

Meeting Date; 5/12/2026
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 12th of May 2026 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, and Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger were also present.

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

A moment of silence was observed for the tragic loss of life of the two US Bank employees in Berea in recent weeks.

Judge Taylor asked Pastor Mark Sarver, Church on the Rock, to lead the Court in prayer.

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

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 4-28-2026:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes 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: Amend Agenda:

Judge Taylor asked the Court to amend the agenda to include Resolution 2026-037 — Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to amend the agenda to include Resolution 2026-037 — Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services.

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: 2026 Legislative Session Update:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, provided a presentation on record State Investments in Infrastructure, Economic Development and Community Programs. In 2026, Madison County secured major investments during the legislative session, which supports infrastructure, economic development, transportation, and community service to strengthen the county's long-term growth and competitiveness. She explained that advocacy is important because every county in Kentucky competes for limited State funding and if Madison County doesn't aggressively advocate, those dollars would go to one of the other 119 counties. Building strong relationships in Frankfort helps ensure Madison County receives its fair share. These State investments reduce pressure on local taxpayers while improving services and infrastructure.

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Some of the major legislative investments that have benefitted Madison County include \$20 Million secured for the Central Kentucky Business Park Authority, \$450,000 to provide an additional connection for Union City Road (preliminary design), \$9.87 Million direct allocation for CR-1303 Goggins Lanes infrastructure improvements, \$692,000 in discretionary transportation funding for Simpson Lane and New Road resurfacing, \$2 Million Kentucky Product Development initiative allocation, \$100,000 Redeeming Hope Grant and support for One-Stop Grant programs, and matching grant funds for the One-Stop Resource and Referral Hub (FY2028).

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that this information is just now coming out due to the nature of the General Assembly timeframe. The Court members have worked with the Legislators throughout the year and have developed a relationship, which is how they have been successful in securing these funds.

Jill continued by explaining that the Central Kentucky Business Park Authority is a \$20 Million Regional investment focused on projects located in Madison County that is designed to expand business capacity and attract new employers, support long-term job creation and economic growth, and strengthens Madison County's position as a regional economic leader. Economic development creates jobs and generates local occupational revenue, growth helps support county services and infrastructure needs, and keeping jobs local strengthens Madison County families and businesses.

Jill also went over the infrastructure investments that have been allocated to Madison County and the importance of them to the County in helping the citizens.

Judge Taylor explained that the Goggins Lane funding was a direct allocation, there was no diverting or taking away funding from another project. Fiscal Court advocated for the Goggins Lane improvements, as it is a County road, to help alleviate some of the congestion in that area.

Magistrate Hughes stated that they need to be mindful of having controlled access, so that new Goggins Lane connection doesn't become an economic development zone and will just be used for traffic flow. Judge Taylor and Magistrate Lochmueller agreed.

Jill stated that it is exciting when the local nonprofit organizations are successful in receiving State funding. Redeeming Hope secured a \$100,000 grant through State advocacy, with Madison County Fiscal Court being the fiscal agent. These funds will support recovery, outreach, and community services for residents.

There were some other local impact projects that did receive funding as well, including \$2.07 million for intersection improvements at Barnes Mill and Goggins Lane (City of Richmond), \$4.33 million to build a new road that extends from Menelaus Road to Mayde Road (City of Berea), and \$50 million for the Osteopathic Medicine program (EKU).

Jill thanked the Kentucky General Assembly for taking the time to meet with the County, as well as local partners and community stakeholders for working to build a stronger Madison County.

Magistrate Combs stated that if they want to help the County, they have to advocate for the funding, and it is important for them to be in Frankfort in order to do that. He expressed his thanks to Judge Taylor and the other Magistrates, as well as the Legislators for working on getting the funding to help Madison County.

IN RE: Airport Update — George Wyatt, Chairman, Madison Airport Board, Inc.:

George Wyatt, Chairman of the Madison Airport Board, Inc., provided an update on the Central Kentucky Regional Airport. He explained that the Airport is managed by eight board members, two chosen by each of the four stakeholders; Steve Tussey and Myron Fisher represent Madison County, himself and Chuck Conley represent Berea, Wilma Walker and Adrienne Millett represent Richmond, and Tim Ross and Colleen Chaney represent Eastern Kentucky University. The Airport was opened in 1979. In 2025, the Airport supports 233 jobs, \$11.6 million in payroll with \$29.3 million economic output, has 58,486 annual operations (which are either an aircraft take-off or landing) and has 60 based aircraft. ECU has 2 classrooms at the Airport, Thoroughbred Aviation Maintenance is housed there to service ECU and other aircraft, Kilroy Aviation

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provides flight training and aircraft rental, as well as several other companies that house their aircraft at the Airport, all of which brings in rental income to the Airport.

Mr. Wyatt stated that they are hopeful to begin construction on a new terminal building in June or July. This will house classrooms, a crew rest area, a café area, and observation area. The funding for this building is being provided by a Community Block Grant through ACIP and FAA programs, ECU, and the State. They are also working on a South Ramp area to move the ECU aircraft there, and it is being funded by ECU. The North Ramp will be utilized for general aviation and commercial use aircraft.

He expressed his appreciation to the Fiscal Court for their participation and support at the Airport.

Magistrate Botkin stated that without the Central Kentucky Regional Airport, corporations would have to go to Lexington Airport then take the time to drive down to Madison County and when “time is money” most corporations don’t want to do that. Having a crew rest area is also a very big deal because the FAA requires a specific rest time for pilots. He stated that the Airport is a great partner to the County and ECU Aviation, as well as the general public who want to earn a private pilot’s license through Kilroy Aviation.

Judge Taylor stated that there is currently a shortage of pilots in the US; over the next 20 years North America will need 120,000 new pilots. Mr. Wyatt stated that the pilot shortage is critical. Pilots have to retire at the age of 60, and currently there is a high volume of pilots that are at that age retiring. The graduates of ECU Aviation currently have a 100% job placement.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation of Mr. Wyatt for all they do at the Airport. One of the largest exports in Kentucky is the aviation industry, and Madison County is very fortunate to have the Central Kentucky Regional Airport.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Mr. Wyatt and the other board members for their service on the Airport Board.

IN RE: Resolution 2026-030 — Madison County Clerk’s Motor Vehicle and Boat Bills Claim:

Kenny Barger, County Clerk, presented Resolution 2026-030 — Madison County Clerk’s Motor Vehicle and Boat Bills Claim for the Court’s approval. This is a Resolution authorizing payment for the Madison County Clerk’s claim for calculation of Motor Vehicle and Boat bills for 2026.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-030—Madison County Clerk’s Motor Vehicle and Boat Bills Claim.

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 2026-031 — Alternative Health Solutions, LLC Care Center Services Agreement:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-031 — Alternative Health Solutions, LLC Care Center Services Agreement for the Court’s approval. This is a Resolution to enter into a Care Center Services Agreement by and between Alternative Health Solutions, LLC and Madison County Fiscal Court.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-031 — Alternative Health Solutions, LLC Care Center Services Agreement.

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	

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IN RE: Resolution 2026-032 — Approve General ASAP Grant FY27 Budget:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2026-032 — Approve General ASAP Grant FY27 Budget for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution relating to the Madison County Fiscal Court approving the FY27 General ASAP Grant Budget.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-032 — Approve General ASAP Grant FY27 Budget.

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 2026-033 — Waste Tire Grant Funds Application:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-033 — Waste Tire Grant Funds Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for application and administration of Kentucky Division of Waste Management Waste Tire Grant Funds.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-033 — Waste Tire Grant Funds Application.

Scott explained that this would allow them to take tires in the off years of the Tire Amnesty program, which is every 3 years. Due to this grant over the past years, it is now very rare that they get calls about tires found on the side of the road or in the creeks; it provides a way for the citizens to get rid of old tires.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Scott about the trash pickup they do. Scott stated that every year, Frankfort puts out these types of grants that they apply for, which allows them to have a Household Hazardous Waste Day to dispose of nearly anything the public would need to dispose of that can't go into their regular trash. They also have a Loan-A-Dumpster program, as well as having dumpsters at the Road Department.

Magistrate Lochmueller expressed his thanks to Scott and his team for all their effort in keeping the county clean.

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 2026-034 — Emergency Management Agency FY2025 EMPG Program MOA:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief/EMA Director, presented Resolution 2026-034 — Emergency Management Agency FY2025 EMPG Program MOA for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the FY2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-034 — Emergency Management Agency FY2025 EMPG Program MOA.

Magistrate Botkin asked what the funds would be used for. Chief Gray stated they will use it for the purchase of water rescue equipment or payroll.

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	

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IN RE: Resolution 2026-035 — Madison County Fiscal Court Intervention Program MOA – Hope’s Wings, Inc.:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-035 — Madison County Fiscal Court Intervention Program MOA – Hope’s Wings, Inc. for the Court’s approval. This is a Resolution to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Madison County Fiscal Court Intervention Program through a subcontract with Hope’s Wings, Inc.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-035 — Madison County Fiscal Court Intervention Program MOA – Hope’s Wings, Inc.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Jill and Judge Taylor on getting him some information on the reporting that has to be done for this program.

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 2026-036 — Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-Shared Employees:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2026-036 — Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-Shared Employees for the Court’s approval. This is a Resolution for the Madison County Fiscal Court approving an Official Payroll breakdown for Madison County Cost-Shared Employees to comply with Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Standard Operating Procedures. Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2026-036 — Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-Shared Employees.

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 2026-037 — Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2026-037 — Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services for the Court’s approval. This is a Resolution to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the Madison County Fiscal Court and Palmer Engineering in relation to the Hagan Mill Bridge repair.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-037 — Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services.

Magistrate Botkin asked Scott to provide an update on the Hagan Mill Bridge repair. Scott stated that an engineer will be wrapping the arches in carbon fiber that will provide a permanent repair to make the bridge safe and satisfy the State requirements. This is the fastest option they have to get the bridge repaired and opened back up, as the alternative option is to tear the bridge out and build a new one at a cost of \$1.5 million.

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	

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IN RE: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the change of status for Brayden Thacker from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective May 20, 2026; the change of status for Nathaniel Wells from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective May 20, 2026; and the change of status of Austin Martin from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective May 20, 2026.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the change of status for Brayden Thacker from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective May 20, 2026; the change of status for Nathaniel Wells from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective May 20, 2026; and the change of status of Austin Martin from Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter, at a rate of \$11 per hour, effective May 20, 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	

RE: Judge's Report:

- I want to take a moment to recognize National Police Week and thank our law enforcement officers and agencies for their service and dedication to keeping our community safe as well as those who paid the ultimate sacrifice protecting our citizens. We appreciate each and every one of you.
 - Kentucky River Foothills is accepting applications for the Spring Subsidy Cooling program through **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**. Applications will be accepted through May 22, 2026, or until funds are depleted. Visit www.foothillscap.org for more information.
 - High School Graduation Ceremonies:
 - Berea Community School – Friday, May 22nd – 7:00 PM at Berea College Phelps Stokes
 - Madison Central High School – Friday, May 22nd – 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM at ECU's Alumni Coliseum
 - Model Laboratory School – Friday, May 22nd – 7:00 PM at ECU's Center for the Arts
 - Madison Southern High School – Saturday, May 23rd – 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM at ECU's Alumni Coliseum.
- Please be mindful of increased traffic in the area. Congratulations to all the graduates.
- Our local cemeteries will be conducting their annual Memorial Day services:
 - Berea Cemetery – Sunday, May 24th at 2:00 PM
 - Richmond Cemetery – Monday, May 25th at 10:00 AM at the Summitt Street entrance
 - Maple Grove Cemetery – Monday, May 25th at noon
 - Madison County Memorial Gardens – Monday, May 25th at 1:00 PM
 - Seating is limited, so please bring a chair.

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- 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 Monday, May 25th for the Memorial Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, May 26th at 8:00 AM.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Botkin stated that the 4th District blacktop is completed, but the State will be starting slope mowing on Dreyfus Road, and he asked the public to use caution in that area. He also expressed his appreciation to all the law enforcement in the county. He also reminded the public of the upcoming election and encouraged the public to exercise their right to vote.

Magistrate Combs stated that the State is doing some mowing today. He expressed his appreciation to law enforcement and all they do to keep the county safe, especially after the recent tragedy in Berea.

Magistrate Lochmueller concurred with Magistrate Combs concerning the tragedy in Berea. He stated that the State will be repaving 627-Boonesborough Road to the river, as well as 627 to Jacks Creek Pike soon.

Magistrate Hughes stated that today is Beef Day at Ag Credit and they will be handing out free hamburgers during lunch.

Clerk Barger stated that Early Voting is Thursday, May 14th through Saturday, May 16th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Election Day is Tuesday, May 19th. All the locations are the same as they have been for the past several year and that information can be found on their website at www.madisoncountyclerk.us.

Sheriff Coyle thanked the Court for their appreciation and support during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

Mary McMahan, stated that the shift report on the Goggins Lane paving had it lower and asked if it was moved up because of the pilot program they were able to get into. Judge Taylor stated that she would have to ask the Transportation Cabinet, as the shift program goes through them, and is scored based on several different criteria. He stated that they could forward her question on to the Transportation Cabinet if she would like them to.

She also asked if the State was able to offer any other pilot programs to other counties, and Judge Taylor stated that he wasn't sure.

Mary asked Mr. Wyatt when the Open House will be at the Airport. Mr. Wyatt stated that they normally have it in May, but due to the construction at the Airport, they decided not to have it this year. They do encourage the public to come out, and they would give them a tour.

She also asked about the number of take-offs and landings at the airport. Mr. Wyatt stated the annual operations numbers are very specific due to the equipment they have that tracks every take-off and landing with the date,

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time, and image, and they are the 4th busiest airport in the state. Mary asked if he knew the percentage of those take-offs that were corporate planes in comparison to the students practicing. Mr. Wyatt guessed that 75-80% of those taking off are ECU aircraft. ECU can average about 100 take-offs a day, but it is not unusual for them to have 1-2 corporate aircraft on site on any given day, as well as them having private individuals that house their aircraft there that fly sporadically.

Magistrate Botkin stated that social media had a lot of comments over the installation and use of Flock cameras in Berea. He stated that the Flock cameras were very instrumental in catching the suspect that committed the crime at US Bank in Berea.

IN RE: Approve the Transfers and Pay the Claims:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for May 26, 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 11:11 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE