

**COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026
10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION**

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Monday, August 31, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., with the following members of the Court being present,
to-wit:

Present: Todd Tefteller – Upshur 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 10:00 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. No public comment.

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 reports; Treasurer reports; Bonds; Oaths; Deputations; Certificates; State and County Taxes Summary; refund of overpayment or erroneous tax payments in excess of \$2500.00; the revised floor plan and office assignments for the Upshur County Courthouse; 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)

Judge Tefteller opened the PUBLIC HEARING at 10:06 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. The Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing concerning the FY 27 Proposed Budget.

Auditor Connie Williams gave a brief summary of the FY 27 Proposed Budget. She went on to say that the total budget of the General and Insurance Fund is \$25,152,864.00 which is an increase over last year of \$1,184,384.00. The total additional revenue generated over last year leaving the tax rate the same is \$598,490.00. Of that, \$524,000.00 is from new property. The proposed tax rate is \$.514 which is the current rate. She went on to say that the budget is up 1.1 million over last year for two main reasons. She explained that we are using \$575,000.00 of surplus for one time purchases for road equipment, improvements to the Justice Center courtroom, and setting up the Animal Control Department. The rest of the increase is due to the \$1,200.00 across the board proposed salary increase and reinstating the retirement rate to 200%.

Judge Tefteller asked the Court to consider contributing more next year to the Upshur County Historical Museum.

Judge Tefteller closed the PUBLIC HEARING at 10:19 a.m.

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

Judge Tefteller commented that he went in the courthouse last week and they were putting the brass railings up.

5. Discuss and take action to schedule the Public Hearing on the Tax Increase (any rate above the No-New Revenue rate) for September 15, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to set the Public Hearing on the Tax Increase (any rate above the No-New Revenue rate) for September 15, 2026 at 10 a.m. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

7. Discuss and take action to schedule the adoption of the property tax rate for the FY 27 Budget for September 15, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Ashley to set the hearing on the adoption of the property tax rate for the FY 27 Budget for September 15, 2026 at 10 a.m. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

6. Discuss and take action to schedule the adoption of the FY 27 Budget for September 15, 2026 at 10 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Dolle to set the hearing on the adoption of the FY 27 Budget for September 15, 2026 at 10 a.m. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

8. Discuss and possibly take action on the FY 27 Proposed Budget.

No further action needed.

- 9. Hear from Cynthia King, Librarian, concerning a grant application from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library-Community Literacy Support. Discuss and take necessary action to approve the application.**

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Ashley to approve the grant application from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library-Community Literacy Support. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- 10. Discuss and take action to approve the request from Marc Nichols, Emergency Management Coordinator, to donate the 2013 White Ford Interceptor SUV (VIN – 1FM5K8AR6EGB38387, TX License Plate 1150633) that is used by Emergency Management to the City of Gilmer in exchange for their donation of a 2017 Red Ford F 150 4x4 Pickup (VIN – 1FTEW1EF1HKD01416, TX License Plate 1348306) to the County for use by the Emergency Management Coordinator.**

Marc Nichols, Emergency Management Coordinator, was present to ask the Court to allow him to donate the 2013 White Ford Interceptor SUV that he has been using to the City of Gilmer in exchange for their donation of a 2017 Red Ford F 150 4x4 Pickup to the County for use by the Emergency Management Coordinator. Chief Billy Joe Williams with the Gilmer Fire Department and Gilmer City Manager Mary Bullock were present to acknowledge to the Court of their agreement with Marc Nichols for this exchange. Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Dolle to donate the 2013 White Ford Interceptor SUV (VIN – 1FM5K8AR6EGB38387, TX License Plate 1150633) to the City of Gilmer in exchange for their donation of a 2017 Red Ford F 150 4x4 Pickup (VIN – 1FTEW1EF1HKD01416, TX License Plate 1348306) to the County for use by the Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- 11. Discuss and take action to approve the SRO Interlocal Agreement with Union Grove ISD, Big Sandy ISD, New Diana ISD, Gilmer ISD, and Ore City ISD.**

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve the SRO Interlocal Agreements with Union Grove ISD, Big Sandy ISD, New Diana ISD, Gilmer ISD, and Ore City ISD. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- 12. Discuss and take action to approve the transfer of a seized AC unit from the Sheriff's Office to the County Maintenance Department.**

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve the transfer of a seized AC unit from the Sheriff's Office to the County Maintenance Department. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- 13. Discuss and take action to approve naming the new maintenance building on the Rock Building**

campus the "GENE CRUTSINGER MAINTENANCE BUILDING" or some variation thereof.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to approve naming the new maintenance building on the Rock Building campus the "GENE CRUTSINGER MAINTENANCE BUILDING". Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

14. Hear from the Road & Bridge Administrator with an update of the County roads in each precinct.

Phil Stegall, Road and Bridge Administrator, informed the Court that the oiling season will come to an end tomorrow. He further announced that his department has oiled 18 miles of road. He further announced that he has big projects scheduled including putting in large culverts.

15. Discuss and take action to continue the existing Burn Ban.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to continue the existing Burn Ban until the next Commissioners Court meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

16. 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,E Section 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property);

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

 Section 551.073 (deliberation about gifts and donations);

 C,E Section 551.074 and 551.0745 (personnel matters);-

 E 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. Consider Departmental requests, if any, that include personnel assignments or any contracts under negotiation.**
- D. Discuss the stop-loss insurance contract/policy renewal as to the Employee Benefit Plan.**
- E. Discuss Courthouse Security in the Renovated Courthouse.**

The Court went into CLOSED SESSION at 10:46 a.m.

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

The Court re-convened into OPEN SESSION at 11:30 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to authorize Judge Tefteller to renew the County's stop loss insurance with Great Midwest Insurance Company. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

No other action as a result of Executive Session.

18. Adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

ATTEST:


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.