

Meeting Date: 3/24/2026
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 March 2026 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, Madison County 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 Magistrate James Brian Combs to lead the Court in prayer.

Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 3-10-2026:

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on March 10, 2026.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs- Yes	Stephen Lochmueller- Abstained
Billy Ray Hughes- Abstained	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). She also explained, in order to satisfy KRS and DLG, she would have the proposed draft jail budget to the Court by April 1st.

IN RE: Sheriff's Office 2025 Year-end Financial Report:

Tony Terry, Chief Deputy, presented the 2025 Year-end Financial Report for the Sheriff's Department. He stated that they brought in \$261,078 and the Fiscal Court allocated \$138,920. Judge Taylor stated that the allocated amount was under budget for the Sheriff's Office. Tony stated that it was and that they also didn't use any of the Fiscal Court 25% Support Fund.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Tony for all they do and for being under budget.

IN RE: Madison County Emergency Communications Center (911) Year-end Statistics from 2025:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, provided an update on the Madison County Emergency Communications Center (911) for 2025 Year-end. The total phone calls were 120,197, of which, 42,549 were 911 calls and 77,648 were non-emergency/administrative calls. There was 137,336 CAD entries made, with 86.43% of those coming from cellphones. The radio transmissions, which are the 911 dispatchers talking with the first responder's while in route and on scene, were 1,912,105. The calls that were answered within the NENA standard of 15 seconds or less were 97.9%, which is above the national average. The total number of calls has increased 4.7% since last year. As a multi-disciplinary center with numerous agency response and

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services, they work with emergency medical dispatch, law enforcement status checks, dispatch for 8 fire departments, and monitor the 911 frequency that all public safety departments utilize.

Jill broke down the calls by jurisdiction, stating that 24% of the calls come from the unincorporated county limits, 56% come from within the City of Richmond limits, and 20% come from the City of Berea limits, which are all the same percentages as they were over the last several years. Judge Taylor pointed out that it matters what jurisdiction the call comes from, not what agency responds to the call when calculating the number of calls.

In 2025, the 911 team had received the National APCO Certification, went live with TEXTY the Text-to-911 Service from a 2025 grant, completed the PSAP grant from the 2024 911 Services Board grant cycle, and received a 2025 911 Service Board Grant which is being used to transition to a new CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the new CAD system has any IA incorporated within it. Jill stated that there are different opportunities for AI, but they have not implemented any.

The focus for 2026 includes participating in the Post-CSEPP Task Force Planning with City leadership as they have reached the official end of CSEPP funding, operating under Madison County Fiscal Court with guidance of the Public Safety Advisory Board as they officially became Madison County Emergency Communications Center, utilizing the 911 Service Board Grant to transition the CAD system to the 10-8 Systems, and continuing to progress with recruitment and retention. The challenges they continue to face are recruitment and retention as it is a stressful job and they are a very busy center, being inundated with records requests, community education on the importance of and when to call 911, and NextGen 911 Standards.

Jill stated that as Assistant Directors, Jodi and Saraya are doing an outstanding job as leaders to push the Center forward, as are all the dispatchers.

Magistrate Hughes was wondering if a chart could be provided that shows the dispatches by agency. Jill stated that they could provide that.

Judge Taylor asked about the Text-to-911. Jill explained that Text-to-911 gives individuals the ability to text 911 regardless of the situation. It comes into the Center's queue the same as a call would and doesn't cause a delay in the response. They are also encouraging the public to sign-up for emergency alerts and Smart911; they can text MCEMA to 77295 to sign up for those alerts. When law enforcement has as much information as possible on the situation and those that could potentially be involved, it makes their job of assessing the situation and providing service much faster. It is also useful for businesses by allowing them to provide floorplans and entry locations for first responders.

Judge Taylor suggested they provide assistance with the senior population on helping them get set up with Smart911.

IN RE: Presentation of Courthouse Painting:

Judge Taylor presented a painting of the newly remodeled Courthouse done by Lloyd Agee. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Agee for the painting, stating that the plan is to possibly showcase it in the foyer of the Courthouse or the Fiscal Courtroom and tell some of history of the Courthouse.

IN RE: Resolution 2026-015 — Revised FY 2026 Spring Road Paving:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-015 — Revised FY 2026 Spring Road Paving for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court relating to spring road paving of the roads outlined in the county road list as allocated and based on the greatest need.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-015 — Revised FY 2026 Spring Road Paving.

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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 2026-016 — Household Hazardous Waste FY 2026-2027 Grant Funds Application:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-016 — Household Hazardous Waste FY 2026-2027 Grant Funds for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for application and administration of FY 2026-2027 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of Waste Management Kentucky Pride Fund Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Grant funds.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-016 — Household Hazardous Waste FY 2026-2027 Grant Funds.

Judge Taylor asked if this would still be on the first Saturday in October. Scott stated that he was correct and they will still have it at the Road South location.

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 2026-017 — Madison County EMS Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-017 — Madison County EMS Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for the appointment of the Madison County Fiscal Court to the Madison County EMS Board, appointing Ronald Jackson to the Madison County EMS Board, with an expiration date of April 1, 2028.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-017 — Madison County EMS Board Appointment.

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 2026-018 — Madison County EMS Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-018 — Madison County EMS Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for the appointment of the Madison County Fiscal Court to the Madison County EMS Board, appointing Kent Robbins to the Madison County EMS Board, with an expiration date of April 1, 2028.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2026-018 — Madison County EMS Board Appointment.

Magistrate Combs thanked Mr. Jackson and Mr. Robbins for giving of their time and serving on the EMS Board.

Judge Taylor also thanked Mark Farris, who is getting ready to retire after being on the EMS Board for several years. He also expressed his appreciation to Kent, who is a retired firefighter and lifelong community member of Madison County, as he will be filling Mr. Farris' vacancy.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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

IN RE: Resolution 2026-019 — Mowing Services Bid Award:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-019 — Mowing Services Bid Award for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve a bid award for mowing services to Rogers Lawn and Landscape, LLC up to the amount of \$54,456.80.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-019 — Mowing Services Bid Award.

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:

Jessica Coffey, HR Director, recommended the hiring of Hailey Riley as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective March 25, 2026; the hiring of Wyatt Smiddy as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective March 25, 2026; and the hiring of Earl Conner as Medium Duty Mechanic, at a rate of \$26 per hour, effective March 25, 2026.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Hailey Riley as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective March 25, 2026; the hiring of Wyatt Smiddy as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective March 25, 2026; and the hiring of Earl Conner as Medium Duty Mechanic, at a rate of \$26 per hour, effective March 25, 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: Judge's Report:

- We received a call from a citizen thanking us for ensuring they received a credit from Windstream (Kinetic) on their landline telephone bill for the 911 Service Fee that they were mistakenly charged in 2026. He was very complimentary of the service he received from County employees and appreciates the effort they put forward each day to meet the needs of Madison County citizens. I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to Dave for the kind words and to Windstream (Kinetic) for correcting their error as quickly as possible.
- Mark your calendars for Friday, April 24, 2026, for Casino Night at Chenault Vineyards in Richmond from 7:00 PM until 11:00 PM. It will be an evening of fun, food, and friendly competition while supporting a better future for animals. The event is hosted by Kentucky SAVE and benefits both Kentucky SAVE and the Madison County Animal Shelter.
- 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.

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- Madison County Government and its related offices will close at noon on Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday. Offices will re-open on Monday, April 6th at 8:00 AM.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Botkin stated that the State has started setting out barrels at the CXS bridge over the bypass to start making repairs. He also asked Scott Shepherd if he could provide an update on the Hagan Mill Bridge.

Magistrate Combs stated that the County will start paving in the 1st District tomorrow and asked the public to be mindful of them in the area.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked everyone that has helped make strides toward the betterment of animal shelter and reminded the public of the Casino Night at Chenault Vineyards that will be benefiting the animal shelter. He stated that the Parlour Pizza will be having a VIP night on April 8, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and half of the proceeds will go to the Madison County Animal Shelter. He also expressed his disappointment in the lack of support House Bill 557 is getting from Frankfort.

Magistrate Hughes stated the turn lanes are being put in at the Moberly Shell in preparation of the new Waco Elementary School and asked for the public's patience during this construction.

Comments from Department Heads:

Scott Shepherd provided an update on the bridge at Hagan Mill. He explained the concrete arches of the bridge have developed cracks and have been told that the method to fix them is to wrap them in carbon fiber. They are currently researching how quickly they can get the materials and are putting a plan together to get it done as quickly as possible to not have long-term delays.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the bridge was closed. Scott stated that it isn't closed right now. He explained that there are two ways in and out, so if they do have to close it, there won't be anyone blocked in.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if there was an update on the bridge off Tates Creek/Crutcher Pike. Scott explained that they are waiting until school is out to start on it. They have all the materials and supplies in stock and will provide a 30-day notice to the residents that they will be starting as soon as school is out.

Public Comments:

Mary McMahan of Cedar Hill Dr in Richmond asked if the purchase of the Carr property had gone through and what the plan for it was. Judge Taylor stated that it hadn't yet, but there is an option on it. The plan for it is for a business park. She also asked if any of the Court members had signed any non-disclosure agreements in relation to County business. They stated they had not.

Monica Barnes with Madison County Haven of Hope which is a new homeless shelter that opened on December 19, 2025, and has sheltered 115 unique individuals since then. They are trying to help people get off the streets and keep the area as clean as possible. Haven of Hope is 100% volunteer and donation ran and led. Initially, they started by using houses in downtown Richmond in May of last year, and for the first 6 months, the Church of Christ funded Haven of Hope. They have started seeking other churches for their support both financially and for food that is provided every night. Currently, First Christian Church is sponsoring them, as well as Eastside Community Church, and they are trying to fundraise more and have partnered with Enrich and the One Stop to help get these individuals jobs and rehomed.

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Magistrate Botkin asked how many people they can house at one time. Monica stated that their capacity is 30 people. They do have 3 beds open every night in case law enforcement needs to bring someone in the middle of the night and have received individuals from other counties that either don't have a homeless shelter or enough available beds in the ones they have.

Magistrate Botkin also asked what the average timeframe was that individuals stay with them. Monica explained that it varies, sometimes it may just be overnight, others can be longer. They have a policy that if someone comes to them, they will give them at least 30 days to stay there, but on the second or third day they start working with the individuals to help them better themselves. She also thanked the Court for their support. The Court expressed their appreciation to Monica and all that she is doing to help the homeless.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for April 14, 2026, 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 10:43 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE