

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025
10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., with the following members of the Court being present, to-wit:

Present: Todd Tefteller – County Judge presiding,
 Gene Dolle – Commissioner Pct. #1
 Dustin Nicholson – Commissioner Pct. #2
 Mike Ashley – Commissioner Pct. #3
 Jay W. Miller – Commissioner Pct. #4

Judge Tefteller called the regular meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Invocation and Pledges

Prayer was led by Commissioner Dolle.

Pledges to the U.S. & Texas flags led by Commissioner Nicholson.

2. Citizen comments. None

3. Consider and take action on approval of:

- A. The minutes of previous meetings;**
- B. Payroll changes;**
- C. Payroll;**
- D. Budget amendments;**
- E. Accounts Payable;**
- F. Accept for recording: Auditor report; Treasurer report; Bonds; Oaths; Deputations; Certificates; State and County Taxes Summary; refund of overpayment or erroneous tax payments in excess of \$2500.00; Certificate of Liability Insurance for Gab's Tree Service, Inc.; copy of invoice from Petty Flying Service for mesquite spraying recently completed on Upshur County School Land; and, applications for use of Upshur County roads and rights-of way and permit requests.**

Commissioner Nicholson made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve items 3A-F. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
(SEE ATTACHED)

4. Discuss and take action to approve the FY 26 PROPOSED property tax rate BY RECORD VOTE. The Proposed Tax Rate is \$0.514 which is \$0.015, or 1.5 cents, above the Current Tax rate of \$0.499.

Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Ashley to approve the FY 26 PROPOSED property tax rate at \$0.514 which is \$0.015, or 1.5 cents above the current tax rate of \$0.499. Commissioner Nicholson and Commissioner Miller announced their objection to increasing the tax rate. Auditor Connie Williams informed the Court as to what the additional revenue will provide such as \$500,000.00 to Road and Bridge to purchase equipment with cash; \$400,000.00 to the Insurance Fund; \$68,000.00 to the Sheriff for the purchase of vehicles; \$100,000.00 to the Capital murder Fund; funds for two additional courthouse security officers; and employee salary increases.

Votes as follows:

Gene Dolle Yay

Dustin Nicholson Nay

Michael Ashley Yay

Jay W. Miller Nay

Todd Tefteller Yay

Motion carried 3 For 2 Against.

5. Discuss and possibly take action on the FY26 Proposed Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to approve the FY26 Proposed Budget. Auditor Connie Williams announced that the FY26 Proposed Budget is \$23,968,480.00 which is an increase of \$1,647,157.00 over FY25 Budget. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

6. Discuss and take action to schedule the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for August 29, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to set the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for August 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

7. Discuss and take action to schedule the Public Hearing on the Tax Increase (any rate above the No-New Revenue rate) for September 15, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Ashley to set the Public Hearing on the Tax Increase (any rate above the No-New Revenue rate) for September 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

8. Hear from Employee Benefits Consulting – EBC concerning the prescription savings alternatives (biosimilars and compounds), finalizing stop loss numbers and renewal. Discuss and take necessary action.

Rachel Means and Paige Mendez were present to discuss prescription savings alternatives, stop loss numbers, and the fixed cost increase. She suggested that the Court approve the

\$68,000.00 increase and renewal. Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve the stop loss carrier quote with Skyward as EBC suggested. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

10. Discuss and take action to approve the continuation of the imposition of the optional motor vehicle fees of County Road and Bridge Fee and Child Safety Fee for the Calendar Year 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Miller to approve the continuation of the imposition of the optional motor vehicle fees of County Road and Bridge Fee and Child Safety Fee for the calendar year 2026. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

11. Discuss and take action to approve the Order of Election for the November 4, 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Miller to approve the Order of Election for the November 4, 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

12. Discuss and take action to set the early voting times and locations for the November 4, 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to set the early voting times and locations for the November 4, 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

13. Discuss and take action to set the election day polling locations for the November 4, 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Miller to set the election day polling locations for the November 4, 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

14. Discuss and take action to approve housing the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) County Liason Officer Mark Moore in the same office with Marc Nichols, Upshur County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion by Commissioner Miller with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to approve housing the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) County Liason Officer Mark Moore in the same office with Marc Nichols, Upshur County Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

15. Discuss and take action to approve the appointment of Charles "Chuck" Head as a Reserve Constable for Pct. 1 Constable Tim Barnett.

Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to approve appointment of Charles "Chuck" Head as a Reserve Constable for Pct. 1 Constable Tim Barnett. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

16. Discuss and take action to approve replacing a 2024 Ford Explorer police interceptor package (VIN #1FM5K8AB6RGA67829) with a 2025 (new) Ford Explorer police interceptor package (VIN #1FM5K8AB1SGA56193) that is being traded back to Stanley Ford.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve replacing a 2024 Ford Explorer police interceptor package with a 2025 Ford Explorer police interceptor package that is being traded back to Stanley Ford. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

9. Hear any updates and discuss and take necessary action concerning the Round XII Courthouse Grant Renovation.

Judge Leward LeFleur was present with Rick Sacy to discuss the summary of issues found and fixed with the courthouse renovation. Judge LeFleur discussed some water damage found and repaired. He presented a Change Order in the amount of \$5,007.00 to the Court regarding additions to the 5th floor work space and the addition of additional ports for courthouse security in the basement. Mr. Sacy went into detail regarding unforeseen issues found and fixed during the renovation. He still expects the projected move in date to be February 2026. Judge LeFleur also presented a picture of the theatre style seats for the courtroom balcony. The quote was \$40,000.00 for a savings of \$60,000.00 from budget amount.

17. The Court will/may go into CLOSED SESSION under Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 as indicated:

 Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney(s));

 A,B Section 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property);

 A,B,C Section 551.0725 (deliberation and discussion of contracts being negotiated);

 Section 551.073 (deliberation about gifts and donations);

 Section 551.074 and 551.0745 (personnel matters);

 Section 551.076 (deliberation about security audits or security devices).

TO WIT:

- A. Consideration of the Round XII Project administration in reference to the Courthouse Renovation.**
- B. Consideration of Round XII Renovation Funding and ARPA Grant requirements consistent therewith.**
- C. Consideration of the amendment to the County IT Software Contract with Tyler Technologies Inc. relative to electronic discovery in the Upshur County District Attorney's Office.**

The Court went into **CLOSED SESSION** at 11:47 a.m.

The Court reconvened into **OPEN SESSION** at 12:05 p.m.

- 18. The Court will re-convene into open session and take any action necessary as a result of Executive Session.**

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to not only extend the current stipends going into the Upshur County Auditor's office for 12-31-26 but to increase the amount of the stipends awarded by an additional 20% for 12-31-26 to be funded by the interest of the ARPA Grant Funds. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 19. Adjourn.**

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.





TERRI ROSS, UPSHUR COUNTY CLERK

Attendance sheet placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

Bills previously approved placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

Jury payroll placed into minutes for recording purposes only.