

FISCAL - FROM FRONT



Brody Keck briefs the fiscal court regarding county roads recommended to pursue LARP funding in 2027

but also includes the taxes that will be distributed to the special taxing districts. Not all the tax payment goes to the fiscal court, some goes directly to the special taxing districts. The tax bills are scheduled to be mailed at the end of September. Payments can be made starting October 01st. There will be a 2% discount for bills paid between October 01st and October 31st. The face amount will be due between November 01st through December 31st. A 5% penalty will be assessed beginning January 01st through January 31st. A 10% penalty will be assessed for bills paid between February. 01st and April 15th. Bills delinquent after April 15th will be sent to the County Clerk's Office.

The Veterans property and the old Marks property are still scheduled to sell September 19. The boundary issue has been worked out on the Marks property. Judge Hays stated that they were already tearing down the old building.

The court discussed the status of the old jail project (Downtown Business Incubator) too. It is funded by a \$1.53 million grant project. The plan is to have basic office rental space available for people trying to start a business, some room for tourism, and possibly showers for hikers and bicyclists passing through on either the Scenic Bike Trail or the Sheltowee Trace that runs through McKee. Technical assistance will be provided to those attempting to start a business with the goal being they buy a building downtown and move there at some point. A separate checking account was approved for the project. Tal Jones indicated that the project was in the process of clean up inside the old jail now.

Judge Hays informed the court that the Annville Regional Kitchen property is now in the county's name. The court declared it surplus and will take sealed proposals for the property, building, and equipment. The deadline is October 7, and the proposals will be opened at the October 8 Fiscal Court meeting. The county can turn down any proposal it doesn't believe will help the county and reserved the right to extend the bidding deadline if deemed necessary.

The court also discussed looking for grant money to make improvements at the transfer station. The goal is to make the facility and operation more effective and more cost efficient.

Judge Hays stated that they have received notice that Jackson County will be receiving FEMA through public support (as opposed to Private support) to help with the recent flood damage.

Judge Hays emphasized that this money has not been received yet and the process is very slow.

Judge Hays and the court want to explore what it would cost to have an outside company handle garbage collection. They did not vote to outsource it. They're only looking at the cost to see how it compares with what the county spends now. If a better deal can be found by outsourcing the job, the court is leaning in that direction. However, if a better deal cannot be found, then the court will try to find a way to upgrade equipment and maintain the service.

To avoid confusion and complications surrounding the Garbage pickup fee, Judge Hays stated that around 100 notices were sent to people whose credit cards had expired. September garbage bills went out late because the billing account administration had to be changed from the former treasurer to the new treasurer. They said it should be straightened out within a few days.

A resident spoke about the Senior Citizen Center. They said 47 homebound people are being taken off the service list because of funding cuts. These meal deliveries are also a way to check on people who live alone. The court said it would look into the situation but couldn't promise the county had money to cover it. Since the program is a state funded program, people were encouraged to contact their state representatives.

The sheriff's 2025 tax settlement was approved, along with the 2027 motor vehicle and watercraft tax rate at .456 per \$100 of assessed value.

Three new interest-bearing checking accounts were also approved by the court. One account is for phase two of the fairgrounds, one account is for the old courthouse renovation, and one account is for parks and recreation.

Judge Hays informed the court that the county received \$6,900 back from Cintas after finding out it had been charged for items it never received.

In addition, the county road department is changing where it buys bolts, fluids, and other supplies. The purchases are shifting from Kimble Midwest Supply to Samco. Judge Hays stated that the change should save around 30%.

The court approved Wes Deaton as county road foreman. The establishment of this position will put someone in a supervisory role for the road department throughout its four-day workweek.

This will help compensate for the Monday or Friday that Road Supervisor Adam Madden isn't working. This assures that all work crews will have a supervisor on hand during each work day.

The Magistrates reviewed the bills and transfers and accepted them. They also provided approval and signed a resolution to use 80/20 funds to replace drainage tiles for Buncomb and Wolf Pen Road.

The court approved removing the Alamo mowing system from a county tractor because the repair estimate was \$45,000. A brand new system would cost \$60,000 and the old system was not deemed worth the expense to repair.

The court also approved fixing the Cat Loader and using it at the landfill. Some old county vehicles and equipment will be listed for sale on GovDeals.

Two bids came in for the Hazel Branch Road slide:

- Jones Excavating — \$38,985.53
- Scott Excavation — \$26,300

The court approved the lower bid from Scott Excavation. They expect state emergency money to cover the work.

Judge Hays provided a county financial update as of September 10th, 2026. Judge Hays started with the incoming monthly funds, based on August numbers. On average, the General fund stands at \$331,238.15. The monthly expenses, based on August numbers, for 31 employees, paychecks and benefits are \$93,642.52. \$73, 710.34 goes to the Judicial Center. The court fees are \$2,000. Costs for parks and recreation, office materials and supplies, courthouse utilities, including current past due fees were \$30,715.56. Vehicle maintenance was \$1725. The court is also paying audit bills and in August that amounted to \$13,500. So, the total for monthly expenses for progress was \$167, 352.86.

The monthly income fund for the Solid Waste service (trash bills) and fees from the Transfer Station was \$71,636.60. Expenses associated with Solid Waste service with nine (9) employees (including paychecks and benefits) were \$33, 577.21. Transfer Station expenses were \$20,224.48. Judge Hays stated they purchased a vehicle out of necessity (and he emphasized necessity) for \$7,835. That all adds up to \$61,636. There was an interfund transfer from the General Fund for \$8,000. The transfer Station made \$1,999.91 in August.

The monthly income fund for the road department includes \$170,000.85 provided by State Funding. The County Road Agreement has now been sent to Frankfort which will bring in some more money. The expenses for the County Road Department (nine people with paychecks and benefits) was \$32, 078.82.

Expenses for the county road department fund were itemized. \$96, 227.63 was spent for equipment maintenance, including a significant amount of road materials (\$44,000 plus). Utilities cost \$2,566.30. Costs for contracted construction and bridges for flood damage were \$32,295. This amounts to a total of \$128, 306.45. The road department, at the end of the month, was in the black \$41,694.40.

Judge Hays addressed checks written to the General Fund for bills and payroll. In January the court spent \$400,000. In April the court spent \$50,000. Also, in April the court spent another \$50,000. On June 04th they spent \$270,000. The total checks written to the General Fund was \$870,000. To cover those payroll and bill expenses, the money was borrowed from an EMS

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BRIAR - FROM 4

when I brought her in to eat she only ate a little and got a big drink of water. I made her a bed thinking surely she'd stay in now but weak as she was she insisted on going back out. I put new straw in her little cozy house and she went right in and laid down. I knew she couldn't go much longer. We discussed taking her to the vet but knew with her advanced age and condition they would just tell us we needed to put her down and we'd agree and then she would die on a cold table in a cold room. Saturday night I took her a heated wrapped brick out to keep her warm. I really didn't expect her to make it through the night. That night I dreamed she came to the door and I went out with her and lay down with her in the straw in front of her house. She climbed right up on my chest and I hugged and petted her then she walked down toward the woods with Shep and she never came back. When I went out Sunday morning she was still alive and she turned around to stick her head out of her little house and raise her little face to mine. She always liked being right in my face. Her breathing was shallow and I just sat there and petted her and told her what a strong beautiful girl she was and that it was ok if she didn't want to fight anymore. She'd done enough fighting. She looked me right in the eye with her one good eye, laid her head across my arm, took two deep breaths and walked on. It was a hard hard moment but I'm so glad I was there for it, so glad she wasn't alone or on a cold table. So glad she was in her warm house with her warm straw and she got to have me there with her. I don't know that I really believe in such things but I like to think that the dream was her saying goodbye. Of course, I'm crying as I write this.

We buried her near the fence where all the dogs could be present and, when the weather warms up, I'll plant sunflowers there because she loved the sunshine so much. We put fresh straw in the grave for her to rest on because fresh straw was one of her favorite things in the whole world. We will miss her forever and there is no way we could ever forget her. She got seven extra years of love that she wouldn't have had if she hadn't found us and claimed our hearts and I'm glad for every moment of it. I have no regrets, other than her passing, which was inevitable.

If you are fortunate enough to know the love of a four-legged critter, cherish that.

If you're fortunate enough to know the love of any critter, human or otherwise, cherish that. Love is the greatest gift any of us can receive, no matter the number of legs.



*In Loving
Memory*

'I Am the Love that I Live'

Carmen Leah Abner

HORSE - FROM FRONT

izens with gas, food, utilities etc when they are in the biggest battle of their lives.

We want to thank anyone that has played any part in making this show a success, , just know you are appreciated. From the sponsors (individuals and businesses), donators (from a load of gravel to a dish towel set), exhibitors, spectators, concessions, announcer, judge and all the volunteers that helped make this a great success and showing just how much good we can do for one another. Need to thank WWAG owners and staff for promoting the show at no charge. Thank you to Jamie Strong for making sure the flashing sign get setup on Hwy 421 to help with directions. The sponsors are listed below, please frequent these local business

The show itself had several new horses due to surrounding shows being cancelled. At least 2 of these first timer groups, said they had a blast and look forward to coming to the next show in May 2027. This show featured a lot of really nice horses and mules. Being a "fun show", the club offers classes you don't often see at most shows, such as bareback riding, doubles riding, baby bottle etc. but also offer many of your favorite pleasure classes. Being able to bring new people into our county can only help, every good experience in Jackson Co, a good word of mouth. If they leave smiling, they will return. We want to recognize the riders that have attended year after year, we've begun to know each other by name, face and horse. We look

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