



WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS COURT

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING

WEBB COUNTY COURTHOUSE
1000 HOUSTON STREET, 2ND FLOOR
LAREDO, TEXAS 78040
JANUARY 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.

MARGIE R. IBARRA
COUNTY CLERK
FILED
2024 JAN -5 AM 8:21
WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS
BY *MW* DEPUTY

CALL TO ORDER BY THE HONORABLE TANO E. TIJERINA, WEBB COUNTY JUDGE

1. Roll Call by Honorable Margie Ramirez-Ibarra, Webb County Clerk
2. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation
3. Discussion and possible action for Approval of Bills, Payroll, and Monthly Reports (Auditor, Treasurer, Human Resources, Risk Management, Tax Assessor-Collector; and any other Department reports); and any other matters incident thereto.
4. Public Comment - This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Commissioners Court on any items on the Agenda. Members of the public wishing to participate must complete a Witness Card specifying which agenda item they wish to comment on. Each public member, individually or in a group, will be allowed a total of Three (3) minutes within which to make any/all public comments.

COURT TO DISCUSS AND ACT ON THE FOLLOWING:

CONSENT AGENDA: At most meetings, the Commissioners Court establishes a Consent Agenda. It consists of those Agenda Items which are routine or non-controversial, and which neither a member of the Commissioners court has asked to be pulled for discussion. Once the Commissioners Court has established the Consent Agenda, Agenda Items included on it will be voted upon in one vote, and will not be discussed separately unless requested by the County Judge or Commissioners.

The consent agenda has been created in order to give constituents the opportunity to view any and all pertinent backup information with reference to any item in the agenda. The objective of the consent agenda is for all Webb County constituents to be familiar with everyday county business and to demonstrate the transparency and fairness of this Commissioners Court.

The following Agenda Items are of a routine nature, and the Commissioners Court has received supporting materials for consideration. All of these Agenda Items will be passed with one vote without being discussed separately, unless a member of the Commissioners Court or the public requests that a particular Agenda Item be discussed. If so, that Agenda Item will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and discussed as part of the regular Agenda at the appropriate time. One vote will approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS

5. Auditor

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the carry over budget of \$423,525.00 for Contract #58230003850 for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Fund Account #2362-5150-521 and Account #2362-5360-521. The Contract started on January 1, 2023, and shall end on March 31, 2024. **[Requested by Community Action Agency]**

Issue: Year and end balances must be carried over and entered into New World in order to continue the availability of these grant funds for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program.

Solution: Approval of budget allowing for carryover of year-end balances for C.A.A.

Result: Continued availability of State grant funds.

- b. Discussion and possible action to ratify, by Order, the following budget amendment (line item transfers) within grant funds to cover the balances under the program year 2023-Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). **[Requested by Guillermo Walls, C.A.A. Director]**

	Acct. Number	Acct. Name	Request	Current	End Bal.
From:	2364-5360-521-457900	Program Services Expenditures	\$3,706.93	\$3,706.93	\$0.00
	2364-5360-521-463804-102	Utility Assistance P2 Prevention	\$148.30	\$148.30	\$0.00
	2364-5360-521-463804-103	Utility Assistance P3 Rate Reduction	\$85.00	\$15,385.00	\$15,300.00
	2364-5360-521-410000	Payroll Cost	\$800.00	\$1,615.91	\$815.91
	2364-5360-521-421000	Health Life Insurance	\$300.00	\$772.51	\$472.51
	2364-5360-521-423000	Retirement County Share	\$200.00	\$477.03	\$277.03
			\$5,240.23		
To:	2364-5360-521-463804-101	Utility Assistance P1 Restoration	\$5,240.23	\$0.00	\$5,240.23

Issue: Funds needed to cover costs associated with continuation of services.

Solution: Ministerial requested to continue providing services.

Result: Funds available to continue providing program services.

- c. Discussion and possible action to approve the carry over budget of \$415,700.33 for Contract #58930004003 for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program Emergency Supplemental from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Fund Account #2365-5150-521 and Account #2365-5360-521. The Contract started on January 1, 2023, and shall end on March 31, 2024. **[Requested by Community Action Agency]**

Issue: Year and end balances must be carried over and entered into New World in order to continue the availability of these grant funds for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program.

Solution: Approval of budget allowing for carryover of year-end balances for C.A.A.

Result: Continued availability of State grant funds.

- d. Discussion and possible action to ratify approval, by Order, of the following budget amendment (line item transfers) within Grant funds. This action will not have an impact on the General Fund. **[Requested by Community Action Agency]**

	Acct. Number	Acct. Name	Request	Current	End Bal.
From:	2364-5150-521-410000	Payroll Cost	\$785.00	\$4,260.61	\$3,835.61
To:	2364-5150-521-421000	Health Life Insurance	\$130.00	\$601.27	\$731.27
	2364-5150-521-420000	FICA County Share	\$175.00	\$154.08	\$329.08
	2364-5150-521-423000	Retirement County Share	\$450.00	-\$11.97	\$438.03
	2364-5150-521-425000	Unemployment Tax	\$20.00	\$2.07	\$22.07
	2364-5150-521-426000	Worker Compensation	\$10.00	\$6.88	\$16.88
			\$785.00		

Issue: Funds available in accounts will not cover cost needed to continue operation service.

Solution: By Commissioners Court approval, accounts in the line item transfers will have enough funds.

Result: To ensure funding for the remainder of the current program year and finalize grant funds.

- e. Discussion and possible action to ratify approval, by Order, of the following budget amendment (line item transfers) within Grant funds. This action will not have an impact on the General Fund. **[Requested by Community Action Agency]**

	Acct. Number	Acct. Name	Request	Current	End Bal.
From:	2364-5360-521-410000	Payroll Cost	\$815.91	\$815.91	\$0
	2364-5360-521-421000	Health Life Insurance	\$472.51	\$472.51	\$0
	2364-5360-521-420000	FICA County Share	\$192.21	\$192.21	\$0
	2364-5360-521-423000	Retirement County Share	\$277.03	\$277.03	\$0

	2364-5360-521-425000	Unemployment Tax	\$89.14	\$89.14	\$0
	2364-5360-521-426000	Worker Compensation	\$9.92	\$9.92	\$0
			\$1,856.72		
To:	2364-5360-521-463804-101	Utility Assistance P1 Restoration	\$1,856.72	\$5,240.23	\$7,096.95

Issue: Funds available in accounts will cover cost needed to continue operation service.

Solution: By Commissioners Court approval, accounts in the line item transfers will have enough funds.

Result: To ensure funding for the remainder of the current program year.

- f. Discussion and possible action to ratify, by Order, the following budget amendment (line item transfer) to purchase a freezer for the Medical Examiner's office to store autopsy samples:

	Acct. Number	Acct. Name	Adopted	Request	Current	End Bal.
From:	1001-1130-001-470000	Capital Outlay	\$4,228,269	\$11,359	\$3,978,403	\$3,967,044
To:	1001-3100-001-470000	Capital Outlay	\$13,350	\$11,359	\$13,350	\$24,709

Issue: The Medical Examiner's current freezer is down, and a replacement is necessary.

Solution: By Commissioner's Court ratification of the approval, the department will be able to operate efficiently.

Result: With funds available, the Medical Examiner's office will be able to cover the cost of the freezer.

6. Civil Legal Division

- a. Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year armored car service agreement with Rochester Armored Car Co., Inc., (January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024), for monetary bank deposits for Webb County Justice of the Peace Pct. 4, at a monthly fee of Two Hundred Four Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$204.65), and any other matters incident thereto; authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. **[Requested by Judge Jose "Pepe" Salinas, Justice of the Peace Pct. 4, Webb County; Account #1001-2180-001-456005 (Postage & Courier Service)]**
- b. Discussion and possible action to enter into an Agreement between Webb County (for the benefit of the Webb County Texas Emergency Network Division (TEND)) and AXS Design to create a Court Logo for the TEND program, create a six-page website, and provide annual hosting so that the public may have access to the services that are available and aid in the navigation of the program through online services, in the amount of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$2,950.00) for the performance period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and authorizing the Webb County Judge to sign any and all relevant documents and any other matters incident thereto. **[Requested by Judge Selina L. Mireles, Account #2747-1150-001-443000-110 (Repairs & Maintenance Software)]**
- c. Discussion and possible action to correct the Commissioners Court's action of October agenda item 6. g. approving a one year Platinum Level Preventative Maintenance & Service Agreement with Southwest Solutions Group for a Lektriever File Cabinet located at the Public Defender's Office by increasing the cost from One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars and Sixty-four cents (\$1,482.64) to One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-nine Dollars and Thirty-five cents (\$1,729.35) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. **[Requested by Webb County**

Public Defender's Office; Account #1001-2280-001-443000-035 (Repairs and Maintenance Equipment)]

Issue: The cost for services to maintain the Public Defender's Lektrevier Filing Cabinet was erroneously given in item 6.g. on the October 23, 2023 agenda.

Solution: Repest the item to the agenda to correct the error.

Result: Correct cost for maintenance agreement and authorization to accept services as per agreement.

- d. Discussion and possible action to enter into a contract amendment with Business Information Systems, Inc. d/b/a BIS Digital Inc. regarding audio/video system upgrades to the Webb County Commissioners Courtroom in order to install an upgraded K-8 Switcher that will allow the audio/video equipment to be able to work with 4K resolution technology and with a resulting increase in the contract price by Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars (\$2,328.00) from One Hundred Eighty-Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars Sixty Nine Cents (\$180,894.69) to One Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-two Dollars Sixty-Nine Cents (\$183,222.69), authorizing the County Judge to execute the contract amendment, and any other matters incident thereto. **[Requested by Larry Sanchez, Webb County Public Information Officer; Accounts #2703-5205-001-460105-030 (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021-American Rescue Plan-Administration-Minor Tools & Apparatus Courthouse Video and Audio Equipment); Account #2703-5205-001-470000-302 (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021-American Rescue Plan-Administration-Capital Outlay-Courthouse Video Audio Equipment)]**

Issue: At the Webb County Commissioners Court meeting of July 10, 2023, the Commissioners Court approved a contract with BIS Digital Inc. to do audio/video system upgrades to its Courtroom; however, an equipment upgrade of a K-8 switcher is needed in order for the audio/video equipment to work with 4K resolution technology.

Solution: Installation of an upgraded K-8 switch in order for the system to work with 4K resolution technology.

Result: The original contract price of \$180,894.69 approved by the court will be increased by \$2,900.00.

7. Community Action Agency

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the posting and filling of the following Slot, subject to the availability of payroll funds and any applicable Civil Service guidelines, effective January 8, 2024:

<u>Slot #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
1149	Food Transporter	\$10.50

Issue: The Employee that was in Slot #1149 was promoted to Head Cook effective 12/15/2023.

Solution: Request to fill this vacant slot will allow the department to continue to operate effectively.

Result: The filling of the slot #1149 will allow the department to be full staff if the court grants approval.

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve the annual payment for membership dues for Meals on Wheels America. The membership dues is in the amount of \$250.00 for the period covering January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. **[Account #2025-5320-521-464010 (Dues & Memberships)]**

Issue: Membership will continue to provide the information needed for new funding opportunities, to be part of the new COVID-19 Resource Center and the Member-only platform, Meals On Wheels Connect, that can be used to lean on one another for support, guidance and pep-talks.

Solution: Obtain court approval as required.

Result: By providing funding, leadership, education, research and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time.

- c. Discussion and possible action to authorize the release of the 10% retainer payment to Midas Contractors in the amount of \$7,270 for the project located at 7523 Kay Bailey Rd., San Carlos II. This project is grant funded and will not impact the County's General Fund. **[Account #2529-206000]**

Issue: Ten percent of the housing rehabilitation project amount is held in retainer for 30 days from the completion date of each project to ensure that any deficiencies which may arise are addressed by the contractor. Contract amount is \$71,400 plus a change order in the amount of \$1,300. The 10% retainer amount to be released for this contract is \$7,270.

Solution: Commissioner's Court authorizes the release of the retainer funds to the contractor.

Result: The contractor will be paid for services rendered.

- d. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program client tracking software system for the Webb County Community Action Agency. This action will have no impact on the General Fund.

Issue: The agreement with the current client tracking system is set to expire. The agency is required to solicit bids to continue tracking clients through a software system.

Solution: The court approval will allow Webb County Community Action Agency to continue tracking clients through a software system.

Result: Authorization to solicit bids will allow the Agency to continue application intake through a client tracking system, offering an accurate and timely process for intake.

- e. Discussion and possible action to approve grant award contract #58240004040 ("Contract") for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for FY-2023, in the amount of ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,217,627.00) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. The contract shall commence on January 01, 2024, and shall end on December 31, 2024. This action will not have an impact on the General Fund.

Issue: The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has awarded Webb County Community Action Agency the amount of \$1,217,627.00 under the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP).

Solution: The Court approval will allow the Webb County CAA to provide direct services to eligible low-income residents of Webb County under the CEAP Program.

Result: These funds are intended to assist eligible Webb County residents with up to 12 months of

energy consumption.

- f. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST) to assist Webb County Community Action Agency with Weatherization Assistance Program assistance to qualifying Webb County residents and program outcomes at no cost to the Webb County and any other matters incident thereto; authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Issue: Will enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Community Social Services Partner as part of its referral network for providing optimum services to its clients.

Solution: These MOU agreements are a Texas Department of Community Affairs (TDHCA) requirement for the implementation of its grant programs.

Result: Webb County CAA will continue to meet TDHCA requirements to secure funding for its grant programs.

8. Economic Development

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of a Juvenile Justice Program grant application as developed, written, presented, and submitted by the Office of the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, Place 1 in collaboration with the Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer and in the amount estimated at \$70,000 for the continued payment of salary/fringe benefits of a juvenile case manager as well as equipment, supplies, and training/travel in order to divert at-risk juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system in Laredo/Webb County; and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant does not require any cash match; and, thus, there will be no impact to the general fund. All required documents were sent to the Economic Development Department and were found in compliance with the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) policy. **[Requested by Jose R. Salinas, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, Place 1; Grant Fund #2734]**

Issue: Juvenile delinquency is a nationwide problem that negatively affects not only the delinquent youth and their families but also adversely impacts schools, neighborhoods, and the local community at large. In addition, youth at-risk for juvenile delinquency who enter into the juvenile justice system tend to face limited future career, educational, and other socio-economic prospects, especially in the South Texas area.

Solution: Grant Application for continued pay of salary for Juvenile Case Manager, in order to provide prevention, diversion, and intervention strategies through the court of the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4 in Laredo/Webb County area.

Result: Increased focus on diversion strategies to steer at-risk juveniles from the juvenile and criminal justice system.

- b. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a Criminal Justice grant application as developed, written, and submitted by the Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division and in the amount estimated at \$35,000 for equipment, minor tools, supplies, and training/education for the Webb County Sheriff's Office Code Enforcement Unit; and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant does not require any type of match; and, thus will have no impact to the general fund. All required documents were sent for review through the Economic Development Department and the solicitation is compliant with the Webb County Single Point of Contact (SPOC) procedures. **[Requested by Martin Cuellar, Webb County Sheriff]**

Issue: Like other local law enforcement agencies, the Webb County Sheriff's Office utilizes limited

financial, operational, and manpower resources to grapple with, deter, mitigate, and/or resolve various serious criminal justice matters that stem from a confluence of deeply rooted, difficult, and often highly complex societal problems.

Solution: Grant application to provide supplemental resources for equipment, minor tools, and supplies in support of the Webb County Sheriff's Office.

Result: Grant funding will allow members of the Webb County Sheriff's Office be equipped with supplemental resources.

- c. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training (VAWA) grant award as developed, written, presented, and submitted by the Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer to the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Office of Governor (OOG) in the amount estimated at \$7,000 for training and supplies for investigators and patrol officers working at the Webb County Sheriff's Office serving victims of violent crimes against women and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant requires a Thirty (30%) percent cash match, or a \$3,000 cash match of the \$10,000 (= \$7,000 grant + \$3,000 cash match) total project cost. This \$3,000 cash match will be met by the Webb County Sheriff's Office forfeiture funds. Thus, this grant will have no impact to the general fund. All required documents were sent to the Economic Development Department and were found in compliance with the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) policy. **[Requested by Martin Cuellar, Sheriff; Grant Fund #2605; Cash Match Account #2152-9080-001-485005 (Transfer out from Federal Forfeiture Funds)]**

Issue: Violence against women is among the most intractable and deadliest criminal justice problems in the United States, especially domestic violence and in the South Texas area. According to published statistics, the number of American women between 2001-2012 who were murdered by current or ex male partners in the United States was 11,766. That's almost double the amount of casualties lost during wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Women who will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes number 1 in 4. ("30 Shocking Domestic Violence Statistics That Remind Us It's An Epidemic" Vagianos 10/23/2014).

Solution: Grant award to enhance the tools, techniques, and training to those investigators who follow-up to calls for assistance, conduct interviews with these victims, file incident reports, provide these victims information/referrals to service providers, initiate arrests of perpetrators, refer cases for prosecution, and prepare testimony/evidence for trial in cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Result: Enhanced law enforcement services, including investigative techniques, to deal with emergent criminal trends, such as cyber stalking, and improved efficacy of the law enforcement response to the needs of victims of violent crime.

- d. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a Crime Justice grant application as developed, written, and submitted by the Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division and estimated at \$35,000 for overtime and applicable fringe benefits for members of the Mental Health Unit to provide mental health services, including commitments, executions of court orders, and transports to mental health facilities; and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant does not require any type of match; and, thus will have no impact to the general fund. All required documents were sent for review through the Economic Development Department and the solicitation is compliant with the Webb County Single Point of Contact (SPOC) procedures. **[Requested by Martin Cuellar, Webb County Sheriff; Grant Fund #2738]**

Issue: The local Laredo/Webb County community continues to constitute a medically and mental health underserved area, which requires mentally ill youth and adults to travel to out-of-town facilities in order to receive these needed mental health services.

Solution: Grant application to provide overtime and applicable fringe benefits for the members of the Mental Health Unit to transport mental health patients to these out-of-town facilities so that they may receive the care that they require.

Result: Grant funding will allow members of the Mental Health Unit to undertake complex and time consuming activities and requirements, including execution of court orders, mental health commitments, and the actual transports to out-of-town mental health facilities, so that the mentally ill patients, their families, and the overall community can be better served.

- e. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a Fiscal Year 2024 State Homeland Security Program-Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activity (FY 2024 SHSP-LETPA) grant award in the amount of \$34,000 to the Office of Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) as specifically developed, written, and submitted by the Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer for SWAT equipment, minor tools, and supplies, and designating the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant does not require any match; and, thus shall have no impact to the general fund. All required documents were sent for review through the Economic Development Department and the solicitation is compliant with the Webb County Single Point of Contact (SPOC) procedures. **[Requested by Martin Cuellar, Webb County Sheriff; Grant Account #2746]**

Issue: Since the tragedy of 9/11, the urgent need for expanded and enhanced law enforcement efforts to prevent terrorism in the United States was understood to help save the lives of both first responders and the people they serve.

Solution: Grant application to request enhanced SWAT capabilities for the Webb County Sheriff's Office.

Result: The Webb County Sheriff's Office will have increased capacities and enhanced capabilities.

- f. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a grant application as developed, written, and submitted by and for the Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division in the amount estimated at \$30,000 for Body Worn Camera (BWCs) equipment, software, and supplies; and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant requires cash match of 25% or an estimated amount of \$10,000, which will be met utilizing the Sheriff's Office forfeiture funds (Fund #2152) for a total project cost estimated at \$40,000; and, thus will have no impact to the general fund. All required documents were sent for review through the Economic Development Department and the solicitation is compliant with the Webb County Single Point of Contact (SPOC) procedures. **[Requested by Martin Cuellar, Webb County Sheriff; Grant Fund #2743]**

Issue: The use of Body Worn Cameras have been shown in studies to be an effective strategy for law enforcement agencies, and their use has grown to be a standard and beneficial practice for sworn officers.

Solution: Grant application to expand and leverage grant resources so that the Webb County Sheriff's Office will be able increase transparency and accountability through the continued utilization of body-worn cameras for its sworn officer force.

Result: The Webb County Sheriff's Office will be able to achieve greater transparency and accountability in its service and protection of the Laredo/Webb County public and taxpayers.

- g. Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of a Rural Law Enforcement Grant (Texas Senate Bill 22) application in the amount estimated at \$500,000 to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts as developed, written, and submitted by Webb County Sheriff's Office Grant Writer for the salary/fringe benefits of peace officers and radio dispatchers as well as equipment, minor tools, and supplies for the Webb County Sheriff's Office; and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. This grant does not require any cash match; and, thus, there will be no impact to the general fund. It is renewable for up to 2 additional years if Webb County does not surpass the 300,000 population threshold. All required documents were sent to the Economic Development Department and were found in compliance with the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) policy. **[Requested by Martin Cuellar, Webb County Sheriff]**

Issue: Like other local law enforcement agencies, the Webb County Sheriff's Office utilizes limited financial, operational, and manpower resources to grapple with, deter, mitigate, and/or resolve various serious criminal justice matters that stem from a confluence of deeply rooted, difficult, and often highly complex societal problems.

Solution: Leveraging of other federal, state, and local resources available to local law enforcement agencies allows the Webb County Sheriff's Office to be able to provide better and more enhanced law enforcement services with a positive financial impact to local taxpayers, who also pay state and federal taxes but do not always receive the same federal/state benefits/services as other communities.

Result: The Webb County Sheriff's Office law enforcement efforts will be enhanced and supplemented by the additional grant-funded personnel, equipment, and supplies.

- h. Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of a renewal application in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) to the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division for year four (October 1, 2024 - September 2025) of the Texas Emergency Network Diversion (TEND) Court Program which allows Laredo/Webb County to focus on prevention, investigation, and/or prosecution regarding the exploitation and commercial exploitation of foster youths in Laredo/Webb County, with authorization to allow the County Judge to act as the County's Executive Officer and Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining in this grant, and any other matters incident thereto. There is no county match requirement for this grant and thus no financial impact on the General Fund. **[Requested by Child Protection Court, Selina L. Mireles, Associate Judge]**

Issue: There is a need for resources to address the issue of exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of youth in our community. Persons who have suffered abuse in childhood or adolescence are susceptible to being exploited or sexually trafficked. There is a need to train the community and those involved in the criminal justice system on how to identify potential and current victims and stop the cycle of exploitation. The Office of the Governor of Texas has provided available resources through a grant opportunity to enhance awareness, intervention, and prevention of this serious issue.

Solution: Authorize the submission of the grant application as set forth above to ensure that the Laredo/Webb County, CPS, and Child Protection Court, may continue the Texas Emergency Network Diversion Court Program, a diversion program for potential and current victims of exploitation and sexual exploitation.

Result: The Texas Emergency Network Diversion Program will be in compliance with SPOC, and with the submission rules and regulations set forth by the funding agency.

- i. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution by the Webb County Commissioners Court approving and authorizing the Webb County Child Protection Court to reapply for the Texas Emergency Network Diversion (TEND) grant and authorizing the Webb County Judge to sign and execute all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. **[Requested by Judge Selina Mireles, Webb County Child Protection Court]**

Issue: Texas (Trafficking) Emergency Network Diversion (TEND) Court Program requires funding to provide services to the public and enter into agreements with individuals and entities who provide treatment and counseling of victims of trafficking.

Solution: The Texas (Trafficking) Emergency Network Diversion (TEND) Court Program is an Office of the Governors (OOG) grant, and will pay for services.

Result: The grant will fund the services needed to provide mental/therapy services for the TEND youth according to this contract.

9. Fire Suppression & EMS Services

- a. Discussion and possible action to accept a donation from The Williams Companies, Inc. as per Local Government Code 81.032, in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be utilized in the following line item: Materials & Supplies; and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents; and any other matters incident thereto. **[Account #1001-3140-001-461000]**

Issue: Donation check issued by The Williams Companies Inc. to support the mission of the Webb County Volunteer Fire Department.

Solution: Deposit money accordingly, \$1,000 into Materials & Supplies.

Result: Continue working relationship with The Williams Companies, meet department needs, and have a clean sanitized department.

10. Head Start

Disclaimer: All Head Start monies are 100% Federal funds

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the posting and filling of the following Slots:

<u>Slot #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Hourly Rate/Salary</u>	<u>Pay Periods</u>
2982, 2969, 3028	Substitute	\$11.60 /\$11,597.06	20
2569	PT Early Head Start Teacher Floater	\$13.25 /\$19,982.14	26

11. Purchasing

- a. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to process surplus and/or salvage property in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code, Section 263.152 (Disposition) and to publish notice to the public as per Local Government Code Section 263.153 (Notice) for surplus and/or salvage property being auctioned.

Issue: Excess county property that is either by definition salvage or surplus property because of time, accident, or any other cause such as, wear and deterioration, damaged, or obsolete that has no value and/or usefulness for the intended purpose and is no longer needed by the department.

Solution: Authorize the Purchasing Agent to attempt to sell the County surplus or salvage property through public auction, dispose of or destroy property that cannot be sold through public auction because it has been deemed worthless or dispose through a recycling program under which property

is collected, separated, or processed and returned to use in the form of raw materials of new products and/or donate as permitted by state law.

Result: Generate auction revenue from sale of county property, reduce county expenditures by transferring surplus property to other departments and make room for future assets replacing salvage or surplus items no longer needed.

- b. Discussion and possible action to ratify the approval to purchase three (3) InBody 770 Body Composition Analyzers with an extended three (3) year warranty from Biospace Inc., DBA InBody (GSA Contract #36F79722D0074) for an amount not to exceed \$53,634.27 for the Webb County Risk Department pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code; Sections 271.101, 271.102, Sub-Chapter F. Cooperative Purchasing Programs and any other matters incident thereto. **[Account #6100-1090-001-462000 (Risk – Wellness Clinic Employee Expenditures)]**

Issue: The Risk Department requested to purchase three (3) InBody 770 Body Composition analyzers for the benefit of Webb County Employees. The purchase of the equipment required for the grant funds to be expensed by 12/31/2023.

Solution: Due to the grant deadline, the Purchasing Agent approved the order using Aetna Wellness Allowance funds. Although vendor has a cooperative contract, it has always been the Purchasing Agent's practice to bring all purchases under a cooperative contract exceeding \$50,000.00 to Commissioners Court for approval.

Result: Secure approval on ratification of grant purchase that was necessary in order to meet the grant deadline utilizing the wellness allowance balance from Aetna.

- c. Discussion and possible action to rescind the previous action approved on December 11, 2023, item 20; authorizing a professional service agreement between Webb County and Killis Almond and Associates for the preparation of a Preservation Master Plan for the Webb County Courthouse in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00 and to further authorize the services to be awarded to Steve Land Tillotson, Architect PLLC., all other terms and conditions remain unchanged and to authorize the County Judge to execute and sign all relevant documents and any other matters incident thereto. **[Account #1001-1130-001-432001 (General Fund-General Operating Exp-Administration-Professional Services)]**

Issue: The Economic Development Department has been authorized to submit a grant application to the Texas Historic Commission due May 2024. A prerequisite to that grant submittal is for Webb County to submit to THC a Preservation Master Plan no later than February the 5th, 2024. Advertising an RFQ and securing a professional services agreement to the selected firm for these services will not provide sufficient time to meet the February deadline.

Solution: Approve a professional services agreement with Steve Land Tillotson, an approved qualified consultant who has worked on previous THCPP projects to include other County Courthouses. Due to recent family matters, Mr. Killis Almond will not be able to provide the services as the lead architect on this project.

Result: Secure a professional services agreement not to exceed prior budgetary allocations for this project. Expediting this process will help meet the grant deadline prerequisites.

REGULAR AGENDA

Honorable Oscar Hale, 406th District Court Judge

12. Discussion and possible action to adjust pay rates by order for 406th District Court Veterans Treatment Court Program Staff associated with the Texas Veterans Commission grant program and request County Judge to execute all other matters incident thereto with an effective date of November 1, 2023. The four positions do not fall under the County's Wage Plan, and are 100% funded by grant funds. All positions are also subject to annual evaluations by the Department Head, and are entitled to additional increases under the grant. There will be no impact to the general fund.

Slot #	Position	Current Salary	Proposed Salary
2831	Program Director	\$65,000	\$68,500
2894	Regional Counselor	\$65,000	\$68,500
2885	Regional Case Manager	\$40,000	\$45,000
2894	Drug Test Technician	\$24,000	\$28,787

Issue: These proposed salaries are reflected under the Texas Veterans Grant program for the 2023-24 grant year and approved by TVC.

Solution: The project respectfully requests approval on salary adjustments.

Result: Each position will be fully operational to continue to layout VTP court day to day operations.

Auditor

13. Discussion and possible action to request for Commissioners Court to authorize the Treasurer and County Attorney to file suit and collect duplicate electronic payroll payments from four previous employees as per section 113.902 of the Texas Local Government Code; and, any other matters incident thereto.

Issue: Four former employees were paid on January 21, 2022 for a total of \$4,683.33 (net pay) and were inadvertently paid again on February 4, 2022. The Treasurer has attempted to collect the duplicate payroll payments by mailing out Request for Payroll Duplicate Payment for Reimbursement Request letters to said former employees and has been unsuccessful.

Solution: The Treasurer will file suit for recovery of the duplicate payments through the office of the County Attorney.

Result: Webb County will be reimbursed for the duplicate payroll payments.

Civil Legal Division

14. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Construction Contract with AOC Calton, Ltd. d/b/a Summit Building & Design for the Construction of the Webb County Southern Health Facility to be located at 1301 Paseo De Los Santos (Lot 1, Block 1, San Rafael Subdivision, Phase 2), Laredo, Webb County, Texas in an amount not to exceed Six Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars 00/100 (\$6,763,329.00) and any matters incident thereto, and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents. **[Account #3520-7230-001-470000 CDBJ Grant & ARPA Funds]**

Issue: Webb County seeks to construct a Health Facility to serve the county resident in southern Webb County.

Solution: Enter into a Construction Contract with AOC Calton, Ltd. d/b/a Summit Building & Design for the construction of the health facility.

15. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Master Contract for Environmental Assessment Services with each of the following firms: Alpha Terra Engineering, Inc, Terracon, and Raba Kistner Consultants, Inc. to selected on an "as needed" rotation basis for various projects, each project will be covered by a separate work authorization and any other matters incident thereto; authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. **[Funding source to be determined at time of work authorization approval by the Court]**

16. Discussion and possible action to authorize the reclassification and job modification of the following vacant slot that was recently transferred to department in the amount not to exceed \$19,200.00. **[Funding source: Account #1001-1130-001-431007-005 Payroll Reserve]**

Slot 239 Civil Litigation Supervisor (Grade 25)
to
Slot 239 Assistant Civil Division Attorney (Grade 27)

Issue: The following position was transferred at a lower grade and needs to be revised to match the duties and responsibilities of a similar attorney position already in the department.

Solution: Approve the proposed changes to have updated position.

Result: Ability for department to hire an attorney necessary for the department to function adequately.

Engineer

17. Discussion and possible action to approve Change Order No. 1 for Muralia Construction LLC., for the Quad City Fire Station and Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Expansion Project for an additional 79 calendar days. There will be no impact to the account and have the County Judge sign any relevant documents and; any other matters incident thereto. **[No Impact to Account]**

The Original Contract (Contract Sum) price is:	\$801,300.00
The next change by previous authorized change orders:	\$0
The Contract (Contract Sum) prior to this change order was:	\$801,300.00
The Contract (Contract Sum) will be (increased) (unchanged) by this change order in the amount of:	\$0
The New Contract (Contract Sum) including this change order will be:	\$801,300.00
The Contract Time will be increased by:	79 days
The date of Substantial Completion as of the date of this change order therefore is:	February 9, 2024

Issue: Requesting additional days due to lead time of approved submittal items; Chlorination system, Water Tank, Fiber Glass Enclosure, Electrical Panel Board and Breakers. Equipment Lead Time to deliver will be eight (8) weeks and an additional two (2) weeks for installation.

Solution: Approval of change order by Commissioner Court.

Result: Approval of change order will continue and finish with project modifications.

Purchasing

18. Discussion and possible action to accept the rankings and award Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2024-003 "Architectural Services for Renovations to Fairgrounds Facility" to the highest ranking firm, SLAY Architecture, pursuant to the State of Texas Government Code; Professional Services Procurement Act and to further authorize General Counsel to negotiate the terms and conditions of the professional service agreement and any other matters incident thereto. **[Account #1001-1130-001-432001 (General Fund-General Operating Exp-Administration-Professional Services)]**

Supplier	Rank	Score	Architectural Services Experience	Personnel Qualifications	References & Projects
		100	45.00	30.00	25.00
SLAY Architecture	1	78.00	36.00	22.00	20.00
Cavazos Architects	2	70.33	30.00	22.00	18.33
Garza Bomberger & Associates	3	66.33	30.00	18.00	18.33
X Architecture Collective, LLC	4	62.00	27.00	20.00	15.00

Issue: Webb County Commissioners Court previously authorized the Purchasing Agent to secure Statement of Qualifications for these professional services on 11/13/2023.

Solution: Consideration to award to the highest ranking firm and accept all rankings.

Result: If approved, the Civil Legal Department will negotiate the terms, conditions and applicable fees for Commissioners Courts approval for the professional services requested.

19. Discussion and possible action to accept the rankings and award Request for Qualifications (RFQ 2024-004) Civil Engineering Services for Fairgrounds Parking Lot Project to the highest ranking firm, Top Site Civil Group, LLC, pursuant to the State of Texas Government Code, Professional Services Procurement Act and to further and approve a professional services contract for design and construction administration in an amount not to exceed .9% of actual construction cost and any matters incident thereto. **[Account #1001-1130-001-432001 (General Fund-General Operating Exp-Administration-Professional Services)]**

Supplier	Rank	Score	Professional Civil Services	Personnel Qualifications	References & Projects
		100	45.00	30.00	25.00
Top Site Civil Group, LLC	1	85.67	42.00	22.00	21.67
Slay Engineering Co., Inc.	2	73.67	33.00	24.00	16.67

Issue: Commissioners Court authorized the Purchasing Agent to solicit Request for Qualifications for a civil engineer to develop plans and specifications for the parking lot improvements to the Webb County Fairgrounds.

Solution: Recommendation is to consider approval to accept the rankings and award to the highest ranking firm.

Result: If approved, the Civil Legal Division will proceed with preparation of a professional service agreement for the awarded services as directed by commissioners court.

20. Discussion and possible action to award RFQ 2024-005 "MEP Engineering Services for Fairgrounds Climate Control System" to sole proposer DBR Engineering for Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Engineering Services for design, development of cost estimates, preparation of construction documents and construction administration for the delivery, installation and startup of a new climate control System for the Webb County's Fairground's exhibition barn facility in accordance with the State of Texas Government Code; Professional Services Procurement Act and to further authorize General Counsel to negotiate the terms and conditions of the professional services agreement and any other matters incident thereto. **[Account #1001-1130-001-432001 (General Fund-General Operating Exp-Administration-Professional Services)]**

Supplier	Rank	Score	Material Testing Engineer	Personnel Qualifications	References & Projects
		100	45.00	30.00	25.00
DBR Engineering Consultants	1	71.33	33.00	20.00	18.33

Issue: Webb County Commissioners Court previously authorized the Purchasing Agent to secure Statement of Qualifications for these professional services on 11/13/2023.

Solution: Consideration to approve the sole proposal from DBR Engineering. Firm has seven (7) locations in the State of Texas of which includes a Laredo office and firm has been in business since 1972.

Result: If approved, the Civil Legal Department will negotiate the terms, conditions and applicable fees for Commissioners Courts approval for the professional services requested.

21. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a solicitation for bids for the paving of a portion of the Webb County Fairground and the sealing of existing parking area on an expedited schedule and any matters incident thereto.
22. Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchase of selected portable restroom trailers for the Webb County Fairgrounds Department as presented by the Webb County Purchasing Agent subject to budget availability and to further authorize the transfer of funds from the General Operating Reserve fund to the Webb County Fairgrounds capital outlay account in an amount not to exceed the total cost of selected portable restrooms and any other matters incident thereto. **[Account #2031-1010-001-470000 (Webb County Fairgrounds - Commissioners Court Administration Capital Outlay)]**

Issue: On December 11, 2023, Commissioners Court authorized the Purchasing Agent to seek pricing for portable restrooms with trailers for the Webb County Fairgrounds.

Solution: Review and consider authorizing the purchase of selected portable restrooms with trailers subject to budget availability.

Result: If approved, proceed with the transfer of funds and order as directed by the Commissioners Court.

Webb County Fairgrounds

23. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Fairgrounds Director, through Commissioners Court Order, the authority to approve or deny the use of the Fairgrounds by private/for-profit entities; and any other matters incident thereto.

Honorable Raul Reyes, Treasurer

24. Discussion and possible action to pass a resolution amending authorized representatives for the TexPool Investment Entity.

Issue: It is required by the entity (TexPool) to have new form signed with the proper names and signatures whenever there are any additions or changes.

Solution: Once these signatures are approved by the entity, the respective people will be able to do any necessary transactions.

Result: There will be an updated signed form at all times.

Closed Session/Executive Session

25. Discussion and possible action to retain the services of Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P. for legal representation in Maria Garcia, as dependent administrator of and on behalf of the Estate of Christopher Torres -Garcia et. al. Civil Action No. 5:23-CV-137, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas and any other matters incident thereto; authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. **[Closed Session/Executive Session may be requested pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071, Consultation with Attorney, pending or contemplated litigation]**
26. Discussion and possible action to enter into a short term lease agreement with a federal contractor for the placement of an antenna on the Justice Center roof. **[Closed Session/Executive Session may be requested pursuant § 551.076 Deliberations Regarding Security Devices of Security Audit]**

Presentations

27. Presentation by Rochelle V. Gonzalez President of the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association (WBCA), regarding the upcoming WBCA events with presentation of the 126th Celebration's Commemorative Poster to the Webb County Judge and Commissioners Court. **[Requested by Tano E. Tijerina, County Judge]**
28. **Communications**
29. **Adjourn**

The Webb County Commissioners Court hereby reserves the right to go into closed session at any time during this public meeting, if such is requested by the County Attorney or other legal counsel for the County, pursuant to his or her duty under Section 551.071(2) of the Government Code, to consult privately with his or her client on an item on the agenda, or on a matter arising out of such item.



DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT



Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid of service such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, or need large print are requested to contact the court administrator at (956) 523-4622.

DATED THIS 5th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

By: Melinda Mata
Melinda Mata
Court Administrator

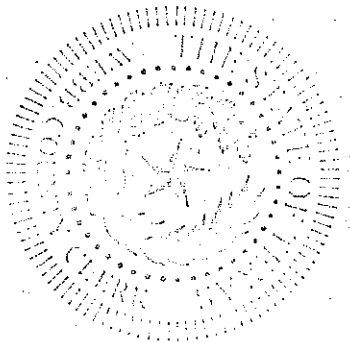
CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE AND POSTING

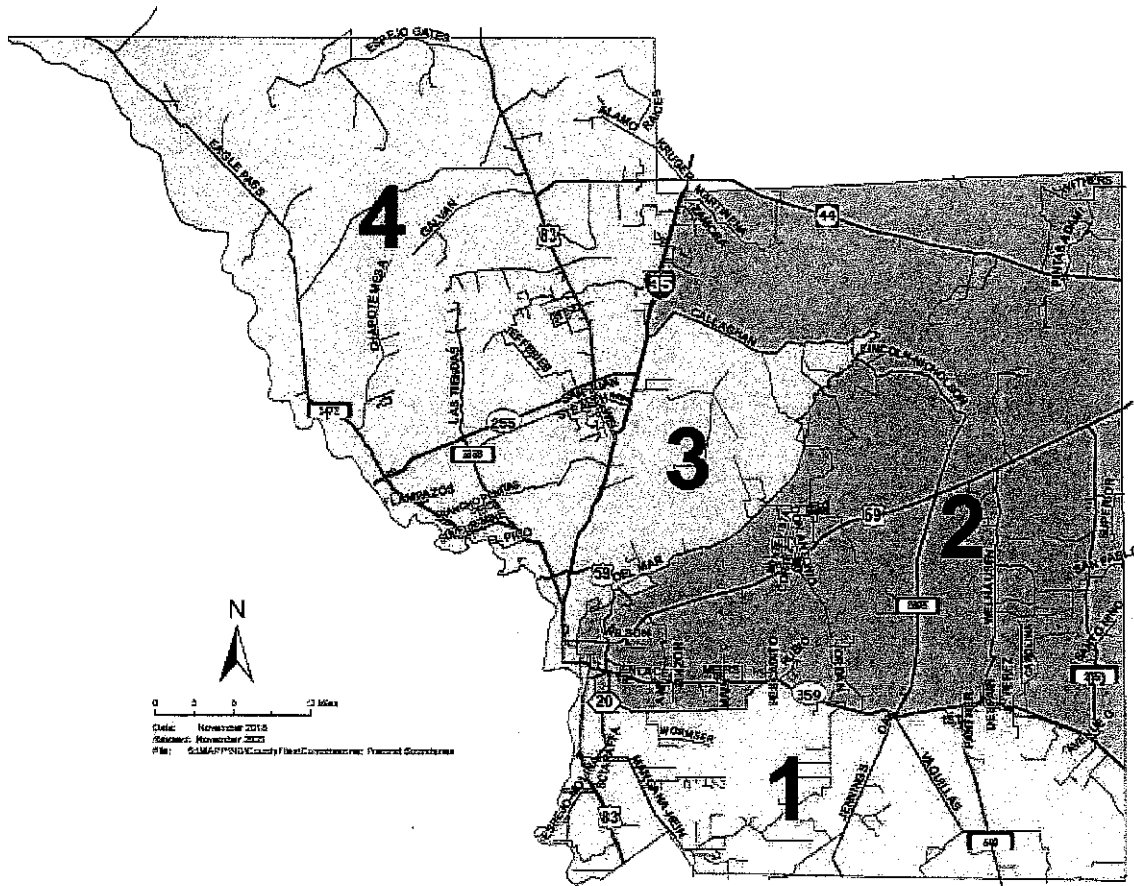
I, the undersigned, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the above notice of meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court, is a true and correct copy of said notice, and that I posted a true and correct copy of said notice on the bulletin board at the Courthouse door of Webb County, Texas, at a place readily accessible to the general public at all times on the 5th day of January, 2024 and said notice remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

DATED THIS 5th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

MARGIE RAMIREZ IBARRA, COUNTY CLERK, WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS





BY: MW
For Margie Ramirez-Ibarra, County Clerk
BY: **Maria G. Vara, Deputy Clerk**





Date: November 2018
 Status: November 2023
 File: C:\MAPPING\County\Dist\Commissioner Precinct Boundaries

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

	Honorable Tano E. Tijerina	County Judge
	Commissioner Jesse Gonzalez	Precinct 1
	Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina	Precinct 2
	Commissioner John C. Gale	Precinct 3
	Commissioner Ricardo A. Jaime	Precinct 4

**Webb County, Texas
 Commissioner Precinct Boundaries**