

Meeting Date: 6/24/2025
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 24th of June 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building in Richmond, 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, Jailer Larry Brock, and Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger were also present.

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

Judge Taylor asked Camden Alcorn, Youth and Missions Pastor at the Vineyard 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 6-10-2025:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on June 10, 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	

Treasurer's Report:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, addressed the Court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file).

IN RE: Amending the Agenda:

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve amending the agenda to have a 911 Fee update.

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: 911 Service Fee Update:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, provided an update concerning the 911 fee. She explained that in 2024, in collaboration with the City of Richmond, City of Berea, and the Post-CSEPP Taskforce, the decision was made to modify the 911 fee. Since 1992 there has been a 911 fee placed on landlines. However, most citizens no longer have landlines, which has led to a need to make the change of how the 911 fee was collected. A line item was placed on the 2024 property tax bills notifying the public that there would be a new 911 fee added to their property tax bill starting in 2025, and notification letters have now been sent out over the past couple of weeks for citizens to verify that their information is correct.

There is an appeal process application that can be done online or at the Judge's Office, to make adjustments if the information is incorrect on the letter. There are 4 reasons for an appeal: incorrect square footage, incorrect zone classification, same property owner/contingent property, or landline fee bill payments credit to bill for difference at the time of property tax submission. Jill explained that this fee is to fund 911 so that first responders can continue to get to the citizens of Madison County during 911 emergency situations.

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Magistrate Combs asked if citizens can only select one reason for an appeal. Jill stated that it only allows them to select one but there is an open text field box that will allow them to explain if another situation applies. Magistrate Hughes asked about the timeframe for submitting an appeal. Jill stated that they would like an application to be submitted as soon as possible, so they have time to get the information corrected in the process.

Magistrate Combs asked if there was a place on the County website that lists the rates for different zoning. Jill stated that there is under the 911 Service Fee, as well as other information concerning the fee.

Judge Taylor asked about the 911 Fee Classification map. Jill explained that they have developed a map that shows the 911 zoning classification within the county, which will be linked on the County website.

Judge Taylor stated that they are there to help the public with any issues they have and encouraged the citizens to reach out to their office with any questions or corrections that need to be made.

Magistrate Lochmueller explained that this process is being proactive to make sure the information concerning the property dwellings are correct and not waiting until the tax bills go out in October.

Jill thanked those that have called so far to get their information correct, as well as the hard work the 911 team has put in to make sure the public is safe.

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-008 — Fiscal Court Budget for FY 2025-2026:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-008— Fiscal Court Budget for FY 2025-2026 for the Court's approval. This Ordinance is related to the adoption of the FY 2025-2026 Fiscal Court Budget.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-008— Fiscal Court Budget for FY 2025-2026.

Magistrate Combs asked if the Comprehensive Correctional Care fee increase is part of this budget. Judge Taylor stated that it is not, they would be over budget on the difference of what the Jail budget initially was, and it would come out of surplus as long as the Fiscal Court approves it.

Magistrate Hughes stated that they get an allotted amount to use on asphalt. Roads have about a 35-year live cycle and the cost of road repair is expensive. He believes that this is something that needs to look at in the future and suggested they look into borrowing money or taking the funds out of surplus to fix the roads that are needing it.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the State is lowering the gas tax, which will make the issue of funding road repairs worse. He explained that a 1 cent decrease in the gas tax takes \$30 Million out of the budget for blacktop across the state.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he has already reached out to local Legislators about that.

Magistrate Combs stated that they need to advocate with the Legislators on unfunded mandates and make sure the County is getting what they need to make it safe for the citizens.

There were no public comments.

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 2025-054 — Madison County Fire Department and Blue Grass Army Depot Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement:

Tim Gray, EMA Directory/Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2025-054— Madison County Fire Department and Blue Grass Army Depot Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes signature of a Memorandum of Agreement for mutual aid fire service between the Madison County Fire Department and the Blue Grass Army Depot Fire Department.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-054— Madison County Fire Department and Blue Grass Army Depot Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement.

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

IN RE: Resolution 2025-055 — Adopt Amended Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating:

Tim Gray, EMA Directory/Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2025-055— Adopt Amended Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting the amended Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) for FY 2025-2026. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 2025-023.

Motion by James Brian Combs was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-055— Adopt Amended Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating.

Magistrate Combs asked if there were very many changes that were made. Chief Gray stated that they added a mutual aid call procedure and a guideline approving timecards.

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 2025-056 — Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board Spay & Neuter Grant Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-056— Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board Spay & Neuter Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the application and administration of the 2025 Kentucky Department of Agriculture Animal Control Advisory Board Spay and Neuter Grant Funds.

Motion by Tom Botkin was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2025-056— Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board Spay & Neuter Grant Application.

Jill stated that they have made huge strides over the past year in being able to spay or neuter more and more animals at the shelter.

Magistrate Combs thanked the team for the improvements that have been made at the animal shelter.

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 2025-057— Madison County Detention Center Healthcare Facility Services Agreement for FY 2025-2026:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-057— Madison County Detention Center Healthcare Facility Services Agreement FY 2025-2026 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a Healthcare Facility Services Agreement between the Madison County Detention Center and West Kentucky Correctional Healthcare, LLC DBA Comprehensive Correctional Care (hereinafter referred to as "3C").

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-057— Madison County Detention Center Healthcare Facility Services Agreement FY 2025-2026.

Magistrate Combs stated that this has been a difficult decision to see the cost that the jail is incurring on the County; this is another example of where advocacy is going to be important. He expressed his appreciation to Judge Taylor in negotiating the cost of this down some.

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Magistrate Lochmueller also thanked Judge Taylor for his work on this. He also agreed that they have to go to Frankfort to advocate for funding on State mandates that are not being provided by the State.

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 2025-058 — Adopt Madison County Detention Center Policy and Procedures Manual for FY 2025-2026:

Major Dwight Hall, Professional Standards Fiscal Court Liaison, presented Resolution 2025-058 — Adopt Madison County Detention Center Policy and Procedures Manual for FY 2025-2026 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting the Madison County Detention Center Policy and Procedures Manual for FY 2025-2026.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-058 — Adopt Madison County Detention Center Policy and Procedures Manual for FY 2025-2026.

Magistrate Botkin stated that all the procedures discuss who to notify in different situations, but he didn't see where there was anything that suggested they notify the Judge Executive. Major Hall stated that under Chapter 1 Policy 2, it states that the Jail is to notify the Judge Executive of any unusual instances at the Detention Center that might result in legal action. They do try to keep that in mind to make sure proper planning is put into place.

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 2025-059 — Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2025-2026:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-059 — Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2025-2026 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving the Madison County Annual Employee Classification Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-059 — Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2025-2026.

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 2025-060 — Annual Employee Rate Adjustments for FY 2025-2026:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-060— Annual Employee Rate Adjustment for FY 2025-2026 for the Court's approval. This Resolution adopts the employee rate adjustments for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Motion by Tom Botkin was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2025-060— Annual Employee Rate Adjustment for FY 2025-2026.

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 2025-061 — Mass Notification Siren System Maintenance Agreement:

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Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2025-061 — Mass Notification Siren System Maintenance Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to authorize signature of a maintenance agreement for the Mass Notification Siren System with American Signal Corp.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-061 — Mass Notification Siren System Maintenance Agreement.

Magistrate Botkin asked if American Signal was a new company. Chris stated they were the original sirens installer.

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 2025-062 — Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Local Tax Settlement:

Mary Margaret Young, Administrative Director, presented Resolution 2025-062 Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Local Tax Settlement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving the 2024 Madison County Sheriff's Local Tax Settlement.

Motion by James Brian Combs was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-062 Madison County Sheriff's 2024 Local Tax Settlement.

Judge Taylor asked if the state's portion was included in the \$72 Million. Mary Margaret stated that it was. The \$72 Million includes the collection of all the taxing districts; the County gets 4.25% of the amount collected.

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 2025-063 — LG&E and KU Opportunity Kentucky Grant Funds:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-063 — LG&E and KU Opportunity Kentucky Grant Funds for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to authorize signature of an agreement for LG&E and KU Opportunity Kentucky Grant funds to receive \$78,177.00 to be utilized for a portion of the cost of due diligence services to ensure the site located at 2494 Lexington Road.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2025-063 — LG&E and KU Opportunity Kentucky Grant Funds.

Magistrate Hughes stated this was a good deal.

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 2025-064 — Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant Funds:

Wendy Lynch, MCECC (911) Director, presented Resolution 2025-064 — Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant Funds for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to authorize signature of an agreement to purchase 10-8 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software utilizing the awarded Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant funds in the amount of \$118,091.31 to be directed for projects that establish and improve delivery of 911 services in the Commonwealth, with emphasis on increasing Next Generation 911 capacity.

Motion by Tom Botkin was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2025-064 — Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant Funds.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

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Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

Judge Taylor requested a 5-minute recess. The Court agreed, and they reconvened at 10:50 AM.

IN RE: Personnel:

Jessica Coffey, HR Director, recommended the hiring of Kayden Cooley as a Finance Assistant Intern, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective June 25, 2025; the hiring of Kasey Blevins as a HR Assistant, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective July 9, 2025; the hiring of Terrance Clayton-Murphy as a Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective June 25, 2025; and the status change of Kyra J Soto from a Part-Time Kennel Technician to Full Time Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective June 24, 2025.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Kayden Cooley as a Finance Assistant Intern, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective June 25, 2025; the hiring of Kasey Blevins as a HR Assistant, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective July 9, 2025; the hiring of Terrance Clayton-Murphy as a Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective June 25, 2025; and the status change of Kyra J Soto from a Part-Time Kennel Technician to Full Time Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective June 24, 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:

Tim Gray, EMA Director/Fire Chief, spotlighted Jakob Tharp, Fire Captain, who has been with the County since 2020. A colleague stated Captain Tharp exemplifies what it means to serve with integrity, commitment, and heart. Following a devastating tornado that struck a neighboring county, Captain Tharp stepped up without hesitation, coordinating and providing assistance to the Emergency Management staff in Laurel County so they could attend the funeral service of one of their own community responders that was a victim of the tornadoes when he was responding to save lives. He is a true public servant who consistently demonstrates an unwavering work ethic, positive attitude, and dedication to both his team and community. Captain Tharp embodies resilience, teamwork, and service above self, and is a model of what the fire service is all about.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- 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.
- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th for the July Fourth holiday. Offices will re-open on Monday, July 7th at 8:00 AM.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor thanked the County staff, especially Jill, Robyn, Chris, and Wendy, and is grateful for their professionalism, hard work, and service to the citizens of Madison County. He stated that he is honored to serve with his staff.

Magistrate Hughes Madison County Farm Bureau Federation 2025 Member Appreciation Annual Picnic and meeting will be held at the Madison County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, July 8th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. There will be door prizes, Kona Ice, inflatables, music, kettle corn, and more. Members will be free, non-members are \$10, and children 12 and under are free. He also mentioned that the Union City General Store has reopened, and he encouraged the public to stop in.

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Magistrate Botkin asked the public to remember what the 911 service fee is for; to provide emergency services to those that need it when they call 911 in an emergency situation.

Magistrate Combs asked the public to call him if they have any issues concerning the 911 service fee; it is important to have this service in Madison County. He asked the public to pray for the county, the leaders in the county, and the staff that work for the county.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if there was an update on the Northern Madison County Fire Station. Judge Taylor stated that it is actually in the process of removing the restriction in Circuit Court and he got confirmation this morning that a next step has been made to create a review board. They are still estimating that it will be settled in August, and they will be able to move forward quickly from there. Magistrate Lochmueller thanked those that worked on the budget, as well as the entire 911 team for their work during this time. He also encouraged the public to contact him with any questions or concerns on their 911 service fee.

Clerk Kenny Barger stated that Gary Abney passed away recently and asked the public to remember his family during this time. He explained the breakdown of property taxes, stated that the school system gets the highest percentage, and the State is second. When someone complains about roads to the county, they don't realize that the County only gets a small percentage for road work. When the State decreases a fee in one area, it is not saving the public money because that decrease is taking funds away from other areas, like for road pavement. Clerk Barger also stated that the 911 service fee that has been implemented is for the betterment and future of the community. He asked for the public's patience and understanding; CSEPP supplemented the funding for 911 over the years and with that being gone, in order to continue to provide the 911 service to the citizens of Madison County, this fee is needed.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

Laura Helvey, Volunteer with Enrich, started by commending the Court on the 911 fee, stating that Madison County doesn't want to be a county that isn't able to provide an emergency service response in emergency situations. She showed a clip of an interview that she had done concerning the unethical and sometimes illegal practices in the addiction recovery industry when profits are put above an individual's healthcare. They will be showing the full film on Monday, June 30th at 6:30 PM at the O'Donnell auditorium in the Whitlock Building on ECU's Campus and encouraged everyone to come out to view it; it is free to attend and there will be some light refreshments.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for June 30, 2025, in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Billy Ray Hughes to adjourn, seconded by James Brian Combs. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.

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REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE