

Meeting Date: 9/8/2026
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 8th of September 2026 at 9:30 AM 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 Attorney Jennie Haymond, Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, and Robyn Fayne were also present.

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

Judge Taylor asked Pastor Steven Hobbs, of Berea Church of God to lead the Court in prayer.

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

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 8-25-2026:

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

Retirement Recognition:

Judge Taylor presented Fire Department Battalion Chief Jeremiah “Bo” Tate with a Certificate of Retirement after 20 years of Fire Service to the citizens of Madison County. Chief Tim Gray also presented Bo with his helmet, expressing his appreciation to Bo for his years of service and the impact he had on the Fire Department.

IN RE: Proclamation — National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the week of September 13-19, 2026, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week and encouraged all residents, businesses, organizations, educators, and community leaders to join in recognizing the achievements of adult learners, and to support the continued growth of adult education and family literacy opportunities in our community.

Brandy Maggard, Data & Assessment Specialist, Madison County Adult Education was present to accept this proclamation. She stated that it was her honor to recognize National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week and to celebrate the impact adult education is making here in Madison County. This past year, 237 students were enrolled in the program, 44 of those were individuals receiving services in correctional facilities, 45 students through an IEP program, and 30 students participating in the English as a Second Language service. She expressed her appreciation to the Madison County Public Library for their partnership, who serves as their fiscal agent and a location for learning. They are working to ensure that education reaches not only individuals, but also families, and entire communities.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Brandy for what they do, stating that they are making a change for the better in Madison County.

IN RE: Special Purpose Government Entities (SPGE) presentation of Ad Valorem Rates:

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Tonya Donselman, Madison County EMS Director, presented an overview of what EMS does with the tax dollars they collect and the programs they are involved in. In 2025, they responded to over 21,000 calls for service, which makes them the 3rd or 4th largest EMS service in Kentucky. In response to the increase in run volume, they were able to add an impact truck and another crew during peak call volume times. Since the north end of the county is growing, they plan on getting another impact truck in January to help cover that growth. They have started Paramedic Education classes, EMT classes, and Advanced EMT classes over the past couple of years, which helps to increase the workforce, as well as partnering with ECU and Ignite to offer EMT courses. They also started a Whole Blood Program, which they are very proud to have in the community, and they will have a blood drive on September 14th at their Station 3 location on Keeneland Drive.

In regard to the tax rate, the Madison County EMS Board of Directors has approved taking the compensating rate for this year for real property, which would be a rate of 0.042, and leaving their personal property, vehicles, and watercraft rate at 0.060. They are very goal oriented on keeping the cost down, while keeping the services high and maintaining the quality-of-service Madison County has come to expect.

Nikita Vundi, Madison County Board of Health, presented the 2026 Ad Valorem rates for the Board of Health. She stated that the board recommended that they remain at the current tax rates of 0.047 for real property and 5 cents per \$100 for tangible and motor vehicle tax rates.

Christina Cornelison, Madison County Library Executive Director, thanked Adult Ed for all the work that they do. Last year, the library became the Fiscal Agent and Collaborative Agent for Adult Ed and is excited that they get to watch the outcome of the lives that they are changing.

Christina presented the 2026 Ad Valorem rates for the Madison County Public Library. She stated that they were able to accept a tax rate that is below the compensating rate with the real property rate being 0.046, tangible property will be at 0.046, and the motor vehicle rate doesn't change at 0.035.

Judge Taylor presented on behalf of the Madison County Extension Office, saying their real property is staying the same at .018, tangibles at .0272, and the inventory at .0272.

Judge Taylor presented on behalf of the Red Lick Watershed Conservation District, saying their rate is staying at 5 cents per \$100.

Judge Taylor stated that the Madison County School Board meeting will be on September 10th, and those rates will be sent once they are approved. He explained that per KRS, these rates have to be presented to the Fiscal Court, but the Court isn't required to approve them.

Magistrate Botkin stated that every taxing district with the exception of one took the compensating rate, which means that the county has grown to the point that there are more taxes coming in, so they don't have a raise in the tax rate.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-010 — Land Use Change 113 Carr Lane from UC-1 Single-Family Residential to UC-2 Multi-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-010 — Land Use Change for 113 Carr Lane from UC-1 Single-Family Residential to UC-2 Multi-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 113 Carr Lane, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the Official Zoning Map of Madison County, Kentucky.

The 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-010 — Land Use Change for 113 Carr Lane from UC-1 Single-Family Residential to UC-2 Multi-Family Residential was read and acknowledged by the Court.

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IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-011 — Land Use Change 2485 Colonel Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-011 — Land Use Change for 2485 Colonel Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 2485 Colonel Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the Official Zoning Map of Madison County, Kentucky.

The 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-011 — Land Use Change for 2485 Colonel Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential was read and acknowledged by the Court.

IN RE: Resolution 2026-078 — Adopt Firebrook Subdivision, Phase I:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-078 — Adopt Firebrook Subdivision, Phase I for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution for Madison County Fiscal Court to adopt the following roadways for County Maintenance; Mohegan Trail, Chickasaw Drive, Seminole Trail, and Cheyenne Court.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-078 — Adopt Firebrook Subdivision, Phase I.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he had some concerns about stormwater runoff in this area, but Bert has worked with some of the individuals out there, and they have worked on the retention pond.

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 2026-079 — Commonwealth of Kentucky Lease Agreement for Unified Prosecutorial System:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-079 — Commonwealth of Kentucky Lease Agreement for Unified Prosecutorial System for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution to approve a lease agreement renewal between the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Madison County Fiscal Court for Unified Prosecutorial System.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-079 — Commonwealth of Kentucky Lease Agreement for Unified Prosecutorial System.

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 2026-080 — Opioid Task Force Recommended MOU with Operation UNITE:

Jennie Haymond, Madison County Attorney, presented Resolution 2026-080 — Opioid Task Force Recommended MOU with Operation UNITE for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Madison County Fiscal Court and Operation UNITE.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-080 — Opioid Task Force Recommended MOU with Operation UNITE.

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Carl Varney, with Operation UNITE, was in attendance to answer any questions. He stated that this MOU will allow them to have 63 days of visitations within the school system. They spend the entire day at the school doing a presentation and then spending time with the kids, which allows them to build relationships with the students. He is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Fiscal 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: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Miya Dellerman, as Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective September 9, 2026; the change of status of William Jordan, from Lieutenant to Captain (Fire Department), at a rate of \$17 per hour, effective September 9, 2026; and the hiring of Timothy Stocker, as Captain (Fire Department), at a rate of \$17 per hour, effective September 23, 2026.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Miya Dellerman, as Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective September 9, 2026; the change of status of William Jordan, from Lieutenant to Captain (Fire Department), at a rate of \$17 per hour, effective September 9, 2026; and the hiring of Timothy Stocker, as Captain (Fire Department), at a rate of \$17 per hour, effective September 23, 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:

- Join us for a joint proclamation reading and bell ringing commemorating Constitution Week at 4:00 PM on Thursday, September 17th at the Madison County Courthouse.
- Berea's annual Spoonbread Festival will be on Friday through Sunday, September 18th – 20th at Memorial Park and the Russel Acton Folk Center. Please be mindful of road closures and increased traffic in the area.
- The Tracks for Packs 5K Run/Walk will be on Saturday, September 19th beginning at 8:00 AM. Kentucky River Foothills will be there with a team walking and a booth to support the Madison County Backpack Program through God's Outreach Food Bank, helping provide food for local children in need.
- Join us for the Unclaimed Property Roadshow on Monday, September 21st from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the Madison County Fiscal Courtroom in Richmond. Kentucky State Treasurer Mark H. Metcalf and his team are taking the roadshow to communities across the Commonwealth to help Kentuckians search for unclaimed money and learn more about the program. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Mark your calendars for Household Hazardous Waste Tox Away Day on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Madison County Road Department South located at 208 Clarksville Lane in

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Richmond. Visit Madison County, KY's Facebook page, or call the Solid Waste department at 859-624-4739 for more information.

- Visit our website at www.madisoncountyky.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 thanked the State Road Department for getting some projects completed, particularly for getting the bridge repaired at Fort Estill Hill. He also expressed his appreciation to Scott and the County Road Department for their hard work.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to all the County employees. He also thanked the taxing districts for their fiscal responsibility.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that FEMA money will be coming into Madison County due to the flooding in June and reminded those affected to work with authorities to be able to get what is needed from FEMA.

Magistrate Hughes thanked the Road Departments for their work on paving some roads. He stated that next Saturday, September 19th is Union City Ruritan Community Day and encouraged everyone to attend.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

Mary McMahan asked if there was a proposed date for when the new Fire Station will be open, and if the city will staff the Keeneland Drive station. Judge Taylor stated that they did not have any updates.

Julia Adams thanked Pastor Hobbs for the prayer this morning. She spoke on how limited and precious time is and using our time wisely to give back to God. She encouraged the public to come to Kirksville Baptist Church, stating that they will be having a Fall Festival on October 9th from 5:30 to 9:00 PM.

IN RE: Approve the Transfers and Pay the Claims:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for September 22, 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 Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

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REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE