



## MINUTES

MAY 23, 2025

### BRAZOS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

### WORKSHOP SESSION

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1. Call to Order

A workshop session of the Commissioners' Court of Brazos County, Texas was held in the Brazos County Commissioners Courtroom in the Administration Building, 200 South Texas Avenue, in Bryan, Brazos County, Texas, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025 with the following members of the Court present:

Duane Peters, County Judge, Presiding;  
Bentley Nettles, Commissioner of Precinct 1;  
Chuck Konderla, Commissioner of Precinct 2;  
Fred Brown, Commissioner of Precinct 3;  
Wanda J. Watson, Commissioner of Precinct 4;  
Karen McQueen, County Clerk, Absent;

The attached sheets contain the names of the citizens and officials that were in attendance.

2. Presentation and discussion on Community Support Contract requests for the proposed budget FY 2025-2026:

- a. Brazos County Emergency Communications District (911)
- b. Brazos Maternal & Child Health Clinic, Inc. (Prenatal Care)
- c. National Alliance on Mental Illness - Brazos Valley, Inc.
- d. Salvation Army of Bryan/College Station
- e. Brazos County Rape Crisis Center, Inc. DBA Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC)
- f. Volunteer Fire Departments
  1. South Brazos County Fire Department, Inc. (Pct.1)
  2. District Two Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Pct. 2)
  3. Brazos County Precinct Three Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Pct. 3)
  4. Brazos County Precinct Four Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Pct. 4)

- g. Scotty's House Child Advocacy Center
- h. Junction Five-O-Five

Judge Peters called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Budget Officer Nina Payne invited the first presenter up to speak.

#### 1. Emergency Communications District - 911

Associate Director Laura Blackburn stated that 911 provides dispatch services for the Sheriff's Office, Constables and 4 County Fire Departments. They are requesting a \$75,000 increase in funding to improve wages and benefits for dispatchers. Ms. Blackburn then discussed the new programs they plan to implement and provided a copy of their full budget summary.

Commissioner Nettles asked how many employees they currently have and what their turnover rate is. Ms. Blackburn responded that they have 47 employees and a turnover rate of about 20 percent.

#### 2. Prenatal Clinic

Executive Director Lynn Cleary-Yeager stated that the Prenatal Clinic has been around for nearly 40 years, with a mission to provide prenatal care to low income women. She addressed concerns regarding Federal Budget cuts. The Prenatal Clinic is requesting continued support from the County in the amount of \$75,000.

Commissioner Nettles questioned what other sources of funding they receive. Ms. Cleary-Yeager shared that they receive funding through Medicaid, CHIP, Grants and fundraisers.

#### 3. Salvation Army

Captain Luis Villanueva, Commanding Officer for Salvation Army, thanked the Court for their support. He stated that their mission is to meet human needs, often providing a lifeline for individuals or families in crisis. Captain Villanueva discussed the services they provide and their desire to continue to meet needs with a rising demand of people in need of assistance.

Commissioner Brown asked whether the cities fund the organization. Captain Villanueva shared that they do receive funding from City of College Station, City of Bryan and other donors.

Commissioner Brown suggested that each of the Court members ring the bell during December for the Salvation Army.

#### 4. Sexual Assault Resource Center

Director of Outreach and Development Nina White stated that they receive funding from Federal, State, Local organizations, fundraisers and individual donors. They provide counseling, crisis intervention, education and advocacy for survivors of sexual assault. The Sexual Assault Resource Center is requesting funding from the County in the amount of \$60,000.

Commissioner Brown asked if they receive money from the cities. Ms. White shared that they receive funding from City of Bryan but not City of College Station. City of College Station does sponsor their Gala.

#### 5. Volunteer Fire Departments, Precinct 1, 2, 3 and 4

Precinct 4 Fire Chief Joe Don Warren thanked the Court for their support. Chief Warren shared that the Volunteer Fire Departments struggle with recruiting and retaining

volunteers. He also noted that they have not requested an increase in support from the County in many years. Ms. Payne clarified that they have received \$29,000 from the County annually for over 10 years.

The Court discussed needing to raise funding to help recruitment efforts. Ms. Payne recommended an increase to \$35,000 each. Commissioner Brown suggested increasing each precinct by \$10,000, allocating a total of \$39,000 to each. The other Court members agreed and thanked them for all that they do.

#### 6. Scotty's House

Board Member Robert Orzabal explained that Scotty's House is a children's advocacy center, providing safety, healing and justice to child victims. In 2024 they provided services to 544 children and are requesting \$29,250 to sustain critical services. The support from the County helps to strengthen investigations and prosecutions.

Judge Peters stated that Scotty's House saves the County a lot of money and he believes it is a worthwhile cause.

#### 7. Junction 505

Operations Manager Robert Glaze stated that this organization helps people with disabilities maintain gainful employment. They are asking for a 2 percent increase to help cover cost of living increases.

Ms. Payne added that the County does recover some revenue from selling trash stickers for the collection sites.

Judge Peters stated that this service helps offset costs that the County would incur if there were not accessible collection sites and trash was inevitably being thrown into the roadways.

#### 8. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Executive Director Demetris Collier thanked the Court for continuous support through the years. She stated that the demand for mental health services has increased and NAMI provides a cost effective, community based response to those with mental health issues. NAMI is requesting support from the County in the amount of \$35,000.

Ms. Payne stated that this concludes the outside agency presenters and she now needs direction from the Court regarding funding for the agencies. She requested that the meeting be recessed for 10 minutes and then they could review the requests.

Judge Peters announced the meeting would be recessed until 10:15 am.

At 10:16 am Judge Peters reconvened the meeting.

Ms. Payne went through each of the agencies, offering her recommendations for funding and requesting direction from the Court on the amount they would like to allocate.

Commissioner Konderla stated that he would not offer an opinion on Amber Alert Network since he serves on the Board.

On discussion of the North Bryan Community Center, Commissioner Brown expressed concern regarding the requested increase. Commissioner Nettles agreed and suggested that they look into private fundraising opportunities. Commissioner Konderla added that he does not want to see the public paying more taxes and he would like the budget to be lean. Commissioner Watson stated her support for the Center but agreed that they did not need to be funded at the requested level. Ms. Payne stated that she is taking the Court's direction to build a lean budget.

On discussion regarding BVCOG, Commissioner Watson abstained from offering an opinion as a Board Member. Commissioner Nettles commented that the organization is a multiplier for every dollar given to them.

On discussion regarding the Food Bank, Commissioner Watson recognized the need in the community and is in support of a \$5,000 increase in funding. Commissioner Brown stated that he is in favor of keeping it at \$10,000 and allowing the community to meet the needs.

Ms. Payne stated that the Brazos Central Appraisal District will present their funding request later in the summer.

On discussion regarding MHMR, Commissioner Nettles instructed staff to specify within the contract, the new services that will be provided to the Jail.

On discussion regarding the Prenatal Clinic, Judge Peters stated that Ms. Cleary-Yeager forgot to mention the services provided to the pregnant inmates in the Jail. Upon further discussion, the Court agreed to direct Ms. Payne to allocate an increase of \$12,500 to the Prenatal Clinic funding.

Ms. Payne noted that the Brazos Valley Wide Area Communication System is accounting for the radios currently in use but does not take into consideration any new positions that may be added.

On discussion regarding Scotty's House, Commissioner Nettles commented that they do a lot of good for the community. The Court agreed to increase their funding by \$9,250.

Ms. Payne thanked the Court for their direction and reiterated that she would work to keep the budget lean. She stated that the Court will have an opportunity to make any changes needed before the budget is adopted.

A copy of the spreadsheet detailing recommendations and direction provided for each of the agencies is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

### 3. Adjourn