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| State of Texas | § | Court Order |
| Collin County | § | 2025-962-09-15 |
| Commissioners Court | § | |

An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the July 28, 2025 minutes.

On Monday, July 28, 2025, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in Regular Session in the Commissioners Courtroom, Jack Hatchell Collin County Administration Building, 4th Floor, 2300 Bloomdale Road, City of McKinney, Texas, with the following members present, and participating, to wit:

Judge Chris Hill

Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1

Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2

Commissioner Darrell Hale, Precinct 3

Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Judge Chris Hill led the Invocation.

Commissioner Cheryl Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Duncan Webb led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Judge Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners Court at 1:30 p.m. The Court recessed into Executive Session at 3:27 p.m. and reconvened at 3:38 p.m. Commissioner Williams returned from recess at 3:42 p.m. Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 6:46 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Toll Road Authority at 6:47 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:

1. AI-58420 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.
2. AI-58421 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

FYI NOTIFICATION:

1. AI-58393 Intra-County account transfers transmitted July 11, 2025, Auditor.
2. AI-58388 Addendum No. 1 to Removal and Sale or Disposal of Diesel Fuel (IFB No. 2025-243) to make various changes to the Invitation for Bid, Purchasing.
3. AI-58386 Addendum No. 1 and No. 2 to Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Services for the Collin County Courthouse Expansion [STEP 2] (RFP No. 2025-145B) to make various changes to the Request for Proposal, Purchasing.
4. **Notification of budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):**
 - a. AI-58389 \$400,000 to establish the budget for the FY2026 Veterans Treatment Court grant, Auditor.
 - b. AI-58391 \$20,000 to amend the budget for the FY2025 US Marshal Service grant, Auditor.

COMMISSIONERS COURT BUSINESS:

Public comments related to an item on the Agenda.

1. **Consent Agenda Items:** Judge Hill asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb pulled items 1a, 1g1 and 1g2. Commissioner Hale pulled item 1i13. With no additional comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time 1:38 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 5-0 Passed

- a. AI-58365 Disbursements for the period ending July 22, 2025, Auditor.

Commissioner Webb requested that the disbursement to Summit Fire and Security be held, citing the company's responsibility for a fire sprinkler leak. The Court agreed to hold the disbursement checks to Summit Fire and Security. (Time 3:38 p.m.)

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-712-07-28

- b. AI-58366 Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-713-07-28

c. AI-58399 CPS Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-714-07-28

d. AI-58395 Tax refunds totaling \$106,602.26, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-715-07-28

e. **Advertisement(s):**

1. AI-58382 Asset Management and Capital Planning Software System (RFP No. 2025-082), Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-716-07-28

2. AI-58404 Digital Imaging (RFP No. 2025-182), Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-717-07-28

f. **Award(s):**

1. AI-58396 Tire Rubber Modified Asphalt and Application Services (IFB No. 2025-094) to various vendors, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-718-07-28

g. **Agreement(s):**

1. AI-58385 Personal Services Agreement with Jose Arellano (Contract No. 2025-306) for pool inspection services, grant an exemption from the competitive bid process per Local Government Code 262.024(a)(4), and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

Commissioner Webb requested that items 1g1 and 1g2 be held to allow time for the contracts to be reworked and resubmitted. The Court agreed to hold items 1g1 and 1g2 for consideration at a future meeting. (Time 3:38 p.m.)

HELD

2. AI-58387 Personal Services Agreement with Gary Machado (Contract No. 2025-305) for pool inspection services, grant an exemption from the competitive bid process per Local Government Code 262.024(a)(4), and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

This item was discussed under agenda item 1g1.

HELD

3. AI-58294 Interlocal Agreement with North Central Texas Emergency Communications District for regional 9-1-1 service and equipment for the period of October 1, 2025 through and including September 30, 2027, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-719-07-28

h. Amendment(s):

1. AI-58397 Amendment to Tyler Odyssey Criminal Justice Information System (Contract No. 01318-09) with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to include a one (1) year jury analytics product, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, District Clerk.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-720-07-28

2. AI-58376 No. 2 to Debris Monitoring Services (RFP No. 2021-234) with Tetra Tech, Inc. to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including November 7, 2026, include a price adjustment, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Fire Marshal.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-721-07-28

3. AI-58406 No. 3 to Engineering Services, Geotech and Materials Testing for Roads and Buildings (Contract No. 2023-239) with Terracon Consultants, Inc. to add TV inspection of utility pipeline, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-722-07-28

4. AI-58412 No. 2 to Personal Services Agreement for the Veterans Court (Contract No. 2024-415) with Scott Shoemaker to extend the contract through and including August 31, 2026, update the payment schedule, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-723-07-28

5. AI-58410 No. 4 to Personal Services Agreement for the Veterans Court (Contract No. 2023-333) with Lyndell Benoit to extend the contract through and including August 31, 2026, update the payment schedule, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-724-07-28

6. AI-58411 No. 5 to Personal Services Agreement for the Veterans Court (Contract No. 2024-209) with William Brownfield to extend the contract through and including August 31, 2026, update the payment schedule, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-725-07-28

7. AI-58409 No. 6 to Personal Services Agreement for the Veterans Court (Contract No. 2023-121) with Amanda Garcia to extend the contract through and including August 31, 2026, update the payment schedule, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-726-07-28

i. Contract Renewal(s):

1. AI-58392 Standby Generator Preventive Maintenance and Equipment & Repairs (Contract No. 2023-192) with Altorex, LLC to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 17, 2026, Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-727-07-28

2. AI-58394 Standby Generator Preventive Maintenance and Equipment & Repairs (Contract No. 2023-192) with On-Site Power Systems, Inc. to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 17, 2026, Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-728-07-28

3. AI-58374 Tyler Odyssey Interfaces and Brazos eCitation (Contract No. 02130-11) with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to extend the contract through and including August 31, 2026, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-729-07-28

4. AI-58238 Interlocal Agreement, City of Frisco Teen Court (Contract No. 2024-432) with the City of Frisco to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2026, Teen Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-730-07-28

j. Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):

1. AI-58372 \$10,720.17 to reallocate funds for the Spay/Neuter Program, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-731-07-28

2. AI-58384 \$58,742 for conference room teleconferencing equipment, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-732-07-28

k. Filing of the Minute(s), County Clerk:

1. AI-58377 June 23, 2025.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-733-07-28

1. Miscellaneous:

1. **AI-58312** Acceptance of the Veterans Mental Health Grant award in the amount of \$270,000 through the Texas Veterans Commission, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-734-07-28

2. **AI-58313** Acceptance of the Veterans Treatment Court Grant award in the amount of \$400,000 through the Texas Veterans Commission, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-735-07-28

3. **AI-58408** Acknowledgment of the issuance of a loan facilitated by New Hope Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation for the benefit of Children's Health System of Texas and related matters, Administrative Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-736-07-28

4. **AI-58124** Deem BGE, Inc. the most qualified firm to assist the preliminary and final design for the CR 398 project, approve the scope and fee from BGE, Inc. for the design of CR 398 project, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the Engineering Services Agreement for same, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-737-07-28

5. **AI-58400** Parks and Open Space Project Funding Assistance Program 2018 Bond, 5th Series project award in the amount of \$112,500 to the City of Lavon for the purchase of land to be used for Bear Creek Natural Open Space-Community Park, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-738-07-28

6. **AI-58407** Acquisition of right of way through condemnation for Parcel 317 along the FM 546/Myrick Lane from CR 393 to US 380 project, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-739-07-28

7. **AI-58413** Redesignation of Private Road 5935 and Private Roads 6049-6056, GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-740-07-28

8. **AI-58437** Accept the roads within Colina Creek Estates Phases 3, 4, 5 and 6 for county maintenance, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-741-07-28

9. AI-58383 Deposit proceeds totaling \$357,058.63 from the Collin County online auction held June 27, 2025 per Local Government Code 263.156, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-742-07-28

10. AI-58405 Acceptance of the Citibank rebate in the amount of \$11,269.34 to be deposited in the Going the Extra Mile Employee Incentive Program line item, and budget amendment for same, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-743-07-28

11. AI-58431 Boards & Commissions Appointments, Commissioners Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-744-07-28

12. AI-58422 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-745-07-28

13. AI-58423 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

Commissioner Hale congratulated Manuel Chavira for receiving a promotion. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the agenda item. (Time 3:38 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 4-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-746-07-28

2. General Discussion Items:

Presentation, discussion and any action regarding:

a. AI-58346 **Public Hearing** - Creation of Collin County Emergency Services District No. 1, Administrative Services.

Yoon Kim, County Administrator, outlined the procedural background leading to the Public Hearing. He explained the Court's role in setting ESD (Emergency Services District) boundaries based on ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdictions) consents, assessing whether the ESD would promote public safety and welfare, and calling an election to confirm its creation. Mr. Kim clarified that the Commissioners Court would not set a tax rate at this stage as that responsibility would fall to the ESD board if voters approve the district.

Mr. Kim reviewed which cities had consented, declined, or not responded regarding their ETJs, presenting an updated boundary map of the proposed ESD. Mr. Kim also shared preliminary tax estimates, projecting a taxable value of \$10.6 billion and potential revenue around \$9.5 million at a \$0.10 tax rate, emphasizing these figures were informational only.

Commissioner Hale inquired about MUDs (Municipal Utility Districts) within unincorporated areas and ETJs, asking if they would be included in the ESD election and taxed. Mr. Kim confirmed that residents of MUDs inside consenting ETJs would participate in the election. He noted coordination with the Elections Administrator to ensure compliance with voting statutes and reiterated that taxable values from MUDs were excluded from financial estimates to avoid double taxation.

Judge Hill opened the Public Hearing at 1:48 p.m.

Stuart Blasingame, President of the Collin County Fire Chiefs Association, presented a Statement of Principles in support of creating Collin County ESD1. He recommended contracting with existing fire departments rather than forming a new one, allowing funds to be directed toward service quality rather than administrative overhead. Mr. Blasingame advocated for governance by a five-member board appointed by the Commissioners Court, with one seat designated for a representative from the Fire Chiefs Association. He emphasized the importance of preserving the autonomy of local departments, ensuring fair funding based on service provided, utilizing the maximum allowable tax rate to maintain effective service levels, and avoiding double taxation in MUDs. (Time 1:52 p.m.)

Tommy Ellison, former Grand Prairie City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem, expressed concerns about coordinating more than 20 municipalities, each with different needs and forms of governance. He cautioned that creating a single ESD could lead to a race to the highest tax rate as various entities compete for equal funding. Mr. Ellison recommended forming multiple smaller ESDs, organized by precinct or subdivisions, to better address local needs. He emphasized that the primary issue is not the delivery of fire services but rather funding and fair cost-sharing. He also offered his assistance in the process. (Time 1:55 p.m.)

Mark Tribby, Farmersville, raised concerns about potential double taxation if the proposed ESD is established. He questioned how the ESD tax, applied uniformly based on property value, would interact with the MUD tax he is already paying. (Time 1:58 p.m.)

Commissioner Williams clarified that the Court had previously passed a resolution opposing double taxation for residents in MUDs. She explained that options to prevent it include having the ESD take over existing MUD fire service contracts or reimbursing the MUD for those services.

Commissioner Hale noted that the cities providing services are aware of the MUDs tax structures and existing commitments. He suggested that coordination between the ESD board, MUD board, and the city could lead to a tripartite agreement or reimbursement arrangement to ensure fair treatment for residents.

Commissioner Fletcher further clarified that the discussion and proposed ESD map apply only to unincorporated areas, not to residents living within municipal city limits. She explained that one of the key motivations for exploring an ESD funding model is to help resolve concerns about double taxation. Commissioner Fletcher acknowledged that rapid development outside city boundaries has placed a strain on municipal resources, but reassured both attendees and online viewers that city residents would not be affected by the proposed ESD boundaries.

Kevin Rohr, Farmersville, pointed out that a \$1 million fire services contract, in place for over a decade, was not renewed despite rapid growth and rising property values. He explained that the city's funding requests were denied due to the County's limited resources. Mr. Rohr noted that Farmersville's current \$125,000 fire budget barely covers one firefighter for a 75-square-mile area, despite the department's efficiency and modest income. While expressing support for the creation of an ESD, he urged the County to allocate 1–2% of its tax revenue to city fire departments, benefiting all residents without increasing taxes. Mr. Rohr also advocated for separate ESDs to prevent efficient cities from subsidizing less efficient ones, unless a fair, unified funding plan can be established. (Time 2:03 p.m.)

Dorinda Powell, Branch, raised concerns about the current ESD petition, emphasizing that verbal assurances are not enough, especially since the Branch Fire Department's equipment, trucks, and funding have been transferred to Princeton. She argued that if residents are being taxed for emergency services, those resources should be reinvested locally. Ms. Powell also pointed to the rapid growth in unincorporated areas, suggesting that a moratorium might be necessary. Additionally, she highlighted the strain on local schools, noting that new campuses are quickly becoming overcrowded and relying on portable classrooms. She urged the Court to find long-term solutions. (Time 2:05 p.m.)

Richard Hill expressed support for the ESDs passage, warning that if it is not approved on November 4, residents could face serious consequences, including loss of fire protection, higher insurance premiums or canceled coverage, declining property values, and halted loans or foreclosures from financial institutions. He urged insurance agents, realtors, civic groups, businesses, and clergy to help raise awareness about the importance of the ESD. Mr. Hill also offered to speak with groups and assist in answering any questions. (Time 2:07 p.m.)

Tom Simerly, Princeton, expressed support for the creation of ESDs but raised concerns about the proposed single five-member board serving all unincorporated areas in Collin County. He suggested forming sub-districts to ensure more localized representation. Mr. Simerly also raised concerns with the gap between the Princeton Fire Department's planned service cutoff in October and the time it would take to establish and fund the ESD, warning of potential service disruptions. Additionally, he questioned the accuracy of the city's emergency call data, specifically how many calls involved actual fires versus accidents or medical emergencies. (Time 2:11 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged Mr. Simerly's concerns and confirmed there would be further discussion about the timing and next steps for moving the ESD process forward.

Clay Avery, Executive Director of SAFE-D (State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts), introduced his organization and offered himself as a resource. While remaining neutral on the proposed ESD, he expressed a willingness to provide information and guidance to the County if the process moves forward. (Time 2:13 p.m.)

Clayton Binder, Farmersville firefighter, voiced support for increased funding for emergency services, highlighting that fire departments handle much more than fire suppression, including EMS (Emergency Medical Services) assistance, vehicle extrication, and various types of rescues. He also expressed concern about the projected year-long service gap during the transition period and urged County Commissioners to consider interim funding to ensure continuous emergency coverage from the October service cutoff until the potential ESD is fully established. (Time 2:15 p.m.)

Judge Hill stated that the Court's main priority is preventing gaps in fire and emergency service coverage as the ESD moves forward. He noted that while the County cannot guarantee seamless coverage on its own, due to reliance on 21 independent fire service partners, it has been working with cities to maintain continuity. He warned that if voters reject the ESD in November, some cities may end services earlier than expected. He confirmed the County is willing to continue its \$1 million annual contribution, though city departments consider it insufficient. If approved, the ESD would begin operations and tax collection by October 1, 2026.

Commissioner Hale confirmed that discussions with cities about continuing fire service are ongoing and encouraged residents to urge their city councils to extend coverage, noting the outcome isn't solely in the County's hands. He expressed hope that, if the ESD passes, cities will maintain services until the ESD becomes operational. Mr. Kim acknowledged receiving a letter from the City of Princeton on May 19, 2025, stating their intent to terminate their agreement effective October 1, 2025. Commissioner Hale added that talks with Princeton continue, with the potential for the city to rescind the termination and extend services.

Travis Wooten, Farmersville, voiced concerns about gap funding and communication related to the proposed ESD. He highlighted the growing stress caused by uncertainty over fire services living in an unincorporated area near Farmersville and with children attending schools in Princeton and Lake Haven. Mr. Wooten stressed the need for clearer messaging, pointing out community confusion about potential costs, double taxation, and insurance impacts if the ESD is not approved. He also thanked the County for including his neighborhood roads in the county system, noting long-awaited improvements. (Time 2:27 p.m.)

John Donaghey, Princeton, emphasized to the Court that under current State Law, individuals can withdraw from a city's ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction), creating "donut holes" without fire service coverage. He urged the Court to consider these gaps when planning emergency services. (Time 2:28 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged Mr. Donaghey's concern about ETJ coverage gaps and said it would be addressed in the upcoming discussion.

Mary Echevaria, Princeton, expressed concern that public discussions have focused too much on ETJs and MUDs, while overlooking residents in unincorporated areas who do not belong to either. She asked the Court to include all County residents in future messaging and discussions to enhance clarity and understanding. (Time 2:30 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged Ms. Echevaria's concerns about communication and clarified that while ETJs and MUDs are often singled out, the ESD proposal includes all properties and residents in unincorporated areas. He emphasized that everyone in these areas is automatically included, cannot opt out, and will have the right to vote.

Cindy McArthur, Lavon, asked how emergency services would be managed if the ESD passes, noting her property spans both Lavon and Fate ETJs. She wanted to know which city would respond and whether consolidating her property into one ETJ would help. She also asked if the ESD would require cities like Lavon to provide fire coverage to unincorporated areas regardless of current contracts. (Time 2:33 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged that Ms. McArthur's question about which ETJ her home falls under and how emergency services would respond was complex and could not be resolved immediately. He offered to continue the conversation outside of Commissioners Court to clarify boundaries and provide accurate information. Ms. McArthur's husband noted that their front door is in Lavon and expressed uncertainty about the exact location and agreed to follow up offline for a clearer answer.

Commissioner Fletcher explained that contracts are binding agreements and if a service provider is unwilling to continue providing coverage for a district they cannot be compelled to do so. She further stated that should the ESD proposal pass, the newly formed ESD would be responsible for identifying and contracting with an alternative provider to assume coverage for that area.

Commissioner Hale explained that one elected body could not bind another, and therefore, the County cannot require cities to contract for fire services. While the ESD would also lack the authority to mandate city participation, he noted that it could fund alternative service providers if necessary. However, he expressed a preference for continuing the County's successful model of partnering with local fire departments, stating that the ESD should serve primarily as a mechanism to provide additional funding.

Judge Hill confirmed that cities are not required to provide fire services outside their limits, or even within them, though most do as they grow. He explained that voluntary contracts with the County bind cities to provide services for the agreement's term, usually with a 30-day opt-out clause. Mutual aid agreements foster cooperation between departments, but fundamentally, cities have no obligation to serve rural areas.

Adam Roof, a Collin County resident and former volunteer firefighter, shared that although the City of Weston had assumed responsibility for the unincorporated areas previously served by the City of Melissa, it frequently requested mutual aid from Melissa, which often arrived first on scene. He stated that this provided him with some reassurance that, during service gaps, departments such as Farmersville would likely still respond to confirmed structure fires. He noted that the fallback system appeared to be functioning effectively and speculated that Weston is likely receiving the related funding, although he had not verified that information. (Time 2:40 p.m.)

Commissioner Williams explained that counties are not required to provide fire services, and for many years Collin County did not fund them. She shared that, initially, rural areas were served by volunteer fire departments, with county funding intended only to support those volunteers. Commissioner Williams noted that as volunteer departments faced response challenges, city departments increasingly stepped in through mutual aid. Over time, cities requested a share of the funding due to their growing involvement, resulting in the current model where both city and volunteer fire departments receive County support.

Commissioner Hale added that city fire departments receive a portion of county funding mainly because they often respond to mutual aid calls rather than as the primary responders. He noted that while mutual aid focuses on life safety, firefighters sometimes assess the scene and then withdraw, allowing fires to continue without full suppression. He emphasized that although mutual aid helps save lives, it does not always offer the same level of property protection as primary responses within city limits.

Amir Jabine stated that as communities grow there must be innovative ways for counties and cities to fund safety improvements without raising taxes. Mr. Jabine noted that companies typically invest in enhanced coverage for their employees as they expand, and he urged local governments to adopt a similar mindset by seeking internal solutions to support public safety in the face of continued growth. (Time 2:45 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged the County's numerous funding demands and emphasized the goal of keeping taxes low while maintaining quality services. He noted that since most residents live within cities and pay city taxes, increasing countywide taxes to fund services for only a portion of residents would be inequitable. Judge Hill highlighted a state-approved option allowing only service users to vote on targeted funding, presenting it as a fair and innovative solution.

Commissioner Fletcher emphasized that the County's core functions—such as jail and judicial services—receive priority funding. She noted that, despite Collin County being one of the lowest-taxed counties in Texas, population growth continues to increase demands on essential services including courts, law enforcement, and transportation. She explained that new development generates revenue to support these needs but acknowledged that the current funding challenge is unique and requires innovative solutions. Commissioner Fletcher stressed it is inequitable for city taxpayers alone to bear the rising costs of fire and EMS services used by residents outside city limits.

Commissioner Hale said that when asked why the County doesn't just raise taxes to fund services, he often suggests annexation into a city, though many avoid it due to higher costs. He noted that Emergency Services Districts (ESDs) are the State's established way to fund emergency services in unincorporated areas. With annexation slowing and cities limiting services outside their limits, ESDs offer a fair, lower-cost alternative by linking taxes directly to service recipients, providing needed services without the expense of city annexation.

Judge Hill clarified that, although the County had one of the lowest property tax rates in Texas, State law places a cap on how much those taxes can be increased. He explained that exceeding this cap would require a countywide vote by all residents, most of whom live in cities and already paid city taxes, making approval unlikely. Judge Hill acknowledged that only those receiving specific services should have input on how they are funded and affirmed that the ESD model is the most appropriate solution, given the County's limited authority to raise taxes.

Kenneth Roose expressed hesitation about voting for the ESD, questioning the need for more taxes given the County's \$36 million surplus last year. While willing to pay more for fire protection, he worried that the City of Farmersville might not contract with the ESD, leaving his situation unchanged. He also feared the ESD's creation could delay important discussions between the County and cities and wished those issues had been settled before adding another taxing authority. (Time 2:56 p.m.)

Shannon Cain shared that he lives in Van Alstyne's ETJ but is currently covered by the City of Anna's ESD, both of which have opted out of the proposed ESD. He expressed concern that he might not be permitted to vote on the ESD formation and pointed out that others are likely in similar situations. He asked that these circumstances be considered in the broader discussion. Mr. Cain also stated that while he is willing to pay more in taxes to ensure adequate emergency coverage, he currently resides outside the proposed coverage area. (Time 2:58 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged Mr. Cain's unique situation and confirmed he cannot vote on the ESD due to his city's decision to opt out. He explained that Commissioners and County Staff have been working with City Councils to clarify that opting out means residents lose both voting rights and potential ESD coverage. While some cities pledged to continue fire services, others remain uncertain. Judge Hill emphasized that no city should exclude residents from the ESD without ensuring coverage is provided. Commissioner Williams said it is hard to imagine the City would take that route.

Commissioner Hale clarified that although the City of Anna has indicated it would cover its ETJ, no definitive commitment has been made, partly due to recent staff and leadership turnover. He noted that Anna's ETJ overlaps with several other fire districts and expressed concerns about whether the city intends to provide fire coverage in those areas, which are currently served at no cost.

The Court discussed ESD election mechanics and boundary deadlines, noting that while individuals can still opt out of an ETJ, doing so now would exclude them from the initial ESD and election since boundaries are finalized. Mr. Kim confirmed that once formed, the ESD can annex additional areas by petition, but this process will take time, likely after the ESD board is appointed and begins operations. Until then, the ESD cannot serve areas outside its set boundaries.

Commissioner Fletcher asked Monica Arris, Budget Director, to clarify Mr. Roose's statement about a \$36 million County surplus. Ms. Arris explained that while reports show unspent funds, much of the money is already committed to ongoing projects without finalized purchase orders and often carries over year to year during project stages like bidding. Commissioner Fletcher emphasized that the County still must cover unplanned and mandatory expenses, so the apparent surplus is typically already allocated or encumbered.

Commissioner Hale asked Ms. Arris how much excess M&O (Maintenance & Operations) funding remained after last year's budget. Ms. Arris replied that a financial analysis would be needed to determine that amount. Judge Hill praised the County's consistent year-end surpluses, and clarified that these surpluses do not indicate available funds at the start of a new budget year, especially not enough to cover a \$10 million expense. He emphasized that all voter-approved dollars are fully allocated within the budget, with no unused surplus, a practice that supports the County's AAA bond rating and demonstrates strong fiscal discipline.

Joel Holyoak voiced support for establishing multiple Emergency Services Districts (ESDs), suggesting that this approach could lead to a more equitable distribution of services across the County. He questioned whether the County is required to provide ambulance services and pointed out that emergency needs can arise from anyone using county roads. Citing that medical emergencies seem to exceed fire-related calls, he stressed the importance of accessible emergency services. Mr. Holyoak also emphasized that if an ESD fails and cities opt out, the County still holds the responsibility to ensure emergency services are available, as it is a core function of government. (Time 3:12 p.m.)

Judge Hill addressed concerns about areas lacking formal emergency coverage, clarifying that under State Law, the County cannot require cities to respond to emergencies. While he acknowledged that emergency responders might initially assist out of goodwill, he cautioned that this approach is not sustainable long-term. He emphasized that gaps in emergency coverage are a serious issue, noting that it's much easier to discuss hypotheticals than to manage the real-world consequences of inadequate service.

Judge Hill further explained that the current ESD election is based on a single valid petition submitted on February 6th with over 300 signatures, which defined the proposed boundaries. While other groups discussed alternative or smaller ESDs, no other valid petitions were filed. He noted that if the current proposal fails, new petitions, likely for smaller areas, may be submitted and would be handled per State Law and placed on future ballots. Judge Hill said a more targeted second election would likely succeed but acknowledged potential coverage gaps in the meantime.

Kevin Rohr asked if the County could mail ESD information to all property owners, noting that some residents may be unaware of the issue. Judge Hill said he would defer the suggestion to Mr. Kim and County staff for consideration. (Time 3:17 p.m.)

Johnny Parker stated that his original property survey extended to the centerline of the County Road, but when he later subdivided the land, 30 feet along the road frontage was removed without compensation. He noted his neighbor's property still extends to the road centerline. Mr. Parker questioned whether the County or the City of McKinney assumed control of the land and asked who is responsible for the change, especially since the property lies within McKinney's ETJ and Melissa ISD. (Time 3:20 p.m.)

Judge Hill clarified that while the issue wasn't directly related to fire services, it was still a valid question. He assured Mr. Parker that County staff would follow up with him to provide an accurate answer, though it likely wouldn't be resolved during the Public Hearing.

Mr. Kim concluded by clarifying that although the City of Prosper was mistakenly omitted from the ETJ consent list in his presentation, they had indeed consented to inclusion in the proposed ESD. He confirmed that both the GIS map and the Court-Ordered Resolution were accurate.

With no further public comments, Judge Hill closed the Public Hearing at 3:21 p.m.

NO ACTION

b. **AI-58425** Election to confirm the creation of Collin County Emergency Services District No. 1, and authorize the imposition of a tax not to exceed the rate allowed by section 48-E, Article III, Texas Constitution, Administrative Services.

Judge Hill opened the discussion, addressing key questions raised during the Public Hearing regarding the proposed ESD.

Commissioner Williams clarified that counties, unlike cities, do not have the authority to implement moratoriums, as they do not provide infrastructure services such as water or sewer.

Commissioner Hale confirmed that when a permit request is received, the County is obligated to respond within a designated timeframe. If the request is complete and complies with all applicable service regulations, the permit must be issued.

Judge Hill responded to questions on service gaps, the possibility of multiple ESDs, and public awareness. He emphasized the Court's legal responsibility to determine whether the proposed ESD supports public safety, health, and welfare. He also reiterated that once the election is called, State Law requires the County to remain neutral, limiting all communication to factual information only.

Mr. Kim confirmed the County website would be updated with a full timeline, resolutions, and materials, and that staff would continue providing information in response to resident inquiries. Commissioner Williams asked if residents could request a list of voters within the proposed ESD to help inform the public. Mr. Kim confirmed that such a list would be available through the Elections Office after boundaries are finalized.

Commissioner Hale noted that the Elections Office cannot begin its work until the Court officially sets the ESD boundary. Mr. Kim confirmed that if the Court finalized the boundary and called the election that day, all subsequent steps would proceed on schedule. He also reminded the Court of the statutory deadline of August 16th to call the election for it to appear on the November 4th ballot.

With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time 3:27 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-747-07-28

c. AI-58351 Grants received by Collin County, Budget.

Monica Arris, Budget Director, presented a revised handout reflecting last-minute funding adjustments made on July 25, 2025. She described the County's review of current grants, noting that many existing grants are level-funded, meaning funding amounts remain flat while personnel costs increase, shifting more financial burden to the County. Ms. Arris highlighted Healthcare as particularly impacted, having lost several staff members in recent months.

Ms. Arris proposed fully converting some positions to be either entirely County-funded or entirely Grant-funded, rather than splitting funding across multiple sources. She emphasized that departmental savings would be used to offset costs, keeping the request budget-neutral. Two grants were identified for short-term bridge funding to support staff until the next grant cycle. Ms. Arris expressed concern about federal funding uncertainty, particularly the potential loss of the UASI grant, and requested Court direction on right-sizing staffing in departments like Healthcare that heavily rely on grant support.

Commissioner Webb confirmed that County-funded positions would be included in the FY2026 budget process, while Grant-funded positions would continue only if grant funds were available. Commissioner Fletcher asked whether employees were aware of the conditional nature of their roles. Ms. Arris confirmed that HR informs new hires about the lack of funding guarantees. She also confirmed that employee roles could be reassigned within grants, provided the original scope of duties is met.

Judge Hill asked whether grants typically shrink or simply cease to exist. Ms. Arris explained that most grants are level-funded. Ms. Arris noted that while funding stays flat, expenditures increase over time. Judge Hill stressed the importance of understanding the difference between capped funding and rising expenses, emphasizing informed decision-making when the County assumes responsibility for those gaps.

Commissioner Fletcher raised the risk of rising costs eventually outpacing level grant funding. Ms. Arris confirmed this was anticipated and part of the long-term plan toward fully funding some roles with County dollars and others through grants. She noted that layoffs may occur if funding shortfalls continue, or departments may seek County support through the budget process. Commissioner Fletcher noted such requests would be reviewed as departmental improvements.

Judge Hill stated the County might sometimes choose to absorb small unfunded portions to preserve critical roles but reiterated the need for awareness in doing so. Commissioner Fletcher added the County should maximize available grant funds while monitoring what it absorbs.

Ms. Arris identified ongoing staff losses in Healthcare and requested Court approval to stabilize staffing. She also raised urgent concerns about the Fusion Center due to lost Sheriff's Office funding, while noting that a solution had been found for the Victim Assistance grant by using County staff timesheets as match funding to qualify for full reimbursement. Ms. Arris said the strategy was being shared with the District Attorney's office.

Commissioner Webb asked about two positions highlighted in the handout. Ms. Arris clarified they were net-neutral due to departmental savings. She added that while the two positions represent a \$10,000 increase, overall savings reduce the total impact by \$36,619, which means the full request remains budget-neutral for FY26.

Commissioner Hale asked how proposed personnel costs would be offset. Candy Blair, Public Health Director, confirmed the savings would come from recurring departmental funds, primarily from the closure of the Substance Abuse Department. Ms. Blair added that multiple layoffs had already occurred, and reallocating resources would allow Healthcare to better support essential services, like TB treatment and immunizations.

Judge Hill and Ms. Blair discussed how temporary COVID-era funding had expanded staffing, with current reductions returning staffing to pre-pandemic levels. Ms. Arris clarified that the \$315,000 in proposed recurring personnel costs would be fully offset by \$351,000 in savings, resulting in a net-positive financial change. Ms. Blair emphasized that reallocating savings was necessary to maintain core staff and ensure the Health Department could continue providing critical services. She stated that without the Health Department, there was no alternative provider for those services. She noted the department had already lost 27 staff members and that remaining functional was critical to public health and the County's status as the healthiest in Texas.

Judge Hill asked whether the Health Department had been directed to make cuts. Ms. Blair clarified she had taken that initiative herself and no formal directive had been issued. Russell Schaffner, Deputy County Administrator, added that in response to a federal grant freeze, staff had assessed liabilities and restructured budgets. He directed a net-neutral reallocation of grant-funded positions to clearly distinguish County and Grant funded roles. Mr. Schaffner confirmed some employees were terminated per County policy. He clarified that the aim was to maintain essential services despite volatile federal and state funding.

Commissioner Fletcher proposed creating a Healthcare Contingency Fund using departmental savings to provide a buffer for covering small shortfalls or temporary funding gaps. Judge Hill supported the idea and invited a motion. Commissioner Fletcher moved to adopt the revised worksheet with the contingency caveat.

Ms. Blair provided an informational summary of all County grants over the past four years, including non-personnel items such as patrol and vest grants. She clarified no action was required and that the summary was for context.

The Court then discussed the Fusion Center, which had lost its primary funding. Commissioner Fletcher inquired about possible financial contributions from cities. Sheriff Skinner explained that while the Center was originally intended for regional use, it now functioned primarily as a real-time crime unit serving Collin County. He confirmed that the funding loss had been finalized in a letter received that day, underscoring the urgency of deciding whether the County would absorb operational costs moving forward. (Time 4:14 p.m.)

Motion: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-748-07-28

d. **AI-58350** Grant Policy, Administrative Services.

Russell Schaffner, Deputy County Administrator, presented updates to the County's decade-old grants policy, aimed at improving oversight and consistency. He highlighted key changes including requiring departments to submit grant requests at least 28 days in advance, standardizing grant-funded personnel pay to align with County pay structures, and mandating clear identification of any required matches or County supplements. Mr. Schaffner recommended adding a grandfather clause to preserve PTO already accrued by grant-funded employees prior to the policy's effective date, clarifying that only pre-implementation PTO would be protected. This would ensure future accruals follow the new rules while honoring prior commitments.

The Court discussed clarifying PTO provisions for grant-funded roles, emphasizing the need to manage PTO usage before grants end to avoid unpaid accruals and confirmed that under the new policy, future PTO accruals for grant-funded employees would be limited to one year.

With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time 4:27 p.m.)

Motion: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Second: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-749-07-28

e. AI-57935 Move Magistrate Court Clerks to District Clerk Department, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 54.2210, District Clerk.

Michael Gould, District Clerk, presented a proposal to transition the Magistrate Court Clerks under the District Clerk's Office, in accordance with Texas Local Government Code §54.22110 and HB 4664, which designate the District Clerk as Clerk of the Magistrate Court. Mr. Gould stated the change would restore statutory compliance and proposed adding a second Lead Clerk to ensure weekend and holiday coverage, with minimal software licensing costs. He confirmed coordination with the Collin County Sheriff's Office and workspace adjustments were already underway.

Commissioner Williams expressed appreciation to Mr. Gould for assuming responsibility for the Magistrate Clerks as intended by law.

Commissioner Hale requested clarification on the proposed organizational structure. Mr. Gould explained it would mirror the current arrangement with District Judges, where Clerks work alongside, but not under, the Judges. The Magistrate Clerks would coordinate primarily with the Magistrate Court Administrator.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the transition, with the caveat that any departmental improvements, including the additional Lead Clerk position, be considered during future budget discussions. She also clarified that the motion did not authorize the creation of new positions at this time but only transferred existing staff. Mr. Gould confirmed that understanding, noting that the second Lead Clerk position would be addressed separately. The Magistrate Judge and Court Coordinator roles would remain unchanged.

Judge Hill commended Mr. Gould for taking steps to restore the statutory responsibilities of the District Clerk's Office. (Time 4:28 p.m.)

Motion: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-750-07-28

f. AI-58403 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$63,197 for two (2) months of funding for pre-trial release staff and equipment, District Clerk.

Motion: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-751-07-28

g. AI-58426 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$825,000 for jail operations overtime, Sheriff.

Matt Langan, Chief Deputy, presented that the Sheriff's Office typically exceeds its \$318,000 annual overtime budget by the fourth quarter, often covering the shortfall through unused funds from other line items or vacant positions. Last year, \$110,000 was transferred from the Pretrial Release Fund, and \$1.5 million was reallocated from the DA's (District Attorney) office, although Monica Arris, Budget Director, clarified that the DA funds were part of a broader county-wide year-end budget cleanup and unrelated to overtime.

Ms. Arris presented a Budget Amendment to address the current shortfall, utilizing \$160,000 from General Overtime funds already in Non-Departmental Contingency by the Court, \$349,000 from Non-Departmental salaries, and \$316,000 from Unassigned Contingency.

Commissioner Fletcher raised concerns about depleting one-time funds and driving future cost increases. She questioned hiring timelines and discrepancies in staffing requests. Yoon Kim, County Administrator, clarified that no formal requests had been submitted by the Sheriff's Office though Chief Langan noted that some positions were requested but not approved.

Commander Perepiczka outlined staffing complexities, showing spreadsheets tracking absences and explaining that training and operational relief factors reduce actual deployable staff. Judge Hill flagged inconsistencies in data between HR and the Sheriff's Office and emphasized the need for clear cost drivers and labeled categories.

The Court discussed the field training cycle, with Assistant Chief Jaquess explaining a typical 12-week training path and limited capacity for cross-training. Commander Perepiczka noted staffing minimums, particularly in Booking, and the strain created by reduced availability of trainers due to increased recruitment.

Assistant Chief Jaquess outlined TDY (Temporary Duty), confirming that 10 such posts, requiring roughly 22 officers when accounting for relief, were staffed using internal reassignments per State Law.

The Court reiterated the need for properly documented and submitted staffing requests, noting that while operational flexibility is important, fiscal transparency is essential to avoid budget shortfalls or compliance issues.

The Court then discussed the cost of housing inmates out-of-county versus in-county, factoring in transportation and medical expenses. Commissioner Fletcher noted that Collin County still incurs around \$2 million annually in medical expenses for out-of-county inmates.

Assistant Chief Jaquess explained the future impact of SB9, noting new felony transport requirements starting Sept. 1 would strain resources further unless mitigated through technology upgrades. Judge Hill and Commissioner Williams acknowledged that jail operations remain one of the County's highest cost centers and may force reductions in other areas to remain within budget.

Commissioner Webb suggested using PFP (Pay For Performance) funds to partially cover overtime and personnel costs and asked for a projection of those funds. Commissioner Fletcher requested the discussion be continued during Budget Workshop.

Commissioner Hale flagged a compliance issue discovered related to overtime laws, confirming with Ms. Arris and Mr. Schaffner that Deputies and Constables must be paid overtime for work beyond standard hours, which had not always been followed.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve a Budget Amendment to cover incurred overtime through October 1. Assistant Chief Jaquess confirmed the funds were needed to cover both past and anticipated overtime, and that compensatory time had already been exhausted. Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Arris confirmed that \$761,356 would remain in the FY2025 Contingency account.

Commissioner Williams emphasized the need to fund required overtime while addressing broader issues in the upcoming Budget Workshop. (Time 6:39 p.m.)

Motion: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-752-07-28

h. AI-58347 2025 Benefits Presentation, Human Resources.

HELD

i. AI-58348 2025 TCDRS Presentation, Human Resources.

Erica Johnson, Assistant Director of Human Resources, presented an overview of the County's retirement plan performance and upcoming decisions. She reported that both TMRS (Texas Municipal Retirement System) and TCDRS (Texas County and District Retirement System) had strong returns in 2020, and Collin County's required rate for 2026 is lower than peer counties. Ms. Johnson stated the County is currently 100% funded using both asset recognition methods. She explained the impact of COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustments) on pension liability noting that Collin County has never implemented a repeating COLA and last issued one in 2022. Ms. Johnson concluded by outlining agenda items for Budget Workshop including the employer contribution rate, lump sum payments, and whether to grant a COLA for retirees.

Commissioner Fletcher requested information on how the County's mandated 7% interest compares to other retirement systems, such as TMRS, which offers 5%. She suggested this higher guaranteed return could be a strong recruiting tool and said the County should emphasize it more when attracting talent. (Time 6:46 p.m.)

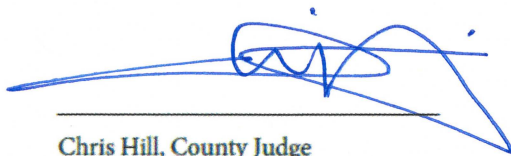
NO ACTION

3. Executive Session Items:

Public Comments not related to an item on the Agenda.

Judge Chris Hill welcomed former Collin County Judge and current United States Congressman Keith Self. Congressman Self spoke to the high quality of life in the County, noting that travel to other areas only reinforced how unique and fortunate the community is. He highlighted the County's rapid growth and shared a story about how 32 young men and women from the area had been sent to various United States service academies, a figure that impressed his Congressional colleagues. Congressman Self concluded by thanking the Court and expressing his appreciation for being home. (Time 1:35 p.m.)

There being no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.



Chris Hill, County Judge

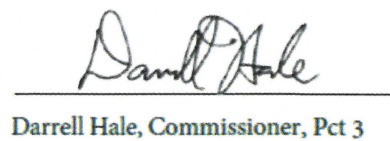


Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1

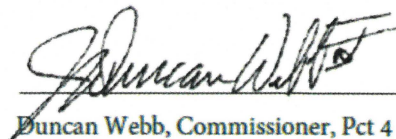
Not Present

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2





Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3



Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4



ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk