Meeting Date; 10/13/2026
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 13th of October 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 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.

Judge Taylor asked Matt Ellis, Pastor of White Hall Baptist 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 9-22-2026:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on September 22, 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: Blue Grass Chemical Agent Pilot Plant Projects Update – Craig Williams:

Craig Williams, Host Community Liaison with the Blue Grass Army Depot, provided an update on the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Pilot Plant Projects. As of September 22, 2026, the BGCAPP project still employes 136 people. The above-ground demolition in the main plant is complete, while the removal of foundation is at 57% complete, and the above ground demolition in the support is complete as well, while the foundation removal is at 65% complete in that area. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection has reviewed and approved each of the 66 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Closure Certification packages. He stated that the demolition will be fully complete by April 2027, and the final date for the complete closure will be in September 2027.
Craig also provided a Blue Grass Army Depot update. The Army Material Command (AMC) Advanced Manufacturing (AdvM) for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Innovation Hub has been approved, and construction has begun inside the existing BGAD building where drone testing for the innovation hub will occur. Also, the Centralized Security Monitoring Facility has progressed, which is a DoW Physical Security Enterprise & Analysis Group (PSEAG). The Metal Shipping Facility is moving forward with the project and is awaiting final signature approval. The Energetics Plant is also moving forward and is awaiting submissions' evaluations and contract award. The 125mm Cargo Projectile Load, Assemble, Pack (LAP) Flexible Line Facility is moving forward as well, and is awaiting submissions' evaluations and contract award.
Magistrate Botkin stated that the future looks bright at BGAD. He stated that the fact that there were no accidents or issues in dealing with one of the deadliest chemicals is to be commended.
Judge Taylor stated that the involvement of the community and leaders was amazing and expressed his appreciation to Craig for all the work they have done.
Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Craig for the relationships that have been established with the BGAD.
Magistrate Combs echoed his thanks as well.
John Olson, Project Closure Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, and John McArthur, Deputy Closure Manager, recognized Craig Williams and Reagan Taylor for their tireless support of the BGCAPP project. John

stated that Craig has been a central figure in the local community and onsite for the destruction and has been an advocate for the safe destruction of chemical weapons. Judge Taylor made numerous visits to the site and asked the management team questions to make sure that they were ready to proceed with the safe destruction of the weapons, and in fact, they achieved a world record of over 18 million hours without a loss working with the weapons. Judge Taylor served on several committees, ensuring Madison County's economy remained strong as the chemical weapons program ends. Both gentlemen were presented with flags that had flown over the BGAD site.
John also presented each member of the Fiscal Court with a BGCAPP memory book and a coin that marked the end of the chemical weapons destruction in July 2023.
Sheriff Coyle recognized Craig for his heroism and bravery, and assistance during the US Bank shooting as he was entering the building as the shooter was exiting the building.

## IN RE: Proclamation – Kentucky Extension Homemakers Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed October 11-17, 2026, as Kentucky Extension Homemakers Week and urged all citizens to participate in Extension Homemakers activities in their communities.
Jan Choate, Madison County Extension Homemaker Vice President, and Evonne Kincer, Madison County Extension Homemaker President, were in attendance to accept the proclamation. Jan stated that October 11-17 is KEH week across the Commonwealth. Established in 1932, KEH is dedicated to learning, leading, and serving with educational programs that highlight topics such as heritage skills, nurturing families, health, food safety, nutrition, reducing waste, leadership, avoiding fraud, civic engagement, etc. They offer many classes, meetings, clubs, and workshops for learning. She expressed their appreciation to the Court for their support. They presented a symbolic check for $245,028.96, representing the value of the 7,984 volunteer hours contributed by Madison County Extension Homemakers during this past year.

## IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-012 — Land Use Change for 2284 Barnes Mill Road from R-7 Agriculture to R-4 General Business:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-012 — Land Use Change for 2284 Barnes Mill Road from R-7 Agriculture to R-4 General Business for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 2284 Barnes Mill Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.
Judge Taylor stated that there was a public hearing held on September 29th at the Planning Commission.
Magistrate Combs thanked Jill for stepping in due to Bert Thomas' retirement.
Jill stated that there was no opposition for this zone change at the Planning Commission meeting.
Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Chenault Family for all they have invested in the Chenault Vineyard to make it a true destination in the community.
Magistrate Lochmueller agreed.
The 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-012 — Land Use Change for 2284 Barnes Mill Road from R-7 Agriculture to R-4 General Business was read and acknowledged by the Court.

## IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-013 — Madison County Fire Hydrant Marking and Identification Standards:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2026-013 — Madison County Fire Hydrant Marking and Identification Standards for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court relating to the establishment of standards for the marking and identification of fire hydrants in Madison County, Kentucky, and repealing Ordinance #06-20.

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Judge Taylor asked if these hydrants would have to be painted. Chief Gray stated they have to be flow tested and depending on the gallons they flow, they will be painted a color to differentiate the volumes.
Magistrate Hughes asked about the hydrants that are painted with different designs around town. Chief Gray stated that the City did that on some of theirs, but the County doesn't. In fact, during testing of some established hydrants, they had to repaint a couple of hydrants that had been painted over.
Magistrate Combs asked if the gallons flow test affected insurance ratings for homeowners. Chief Gray stated that it didn't affect the rates; it is just based on how close the hydrant is to the structure.
Magistrate Botkin asked if the paint they would be using to paint the hydrants was reflective paint. Chief Gray stated that at some places it is.
Chief Gray stated that all the hydrants are GPS and labeled so that when they get a call, the CAD pulls up with the closest hydrants and their flow pressure. The issue they run across is when homeowners "camouflage" around the hydrants; they struggle to find them during emergency calls.
1st Reading Ordinance 2026-013 — Madison County Fire Hydrant Marking and Identification Standards was read and acknowledged by the Court.

## IN RE: Resolution 2026-086 — FY 2027 Thermal Vision and Technical Innovation Grant Application:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2026-086 — FY 2027 Thermal Vision and Technical Innovation Grant Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court approving application and administration of FY 2027 Thermal Vision and Technical Innovation Grant funds for the Madison County Fire Department.
Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-086 — FY 2027 Thermal Vision and Technical Innovation Grant Application.
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 2026-087 — ASAP Funding for Recovery Engagement and Expansion (FREE) Grant Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2026-087 — ASAP Funding for Recovery Engagement and Expansion (FREE) Grant Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court to serve as the applicant agent for the Funding for Recovery Engagement and Expansion (FREE) Grant program and authorizing the Judge/Executive to sign on behalf of the County.
Shannyn Drummond, Madison County ASAP Board Chair, stated that this Grant would help them expand on what Madison County already has, and help them get more one-on-one interaction, and improve outreach efforts to individuals that have a risk of overdose.
Magistrate Botkin asked if they had spoken with the Jail about this program, and if they were onboard. Shannyn stated that she had talked with Tom Jones about it, and he stated it was something they would be happy to collaborate with them on.
Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2026-087 — ASAP Funding for Recovery Engagement and Expansion (FREE) Grant Application.
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 2026-088 — KYEM Assistance Funds Application for Emergency Services Networking Equipment:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2026-088 — KYEM Assistance Funds Application for Emergency Services Networking Equipment for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution authorizing the Madison County Emergency Management Agency to apply for project assistance funds from the Kentucky Emergency Management Division for Emergency Services Networking Equipment for the backup Emergency Communications Center.

Magistrate Botkin asked where the backup equipment would be at. Chris stated that it will go in the new Fire Station to be the new Emergency Communications Center Backup.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-088 — KYEM Assistance Funds Application for Emergency Services Networking Equipment.

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 2026-089 — Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Third Amended Agreement:

Judge Taylor wanted to have a discussion on this Project, as he is getting to the end of his term as Judge Executive or if they wanted the new Fiscal Court to look into it when they take office in January.

Chief Gray stated that this would be the third amendment to this project, and it has been in the works since 2008. The owners are required to have a Site Plan done by a third party, in which phase one was completed, but as they got to phase two, they were told they needed to tear out the foundation and put in a new one to raise the structure above the flood plain, which has to go back to FEMA for reapproval. This would change the dollar amount and scope of work of the project.

Magistrate Hughes asked what obligation the County would have. Chief Gray stated that they would have to reapply to FEMA. FEMA is responsible for paying 75% of the project, the State would pay 12%, and the County is 13% but the County requires the property owner to pay that. The County isn't out any money, just the manpower to get the paperwork completed for FEMA.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the property owner has obligations to this project as well, which hasn't been met over the years. Chief Gray explained that once the owner completes the phase of the project, he submits receipts to the County, the County reimburses him, then the State reimburses the County and FEMA reimburses the State.

Magistrate Combs stated that if things aren't done correctly, then the County can be liable for the full amount.

Magistrate Hughes thought they should go ahead with the project.

Magistrate Botkin stated that knowing what has been involved in the past and has been brought back again, he doesn't know if they should oblige the new Court on it.

Magistrate Combs stated that he didn't think it was a good project since it has been going on this long, and that they should not put taxpayers on the hook for it.

Judge Taylor asked what the obligation was with the State. Jill stated they just need to communicate with the State on what is decided.

No action was taken for Resolution 2026-089, so it will be expunged.

## IN RE: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Alison Joyce, as Building Inspector – Level 2, at a rate of $30 per hour, effective October 21, 2026; and the hiring of Michael Ball, as 911 Telecommunicator Recruit (Non-Certified), at a rate of $21 per hour, effective November 4, 2026.

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Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Alison Joyce, as Building Inspector – Level 2, at a rate of $30 per hour, effective October 21, 2026; and the hiring of Michael Ball, as 911 Telecommunicator Recruit (Non-Certified), at a rate of $21 per hour, effective November 4, 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: Enter Executive Session:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to enter into Executive Session at 10:37 AM to discuss deliberation on the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency. This Executive Session is allowable under KRS 61.810 subsection 1, subsection B to discuss deliberation on the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency.
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: Exit Executive Session:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to exit Executive Session at 10:42 AM. No action was taken at this time.
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:

- EKU's Homecoming parade will be on Friday, October 23rd beginning at 6:00 PM. There will be a Block Party on Water Street after the parade. Please be mindful of road closures and pedestrians in the downtown area. Kickoff for their homecoming game is 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 24th.

- Join us for Madison County Public Safety's first Trunk-or-Treat event on Friday, October 30th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The event will be held at the Madison County Emergency Operations Center located at 560 South Keeneland Drive in Richmond, KY. Please be mindful of increased traffic in the area.

- Trick-or-Treat Night for Madison County, Berea, and Richmond will be Saturday, October 31st from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Please be mindful of the kids that will be out trick-or-treating.

- The Farm City Banquet is on Monday, November 9th at 6:00 PM. Tickets are on sale until November 5th or until they run out. Call Madison County Cooperative Extension Office at 859-623-4072 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:

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**Magistrate Botkin** stated that all the blacktop projects in the Fourth District has been completed.

**Magistrate Combs** thanked Judge Taylor for his help with the Misty Drive issue and thanked the County employees for their hard work.

**Magistrate Lochmueller** also thanked the County employees for their work.

**Magistrate Hughes** stated all was well in his District.

## Comments from Department Heads:
**No Comments from Department Heads.**

## Public Comments:
**No Public Comments.**

## IN RE: Approve the Transfers and Pay the Claims:
Motion made by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the transfers and pay the claims.

## ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:
Judge Taylor announced the next court date for October 27, 2026, in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM.

## IN RE: ADJOURNMENT
Motion from Tom Botkin to adjourn, seconded by Billy Ray Hughes. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 AM.

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REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE