

# Plans For AC-S Athletic Facilities Discussed In School Board Special Session

By **Chris Cole**  
STAFF WRITER

On February 10, 2025, the Allen County-Scottsville School Board announced that \$15 million in funds, with potentially selling bonds to bring that number up, had been set aside to upgrade the athletic facilities on the AC-S campus. The upgrades would be to the fields including those for football, baseball, softball, and soccer; to the spectator area including upgraded seating and places to become Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant; and upgrades to infrastructure such as access roads, electrical, lighting and plumbing; and upgrades to training facilities.

The initial meeting on February 10 of 2025 was to gather input from the community at-large. School administrators, various coaches for the teams and student athletes had already been asked prior to the public meeting and had given their input.

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Travis Hamby, the Superintendent for AC-S and the rest of the school board met with representatives from the architectural firm Sherman Carter Barnhart, mainly Justin McElfresh who is principal with the company. The meeting was begun at 4 p.m.

McElfresh brought with him blueprints that showed the entirety of the athletic complex as well as blueprints for each field and building that will be part of the phased construction. While the precise timeline is yet to be determined, everyone was hopeful that the construction could be done in approximately two years with minimal disruption to school sports. Contingency plans will also be explored if a field isn't quite yet ready for play during the construction.

The blueprints were open to inspection by all present members of the board and those from the community who were interested in taking a look at the proposal.

The plans called for a new auxiliary gym located near the cafeteria in the high school; the soccer field being located to where the baseball field currently is; the building of a new fieldhouse while the current athletic center building would be remodeled; the football field would see the running track be upgraded to a full, eight lane competition track, the playing surface being replaced by artificial turf (all other playing fields would remain natural grass), the visitors stands being retained while the home side would be upgraded;



▲ PHOTO | CHRIS COLE  
**Here's a clearer view of what the proposed redevelopment of the AC-S Athletic Complex could potentially look like. Final approval is scheduled for the end of April.**



▲ PHOTO | CHRIS COLE  
**Principal Architect Justin McElfresh is seen here with AC-S board member Brian Celsor looking over the proposed layout for the AC-S Athletic Complex site.**



▲ PHOTO | CHRIS COLE  
**As the meeting got started, Allen County-Scottsville Superintendent Travis Hamby asked whether it was preferable to look at the physical blueprints placed on the center table or have them projected onto the television screens. The consensus was to look at them on the table.**

and the baseball and softball fields would be at the south end of the complex, an area which is being referred to as the Upper Athletic Complex, as the land is slightly elevated there whereas the football and soccer field are on a level plain.

Also included is an upgraded road from two lanes to three to help with traffic flow as well as an access road, upgraded restroom facilities and locker rooms, upgraded concession stands that would give those standing in line visual access to the games being played, and ticket stands at both the north and south end of the athletic complex.

It was asked why the decision was made to switch from natural grass to artificial turf for football and why the other fields would be left as natural grass. McElfresh responded by saying that the football field is abused more than the other surfaces are and that from a maintenance point of view, the cost to maintain the field in a variety of conditions is lower than trying to keep a natural grass field in good playing condition when you could go from very hot and dry to cool and

rainy. He added that the board had yet to choose an artificial turf company and do the research as to which artificial turf would best suit their needs.

McElfresh didn't rule out the possibility of portions of the other fields being artificial turf, incorporating a mix with natural, as that is a possibility. It just depends on what the board decides to do.

The rest of the meeting was getting into the specifics of each field and new building, ensuring that all sports would have their place.

As the meeting continued, questions emerged about who would be getting what when all was said and done. It was emphasized that, considering the budget, there wouldn't likely be an instance where everyone got everything they wanted.

There were some board members who stated they wanted some additional time to look at different companies and prices for artificial turf and come to some final decisions.

The final decision on what the board will approve will come at the end of April.

# Fiscal Court Special Guest is Miss Riverfront Park



▲ PHOTO | H. D. OVERHOLT  
**Allen County native Audrey Centers, Miss Riverfront Park, was guest of Allen County Fiscal Court and shared her Domestic Violence Platform "Your Voice Matters-Sharing Our Stories" as a contestant in Miss Kentucky Pageant in June 2026 at Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center in Bowling Green, Ky. The 2023 Allen County-Scottsville High graduate acquired the February 2026 newly crowned Miss Riverfront Park title and qualifies Centers for Miss Kentucky Pageant. A daughter of Rodney and Joy Centers of the Gainesville area, is currently attending Western University as she pursues a social work degree. Left to right: Magistrates Wendell Spears, Ricky Cooksey, Anthony Thompson, Judge-Executive Dennis Harper, Miss Centers, Magistrates Todd Bransford and John Buchanon.**

By **H.D. Overholt**  
STAFF REPORTER

Allen County Fiscal Court met Tuesday March 24, 2026 at 6 p.m. at South Allen Volunteer Fire Department, 6700 Mt. Union Road with Judge-Executive Dennis Harper presiding and all magistrates present.

March 12, 2026 minutes were approved with no corrections or additions noted.

Bills list was presented and approved along with a transfer of funds from the general account to jail account (\$67,000).

Allen County Alcohol Beverage Commission (ABC) account transfer of \$810 to the general fund was approved. ABC funds cannot be used in general budget and only transfers into a department with alcohol related service costs. This transfer is for a breath analyzer for law enforcement department.

A transfer of \$30,000 appropriations for rest of 2025/2026 budget year for firemen activities was approved. An increase of expense is in relation of Storm Fern activity and might have some reimbursement from federal funding if a declaration is received for Kentucky.

Allen County Jail Budget 2026/2027 was presented as Kentucky Revised Statutes requirement and did not need any action of magistrates to fulfill requirement.

Allen County Sheriff's Report, given by Sheriff Brandon Ford, welcomed Cain Cox as a deputy within the department and he begin April 13 at Department of Criminal Justice Training Law Enforcement Basic Training academy. Sheriff Ford reminded of April 15 as last day of property tax collection within the Sheriff's office. Remaining tax bills will transfer to County Clerk from Sheriff's office at close of business day. Within 30 days of the delinquent tax bills being transferred to

the county clerk's office, the county attorney is required to mail a notice, by regular mail, to the delinquent taxpayer.

Local volunteer fire departments will receive \$365.08 each from collection of dues within county property tax billing receipts last month.

Allen County Jailer Tim Meador reported a census of 85 inmates including 43 county and 41 state classifications. With nine weeks of community service collecting 595 bags (18,280 pounds) of litter abatement along with 42 tires and nine dump sites cleaned has been achieved. Community service crews will be transitioning into mowing and trimming activities with springtime weather season. State inmates are classified by Kentucky for community service, which can limit available inmates in community service. Magistrates approved hiring Timothy Reels as part-time Detention Center Deputy.

The Road Department reported Wilkerson Road Bridge is scheduled to begin

in May according to the contractor's calendar. Contractor referral has been received from Deer Park Court roadways with completed construction according to Allen County maintenance requirements and inclusion within the road department. The magistrates approved inclusion.

Magistrates approved a Transfer Station John Deere Loader three-year service agreement which includes 8,000 hours at \$24,520.76. Results of Hazardous Waste day will be reported at the next Fiscal Court meeting.

Pickleball and basketball court areas are currently being leveled and paved and be constructed in the near future at Allen County Park in the White Plains area.

Magistrates were reminded to review Admin Code and Ethics Code for any revisions as they will need to be approved in June Fiscal Court meeting.

Magistrates approved relinquishing any claim on Walkers

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▲ PHOTO | H. D. OVERHOLT  
**South Allen Volunteer Department Firefighter, Alan Sullivan, demonstrates aspects of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), during the Fiscal Court meeting. The \$909,184 federal grant for SCBA, better known as air pacts, purchase includes supplying seven Allen County Volunteer Fire Departments. Today with burning structures, synthetic materials, like plastics, quickly emit toxic fumes, endangering the firefighters' lives in extinguishing flames. SCBAs today include computerize elements monitoring air quality, location of use as well as protective warning alarms for firemen. These units consist of a backpack with an air cylinder that distributes weight evenly and a regulator, a face piece with a mask that filters out toxic gases, as well as a system of alarms and gauges to monitor air levels and a firefighter's location. The units can hold up to 45 minutes of breathable air depending on the extent of need during the fire activity and the monitoring system can aid in search and rescue at a fire scene. Cost of each SCBA was \$10,000. Magistrates approved old units availability for some other fire departments requests with liability waver agreement document.**