

Meeting Date; 1/14/2025
Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court
Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

HONORABLE REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on the 14th of January 2025 at 9:30AM in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky. Present was the Honorable Reagan Taylor in the chair presiding and the following members of the Fiscal Court: James Brian Combs, Stephen Lochmueller, Billy Ray Hughes, and Tom Botkin were present. Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger, and Jailer Larry Brock were also present.

It being determined a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.

Judge Taylor asked for a moment of silence for Bill Strong, former Magistrate and Richmond Mayor.

Judge Taylor asked Reverend Timo Karvonen, Berea United Methodist Church, to lead the Court in prayer.
Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 12-17-2024:

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on December 17, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 12-19-2024:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the special called meeting on December 19, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Proclamation— Madison County School Board Recognition:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the month of January 2025 as School Board Recognition Month and urged all citizens to honor Becky Coyle, Beth Brock, Brandon Rutherford, Lori Cobb, and Samantha Burford for their service. Madison County School Board Members Samantha Burford, Lori Cobb, Becky Coyle, and Brandon Rutherford were in attendance to accept this proclamation, along with Superintendent Randy Neeley. Superintendent Neeley expressed his appreciation to the Court for the recognition. He stated that this Board is fantastic to work with; every decision they make is student based, and they are community driven.

IN RE: Proclamation— For Paws Unleashed Day:

Judge Taylor proclaimed January 14, 2025, as For Paws Unleashed Day and sincerely thanked this organization for taking the initiative in assisting and educating the staff at the Madison County Animal Shelter to ensure the animals receive the best care possible.

Ashley Wellman Renton, Owner/Operator of For Paws Unleashed, and her staff were in attendance to accept this proclamation.

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Ashley stated that they are very proud of what they have accomplished during the short amount of time they have been in partnership with the County. She encouraged everyone to come out and look at the improvements at the shelter and thanked the Court for giving them the opportunity to help with those improvements.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Ashley for their help at the Shelter, and to the staff at For Paws Unleashed that had to step up while several of the employees were helping the County.

Judge Taylor stated that he couldn't thank the team at For Paws Unleashed enough for their help, and the training they have provided to the County employees.

Jill stated that For Paws has worked 860 documented hours but is probably well over 1,000 hours with late night phone calls and text messages, working with rescues, etc. that went beyond the blood, sweat, and tears for this selfless act.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked about the number of adoptions that have gone out from the Shelter. Ashley stated that there have been 64 dogs in the past month that have went to rescue groups, and 38 adoptions. She explained that they work with one rescue, that takes 30-40 dogs every couple of months, as well as several other rescue groups, who they have vetted, and who provide updates on the animals they are rescuing. They have also had virtually no euthanasians within the shelter since they started working together.

IN RE: StormReady Overview:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, introduced Mike Kochasic and Brian Schoettmer, Meteorologists with the National Weather Service, Louisville, KY.

Mike expressed his congratulations to Madison County for becoming StormReady. He explained that this is a certification that the National Weather Service bestows on Counties and Emergency Management who go through a process of different criteria to make sure they are ready for all the big storms. Part of StormReady is an emergency planning piece, and Chief Gray, Wendy Lynch, and their team have gone through the training to make sure they are ready to enact certain things based on any storm. Community engagement, education, and community alerting are also important components to being StormReady.

Mike and Brian presented a StormReady road sign as well as the StormReady certificate.

Judge Taylor stated that he is very proud of the team and how well everyone works together and helps each other out.

Magistrate Botkin asked what went into the certification. Chief Gray stated that they had to meet a lot of criteria in regard to alerting the public and be able to put out the information that comes from the National Weather Service to be able to keep the community safe.

Wendy Lynch stated that a lot of it was things they had already be participating in and doing over the years through EMA and CSEPP.

Magistrate Hughes asked if they had heard anything about next week. Chief Gray stated that they have talked about some weather Friday, Saturday, and Sunday but they haven't sent out anything yet. Once they do hear from the National Weather Service, they will push that information out on the website and social media.

IN RE: Madison County Sheriff's Office 2024 Overview:

Anthony Terry, Chief Deputy, provided an overview of the Madison County Sheriff's Office for 2024. He stated that they have the ultimate team at the Sheriff's Office, and they are very proud of them. Deputy Terry talked about the operations and investigations they were involved in during 2024, with 33,610 calls for service for the year. Being a fee organization, they were able to bring in funds by serving 3,015 papers, 585 evictions/vacations, inspected 4,954 vehicles, and completed 860 carry/conceal applications. In addition to the other operations they performed throughout the year, they were involved in 202 special details with their Honor Guard, bike patrol, and K-9 demonstrations. The Madison County Honor Guard is recognized throughout the state, and they are called upon during funerals and ceremonies. They pride themselves on being involved in outside activities within the community to help serve the citizens. As far as investigations, they had 55 death

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investigations and 5 overdose investigations, both of which are down from last year. They are fortunate to have an Officer, Anthony Gatson, who is nationally recognized for his efforts in International Crimes against Children, and who worked 37 sexual assault cases last year.

Judge Taylor stated that there are a lot of citizens in our community that don't know that sexual assault cases are an issue in our area, but he is very thankful to have Officer Gatson working to protect our children from the dark web and from human trafficking.

Magistrate Botkin encouraged citizens to report any issues they might notice that seem out of place.

Deputy Terry explained that their Investigation Unit includes their drug task force as part of the HIDTA Madison County, which had 46 investigations and a total value of all seizures from those investigations of \$216,448.33.

Deputy Terry stated that another portion of their department involves Court Security. They work great with the Jail personnel to handle the 4,763 court ordered prisoner transports they did last year. With those transports, they drove 76,398 miles at a fuel cost of \$11,485.47.

He expressed his appreciation to Jodi Webb at 911 for her help in getting some of the figures together for his presentation, as well as to Officer Stotts for his assistance. He also thanked Mary Margaret and the office staff at the Sheriff's Department for all their hard work.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Department and all the work that they do. He asked if Deputy Terry has heard any legislation from the State looking at how the Sheriff's Departments are funded. Officer Terry stated that he hadn't heard anything. Magistrate Combs asked for some feedback from the Sheriff's Association on ways the Magistrates might be able to help in talking with Legislators to help supplement funding.

Judge Taylor stated that due to less manpower, the Kentucky State Police Department has been doing less law enforcement than they have in the past.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he agrees with Magistrate Combs, they need to get some information on what to present to the Legislators on getting funding to help cover the cost that the Sheriff's Department is incurring due to having to cover for the Kentucky State Police's lack of manpower.

Magistrate Botkin commended the Sheriff's Department and the Kentucky State Police's shortage for all the troops that have been willing to come to work for the Sheriff's Department.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-01—Land Use Change for 1330 Boonesborough Road from UC-41C Interstate Commercial to UC-2 Multi-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-01— Land Use Change for 1330 Boonesborough Road from UC-41C Interstate Commercial to UC-2 Multi-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of approximately 14.02 acres located at 1330 Boonesborough Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zone map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to discuss the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2025-01— Land Use Change for 1330 Boonesborough Road from UC-41C Interstate Commercial to UC-2 Multi-Family Residential.

Magistrate Botkin asked if there were any concerns that were brought up during the Planning Commission meeting. Bert stated that there were some questions from citizens wanting some more information and about traffic, but there were no concerns, and it was a unanimous recommendation.

Magistrate Botkin also asked if this piece of property was landlocked. Bert stated that it is actually a piece of property that will be cut off of a larger tract of land. Judge Taylor stated that the applicant owns the land in front of and on the side of the property that makes it look like it might be landlocked. He also stated that is a lesser zoning since it is going from Interstate Commercial to Multi-Family Residential.

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Magistrate Lochmueller asked what Madison County was doing to understand the traffic flow. Bert stated that the applicant had a traffic study done, which stated there would be no impact until 2035. Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he wants to make sure that they are doing what they need to do as a County to make sure traffic doesn't become an issue. Bert stated that the traffic issue was something that the Planning Commission looked at. This is the third zone change in the area in recent months, and 2 of the 3 applicants had a traffic study done, which both showed no impact to the area. Judge Taylor agreed, they need to be proactive and not reactive.

Magistrate Botkin agreed that they need to make sure they are communicating with the State on their roads, as well as keeping track of the needs of the County roads.

Magistrate Hughes compared the projection of growth the Comprehensive Plan states will happen by 2040, to the number of homes that are being built within the county. He feels that there are more homes being built than what the Comprehensive Plan is projecting will be needed by 2040. Judge Taylor stated that just because something is zoned, doesn't mean that they will build on it right away, and that the market will dictate what needs to be built.

Judge Taylor suggested they get some real estate statistics on what the market is doing from Bluegrass Realtors to present to the Court.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Resolution 2025-01—Madison County Clerk's 2025 Budget:

Kenny Barger, Madison County Clerk, presented Resolution 2025-01—Madison County Clerk's 2025 Budget for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the Madison County Clerk's 2025 Budget.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-01—Madison County Clerk's 2025 Budget.

Clerk Barger stated that they are feeling the growth in the county, with more out-of-state move-ins every day. He stated that he can't say enough about his staff, both in motor vehicles and in the other departments who shift job duties to wait on the customers. He explained that every quarter, 25% of the funds the County Clerk's office collects gets sent back to the Fiscal Court, and the Clerk's Office works off of 75%. He stated they are expecting the funds to go down in 2025 due to the fact that Kavis has cleaned up a lot of the vehicles in the system, and they have also seen a decline in the number of recordings recently compared to what they had in the past. He expressed his appreciation to the Court for their support.

Magistrate Hughes expressed his appreciation to Clerk Barger.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he went to the Clerk's Office on the last day of the year, and bragged on the excellent job the staff did waiting on the customers.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Resolution 2025-02—Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Budget:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2025-02—Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Budget for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Budget.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-02—Madison County Sheriff's 2025 Budget.

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Magistrate Botkin stated that he spoke with Sheriff Coyle with some questions that he had and believes that this is a good, solid budget.

Sheriff Coyle stated that the 2025 Budget is an increase from last year's budget, but they have been good stewards of taxpayer's money by being able to turn back in a little over \$109,000. They are asking for a \$154,398 increase from last year for 4 part-time Court Security personnel, as well as a pay raise for all their employees that will now be in line with the County pay scale in July.

Judge Taylor stated that the Sheriff's total budget is \$6,081,562.00 and with the \$109,000 that they will be turning back over to the County, the operating budget will be \$5,972,562.00.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if they could start recognizing how much they are spending on a 3rd shift so that they can take that information to Frankfort.

Magistrate Combs commended the Sheriff and Deputy Terry for their revenue line items going up and optimizing the services that they offer. Their goal, as a Fiscal Court, should be to advocate as much as possible to get everything that the Sheriff's Department needs and the key to that is being proactive. He also expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for all the work that they do.

Judge Taylor stated that they can't look at an increase in budget as everything is the same as last year and they just want more money. The Court system is growing, so the AOC is allowing for more Court Security Officers, which is what a portion of this increase is for.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2025-03—Madison County Fiscal Court and Georgetown/Scott County Revenue Commission Interlocal Agreement for Data Center Services aka KCGC:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2025-03—Madison County Fiscal Court and Georgetown/Scott County Revenue Commission Interlocal Agreement for Data Center Services aka KCGC for the Court's approval. This Resolution relates to an interlocal agreement between Madison County Fiscal Court and the Georgetown/Scott County Revenue Commission for the use of the Kentucky Counties Government Cloud (KCGC).

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2025-03—Madison County Fiscal Court and Georgetown/Scott County Revenue Commission Interlocal Agreement for Data Center Services aka KCGC.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if Chris would explain this agreement. Chris stated that there will be about a \$3,100 per month charge for data center that the County will be billing to Georgetown/Scott County Revenue Commission for cyber security. There are also other counties that are waiting for grant funding before coming onboard in the future.

Magistrate Botkin asked about the last line in Article 8 and wanted to reiterate with the Members that they understand that it will be their responsibility to cover the cost of restoration for any data loss if such an event occurs.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2025-04—Professional Engineering Services Agreement for the County's Portion of the Goggins Lane Extension from US-25 to KY-169:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-04—Professional Engineering Services Agreement for the County's Portion of the Goggins Lane Extension from US-25 to KY-169 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a professional engineering services agreement for the County's portion of the Goggins Lane Extension from US-25 to KY-169.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-04—Professional Engineering Services Agreement for the County Portion of the Goggins Lane Extension from US-25 to KY-169.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Judge Taylor and Jill for being proactive.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Clayton Cornelius as a Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective January 22, 2025; and the hiring of Gabriel Hall as a Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective January 22, 2025. Jill also introduced Jessica Coffey as the new HR Director.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller for the hiring of Clayton Cornelius as a Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective January 22, 2025; and the hiring of Gabriel Hall as a Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective January 22, 2025.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, spotlighted Travis Lovett, Emergency Operations Center Technician since 2021. A colleague stated that Travis is always super nice and easy to work with. He made sure the walkway at the EOC/911 stayed clear during the recent snow/ice storm, going out multiple times throughout the night to reapply salt and clear any ice that had accumulated.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Travis.

RE: Judge's Report:

- Thank you to the road crew and first responders for getting us through the recent winter storms.
- Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc. is continuing to provide assistance through the crisis component of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications can be submitted until March 15, 2025. Visit www.foothillscap.org for more information or call 859-544-1713 to schedule an appointment.
- Visit our website at www.madisoncountky.gov/community-events to see a list of some of the events happening throughout our community. If you have an event you would like to feature on this page, simply click on the "Submit an Event" button and complete the form.
- The Madison County Courthouse and its related offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, January 21st at 8:00 AM.

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Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor welcomed Jailer Larry Brock to Fiscal Court. He also spoke about the what Madison County represents and how the citizens from the county move on to other areas representing the culture of Madison County, like Kicker Vencill, who is battling the L.A. wildfires.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he received an email from Gus Lafontaine thanking the County for the great job they did on clearing the roads.

Magistrate Botkin stated that everyone did an outstanding job taking care of the County and State roads during the recent weather event. He also asked Larry Brock about a claim on home incarceration. Jill stated that those claims come through the finance office instead of through the Jail now since they have contracted through EMCON. She stated that they average between 30 and 40 individuals going through the home incarceration program. Judge Taylor asked Jill if they could present a cost/benefit analysis on the home incarceration program within the next couple of court meetings.

Magistrate Combs stated the cooperation between all the departments during the recent snow weather event was very much appreciated and was successful because everyone worked together.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked all the volunteers and staff at For Paws, the Road Department, Clerk Barger, Sheriff Coyle, and all the County employees for all their hard work.

Clerk Barger stated that their total budget is \$32,585,409.26, which \$30,000,000 of that passes through to other agencies. The operating budget is \$2,213,700.00, and because they have to make their expenditures match their revenue, they have never gone over the operating budget amount.

Sheriff Coyle thanked the Court and the citizens of the county for their continued support of the Sheriff's Department. He explained that during the snowstorm, they received over 134 calls for service within the first couple days of the storm, working collisions, providing assistance to motorists, and taking essential workers to and from their jobs at the hospital and doctor offices. He also commended Judge Taylor and the Court for bringing Larry Brock in as Jailer; he is a great choice for the position.

Jailer Brock thanked Sheriff Coyle for his kind words. He stated that he is learning and getting familiar with the facility, meeting with senior leadership, and reviewing litigation, policies, and procedures reinforcing that they are ultimately responsible for the care of the inmates. He opened an invitation to the Fiscal Court to come visit the Jail in the near future to see what goes on within the Jail on a daily basis.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

No Comments from the Public.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve to pay claims and transfers.

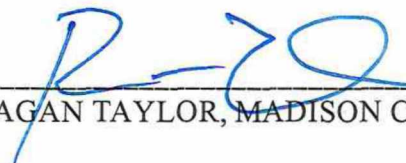
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ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for January 28, 2025, in the Emergency Operations Center in Richmond, KY at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Stephen Lochmueller to adjourn, seconded by James Brian Combs. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE