

April 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Texas County Commissioners was called to order by Darrell Edwards, Chairman. Levi Bickford, Dolan Sledge, members and Wendy Johnson, County Clerk were present. Aimee Midkiff, Treasurer, Grant Wadley, Guymon Fire Chief, Judyth Campbell, Assessor, Brian Hinricks, VAA Grant Manager, Jason Featherston, ADM, Rebecca Pellam, Mike Mazzei, and Thomas Rahm were also present.

The agenda was filed on April 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Edwards verified we were in compliance with the Open Meeting Act with all board members present.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge, to approve the following claims and purchase orders for payment.

GENERAL: 264667, 2002, **\$210.86**, Amazon, supplies; 264556, 2003, **\$7,108.00**, Banner Fire Equipment, supplies; 264733, 2004, **\$55.00**, Bar H Pest Control, services; 264697, 2005, **\$462.58**, Judyth Campbell, travel; 264689, 2006, **\$1,225.40**, City of Guymon, utilities; 264723, 2007, **\$906.13**, City of Guymon, utilities; 264732, 2008, **\$230.56**, City of Guymon, utilities; 264643, 2009, **\$75.00**, Jason Colpetzer, stipend; 264702, 2010, **\$2,337.92**, Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, services; 264639, 2011, **\$75.00**, Benji Fuentes, stipend; 264642, 2012, **\$75.00**, Stanley Harper, stipend; 263337, 2013, **\$49.50**, Master Cleaners & Laundry, services; 264150, 2014, **\$143.50**, Mathis Oil Co, fuel; 264644, 2015, **\$75.00**, Ann McFadden, stipend; 264641, 2016, **\$75.00**, Monty Osborne, stipend; 264335, 2017, **\$1,506.67**, Otis Elevator Company, services; 264700, 2018, **\$163.49**, PTCL, services; 264645, 2019, **\$75.00**, Jaron Rusch, stipend; 262422, 2020, **\$13.73**, Scissortail Communications, long distance; 264017, 2021, **\$4,000.00**, Stolz Telecom, supplies; 264688, 2022, **\$463.52**, TCEC, utilities; 264626, 2023, **\$250.00**, Joshua Voorheis, services; 264640, 2024, **\$75.00**, Andrea Walters, stipend.

DISTRICT #1: 264692, 1856, **\$109.98**, A&I Parts Center, services; 264719, 1857, **\$4.63**, A&I Parts Center, services; 264651, 1858, **\$20.76**, Anthony Baker, travel; 264708, 1859, **\$11.79**, Anthony Baker, travel; 263626, 1860, **\$65.00**, Bar H Pest Control, services; 264553, 1861, **\$386.28**, GW Van Keppel Company, services; 264668, 1862, **\$927.30**, Garden City Co-op, services; 264707, 1863, **\$12.89**, John M Grant, travel; 264717, 1864, **\$24.20**, Rodney Hamm, travel; 262635, 1865, **\$30,780.00**, Industrial Truck Equipment, supplies; 264706, 1866, **\$20.76**, Scott Martin, travel; 264696, 1867, **\$35.65**, O'Reilly Auto Parts, supplies; 264509, 1868, **\$123.90**, Prairiefire Coffee Roasters, supplies; 264615, 1869, **\$180.00**, Seward County Landfill & Waste, services.

DISTRICT #2: 264543, 1870, **\$480.00**, City of Guymon, utilities; 264663, 1871, **\$6,200.00**, Direct Discount Tire, services; 264056, 1872, **\$175.00**, Internal Medicine Clinic, physical; 264331, 1873, **\$350.00**, Internal Medicine Clinic, physicals; 264137, 1874, **\$71,885.24**, J&R Constructors Group, gravel; 264620, 1875, **\$50.00**, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, services; 264546, 1876, **\$321.90**, PTCL, services.

DISTRICT #3: 264716, 1877, **\$12.47**, David Burrow, travel; 264721, 1878, **\$12.73**, Herbert Mabry, travel; 264290, 1879, **\$118.74**, Oreilly Auto Parts, parts; 264289, 1880, **\$196.70**, Prairiefire Coffee Roasters, supplies; 264532, 1881, **\$438.00**, SPC Office Products, supplies.

PUBLIC HEALTH: 264001, 238, **\$65.00**, Bar H Pest Control, services; 264658, 239, **\$102.00**, Stephanie Gumienny, travel; 264659, 240, **\$110.00**, Guymon Hotel & Suites, travel room; 263161, 241, **\$275.00**, Mitchell Theaters, advertisement; 264354, 242, **\$67.63**, Scissortail Communications, utilities; 263896, 243, **\$1,546.00**, Shi International Corp, services; 264302, 244, **\$34.85**, SPC Office Products, supplies; 264322, 245, **\$3,140.27**, SPC Office Products, supplies.

SHERIFF COMMISSARY: 264583, 56, **\$175.00**, Panhandle Printing, supplies; 264568, 57, **\$764.14**, Tiger Commissary, commissary;

SHERIFF SERVICE FEE: 264678, 130, **\$54.20**, Amazon, supplies; 264670, 131, **\$360.96**, Cops Products, supplies; 264671, 132, **\$494.59**, Guymon Tire, services; 264693, 133, **\$423.99**, Performance Auto Repairs, services.

60% JAIL SALES TAX: 264677, 684, **\$63.00**, A&D Pest & Lawn Spray, services; 264646, 685, **\$75.00**, Andrea Fuentes, stipend; 264649, 686, **\$75.00**, Karan Gray, stipend; 264648, 687, **\$75.00**, Perry Heckle, stipend; 264662, 688, **\$279.60**, Prairiefire Coffee Roasters, supplies; 264647, 689, **\$75.00**, Billy Sinclair, stipend; 264676, 690, **\$110.00**, TLC Pest Solutions, services; 264365, 691, **\$508.82**, Turn Key Health Clinic, pharmacy; 264258, 692, **\$300.00**, VIP Electrical & Security, maintenance; 264675, 693, **\$52.95**, VYVE Broadband, services; 262019, 694, **\$376.50**, Wirtz Lumber & Supply, supplies.

P-CARDS: 262426, 2001, **\$137.96**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, services; 261746, 71, **\$1,603.42**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, hotel rooms; 263077, 72, **\$20.84**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, rental; 264174, 1852, **\$1,009.96**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, supplies; 264070, 1853, **\$116.00**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, seminar; 264059, 1854, **\$116.00**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, hotel; 264061, 1855, **\$116.00**, P Card Account FBO Bank of America, hotel.

Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford, to approve blanket purchase orders for usage.

GENERAL: 264736, Bar H Pest Control, \$400.00.

DISTRICT #3: 264737, Texhoma Auto & Hardware, \$5,000.00.

Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as written. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve the Monthly Appropriations for the month of April. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

There was no Transfer of Appropriation to be approved.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve the Transfer of Funds for Court Clerk: \$18,110.64 from 0001-1-1400-1110 personal services \$8,829.10 to 1211-1-1400-1110 personal services, \$2,000.00 to 1211-1-1400-1130 part time, \$717.91 to 1211-1-1400-1210 FICA, \$1,591.94 to 1211-1-1400-1211 retirement, \$1,971.72 to 1211-1-1400-1222 hospitalization, \$3,000.00 to 1211-1-1400-1234 workers comp. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Tondé Christian, Emergency Manager was absent.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve the removal of Britt Hicks and adding Ana Vela as Receiving Officer for the OSU Extension. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve the Court Clerk Records management and Preservation Monthly Report for the month of March in the amount of \$34,633.02. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve the Sheriff's Report for Board of County Prisoners for the month of March consisting of 1,538-man day. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to approve **Resolution #104-25-26** Declaration of Surplus for the Assessor as follows: Inventory #160102.30 Blue Vinyl Setee, Inventory #160102.31 Blue Vinyl Chair, Inventory #106102.19 Brown Secretary Chair, Inventory #106102.20 Brown Secretary Chair, Inventory #160104.01 3 Drawer Filing Cabinet, Inventory #160104.03 4 Drawer Filing Cabinet, Inventory #160110.02 Typing Stand with leaf, Inventory #165110.11 Folding Table, Inventory #170102.00 Steel Case Chair, Inventory #200214.02 Timeclock, Inventory #160226.02 Digital Planimeter, Inventory #165109.02 Wall Cabinet, Inventory #160104.04 4 Drawer Filing Cabinet, Inventory #160104.06 4 Drawer Filing Cabinet, Inventory #106104.07 Filing Cabinet 4 Drawer, Inventory #160105.10 Oak Secretary Desk, Inventory #160108.02 Visible Record File, Inventory #160108.03 Visible Record File, Inventory #160219.03 Sharp Digital Color Printer, Inventory #740105.12 Workstation, Inventory #740105.14 Workstation, Inventory #740105.17 Workstation, Inventory #780105.10 Workstation, Inventory #780105.10 Workstation, Inventory #160218.00 Dell Computer, Inventory #160218.14 Computer, Inventory #160219.03 Sharp Digital Color Printer, Inventory #170218.02 Network Operating System, Inventory #170218.06 Computer, Inventory #170218.07 Computer. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Motion by Sledge, second by Bickford to approve **Resolution #105-25-26** Disposing of Equipment for the Assessor as follows: Coat Rack, Steel Shelving, Workstation, Box of Binders, Hon Office Desk, Time Clock, Blue Vinyl Setee, Computer Desk, Dell Computer, Plotter, Door, Filing Cabinet 3 Drawer, Filing Cabinet 4 Drawer, Filing Cabinet 4 Drawer, Filing Cabinet 4 Drawer, Filing Cabinet 4 Drawer, Folding Table, Network Operating, Desk, Brown Chair, Brown Chair, Sharp Printer, Chair, Typing Chair, Record File, Record File, Workstation, Workstation, Workstation, Workstation. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Spencer Leiter, EMS Director/MHTC Board Member, joined the meeting.

Buddy Leach, District Attorney, joined the meeting.

Mike Mazzei, Candidate for Governor, talked about what he is planning to do if voted in.

Jason Featherston from ADM introduced Brian Hinricks VAA Grant Manager to speak about the Federal Grant that they are seeking because the Federal Government will not give money to ADM without a government sponsor.

My name's Brian Hinricks. I work for VAA, and it's an engineering firm. I'm also a farmer. Over my career, I've secured just under a billion dollars of federal grant money for projects primarily for the grain industry, but also port and harbor projects throughout the Great Rivers, the Great Lakes, and the blue water ports throughout the country. So that's who I am. What I've done means nothing. It's what we want to do. That's what's important. So, one of the contingencies that federal funding programs have, except for a very handful, is that you need a public sponsor. The federal government will not give money directly to ADM or Cargill or even a small mom and pop feed mill. You need a public sponsor. Now, at VAA, we have a grant funding team that I lead. And I've got five people, everyone from an economic PhD economist and then grant managers and the folks that actually write the grant. Again, it means nothing except that we've got a team that knows what they're doing. And at the end of the day, for the public sponsor, our goal, our mandate, is that we make your life as easy as possible. As the public sponsor, basically what you're committing to is submitting the application that we develop on behalf of ADM. So, you submit it to the federal government. That's it. If between now and the time that the award comes out, you have a change of heart, that's totally up to the board. You could back out. So, let's just give you a real quick scenario where let's say the applications are due in the middle of the first of June. Usually, the awards then would be announced probably September-ish. So once the awards are announced, then we and ADM would work with you to develop the grant contract with the federal government. In the application process, the MOU that you have in front of you that I believe the county's attorney has been negotiating with or has gone through with ADM's attorney, it's basically, again, just committing to submitting the grant. Any cost that you incur, any cost that you're accounting, this board, or your corporate counsel incur, ADM will reimburse you for. And that's part of that MOU. The same is true upon award. Any cost that the county incurs will be reimbursed by ADM to Texas County. That is the process in a nutshell, so let's say we get the award, get a grant contract signed with the federal government, with the USDOT. ADM has to pay for everything up front before you can ask for reimbursement from the federal government for this. So, nothing happens once ADM has paid all their bills. And then we at VAA prepare the reimbursement request. We give it to the county, you review it, and you e-mail it to the USDOT, to the rail administration. The monies then are wired to the county. And part of that, there'll be a side agreement with ADM of how soon you get that money to ADM once it hits your account. We always try to do that in 10 days, but some counties and some of our public sponsors want to hang on to it for a month. I'm not going to worry about that right now. And then any reporting that needs to be done for the federal grant, for the federal government, ADM and VAA take care of all of that. We do all of that work. We give it to the county. Should you choose to review the reports, it's great. Otherwise, your job is just to hit send and send that to the rail administration. The benefits of the project, we're looking at about a \$22 to \$25 million total project. ADM would-- the minimum grant match requirement

for this program is 25%. ADM has agreed to do 50%. So, ADM would be putting in between \$12 and \$13 million of their money. The federal government would then be contributing 12,000-ish million, I mean 12 million-ish to the project as well. Jobs, construction jobs for about a year would be about 200 jobs to the region. ADM will give priority and preference to local contractors, but some, there may not be enough local contractors with that expertise. If so, you still have 200 people spending money in Texas County. Permanent jobs, permanent full-time, equivalent full-time jobs with benefits are estimated to be 25 to 30. So, you're going to get that benefit of those full-time, high-paying jobs with benefits. And then also the tax base is going to increase in the county by the amount of the investment for property taxes. So that's another win for the county and the communities. I'm going to quit talking. What questions do you have for us?

Dolan Sledge

Mainly on this MOU, the questions I had were items four, five, and six about the administrative costs for the county. Any of those costs that you incur, all you have to do by this is, not all, I'm not saying anything is simple, I apologize for saying that, but that way. Henricks Present that request or invoice to ADM and they will reimburse for 30 days.

Buddy Leach

But the only cost that you're anticipating that the county would have would be if they have out-of-pocket costs for like, attorney's fees or accounting fees or anything like that. As far as submitting the application, the county wouldn't have to pay any money. So, you're just talking about if they occurred an independent cost they would pay. Otherwise, you guys will be paying everything and you'll be fronting everything. Their concern is they're not liquid enough to front a bunch of money and then, you know, wait for it to be reimbursed.

Brian Hinricks

Zero dollars need to be fronted. It's a reimbursement program. ADM has to pay all the bills first before we can even submit the reimbursement request. So, there would be no fronting of a penny by the county. It all, by rule, by grant rules. It has to be paid first, fully paid, and then it's a reimbursement program. I'm sorry, did that answer your question, sir?

Dolan Sledge

I believe so, yes. I believe that's all it did a little bit, didn't read through it completely, but I mean, I guess the way that this is worded and written, we're going to be in the 2025 grant year. Is that correct?

Brian Hinricks

No, we'll be in 2026.

Dolan Sledge

This says 2025. What page? I mean, watch and get an updated document.

Brian Hinricks

It'll be in the 2026 grant cycle. Okay. As I stated earlier, the federal government hasn't released the notice.

Dolan Sledge

Right, that's why I was asking. You said that they haven't had the notice to apply or whatever hadn't actually opened yet. You're anticipating that this is 2025 here. I just wanted to make sure that we get everything correct so that you guys don't get hung up. I don't want them to keep, if we choose to do this, I don't want you to get kicked out of it because this is 2025. I don't want any of the county to submit the completed 2025 grant application. to FRA via grants.

Brian Hinricks

I see another error in this that needs to be corrected. So what I would ask is if the board is in agreement that you, in concept with the approval of the county attorney, agree that you will be the public sponsor and that you would execute the MOU and any additional changes, and I'm embarrassed that there's one in here that would not be, it's the state of Illinois. This is a template that we use and that's no excuse. I apologize. It happens.

Dolan Sledge

Copy and paste is the easiest way to work. And so, with what you just said, I think it answered the only other question I've seen so far. This is basically for DA Leach. Item 6 says, upon award of the Christie Grand ADM and the county will enter into a local agreement. We can approve everything, vote to approve it, and then it just as it actually happens and it'll be enforced, correct? We don't have to go back and re-vote on anything.

Buddy Leach

No, it's basically the MOU, and you can back out of the MOU, but we start the MOU and then you do the application. And the way it's set up is if the application is approved, then at that point in time you'll enter into a formal agreement with ADM.

Dolan Sledge

Okay, I got you. So that will be a whole other thing.

Brian Hinricks

Yes, and at that point the agreement with ADM will spell out everything about how things are going to be, any cost that the county incurs, how they would be reimbursed exactly, how the grant process the grant funding and the grant management process would be managed by ADM and VAA. All that will be worked out. And the goal for the most part is that you will probably assign your county attorney to take a look at the documents as they come in, or you can have an outside accountant that you'd want to take a look at the reimbursement request, and we'll pay that cost. But in reality, the county's responsibility is to take what is provided to them by ADM and VAA and send it electronically to the Federal Rail Administration. And then there will be big checks that land in your account for a few days, hopefully a few days, not weeks. And then that will go back to the ADM. I had one client that wanted to hang on to it for six months, so they figured it out and do it in CDs and click, no that's not going to happen.

The project-- the other benefit of the project is going to allow local producers to get paid more. I mean, this isn't just talk.

The farm products that are the ag products that are being grown here and shipped out by having this facility and having to have the unit trains, 100 car trains here, more efficiency. At the end of the day, it's going to allow ADM to pay more to those producers. It's not something good for ADM to make more money. It's joint. A little of each, but it's joint.

Jayson Featherston

Well, as y'all know, wheat has to get out of here. There's nothing for wheat. Milo, we sent 10 trains, we had to send our place in plane, you know, after we had boosted the stuff around here and that's buying from everybody. The corn, y'all know this as good as me, it usually does not work. I don't really, I've been here 18 years, and I think I've brought eight corn trains in. So, we're still not deficient on that. So, it's kind of for the wheat and milo and the byproducts as we discussed. You know, we can't have them both in at the same time, so making that work, it really did hurt not getting it out.

Brian Hinricks

Yeah, that's the other part. With this investment, ADM has a significant, strong commitment to the region. Thank you, sir.

Buddy Leach

Darrell, do you have any questions?

Darrell Edwards

I don't, I apologize for leaving us.

Brian Hinricks

Yeah, Darrell, do you have any questions for me?

Darrell Edwards

I do apologize for having to run out.

Dolan Sledge

I have one question, and I mean it's not directly related to the project, just in the explanation of the project benefits and solutions, reduce train dwell time. I know that's within your facility and improve round network efficiency. Is there any chance at all that this will help keep trains from having to stop in our other communities and sit there for hours at a time?

Jayson Featherston

I can't see that. I mean, it would... The only way I can see it helping would help scheduling with the railroad a little more if we're faster at getting them out that we can say, hey, we know ADM in three to four days is going to send this train back out. And we're talking about what we do now instead of, oh, well, they ran into this, but they don't have a facility, so it might be 7 to 9 days. So, it helps me work with them to schedule better.

Brian Hinricks

But to your point, having more track there is going to make sure that it's going to be more efficient. And if you've worked with the railroads here, the more volume we can push through, the more they care about you. So, they will be much more accommodating in schedules as we're looking at greater volume. unit training capability. So...

Jayson Featherston

And these unit trains will not come through Guymon.

Brian Hinricks

No.

Jayson Featherston

Because they'll come in from the west and go back out to the east. You know, when they come through Guymon with us, it's manifest cars, because they'll take them from liberal and bring them back.

Brian Hinricks

So, I think the short answer to your question is yes. We're going to make it... There will be less traffic and more efficient traffic through Guymon.

Levi Bickford

You guys got three tracks over there as of now?

Jayson Featherston

We got four tracks. We can hold about 200 cars but only operate with 165 on track. Yeah so this will kind of double it so this will be, so you have 100 car corn gluten feed train that takes us you know now 5 to 9 days on load. Yeah, well, you need one of those units to load out my load. Well, you only have 15 hours to unload those. We can set one of those, get our train out, set one of those, load it and then go back to ours or do both of them at the same time. So, it will help with that. Where now we just have to say, oh, we can't accept it because we can't make it fall exactly right. And it'll be a new modern pit. And you've probably heard of our hot cars. We're building up, we're spending, I don't know, 1,000,007 just to mitigate that, to get that out faster, something like that. Safer.

Dolan Sledge

Yes, sir.

Jayson Featherston

Yeah, those, we're trying to work on those.

Buddy Leach

You guys have any more?

Dolan Sledge

I'm good.

Jayson Featherston

Thank you for your time.

Brian Hinricks

Thank you. Buddy, you want to say anything?

Buddy Leach

No, if you guys can get us an MOU with all the corrections in it, we can move forward.

There was no action on the letter of support for Federal Grant Application or the Memorandum of Understanding with ADM regarding proposed Optima Project until wording if fixed.

Motion by Edwards, second by Sledge to approve **Resolution #106-25-26** for a Utility Permit with Hook Ranch for a Water Line in the SW/4 of the SW/4 of Section 3-T6N-R19ECM to the NW/4 of the NW/4 of Section 10-T5N-R19ECM. All requirements of the permit must be met, and it shall be bored. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.

Ryan Bellew, Construction Manager, was absent.

Wadley reported that the Oklahoma Forestry Division has left the area and properly won't come back unless needed. They said that Texas County knows how to fight fires very well without them. They will be in Beaver County, so they are not too far if needed. We are going to be in high fire danger all week with a long term of no rain May through September

Leiter reported that they will have a board meeting on April 28th at 5:00 p.m. and that the application for the Wellness Program Grant has been submitted.

New Business: Midkiff said that we can make a resolution to put 100% of the Use Funds into our savings for the Elevator Project for a few months and the General would be ok.

There was no Public Comment.

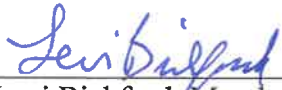
There was no report from the District Attorney.

There was no need for Executive Session.

Motion by Bickford, second by Sledge to adjourn. Aye: Sledge, Bickford, Edwards. Nay: none.


Wendy Johnson, County Clerk


Darrell Edwards, Chairman



Levi Bickford, Member



Dolan Sledge, Member