Commissioner's Woodley, Hawthorne, Gass, Durham and Judge Braddock were 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:

Commissioner Hawthorne started the meeting with the invocation and Judge Braddock led the pledge of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

2. Public Comments pertaining to agenda items

Judge Braddock gave the public an opportunity to discuss anything relating to agenda items. No one from the public addressed the court.

3. NRCS Representative to give annual report

Matt Dorsett gave the annual report for NRCS.

4. Discuss and act upon 2026 Soil and Water Stewardship week Proclamation

Helen Saldana presented the Soil and Water Stewardship week Proclamation. Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Gass seconding that motion to accept the 2026 Soil and Water Stewardship Proclamation. All voted in favor, motion carried.

5. Discuss and Act upon Revisions to Game Room Application

Judge Braddock stated the revisions, as follows:

- Operation Hours: 8 or 9 in the morning to 10 at night. Monday – Sunday. Hours will remain the same during the weekends. No extra hours open will be allowed.
- The only area a Game Room can be placed is: Directly on US HWY 380 or HWY 87. **NO** residential areas, churches, schools or anything of that nature.
- Inspection done by a Fire Marshall before permit is issued.
- Certificate of Occupancy

- Has to have 2 4-foot windows on 2 different sides of the building which can NOT be blacked out.
- An Assumed Name Certificate or DBA has to be filed with the County Clerk's Office.
- NO membership is allowed. ANYONE can enter the facility at any time; this includes the Police Department and Sheriff's Office.
- If the building is leased, they have to furnish the County with the Lease Agreement.
- \$1,000 application fee
- The permit will be renewed at a cost of \$750/monthly.

Commissioner Durham made the motion with Commissioner Hawthorne seconding that motion to accept the revisions stated. All voted in favor, motion carried.

6. Discuss and act upon Order Regarding Audio, Video, And Media Coverage in the Lynn County Courthouse (In The Courts of Lynn County, Texas)

Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Gass seconding the motion to accept the Order Regarding Audio, Video, And Media Coverage in the Lynn County Courthouse (In The Courts of Lynn County, Texas). All in favor, motion carried.

7. Discuss and act upon Order Regarding Audio, Video, And Media Coverage in the Lynn County Courthouse (In The Commissioners Court of Lynn County, Texas)

Commissioner Durham made the motion to table this agenda item until next Commissioners Court with Commissioner Hawthorne seconding the motion to table this agenda item until next Commissioner Court. All in favor, motion carried.

8. Discuss and act upon allowing payroll deduction for employees to buy AeroCare membership

Amy Schuknecht stated this membership will not cost the County any money. It will be pulled through that employee's paycheck; the price will depend on which membership is chosen. Commissioner Gass made the motion with Commissioner Hawthorne seconded that motion to allow payroll deduction for AeroCare membership. All voted in favor, motion carried.

9. Discuss and act upon opening a checking account with Capra Bank

Amy Schuknecht stated the Credit Cards the County uses now is through UMB Bank. Capra Bank is offering the County a better deal to use their Credit Cards. They are a lot more advanced than UMB. They are also offering a cash bank deal with anything that is put onto the cards. Capra is also letting Amy and Mackenzi be authorized users on the credit cards to be able to make the credit limit increases and things of that nature. The County has to have an account open at Capra to be able to get this offer. Commissioner Hawthorne made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to approve Amy to open a checking account with Capra Bank. All voted in favor, motion carried.

10. Discuss and act upon applying for Credit Cards at Capra Bank

Commissioner Gass made the motion with Commissioner Woodley seconding that motion to apply for Credit Cards with Capra Bank. All voted in favor, motion carried.

11. Consider and act upon Budget Amendments

Amy Schuknecht presented the Budget Amendments, as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
100-521-5800	Jury	+\$4,000.00
100-574-5980	Unspent Grant	+\$37,898.00
100-524-5100.10	Salary – Elected	-\$1,500.00
100-524-5100.20	Salary – Other	+\$1,500.00
100-541-5110	Temp Help	-\$1,500.00
100-541-5300	Bonds, Dues, Fees	+\$1,500.00

Commissioner Hawthorne made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to accept the budget amendments that were presented. All voted in favor, motion carried.

12. Approve County Finance Report

Amy Schuknecht stated she had the month of February 2026 to present. Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to accept the month of February 2026 Finance Report. All voted in favor, motion carried.

13. Approve Bonds

Julia Charo stated there were no bonds to approve.

14. Sheriff's Office to give report

Chris Hennisley gave the jail count, as follows:

35 – Total

32 – Lynn

1 – Lubbock

2 – Potter

15. Discuss and Act upon donation from LCSO to Tahoka PD (1) 2010 Motorola APX 6500 In-Car Radio, SN:527CRH2375

Judge Braddock stated that the County cannot donate, but we can sell it for \$1.00. Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to table this agenda item for future agenda. All voted in favor, motion carried.

16. Discuss and act upon reversal of 47.52 hours sick time taken from SO employee due to TCOLE Audit discovered as Class B not Class A misdemeanor.

Chris Hennsley stated they received a TCOLE Audit that discovered that a Lynn County Sheriff's Office employee had an arrest on their record from 30 years ago of a Class A Misdemeanor. Wanda Mason stated that because it was a Class A misdemeanor, that employee is not allowed to work for any agency that operates with DPS or TCOLE. TCOLE then discovered that DPS entered that arrest wrong on her Criminal History. It should have been a Class B Misdemeanor not a Class A, which then makes the employee eligible for hire with the agency. Chris Hennsley stated that when TCOLE was at the SO, he immediately put the employee on Administrative Leave and accepted the resignation from the employee the next day. Chris stated they were under the impression it would take 3 to 6 months to get this cleared up, but luckily TCOLE worked with them fast to get this cleared up, ASAP. Chris then stated they were able to reinstate her within 2 weeks, but during that time, the employee's sick time was paid out. Chris then stated it was no fault of theirs for her resignation, but now they need to figure out how to compensate that employee back on the sick time that was paid out after her resignation. Amy stated that when the audit happened, it was during the middle of the pay period, so she was not able to finish out the pay period, and that is why the sick time was used. Amy then stated she had received a termination letter, and once she receives that she has protocol to follow. Amy said that she doesn't believe that it falls on the County to pay that employee's sick time, when it was that employee that had received that charge and that she should not have been hired in the 1st place. Wanda then stated that it falls on her for hiring that employee because she knew, coming from DPS, that it was NOT a Class A misdemeanor. She knew it was a Class B misdemeanor. Judge Braddock stated that the employee turned in a resignation letter. Wanda said the only reason she turned in a resignation letter was because TCOLE had told them it would be 3 to 6 months before they could get this cleared up, and Wanda knew this employee did not have 3 to 6 months-worth of time built up. Chris then stated the reason he put the employee on Administrative Leave was to avoid possible fines to the County and show TCOLE that the employee was no longer working for the SO, and that would give TCOLE time to get this straightened out. Amy asked if TCOLE had sent Sheriff or Chris a letter stating they are reinstating the said employee. Wanda said yes. Wanda then stated that TCOLE is a State License. Wanda said that when you get the point of resignation, TCOLE labels that as a F5. Chris then stated that TCOLE rescinded that employee's separation for the time that she was no licensed, so that it shows there is no break in her service. Amy asked if someone else from TCOLE does an audit next year, is this going to be an issue still. Wanda then stated No it will not be. Chris then stated that he requested from TCOLE-on-TCOLE letterhead that this was investigated and cleared up and she is good to be licensed for the state licensing. The letter then goes into the employee's file for reference in the future. Amy then went and looked to see how much money that would be for the sick time of 47.52 hours. Wanda stated that they would just have put her on Administrative Leave for the time being while this was getting taken care of, but was told she was not allowed to use Administrative Leave anymore for any reason. Judge Braddock then asked if the employee was paid the 47.52 hours, and if the employee was paid those hours, were looking at paying the hours and giving the employee the 47.52 hours? Wanda said because they did not have Admin Leave with pay, and if that was an option she would have put the employee on Admin Leave because it was not the Sheriff's Office fault that the employee was forced to resign, it was the State's fault and then they came back and rescinded the termination of the employee. Commissioner Gass said then give the employee 47.52 hours of unpaid time since the employee has already been paid those hours. Judge Braddock then said if we do that, then we will have to pay OT to

cover those 47.52 hours of unpaid time and that is going to cost more in the long run. Judge Braddock ask Sheriff Mason that if this employee takes that 47.52 hours of sick time, who is going to cover those days. Sheriff Mason said it would be 1 of the 5 that are employed besides the said employee. Judge Braddock then stated that, that would be OT for that employee that covered those hours. Sheriff Mason then said that they would work the schedule to fit the absence of that employee that no one would be receiving OT during this time. Amy said that the said employee's salary is 23.70/hour. Wanda said that if they had had the opportunity to use Admin Leave, they wouldn't have had to use the employee's sick time. Judge Braddock stated if this comes up again, where are we going to be? Chris then stated that they are working on the policy to update it to let the Sheriff's Office use Admin Leave, so that we are not in this predicament again. Amy said the County has had the ability to use Admin Leave and it was not being used the way it was meant to be used, and that it is why the Judge has to OK the use of Admin Leave. Amy said an employee can not be put on Admin Leave for 3 weeks out of the month, that is not the purpose of Admin Leave. Chris stated that he understood that, but in a scenario where a citizen came and made a complaint on one of his deputies, he has to put them on Admin leave until the complaint is investigated. Amy said that she agreed with that, but that is different. Amy said she thinks that if there is a shooting and the need for a deputy to be put on Admin Leave, Judge Braddock can OK that with no problem. But since there has been some abuse to the use of Admin Leave, that is why we have strict regulations on when and why Admin Leave can be used. Wanda then stated that in the policy and procedure manual it states, she could have put this said employee on Admin Leave, but she would have had to come to Commissioner's Court to do so, and this incident happen in the middle of time to come to Commissioner's Court, and she was unable to do that. Amy then stated that TCOLE had taken the license away from the said employee, so the employee could not have worked anyways. Chris stated that if they had not put the employee on Admin Leave or had received a resignation letter, TCOLE would have then fined the Sheriff's Office DAILY, until the issue was taken care of. That is why they came to Amy to asked what the next steps need to be. Then TCOLE came back and rescinded and the employee was reinstated. Chris asked if there was anyway, we could meet in the middle and give her some sick time back from the time the employee lost. Judge Braddock said the problem that is at hand is that the employee turned in a resignation letter, so that mean the employee had resigned from the Sheriff's Office at the time the letter was turned in. Amy then added that the employee was paid out the sick time, when it was not supposed to be paid out and the employee got the keep the accumulated vacation time. Sheriff Mason then said so a \$1,000 fine daily for 14 days to the County, Judge Braddock said that is not the County's problem, it would be the Sheriff's Office problem for hiring the said employee because they are the one that made the mistake. Sheriff Mason then asked the Judge where in her budget does she have the money to pay that fine. Judge Braddock said he doesn't know, but the Sheriff's Office needs to be more cautious on who is hired. Amy said 47.52 hours of sick time is \$1,126.22. Commissioner Woodley said if the Sheriff's Office has the money and they want to give the hours back; can they pay for that? Amy then stated the communication's budget is already way over budgeted in the overtime line, so the Sheriff's Office is going to be over budget to begin with. Commissioner Gass mentioned the employee buying back the sick time. If the employee wants the hours that bad, then the employee needs to buy the hours back. Judge Braddock said Well where is that money coming from, and Commissioner Gass stated that the employee would have to pay the County for those hours. Commissioner Gass then stated since the County had already paid the employee for that time, it would need to be paid back to the County for the County to give it back, it's the fairest way to get around this. Judge Braddock said he would agree to that. Amy said how would that work. Wanda then said Amy would have to contact TAC and see the protocol on that.

Wanda then said that if the Sheriff's Office had Admin Leave, she would have paid the employee the 8-hour admin leave and then that employee would still have her sick time. Chris said that, that option would have costed more, because it was 72 hours. Commissioner Gass made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to table this agenda item for future agenda. All voted in favor, motion carried.

17. Discuss and Act upon Take Home Vehicle Program for new Deputy – Joshua Heaverlo

Chris Henssley said that the Sheriff's Office is now about to be fully staffed once Joshua Heaverlo completes his FTO phase. Deputy Heaverlo came from Howard County. He served there for 8 years. He was also at LPD, but due to the call volume being intense, he wanted something a little slower pace, so he came to Lynn County. Commissioner Durham asked where Deputy Heaverlo lived. Chris stated Deputy Heaverlo lives on 93rd Street in Lubbock. Which is 11.93 miles from the Lynn County line. Commissioner Hawthorne made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to accept the Take Home Vehicle Program for Deputy Heaverlo. All voted in favor, motion carried.

18. Discuss and Act upon Take Home Vehicle Program for new Deputy – Fernando Portillo.

Commissioner Gass asked how many miles does Portillo live out of the County. Wanda stated Portillo lives 12.45 miles from the Lynn County line. Judge Braddock asked Amy if she has paperwork on Portillo, being a new hire. Amy then replied to Judge with no, she does not have new hire paperwork for him. Chris stated that Portillo used to be a LCSO employee as a jailer for 2 years, then he wanted to get his Peace Officer License. Portillo then left and went and worked for Wolfforth PD and then went and worked for Lubbock County Sheriff's Office and now he is coming back to Lynn County. Chris then stated that Portillo is not considered an employee yet until Portillo completes his fingerprints and toxicology, but that should be completed today, and once that is done, he should be able to be entered into the system. Commissioner Durham made the motion with Commissioner Gass seconding that motion to accept the Take Home Vehicle Program for Deputy Portillo after hire paperwork is completed with Amy. All voted in favor, motion carried.

19. Approve and pay claims and payroll against the County

Amy Schuknecht presented the bills to the court. Commissioner Gass made the motion with Commissioner Hawthorne seconding that motion to approve and pay the claims against the county. All voted in favor, motion carried.

20. 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.

Taylor Wood, Pastor at the First Baptist Church in O'Donnell came and presented the idea of Lynn County becoming a Sanctuary County for the Unborn.

Elizabeth Cook, President of the Turning Point USA, O'Donnell Club America Chapter and Senior at O'Donnell ISD, also spoke about the benefits of making Lynn County a Sanctuary County for the Unborn.

21. Adjourn or recess meeting

Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Gass seconding that motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. All voted in favor, motion carried.