

There was a Public Hearing held beginning at 9:00 A.M. Everyone in attendance was asked to sign a sign-in sheet and after discussions and concerns were heard the hearing was closed at 9:04 A.M.

- **COUNTY CLERK'S 2025-2026 ARCHIVE PLAN**
- **PROPOSED SALARY INCREASE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**
- **PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026**
- **PROPOSED 2025-2026 TAX RATE**

INVOCATION

Commissioner Pct #3-James Strain, DeKalb, TX

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States

**COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2025**

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 25th day of August, 2025, the HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT of Bowie County, Texas met in REGULAR SESSION at the Courthouse in New Boston, Texas after due notice had been posted on the 8th day of August, 2025 with the HONORABLE BOBBY L. HOWELL present and presiding with the following Commissioners being present.

Sammy Stone
Tom Whitten
James Strain
Mike Carter

Commissioner Pct. #1
Commissioner Pct. #2
Commissioner Pct. #3
Commissioner Pct. #4

Also in attendance were the following County Officials:

- **County Auditor Jennifer Beckett**
- **County Clerk Tina Petty**
- **County Legal Advisor Samuel Brown**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Court convened at 9:05 A.M. when the following ORDERS, JUDGMENTS and DECREES were had and ORDERED spread upon the minutes of the Court to-wit.

Item 1: There was no Public Comments.

Item 2: There was no Commissioners Court response to Public Comments.

Item 3: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve the County Clerk's Archive Plan for FY 2025-2026.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.

Item 4: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to accept the Order Setting Salaries for Court Reporters and the Auditor and Assistants.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.

Item 5: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the Longevity Pay Policy effective October 1, 2025.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.

Item 6: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the 2025-2026 Budget.

- Commissioner James Strain Yes
- Commissioner Tom Whitten No
- Commissioner Sammy Stone Yes
- Commissioner Mike Carter Yes
- Judge Howell Yes

Motion was put to a vote and three (3) Commissioners voted yes and one (1), Commissioner Tom Whitten voted no.
Motion carried.

Item 7: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the 2025-2026 Tax Rate.

- Commissioner James Strain Yes**
- Commissioner Tom Whitten No**
- Commissioner Sammy Stone Yes**
- Commissioner Mike Carter Yes**
- Judge Howell Yes**

Motion was put to a vote and three (3) Commissioners voted yes and one (1) Commissioner Tom Whitten voted no.

Motion carried.

Item 8: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to accept the 2024 Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

Item 9: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to accept the Bowie County CSCD Budgets for FY 2026-2027.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

Item 10: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the amendment to contract #650634266 between Johnson Controls and the Bowie County Detention Center.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

Item 11: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Bowie County Sheriff's Office.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

Item 12: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve the bond of Lori Caraway District Clerk.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

Item 13: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the Amended Authorized Plan for Electronic Jury Selection.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

- Item 14:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the BuyBoard State Contract #710-23 between ES&S and Bowie County Elections Office for Ballot on Demand printers in the amount of \$104,754.00.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 15:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to pay Four States Fiber \$2,227,186.00 from ARP Funds for Bowie County Fiber Ring Project.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 16:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve the contract between Quadient, INC and Bowie County for \$17,562.30 from TX SMARTBUY State Contract #985-C1.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 17:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Sammy Stone and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the donation of \$47,427.00 from Steve Ledwell.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 18:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve the contract between NEMQ-Q, INC. and the Bowie County Tax Assessor Collector Office in the amount of \$32,202 for startup cost and \$15,225 for annual subscription.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 19:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve the lease agreement between the Bowie County CSCD and Bowie County for the 2nd floor Space in the 100 North Stateline, Texarkana, Texas 75501, building.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 20:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to Order an Election for the Constitutional/Joint Election to be held on November 4, 2025.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.

- Item 21:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the Vote Center Locations for the Constitutional/Joint Election to be held on November 4, 2025.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 22:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Sammy Stone and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve the Notice of Election for the Constitutional/Joint Election to be held on November 4, 2025.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 23:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to authorize the Elections Administrator to enter into Joint Election Agreements with any participating locals for November 4, 2025 Election.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 24:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve the TIPS State Contract #2101031 between Edge Office Products and the Bowie County Elections Office.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 25:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve an agreement with Tyler Technologies for Image Upload Conversion Services.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 26:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve the amendment to the Bowie County Travel Policy.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none vote no.
Motion carried.
- Item 27:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve budget adjustments (line-item transfers).
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.
- Item 28:** On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve payment of accounts payable and payroll.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none vote no.
Motion carried.

Item 29: On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the minutes as an Order of the Court (August 11, 2025).

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

Item 30: There was no adjournment into Executive Session pursuant to the following Sections:

- a. Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code; Consultation with attorney regarding legal issues relating to pending or contemplated litigation.**
- b. Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code; Deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.**
- c. Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code; Personnel Matters.**
- d. Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code; Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations.**

Item 31: There was no action to authorize the County Judge to execute settlement participation and release forms regarding confidential partial settlement matters in the Texas opioid multi-district litigation for Bowie County in the matter of *County of Bowie v. Purdue Pharma, L.P., et al.*

On this 25th day of August, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Sammy Stone and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to adjourn.

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**