

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 4TH and 5TH DAY of AUGUST, 2025, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a special budget meeting with the following present:

KP GEORGE	COUNTY JUDGE
VINCENT MORALES	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
GRADY PRESTAGE	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
ANDY MEYERS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
DEXTER L. MCCOY	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
LAURA RICHARD	COUNTY CLERK

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

- 1. Call to Order.**
Call to Order by Judge KP George at 9:04 a.m.
- 2. COUNTY JUDGE:**

Discuss and consider adopting the current 12th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as the parliamentary authority for Commissioners Court proceedings, replacing the 9th Edition previously adopted by Commissioners Court on February 25, 1997; and further authorize that all future revised editions of Robert's Rules of Order shall automatically be adopted upon official publication in order to maintain alignment with the most current and updated procedural standards, effective immediately.

Members of the Court heard from:

Judge George
Commissioner Prestage
Commissioner McCoy
Commissioner Morales
Commissioner Meyers
Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney

TABLED

August 4, 2025

3. **Public Comments regarding the Agenda and Announcements: speakers are required to register their public participation form no later than 8:45 a.m. on the day of the meeting, in accordance with the Rules and Procedures of Commissioners Court.**

County Clerk's Note:

Commissioner McCoy asked at what point would the public be able to speak on the items for this agenda.

Judge George stated the public can speak during Item 3 on this agenda.

Commissioner Prestage asked if Item 3 was for the public to participate and sign in no later than 8:45 a.m. for this Budget meeting that is starting today.

There were 2 public comments on Item 4:

1. Robert Beham
2. Sumita Ghosh

There were 19 public comments on Item 5D and are in opposition of decreasing the Associate Judges in the FY2026 Budget:

1. Bri Holcombe
2. Alex Hunt
3. Michael Hanson
4. April L. Jones
5. Jonathan Marcantel
6. Judge Maggie Jaramillo
7. Judge Stuti Patel
8. Cynthia Ginyard
9. Scott West
10. Chris Pino
11. Judge Surendran Pattel
12. Shah Haleem
13. Sumita Ghosh
14. Judge Christian Becerra
15. Richard Murad
16. Farha Ahmed
17. Anna Lykoudis
18. Richard Tate
19. Judge Argie Brame

Recess: 10:59 a.m.

Reconvene: 11:11 a.m.

There were 2 public comments on Item 5D:

1. John Kovach
2. Kathleen Lefevre

4. BUDGET & FINANCE:

Receive a presentation of the FY 2026 recommended budget by the Director of Finance & Investments.

Pamela Gubbels Director of Finance and Investments gave an overview of what our budget looks like today. Ms. Gubbels stated the preliminary values in May were at 1.8% over the prior year's budget. In late July the certified taxable values were received and are currently at 5.7% for the County and 5.8% for Drainage over last year's budget. The County Tax Rate has steadily decreased each year. Ms. Gubbels is proposing in this recommended budget, we keep the same tax rate at 42.2¢, 41.5¢ tax rate for Fort Bend County and 0.7¢ for Drainage District. The proposed tax rate of 42.2¢ is less than the No New Revenue Rate. Ms. Gubbels reviewed the FY2026 Recommended Budget. The budget request in May was \$845.7 million, which was a 15% increase over the FY2025 adopted budget. The budget team was able to reduce the budget request to \$743.9 million, which is an overall budget increase of 1.7% over the FY2025 budget. The budget also includes a placeholder for COLA.

In reviewing the FY2026 Finance Summary, our budget policy states we keep a 30% ending fund balance for the General Fund. The ending fund balance for the General Fund would be \$143.9 million which would give an ending balance of 31.3%. In planning ahead, Ms. Gubbels is watching SB9, relating to the calculation of the voter-approval tax rate, SB37, relating to the creation of additional judicial districts composed of Fort Bend County and HB105, relating to the issuance of certificates of obligations.

5. BUDGET WORKSHOP(s):

A. Discuss departmental recommended budgets and take any necessary action:

1.	Constable Precinct 2;
2.	Constable Precinct 4;
3.	County Attorney;
4.	District Clerk;
5.	Homeland Security & Emergency Management;
6.	Health & Human Services (HHS);
7.	Health & Human Services (Emergency Medical Services);
8.	Health & Human Services (Environmental Health Services);
9.	Health & Human Services (Mosquito Control);
10.	Health & Human Services (Epidemiology);
11.	Human Resources;
12.	Information Technology;
13.	Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 2;
14.	Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4;
15.	Medical Examiner;
16.	Risk Management;
17.	Tax Assessor/Collector; and
18.	Miscellaneous Departments.

The following departments requested further review of their budget:

Constable Precinct 2
County Attorney
District Clerk
Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Recess: 12:32 p.m.

Reconvene: 1:32 p.m.

There were 5 public comments on Item 5A 17:

1. Mike Cole
2. Richard Woerner
3. Karen Martinez
4. Pamela Carrico
5. Stephanie Ziegler

August 4, 2025

Item 5 continued - Budget Workshop(s):

The following departments requested further review of their budget continued:

Health & Human Services (HHS)
Epidemiology
Environmental Health Services
Mosquito Control
Emergency Medical Services
Information Technology
Constable Precinct 4

Recess: 2:56 p.m.

Reconvene: 3:15 p.m.

The following departments requested further review of their budget continued:

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4
Medical Examiner
Risk Management
Tax Assessor/Collector
Miscellaneous Departments
Juvenile Board - Supplement

Clerk's Note:

County Attorney's Office was revisited.

Recess: 4:16 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2025

Reconvene: 9:01 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5, 2025

There were two public comments on 5D:

1. Samita Ghosh
2. Judge Becerra

B. Discuss recommendations of county employee cost of living adjustments.

Members of the Court heard from:

Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance & Investments
Judge KP George
Commissioner Morales
Commissioner McCoy

Item 5 continued - Budget Workshop(s):

C. Discuss FY 2026 Capital Improvement Projects.

Members of the Court heard from:

Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance and Investments reviewed the CIP Budget
Commissioner Prestage
Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor
Commissioner Meyers
Judge George
Commissioner McCoy

D. Take all appropriate action on the recommendation of Associate Judges in the FY 2026 budget.

Members of the Court heard from:

Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance and Investments reviewed the estimated budget proposal for the District Court addition.
Commissioner McCoy
Commissioner Prestage
Judge Maggie Jaramillo
Commissioner Meyers
Judge Becerra
Commissioner Morales
Judge George

Clerk's Note:

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney asked for an opportunity to discuss with the court in Closed Session this matter and some applicable statutes according to Government Code §551.071.

Recess: 10:12 a.m.

Closed Session: 10:16 a.m.

10:29 a.m.

Reconvene: 10:30 a.m.

Members of the Court heard from:

Commissioner McCoy
Judge Maggie Jaramillo
Judge Stuti Patel
Judge Becerra
Judge George
Pamela Gubbels
Commissioner Morales

No Action

6. DEBT SERVICE:

Take all appropriate action to move parks projects funded from non-voted ad valorem debt service (Certificates of Obligation and Tax Notes) to the voter-approved 2023 Parks Bond.

Members of the Court heard from:
Commissioner Meyers
Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor
Commissioner Prestage
Judge George

No Action

Clerk's Note:
Commissioner Prestage revisited Item 5A 18 - Miscellaneous Departments - Summer Youth Program

Members of the Court heard from:
Commissioner Prestage
Commissioner Meyers
Commissioner Morales

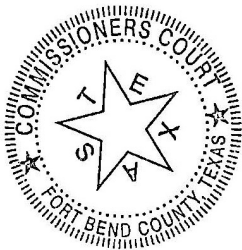
Clerk's Note:
Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance & Investments gave a wrap up for Item 5A and pointed out the \$3 million wiggle room is gone.
There were final talks on Commissioner Prestage's proposal for the Summer Youth program.

7. Adjournment.

The Special Meeting/Budget Workshop adjourned at 11:07 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Moved by Commissioner Meyers,
to adjourn.

I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.



Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas