

Meeting Date; 4/14/2026
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 14th of April 2026 at 9:30AM 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 Attorney Jennie Haymond, Madison County Chief Deputy Tony Terry, 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 Pastor Virgil Grant, Eastside Community Church, to lead the Court in prayer. He also offered words of encouragement and comfort to the Court.

Judge Taylor asked Chief Deputy Tony Terry to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 3-24-2026:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on March 24, 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: Approval of Meeting Minutes 3-31-2026:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the special called meeting on March 31, 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: Proclamation — Fair Housing Month:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the month of April 2026 as Fair Housing Month.

Ruby Smith, Fahe Project Manager, was in attendance to accept the proclamation. She expressed her appreciation to the Court for the Proclamation. She explained that Fahe is a membership network of 50 community-based non-profits in Appalachia, serving Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. They focus on safe, affordable, accessible, and fair home ownership.

IN RE: Resolution 2026-022 — Madison County Detention Center Healthcare Facility Services Agreement for FY 2026-2027:

Larry Brock, Jailer, presented Resolution 2026-022—Madison County Detention Center Healthcare Facility Services Agreement for FY 2026-2027 for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve a Healthcare Facility Services Agreement between the Madison County Detention Center and West Kentucky Correctional Healthcare, LLC DBA Comprehensive Correctional Care.

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Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-022—Madison County Detention Center Healthcare Facility Services Agreement for FY 2026-2027.

Judge Taylor stated that when he first became Judge, the Jail didn't have medical, so the only cost they had was when they had to take an inmate to the hospital. With the drug epidemic, they have a sicker population of individuals than they have ever had, and the Fiscal Courts across the State have had to bring in medical due to the liability of not having a medical provider inside the jails.

Blake Wiseman, CEO of Comprehensive Correctional Care (3C), expressed his appreciation to the County for working with them. Unfortunately, the risks and liability within the correctional facilities and the nursing wages are continuing to increase, causing the cost of medical coverage to increase.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked about any inmates that they send to other counties to house. Judge Taylor stated that their medical cost is part of the per diem within their contract and anything that is above the contract amount they have to pay.

Judge Taylor explained that in 2016 the Fiscal Court General Fund contribution to the Jail fund was budgeted at \$1,645,000; this year they budgeted \$4,002,000, which is about 142% increase.

Magistrate Combs asked Blake how they manage the risk. Blake stated that they are looking at international markets and self-insurance markets. He stated that the bigger the facility and the bigger the staffing model, the risk goes down because there are more inmates to afford a higher staffing model. He explained that when they went to a 24-hour staffing model was an example of how they mitigate the risk to even have insurance for the facility. They could move to increase medical staff, which would increase the staffing cost, but decrease the liability cost.

Magistrate Combs stated that they have gotten to this point because of state mandates.

Judge Taylor also stated that they don't house inmates from other counties. If someone gets arrested for a crime in Madison County that is from another county, they will be housed in Madison because that is where the crime was committed, but they don't have other jails bring their inmates to Madison to house. He stated that jails are the number 1 financial issue facing counties in the inmate population due to unfunded mandates.

Judge Taylor explained that the judges within the court system are sensitive to the situation and try to help them navigate the inmate population.

County Attorney Jennie Haymond stated that they realize that jail is not always the answer. They put people through treatment programs or give second chances to those that come to Court on a felony charge.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that the State is encouraging regionalism, but until the State recognizes and properly funds the county jail system, they don't need to even consider a larger jail.

Judge Taylor stated that it costs about \$110,000 a bed to build onto a jail.

Magistrate Combs stated that it is not sustainable to fund the jail.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked what the percentage of change would be in insurance cost next year. Blake said they are looking at a 5-7% increase.

Judge Taylor stated that some of the policies that Jailer Brock has implemented in the Jail and the training they provide has helped mitigate some of the risks.

Magistrate Botkin stated that a line item within the document states that the rate of change can't exceed 5%, but the total of the contract is an 18% change. Blake stated that they had agreed to split up some of the expenses from last year and the 5% increase. However, once they got their insurance premiums, that increase would not cover it. Within the document it also stated that 3C can give their notice if needed for an issue such as that, which is when he went to Judge Taylor and discussed that issue.

Magistrate Botkin also stated that the contract makes a reference to onsite primary care being provided based on Schedule A. However, they don't have Schedule A to view and asked for those to be included. Blake stated that he would send that over and apologized for not having it included.

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Magistrate Botkin asked Jailer Brock about the quarterly jailhouse training. Jailer Brock stated that those training courses occur periodically, and all jailhouse staff are required to attend.

Magistrate Botkin asked if they are issuing medication for treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. Jailer Brock stated that they are. Blake explained that a couple years ago the ADA stated that Opioid Use Disorder is a chronic condition and as such has to be treated within the facility.

Judge Taylor asked who decides what medications an inmate gets. Blake stated that the clinician makes that determination.

Magistrate Botkin stated that there was at one time a state program for those facilities that were a MOUD, in which the state would provide funds for each individual that received those medications. He asked if Madison County was receiving those funds. Jailer Brock stated he wasn't aware of them receiving any such funds.

Magistrate Botkin suggested that it be something they should look into.

Magistrate Botkin also stated that the contract stated that the Jail is responsible for collecting co-pays and other fees for medical and pharmacy services from the inmates and asked if they have any luck collecting those fees. Jailer Brock stated that it is limited. They do try and make efforts to recover what they can, but most have no or very limited ability to pay.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Blake and Jailer Brock for the services they provide to Madison County, but he is not happy about the cost.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- No

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2026-023 — PetSmart Charities, Inc. Adoption Partner Agreement:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-023—PetSmart Charities, Inc. Adoption Partner Agreement for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution relating to an Adoption Partner Agreement by and between PetSmart Charities, Inc. and Madison Fiscal Court.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-023—PetSmart Charities, Inc. Adoption Partner Agreement.

Jill stated that this is an amazing opportunity to be able to provide adoptions through PetSmart locations around the region for the animals in the Madison County Animal Shelter. The first event with PetSmart will be in May. Magistrate Lochmueller stated that the animal shelter is moving forward and he thanked Sissy for all her hard work.

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 2026-024 — Pedigree Foundation Transport Grant Partnership MOA:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-024—Pedigree Foundation Transport Grant Partnership MOA for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution relating to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between Madison County Animal Shelter (MCAS) and Kentucky SAVE, Inc. formalizing a Pedigree Foundation Transport Grant Partnership.

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Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-024—Pedigree Foundation Transport Grant Partnership MOA.

Jill stated that Pedigree Foundations offers a Grant Program, but they only offer the grant to 501c3's and Kentucky SAVE and For Paws Unleashed have agreed to be the County's 501c3 partners. The grant application is for \$50,000 annually and a 2-year agreement for transport costs to get animals to rescue centers in other regions of the country.

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 2026-025 — Madison County Coroner Salary Adjustment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-025—Madison County Coroner Salary Adjustment for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court to establish the annual salary of the Coroner of Madison County, Kentucky, in accordance with KRS requirements.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-025—Madison County Coroner Salary Adjustment.

Magistrate Botkin stated that Madison County is very blessed to have Jimmy Cornelison as the Coroner.

Judge Taylor stated that the request was \$75,000 for the coroner position starting the first Monday in January.

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 2026-026 — House Bill 556 MOA:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2026-026—House Bill 556 MOA for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Department of Corrections, and Multi Kentucky County and Regional Jails.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-026—House Bill 556 MOA.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the representative for Madison County would work with the Jail to oversee the programs. Judge Taylor stated that it was correct.

Jailer Brock stated that part of the problem they have is finding someone who is capable of presenting the programs that DOC trained them on, and that the jail doesn't have the space to conduct the programs. Despite the constraints, they would love to provide these programs to the inmates and are working on solutions.

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 2026-027 — Transfer of Ownership of Certain County-Owned Historic Portraits to the Madison County Historical Society:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-027—Transfer of Ownership of Certain County-Owned Historic Portraits to the Madison County Historical Society for the Court's approval. This is a

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Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court approving transfer of ownership of certain county-owned historic portraits to the Madison County Historical Society.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-027—Transfer of Ownership of Certain County-Owned Historic Portraits to the Madison County Historical Society.

Sharon Graves was in attendance to answer any questions the Court may have concerning the preservation of the portraits.

Judge Taylor stated that these portraits were hanging in the old Circuit Courtroom before the Courthouse renovation.

Sharon stated that the 10 portraits will be placed at Irvington. They have a benefactor that will be paying for the repair of 4 portraits at a cost of \$18,000 and they are starting a fundraising campaign to raise the additional \$16,000 for the remaining portraits.

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 Jerry Causey as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Thomas Borner as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Rylie Poteet as 911 Telecommunicator, at a rate of \$19 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Cierra Lawniczak as 911 Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$14 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Kailee Conner as 911 Telecommunicator, at a rate of \$19 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; and the hiring of Shane Truett as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$21 per hour, effective April 15, 2026.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Jerry Causey as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Thomas Borner as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Rylie Poteet as 911 Telecommunicator, at a rate of \$19 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Cierra Lawniczak as 911 Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$14 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; the hiring of Kailee Conner as 911 Telecommunicator, at a rate of \$19 per hour, effective April 15, 2026; and the hiring of Shane Truett as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$21 per hour, effective April 15, 2026.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Not in Attendance Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

RE: Judge's Report:

- The Battle of Richmond Association is hosting a 2026 Living History Days event on April 24th (for schools) and April 25th (for the public) from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Visit their Facebook page or call 859-200-0433 for more information.
- A reminder to join us for an evening of fun, food, and friendly competition that comes together with a shared purpose: supporting a better future for animals. Casino Night, hosted by Kentucky SAVE and

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benefiting both Kentucky SAVE and the Madison County Animal Shelter, will take place on Friday, April 24, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Chenault Vineyards in Richmond.

- 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.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Botkin stated that they have been proactive over the years by establishing the Jail Task Force years ago, looking at other possibilities to supplement the costs of the Jail, as well as lobbying the legislators for more funds in the jail. He also stated that some prep work has been done for blacktop in the 4th District, and they will begin blacktopping soon. He asked the public to call the non-emergency number if they see or are wanting to do a controlled burn at 624-4776.

Magistrate Combs stated that the jails will continue to be a problem until they get some relief from legislators. He also stated that there is a lot of trash on the roadways and encouraged citizens to dispose of trash properly.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated he has received some calls about the private drive that goes into Casey's at the north exit, and that it should be paved soon.

Magistrate Hughes stated that the construction project on Irvine Road may cause some inconvenience, but it will be a vast improvement once it is done and asked for the public's patience.

Clerk Barger stated that the County didn't go into debt to build a bigger jail and express his appreciation to the Court for that.

Comments from Department Heads:

Jill Williams stated that they will be having a Public Visioning Workshop on April 20th from 5:00 PM -7:00 PM in the Fiscal Courtroom in the Courthouse Annex. This will be an open house format with displays, information, answering questions from the public on updating the Comprehensive Plan, and allowing for community input.

Judge Taylor stated that this workshop was scheduled before the Magistrate Forum was scheduled, but if they don't have a good turnout, they can schedule another public forum.

Jill also stated that on Thursday, April 23rd the Child Abuse Prevention Event will be on the Courthouse lawn. Also, the Kentucky SAVE animal event will be on Friday, April 24th benefiting both Kentucky SAVE and the Madison County Animal Shelter.

Public Comments:

Mary McMahan asked if the property for the new fire station has been transferred to the County. Judge Taylor stated that they have closed on it, and it is now a county-owned property.

She also asked if the Keeneland Drive Fire Station has been sold to the City of Richmond. Judge Taylor stated that it has not been. There will be no loss of fire coverage for anyone that gets coverage from the South Keeneland Drive Fire Station, whether the County stays there as well as opens the Northern station, or the City of Richmond Fire Department partners to have a station at South Keeneland Dr.

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Mary also stated that there will be a program regarding data centers on the 21st at the Richmond Library at 6:00 PM.

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 28, 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 11:06 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE