

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

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## Commissioners Court Voting Session, September 9, 2025

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Judge Andy Brown: Good morning.

This is Travis County Judge Andy Brown calling to order the meeting of the Travis County Commissioners Court for September 9th, 2025.

It is 9:14 a.m.

We're meeting here at 700 Lavaca.

We've got Commissioner Shea, Commissioner Travillion, Commissioner Howard, and myself here in person.

And I think Commissioner Gomez is joining us remotely shortly.

Oh, there she is.

So first, we'd like to make a motion that I can sign on behalf of court members.

Shea: So moved.

Travillion: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Motion from Commissioner Shea.

Second from Commissioner Travillion for me to be able to sign on behalf of court members, not physically present.

Any discussion?

We have no commenters.

All those in favor, raise your hand.

That passes unanimously.

Gomez: I'm voting yes, judge.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

Thank you, Commissioner.

The.

And I think IT is working on getting her connection a little bit better.

We'll start with early public comment for people who are here.

Not on a agenda item.

First we're going to go to the callers and do do all the callers.

And then we'll go to the on-site commenters.

So, Leo, if could we start with the callers please?

Okay.

>> Brendan is being transferred, Judge.

Brendan, you have three minutes.

>> Hi, this is Brendan McNerney.

Are you able to hear me all right?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

>> I am calling in for public comment on the rebates for the Tesla Gigafactory.

I want to say upfront thank you for your time and for.

Yeah, letting me participate with public comment.

I am a Travis County resident, and I am deeply concerned by the tax rebates that Tesla continues to receive.

Despite that it is plainly apparent that it has not been.

They have not been meeting their side of the agreement made in 2020, when the rushed deal was struck.

Members of your court seemed similarly like felt the same.

That of concerns of over a lack of transparency around the agreement.

And while today transparency transparency remains severely lacking, and it feels that that transparency itself makes it incredibly difficult to see any other possibility than Tesla never intending to invest in our community and county.

If they were truly making the investments promised to Travis County, it.

I don't see what would be preventing them from providing the proof of such with their theoretical investments into our community not be a home run for Tesla, for a public from a public relations standpoint, in the end, it feels to me the most simple and obvious answer is that there is no clear evidence from Tesla, as there is no evidence to be had at all that they are doing this.

It is frustratingly obvious that they have not held up certain.

Stipulations of their end of the bargain made when the deal was first struck, and it does not seem they have any intention of doing so, and they continue to take advantage of our county under what their lack of transparency has provided them.

Further, Tesla's reincorporation from Delaware to Texas, I believe last year paints a very clear picture as well.

It was out of desire from Tesla to relocate here, to make not to make Texas greater, but rather to distance themselves from the damage and how they had inflicted upon Delaware, the state of Delaware is notorious, of course, for its generous corporate leniency, which Tesla greatly benefit from.

Though Tesla's former home of Delaware ruling against the company for compensation up to \$56 million in a suit, no matter how it may be spun, Tesla bought.

Tesla brought its previous benefactor to its absolute limit, and now they are in our backyard.

And it feels that just we are being targeted by the unquenchable greed of the billionaire, soon to be trillionaire.

That is Elon Musk.

This is, and I'm speaking to you.

This is a plea for just, you know, anything.

>> Thank you, Brendan.

That was your time.

>> Can.

Time?

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Your time is up.

>> Okay.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much.

>> I just want to say thank you.

And that this isn't directed any of this at you.

And hopefully, you know, you share some of these same frustrations.

Thank you for your time.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much.

Leo, do we have any more callers?

>> No more callers, Judge.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

So that's the end of the caller period.

We'll now go to folks that are here in person.

And a we've got a lot.

So I'll, I'll bring y'all up in one two three groups of six I guess if y'all want to come up and I read your name.

So John Joyner, Margie Medrano, Shonda Smith, Kerry King, Ethan McBride and Cristina DiStefano.

All right, John?

Who's John.

>> Oh.

Judge Andy Brown: Go ahead.

>> How much time do we have?

How much time do I have?

Judge Andy Brown: Three minutes.

>> Okay.

Thank you.

Okay.

So yeah, my name is John Joyner.

I'm a homeowner in seven, eight, seven, five six.

So section 1.5 of the Economic Development Performance Agreement, Colorado River project, LLC states the intent to create, quote, a state of the art clean manufacturing facility with a sensitivity to environmental impact.

Remember that sensitivity to environmental impact.

Probably in previous testimony, people have cited the Wall Street Journal article from last November that you're probably familiar with.

Musk says he wants to save the planet.

Tesla's factories are making it dirty, and I hope you read it and read it all the way through.

I'd like to just read a part of it to see how far from sensitivity to environmental impact the company's behavior has really been.

Hazardous wastewater from production containing paint, oil and other chemicals was also flowing untreated into the city's sewer.

Tesla left costly problems largely unaddressed during the critical ramp up.

As a result, the plant dumped toxic pollutants into the environment near Austin for months.

A journal investigation shows that Tesla bosses were aware of the problems and sometimes chose short term fixes to avoid slowing production.

Former employees said they feared they might lose their job if they drew attention to, potentially to potential environmental hazards because the senior managers didn't consider such issues to be mission critical.

As head of the company, Musk set the tone, these people said.

So this doesn't really scream sensitivity to environmental impact.

I mean, look, the whole the whole factory deal sounded good on paper, but we got played.

We're still getting played.

As a Travis County homeowner for 18 years, I can honestly say I've never complained about my own taxes, even though they have risen roughly 100% in those 18 years.

It's incumbent on all of us to contribute what we can to the community.

I love this community and I hate seeing it get played.

And no, I'm not a lawyer, so I can't say whether the company would County would be able to defend withholding the rebate from Tesla's inevitable legal challenge, but I bet you do have some capable attorney attorneys on staff to make the case.

Last thing I want to say is, as Americans, it's incumbent on us at the local level to resist the tide of authoritarianism and fascism at the federal and state levels.

Tesla's owner has material materially contributed and continues to contribute to that rising rising tide.

I'm sure if we knew that Elon Musk was going to go on to actively subvert democracy, we never would have made this deal.

So I think if there's any chance to hit him where it hurts, I think it's really our patriotic duty to take that chance.

So I encourage you to do everything in your power to roll back this rebate.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much.

Thanks for being here.

All right.

Shonda Smith.

>> Her.

>> So this is literally nightmare fuel for me public speaking.

So I'm asking you to bear with me.

Shea: You're good.

>> That's how serious I take this matter.

Good afternoon, commissioners.

Thank you for taking the time to hear us today.

As a homeowner in Travis County, I faithfully pay my property taxes on time in full.

Knowing that failure to do so carries real consequences.

Each year, I'm paying more and more in property taxes.

Yet our schools remain underfunded.

The county and city are facing budget shortfalls.

Inflation is rising, and the cost of groceries has tripled.

Seeing a trillion-dollar company abusing our local resources and workers then getting a tax break while many, many are struggling to pay their increasing property tax bills and put food on the table, is both infuriating and demoralizing, it's deeply unfair to see Tesla's Gigafactory seek tax relief, despite a troubling pattern of safety and.

[Cell phone rings]

Environmental violations.

Why should Tesla receive millions in rebates when their operations have repeatedly put people and the environment at risk?

A rebate in these circumstances rewards noncompliance, not accountability.

It shifts the burden onto taxpayers like us, while condoning unsafe practices.

Sections 4.0 and 4.2 of the Economic Development Agreement governing the Gigafactory require Tesla to operate lawfully, protect our environment, and maintain exemplary workplace safety standards in exchange for millions of taxpayer backed incentives.

Tesla has unequivocally not met those obligations.

John John discussed, but a small portion of the reporting done on their pollution.

Got several articles here that go into more detail.

Tesla Gigafactory reportedly dumped pollutants into Austin water.

Musk says he wants to save the planet.

Tesla's factories are making it dirtier.

Tesla's Texas Gigafactory is a major polluter.

We're also looking at the OSHA workplace safety violations.

We've had two deaths.

An electrician was killed recently, last year, I believe, and then a hyperthermia during construction.

We've had reports from factory workers stating I'm going to die in this factory.

Tesla Gigafactory construction workers are suing over wage theft and dangerous conditions.

So they obviously have not been good environmental stewards or employers.

None of this is new for Tesla.

Between 2018 and 2020, news outlets, including Bloomberg and USA Today found that Tesla repeatedly misclassified and underreported injuries to regulators.

Time?

Judge Andy Brown: Wrap up your thought.

Yes, please.

>> Okay.

Oh, finish?

Judge Andy Brown: You can finish your sentence or whatever, yeah.

>> Tesla has benefited from millions in local incentives, but the residents of Travis County have borne the environmental risk.

Tesla has broken his promises.

We ask you to cancel the agreement for noncompliance, as described in sections 8.5 and nine, and make Tesla pay their taxes like all the rest of us.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much.

>> Thank you.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Margie Medrano?

>> Margie.

Okay.

Judge Andy Brown: Yes, ma'am.

>> Good morning.

And hello, county commissioners, and thank you for providing this opportunity to address you.

My name is Margie Medrano.

I'm a longtime Travis County resident, and I'm a retired nurse who worked through the HIV and the Covid pandemics.

I worked in NICUs here in Austin, and I took time out to be a stay at home mom.

And then when I went back, I worked in the pediatric craniofacial plastic reconstructive surgery, where we did cleft lip palate and pediatric traumas to the head, especially, and other conditions.

In my role as an RN, people came to me trusting that I was a helper and that I would look out for their needs and well-being, as well as be a good steward of their time and resources.

And I see you who ran for this position in the same light.

That's what I expect from you.

And my parents didn't have a lot of money or education.

They were the salt of the earth workers, but they had the they they believed in the American dream.

And thankfully for the infrastructure that was in place because of taxpayers, I was able to reach that American dream.

And when my husband and I became taxpayers, we were both happy to pay our taxes and pay it forward.

As crazy as that might seem to some.

But I'm deeply troubled by the idea that my hard earned tax dollars are going to reward the Tesla corporation that is not meeting the requirements of the contract that they have with Travis County.

And as a Catholic who took the Saint Francis pledge to care for creation, I'm troubled that they've been cited for dumping waste in the Colorado River, excessive emissions.

And they also have these bright lights that disrupt the the paths of migratory birds.

And it bothers your neighbors.

So as a Catholic who embraces the church's Catholic social teachings, I support the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

Workers must be protected and there are reports of thousands of injuries and at least two deaths in the factory.

The social teaching that social teaching also says that the economy should work for people and not the other way around.

And I don't believe that Tesla is paying a living wage for the Austin economy.

And by your contract, I think that they're supposed to hire a lot of people from Travis County.

But I know that they're bringing in people from other places, which makes living in Travis County more expensive and more competitive.

And then what Mr. Musk did with DOGE hurts all Americans who need food, assistance, health care, and rely on Medicare to survive.

Just like some states are doing with immunizations, it's going to fall on state and local governments to make to make that up.

So as a nurse who dealt with cranial trauma, don't even get me started on robo taxis.

I know that's not what we're talking about here, but I hope you do something about that as well.

So I'm asking you to cancel that contract.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> Bring in more transparency and to be good stewards of our taxes.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> I don't want a single penny of my taxes to go to Tesla or Mr. Musk.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much for appearing today.

>> Thank you for the opportunity.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

All right, Kerry King?

All right.

>> Hello.

My name is Kerry King.

I'm representing myself.

And I oppose rebates for Tesla.

I live in South Austin where my three children attend our neighborhood public schools.

I was also raised in Texas public schools in the Houston area, both in Sugar Land and Alief.

I put myself through undergrad at U of H and here at UT Austin.

I've lived in Austin for most of my adult life, always amongst working class families and neighborhoods that slowly but surely gentrify.

We're quick to justify social inequities that arise, and we chalk it up to the natural force of change, growth and progress.

However, it's our obligation as citizens and your jobs, as our leaders to ensure that our expansion as a city doesn't harm our inhabitants nor our natural surroundings.

We must preserve a quality of life that we would want for at least seven generations beyond ourselves.

From my perspective, we are struggling to maintain proper balance between exploiting what this wonderful city has to offer and protecting it from encroaching interests of various intentions.

There's no question Austin is still and will hopefully remain a favorable place to live for years to come.

However, if we continue to incentivize Musk and Tesla, I can only imagine that Musk will continue to relentlessly expand his empire.

It honestly sickens my stomach to think of how of how backwards all of this is.

And I apologize because I know it's most respectful to stay squarely on the subject of tax rebates, but I frankly can't even get past the fact that we all just watched this man haphazardly dissemble some of our country's most defining institutions, injecting chaos and destruction, leaving controversy and unlawfulness in his wake.

And even all that aside, the reality is that Tesla and his oligarch leaders simply do not need tax rebates.

Not when there are so many unmet needs in our communities across Austin, our affordable housing issues and insufficient mental health care services have yet to improve our waterways sour with pollution and there are hungry children in our struggling public schools.

Musk should be engaging in charitable service to the community in which he's grafted himself onto in much bigger strides.

I'm not hearing about his philanthropic pursuits.

I hear about robo robo taxis being rolled out onto our streets despite dire safety concerns.

I hear about the shady incorporation of his very own space city, where rocket launches end in explosive failure time after time, littering south Texas beaches, making them unusable by the local community.

I hear talk of Musk developing a brand new university, while across our district here in Austin, our schools suffer from continual underfunding.

How dare we allow our public schools to financially atrophy while we consider further lining Musk's pockets?

No thank you.

While I respect the technology embodied in the Tesla brand, namely the departure from dependance on fossil fuels, that is where my respect ends.

Musk and Tesla are invested in their own growth and benefit, not ours.

Please don't reward Musk with tax rebates when we have children, the elderly, marginalized folks, and our collective natural environment in desperate need of attention and care.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> Thank you for your time.

> Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

All right, Ethan McBride?

>> Thank you.

Hi everyone.

My name is Ethan McBride.

I live here in Austin and I'm here to testify against the Tesla tax rebates.

Some of y'all will recognize me.

I came here to make my voice heard on the same issue last month, but today I want to give a voice to someone else, the workers at the Travis County Gigafactory.

Though it's only been in our community for a short time, this factory has already become a notorious abuser of workers rights.

Just for one example, the Goo factory's industrial furnaces can burn as hot as 1200 degrees, and for several months in 2024, one of these furnaces had a broken door.

For that entire time, these industrial workers slaved away in life threatening 100 degree heat while they waited for Tesla to have it fixed.

For that entire period, these workers were exposed to toxic chemicals in a facility with insufficient ventilation.

And while this was happening, Tesla employees actively hid the malfunctioning furnace from state regulators, even going so far as to temporarily shut the door and lower fuel input to make conditions appear normal during a regulators visit to the facility.

On August 1st, 2024, an electrician named Victor Gomez was asked to inspect a set of electrical panels at the Gigafactory, and when Tesla employees failed to inform him that the panel he was working on had been energized, Victor Gomez was electrocuted and killed instantly.

After his death, the Gomez family had to sue Tesla to prevent the destruction of evidence at the factory relating to his death.

Those are not the only stories that need to be told.

The Gigafactory's track record is abysmal, and while there are a lot of difficult decisions to be made when it comes to this facility and its role in our community, deciding whether it should receive a 70 to 80% tax rebate is not one of them.

Tesla has failed to hold up its end of the bargain.

They broke their contract with Travis County, and it's time for Travis County to start fighting back.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Christina.

Destefano.

>> Yeah.

Hi.

My name is Christina DeStefano.

I'm a constituent of Austin, Texas.

Zip code 78748.

And I urge the members here to vote against the tax rebates given to Tesla Gigafactory lasting until 2041.

Musk's propensity for speed comes at the expense of quality and security in nearly all aspects of the supply chain, whether it's in his factories being built or the cars placed on the road.

We see a disregard put in place for compliance.

As Ethan mentioned last year, Victor Gomez Senior was electrocuted to death at the Gigafactory.

OSHA fined Tesla a mere \$50,000 for failure to abide by safety protocols.

Last summer, a furnace store burning at temperatures of up to 1200 degrees did not close properly, exposing workers to extreme heat and toxic air.

Wall Street journalist reports employees staged a ruse during state regulator inspections, where they temporarily closed the door and lowered the fuel input.

I'm concerned Tesla may have participated or will participate in the future in more ruses to pull the wool over the state's eyes.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has cited Tesla five times since 2021 for violating state standards, including dumping wastewater and maintenance of a six acre evaporation pond containing sulfuric acid and nitric acid.

I fear the city of Austin will be making a deal with a company that is not in Austin's best interest, and this contract will last until 2041 with a company that lacks any and all accountability to not just its consumers, but to its employers and to its neighbors.

I fear Tesla does not and will not cooperate with the great people of Austin with the utmost transparency during compliance reviews.

I fear a hypothetical where City of Austin might be locked into retaliatory lawsuits from Tesla.

We're at a time where the city of Austin will be voting on prop Q to raise taxes for constituents for a budget deficit.

Why should we reward one of the wealthiest companies in the world for its lack of accountability with tax rebates?

And thank you all for your time.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much.

Thanks for being here.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: That's everyone right there that's sitting here?

Thank you all for taking the time to come down here.

Shea: Thank you all.

Judge Andy Brown: Appreciate it.

Shea: Appreciate it.

Judge Andy Brown: Got some more folks here.

I'm going to pause on the county employees till the end.

So Annabelle and I'll wait on you.

Sarah Millete, are you here for public comment and not you don't work for the county, right?

Pardon?

Oh, okay.

Thank you for being here.

Gavino Fernandez?

You wanna come on up?

Annalisa Gonzalez?

Oh, okay.

Thank you, Annalisa.

Mimi Lynn?

Richard Franklin, Lily Hughes.

And Gaby Libretti.

You all want to come on up?

>> Hello.

Judge Andy Brown: Later on?

Okay.

Yeah.

Then if y'all don't mind holding to that item.

Thank you very much.

So that you're Gaby?

Okay.

All right, so I think so is everyone who's not here for an item other than Anna Bolen and Annalisa, have I called your name?

If you're here for public comment, that's not on a specific item?

All right.

Thank you.

Let's see.

Gabino, if you want to go ahead.

>> Good morning, Judge, Commissioners.

My name is Gabino Fernandez Jr and I come before you as a representing El Concilio, Mexican American landowners at East Austin and Concilio for the last six years have been

the coordinators for National Voter Registration Day, which falls every third Tuesday in September.

And coincidentally, this year it falls on Ld6 de septiembre and so what we do is that we promote voter registration in our communities, and this this is September.

We're also going to culminate the event by hosting a breakfast at Taqueria Chapala on at Ld6 at 930 in the morning, and we have State Representative Lulu Flores.

It was a welcome back reception for her from breaking quorum.

We also have Celia Israel, who's going to talk to our group about voter registration and being a VDR.

And we also have Diana, Diana, Limon Mercado that is going to talk to us about mail in ballot process.

Many seniors like I utilize mail in process.

And what we have found is that many times we either don't sign the ballot or we don't put our identification number on it.

So we are looking forward and and continuing to educate our community of eligible voters to make sure that they are registered to vote.

As a previous election judge for 17 years, I witnessed many voters walking to the polls, not understanding or realizing that they had to be registered 30 days before the election.

So again, I just want to amplify the celebration of National Voter Registration Day.

The last info that we got from National is that there will be over 3000 nonprofits throughout the country on that day, hosting a voter registration day.

And that's basically the bottom line for National Voter Registration Day.

And our sponsors are LULAC, Imams, East Austin Lions Club, El Concilio College Access Program, and On Point Recovery Consortium.

All nonprofits.

And this I want to emphasize this is a nonpartisan event.

So thank you, Judge, for the opportunity to amplify the event and mentioned, I think I left y'all stickers there and a little flier on the event.

I know y'all be busy on that day here.

So anyway, thank you, Judge, for and the commissioners for this opportunity to share that with y'all.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you, Gabino.

Shea: Thanks, Gabino.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks for doing that.

Shea: Yep.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Next, Mimi Lynn?

Nope.

Yes, you're Mimi, right?

>> Yes.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Go ahead.

>> Hello.

I'm back.

I'm Mimi Lynn, precinct two.

I'm here to talk about the budget tax rebates again.

Last time I was here, I mentioned I'm disgruntled by federal DOGE cuts that ravaged our world class research here at UT.

I'm just disgusted by that and our whole future career landscape as scientists is threatened now.

But the guy who was at the helm of it of DOGE is about to become a trillionaire, and the sweet little deals like the one he has with Travis County, are a big part of how he's able to amass such an unheard of fortune without much accountability or scrutiny.

So yes, I'm here as an aggrieved, disgruntled scientist, but I'm also a resident.

I came here to do world class research.

I vote, and I want to ask why the former chainsawer in chief basically doesn't have to pay rent here or follow rules.

So.

But my comments today, partly in the form of a question, because like others said, I'm not a lawyer.

I'm not a civil servant politician.

But from what I've followed, we've all followed in the news that we talked about today, Tesla is on the brink of getting these millions of tax breaks from the Travis County budget and the agreements meant to help the county.

Right?

And they have to follow local, state and federal regulations in the agreement.

Yet we've all seen the headlines.

Chanda held some up about unsafe working conditions and illegal pollution at the Gigafactory.

Stuff that's been in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Reuters, Texas Tribune, Austin, Texas Observer, Austin Statesman, everywhere, really.

So my question is, will there be accountability for non-compliant practices in the county's compliance review for the agreement?

Or is the county's review going to be, you know, a bit generous just because this powerful, very connected billionaire's profits are involved?

Our little group who spoke is made up of former giga workers, bird lovers, because, you know, the factory lights are killing the birds, alarmed AI engineers, IT workers, etc.

We're all just very curious about this question.

And to get some answers, we filed a public information request about the county's compliance process, and I know the compliance review is still in progress.

But look at this.

Really?

Like.

And you all can't see, but it's about like 20 or 30 pages of redactions.

Just pure pure redactions.

We couldn't get much info about the scrutiny we expect Tesla to be subject to per the contract.

I mean, forget the Epstein list, right?

We can't even get a fraction of what whistleblowers already gave reporters about Tesla in the last few years from our county offices.

So we really want to know if the agreement requires compliance with laws and regulations.

How is Tesla not in breach?

I want to say the name again of Victor Gomez, who was electrocuted, \$50,000 fine.

OSHA said it happened because he didn't have the right protective equipment and negligence.

Another worker was Antonio Ramirez, died of heat stroke.

You know how much the fine is for that?

\$14,000 for his life.

Tesla got a \$7,000 fine, only for exposing four workers to deadly chemicals without proper training.

Judge Andy Brown: Can you wrap up your thoughts?

That's time.

>> All right.

Thank you.

Their their injury rate is one out of 21, whereas the median is one out of 30.

We we mentioned the environmental stuff.

You have the power to compel accountability and transparency and democratic norms here.

So please, please pay attention to this.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Richard Franklin.

>> I'm having a seizure right now behind the things I'm hearing, because that I, I didn't invite these people down here.

I came down here to ask you to revoke the contract you have with Tesla to build out Harold Green.

You gave away Harold Green and renamed it Tesla Road.

That's a problem for us.

The Hornsby Bend area was supposed to have a road built.

We paid for a bond in 2017.

They've been given money and they have a road for themselves.

But we don't have the egress that we need.

And you spoke at a.

News conference speaking about lives were saved in West Travis County because the community that you worked with had a second egress.

We still don't have a second egress, and we're downriver from Tesla.

We live right beside Tesla.

That we don't have the road and we're not getting any answers.

No one's getting answers.

We've even called the county who said they can't get any answers from Tesla.

So I have a problem with the fact that they've been given a contract.

They've been given money, they've been given a road, and we still don't have our second egress.

So revoke the contract because obviously they're in breach and then take over the contract as it was bonded initially so the county will build the road that you were supposed to, because this all ties back to the taxes that we've already paid.

All of us.

We've already paid the bond.

But you also talked about wanting to raise another bond for infrastructure through the state, through the county.

And our issue comes down to being out of sight, out of mind until it comes down to election time.

We're again in eastern Travis County and downriver.

The infrastructure you're talking about rarely happens for us.

People died in Travis County and Thunderbird estate.

There was no news conference.

No one said anything about it.

Rain bombs hit in our area as well as anywhere else.

Tesla has.

1200 acres, over 2000 acres now that have just taken back what was supposed to be a swamp.

Now that water now runs down into the Colorado River.

We're down downriver from that.

Cota did the same thing.

So we're experiencing the problems of infrastructure, or a lack thereof.

But we're not hearing the same conversation about eastern Travis County that everyone else gets when there's a problem.

So first there's the road, then there's the infrastructure problem.

And we're asking to get the same consideration or more, more so because we experience the tail end of all the problems downriver, our community actually lies right beside the Colorado River.

And that water was literally at the back doors of several of the homes.

And we didn't even get hit with the rain bomb this last time.

So we catch hell regardless of where the rain hits, because we're on the river and all the tributaries flow down into the Colorado to our back door.

And now we're having the the same waters roll off of Cota and Tesla.

So we're asking for you to do the same thing for us.

>> Judge, that was two minutes three minutes.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

You want to finish your thought?

>> Was that God?

What was that?

Judge Andy Brown: I mean, Leo, but yes.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you very much.

All right.

Anna Boleyn and Annalisa, are y'all here?

Hi.

Okay.

Go ahead.

Yes.

>> Hi.

Anna Boleyn, Travis County, TNR development services and long range planning division director.

I am very pleased to introduce my successor, Kris Yanez.

He started last week and he will be our new division director upon.

And he already is our new division director.

And I can't be more pleased to introduce you to him.

A little bit of history.

He most recently came from the city of Austin.

He was the other half of our 245 agreement, our single office that we had as a result of our 1445 agreement.

And prior to that, he has been at City of Cedar Park, City of Georgetown and Denver, Colorado.

So he has a long history of of planning and management, and we're very happy to have him here.

Judge Andy Brown: Awesome.

Welcome.

Thanks for being here.

>> Thank you.

It's a pleasure to meet you all.

Judge Andy Brown: Good to meet you.

>> Thank you.

Howard: I'll be keeping you busy.

So thank you for coming.

>> All right.

Thank you.

>> They all will be keeping you busy.

[Laughter]

>> And I'm here to help you.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

>> Judge, Commissioners, I want to introduce the two people next to me to my right side.

Annalise Gonzalez, who is the fire safety educating educator for our office.

And then Jason Estrella, who's the wildfire mitigation specialist.

And I'm they're going to talk about some of the good things that they're doing in our office.

And just just want to give them an opportunity to do that.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> Good morning, Judge.

Judge Andy Brown: Morning.

>> Morning, Commissioners.

It's nice to finally meet you.

Since September is National Preparedness Month, and in October we have Fire Prevention Week, we thought this would be a good opportunity to let the public know about some of the resources they have available to them through the fire marshal's office.

We offer a variety of workshops, presentations, and size evaluation coordination.

Our workshops cover topics like home hardening, wildfire 101, and emergency preparedness, and we often collaborate with the Office of Emergency Management.

Our local ESDs, as well as a wealth of a lot of other community partners, just to make sure that our residents are getting the best support and information available to them.

Jason, who's here with me, he's going to help with size evaluation coordination.

So for those of you who don't know what size is, it's a structured ignition zone evaluation, which is just a fancy way of saying that we'll get someone out to your property to do an assessment, and they'll take a look around and give feedback on how to reduce wildfire risk.

It's practical, it's useful, and it gives people the peace of mind knowing that they've taken real steps to protect their families and their homes.

So if any community groups, neighborhoods, or residents are interested in any of these services, they can reach out to the fire marshal's office.

And of course, for convenience, we have this on our website as well.

So if they go to the Travis County Fire Marshal's web page, we have all of this information on there, as well as some additional contact information.

So really our goal is just to empower people with the knowledge and tools they need to feel safe.

And yeah.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> I just want to let people know.

Shea: Say your name again, please.

>> Annalisa Gonzalez.

Shea: Welcome.

>> All right.

That's it.

That's it.

Thanks, y'all.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Nothing from you?

[Laughter]

You?

You?

You have the famous foot, right?

>> Sorry?

Judge Andy Brown: Your foot?

Howard: The foot.

[Laughter]

Shea: What?

[Laughter]

Oh, you're going to have to explain that.

[Laughter]

Judge Andy Brown: So he.

Did you discover the dinosaur footprints or just took the first picture?

Shea: Oh, the famous foot.

Judge Andy Brown: But your foot was put in the dinosaur footprint as a point of reference.

[Laughter]

>> That is correct.

Judge Andy Brown: And then this went was widespread, this photo.

May or may not be more famous than Bridget on my staff's foot, who also was in a separate dinosaur footprint.

>> Yeah, for the record, I did not find it.

I was just notified of it.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> And went to go take a look at it and notify the county.

Judge Andy Brown: Excellent.

Shea: And this is out at Sandy Creek.

Judge Andy Brown: In Sandy Creek, yeah.

Shea: You need to provide that context.

Judge Andy Brown: In Sandy Creek, yeah.

Correct.

Right, so.

Shea: The flooding scoured out the creek and.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Some folks saw some dinosaur footprints that had been uncovered after the flooding because trees were washed away and some dirt, I think, was washed away.

>> Yes, sir.

Judge Andy Brown: And you and some others came upon them and sent a picture around of one of them with your foot in it.

[Laughter]

>> Correct.

Judge Andy Brown: Good job.

Okay.

Nice to finally meet the person with the foot.

[Laughter]

>> Thank you.

Howard: Judge, could I make a quick announcement?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes, Commissioner.

Howard: And we've heard very serious issues already this morning.

But to lighten the the mood a bit, I wanted to invite all county employees out and their friends and family to the Round Rock Express baseball game tomorrow night.

You all have an email about discounted tickets, and so we've already sold about 200.

And we've also given away 100 that were donated by Round Rock Express for flood survivors and volunteers.

So it'll be a fun night at the park tomorrow.

So I hope to see you out there.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks, Commissioner.

Okay, I think that's everyone for public comment.

So we're going to go.

We've got one public hearing and then we're going to go to the proclamation if that works for you all who are here.

Oh, yep.

Hold on one sec.

Thank you.

Okay, one other announcement.

We've got the Lake Travis cleanup, the 31st annual Lake Travis cleanup event on Sunday, September 21st, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

If y'all want to come do your part and help keep our water supply clean, please come out there.

You can sign up at [Lake Travis cleanup.org](http://LakeTraviscleanup.org).

And please join.

I think you get to there's parts of it that will involve scuba diving to clean things up, other parts that will be cleaning up around the edges of the lake.

So anything along those lines that you like to do, please come help.

We're not taking any action today on item 5A, outdoor burning.

There's currently no burn ban in effect for the county.

We'll take up our consent items next, which are item four, item six, item seven, item eight.

Item nine, item ten.

Item 11.

Item 12.

Item 13.

Item 14, parts A, B, C, and E.

Do I have something different?

Okay.

Hold up.

Let's see.

So you have 12 A, B, C and E?

>> Yes.

Travillion: You have the latest revised?

Judge Andy Brown: Maybe I don't.

Thank you, sir.

Aha.

Okay, so I'm just going to start over for clarity.

[Laughter]

So item 4 item this is the consent agenda item for item six.

Item seven.

Item eight.

Item nine.

Item ten.

Item 11.

Item 12, parts A, B, C, and E.

Item 13.

Item 14.

Item 16.

Item 17.

Item 18.

Item 20.

Item 21.

Item 24.

Item 25.

Item 26.

Item 27.

Item 28.

Item 29.

Item 30.

Item 31.

Item 32.

Item 33, item 34, and item 35.

Travillion: Move approval of the consent agenda.

Shea: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: Motion from Commissioner Travillion.

Second from Commissioner Shea.

Any discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously and then we'll go to the public hearings.

Next we have one public hearing item one receive comments regarding a temporary detour and restriction of all traffic on Finial Drive between Hitchcock Hillock Terrace and Flatbush Drive for construction beginning on or about Wednesday, October 1st, 2025 and continuing through Monday, June 1st, 2026 or until work is complete in precinct four.

Do I have a motion to open the public hearing?

Shea: So moved.

Howard: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: Motion from Commissioner Shea, second from Commissioner Howard.

Any discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously.

The hearing is open.

Brian Burke.

>> Brian Burke, TNR Public Works, road and bridge maintenance, traffic engineering.

Just a little bit of background on this Coda Vista Drive is being extended in the subdivision and the intersection with Finial Drive will be reconstructed and Finial Drive will at the end of construction, terminate at that intersection.

And so during construction, a detour is recommended to guide the traffic around this area.

And a restriction on the use of Finial.

So at this time, TNR Public Works recommends receiving public comment on the detour and restriction.

Shea: Can I just ask how long the detour is?

Roughly?

>> It is, I believe six months from October to June 2026.

Shea: And the distance of the detour?

>> 1.78 miles.

Shea: Okay.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Any public comments for Brian?

I don't think there are any people here that we have no callers.

Shea: Move the public hearing be closed.

Howard: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Motion from Commissioner Shea to close the public hearing.

Second from Commissioner Howard.

Any discussion?

No callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

Passes unanimously.

Gomez: I vote yes.

Howard: We need her videod?

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Shea: To record her vote.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Yeah.

We're.

I think IT is trying to get her video going so that she can vote.

All right.

That's all we got.

The hearing is closed.

Thank you very much.

Shea: Thanks.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Item three consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation recognizing September 11th, 2025 as National Day of Service and Remembrance in Travis County.

I'll.

Is anyone here for this?

Y'all want to come on up?

I'll read the proclamation and then we can hear from you.

Whereas on September 11th, 2001, our nation endured an unprecedented attack when terrorists hijacked commercial airplanes, crashing them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, taking the lives of thousands of innocent people.

And whereas in the face of tragedy, Americans from every background, faith and walk of life came together in unity, lifting one another in prayer, supporting grieving families and honoring the sacrifice of first responders who gave their lives in service to others.

And on this National Day of Service and Remembrance, we pause to honor the memory of those we lost, the courage of firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical workers, and service members who answered the call of duty and the selfless civilians who acted with extraordinary bravery.

And whereas this day also serves as a reminder of the strength, resilience and unity that define us as Americans and a call to transform tragedy into good by serving others in our own communities.

And whereas residents of Travis County are encouraged to honor this day by volunteering in ways that strengthen our community, including seeking opportunities through resources such as [justserve.org](https://www.justserve.org), which connects individuals with meaningful local service projects.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that we, the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby recognize September 11th, 2025 as National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Shea: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: All right, so motion from Judge Brown.

Second from Commissioner Shea.

And I'll turn it over to y'all if you'd like to say something.

>> Good morning, Judge Brown and commissioners, my name is Sarah Millett.

I am the justice director for the Central Texas area.

Just Serve is a website where organizations post volunteer needs, and volunteers can go to find opportunities to improve the quality of life for members of the community.

And we're a full coalition partner with the 9/11 day organization and want to recognize members of my team who are also here.

Thank you for recognizing the significance of this 24th anniversary of 9/11 day, and the opportunity that it is for us to come together, united in service and something.

What it became, started as a day of tragedy has become, over the years, a powerful call to action to serve and to contribute.

And today, we encourage all residents of Travis County to honor the legacy of 9/11 by giving back, whether that's volunteering at a local food bank or cleaning up a park, supporting a veteran, or just helping a neighbor in need.

Last September, more than 2000 Just Serve volunteers participated in over 50 projects and contributed over 6000 hours of volunteer service to help the community in recognition of this day.

And this year, our website again has a wide variety of projects that community members can engage in to come together.

And and improve the community, including two revitalization projects for Travis County elementary schools, one sponsored by The Mission Continues, which is here today.

One of our valued partners, they encourage and provide opportunities for veterans and their friends and family to continue to give back, and we're grateful to them and for the projects that they they organize.

Volunteers can participate in a cleanup project at a park that was damaged by flooding, recent flooding or a donation drive for Austin Pets Alive, which did so much to care for animals during the flooding.

Already, 70 pints of blood have been donated in memoriam, and that number will continue to rise with with scheduled events this coming weekend.

We encourage individuals, families, friends, coworkers, and community members of all ages, including the youngest members of our community, to to participate to join us in this effort.

And every act of kindness is a step forward toward building the kind of community that we all want to live in that is compassionate and and united and resilient.

And thank you so much.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> We have some swag here for you..

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Thank you.

Shea: Thank you all.

Thank you for your service.

>> Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Did you want to say something?

[Laughter]

Shea: Raising her hand.

[Laughter]

>> Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Anyone else like to say anything?

Do you, sir?

Did you want to say.

>> Chris, would you like to talk about The Mission Continues?

>> Yes, Judge.

Thank you.

My name is Chris Vandenberg.

I'm in district eight.

I'm representing the VFW, 4443, in Oak Hill.

I'm also the platoon leader for The Mission Continues.

We've had our partnership with Just Serve for, oh, probably the last 3 or 4 years here in Austin.

I've been the platoon leader for five years there.

But our campaign, we have two campaigns.

One is for the 9/11 United in Service campaign.

I got some fliers for you guys if you want to hold on to those.

And also the Veterans Month campaign that we have, we do for service, national service projects throughout the country.

We have 45 platoons with The Mission Continues throughout the country, two in Puerto Rico and one in Alaska and one in Hawaii.

So we're all over the country and and here in Austin, we've made a really big impact within the community as well, within the VFW and the local elementary schools.

And thank you, Judge and Commissioners, for allowing me to speak on it a little bit today.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

Thanks for your work.

Shea: Thank you.

Thank you.

Thanks for turning this.

Judge Andy Brown: Yes, we'd love to get a picture, so.

Shea: Like you said, thanks for turning.

Yeah.

>> We have some swags here for you.

Judge Andy Brown: We'll recess real briefly here to come down and take a picture with you, and then we'll come back here in a couple of minutes.

Media will take.

Oh, I'm sorry.

Not no recess yet.

Commissioner, go ahead.

Travillion: Oh, just want to quickly say thank you for your sacrifice and for your commitment to our community.

Days like this, we should never forget things that have happened, but also the things that really bring us together as a community that serves each other.

So I appreciate sacrifice of folks who their families have made, and that we should never forget the sacrifice that was made by their loved ones.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah, thank you.

Shea: Yeah.

And thank you for taking this this really day of tragedy and turning it into something very powerful and and positive around service and kindness.

Thank you.

Howard: I have a question.

People call us looking for service projects.

And so you're saying that they can just go to your website and there are relatively local projects listed there?

>> Right.

And they can search by their zip code.

Howard: Okay.

>> And find the things that are most.

And then we have certain pages, like we have one dedicated specifically for 9/11 day of service.

Howard: Okay.

>> Where they can find things related to that, but it's completely free gift to the community.

It's locally run by.

We're all volunteers who make connections with nonprofits, and it's just kind of a centralized place where you can see the needs.

Howard: Fabulous.

Shea: Yeah, that's great.

>> We also have social media accounts where we follow hundreds of local nonprofits and repost those, so.

Howard: Okay.

>> Again, just a centralized place where you can see a wide variety of volunteer needs.

Howard: Thank you.

>> Mm-hmm.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh.

>> Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

So we'll recess now.

>> Judge.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Oh.

>> You need to vote.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, we do need to vote.

Thank you.

All right.

We have a motion and a second.

And any discussion?

I have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously.

Shea: Thank you all.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you.

[Laughter]

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, thank you.

[Laughter]

Judge Andy Brown: All right, so we'll recess now for a couple minutes.

[Music]

[Music]

[Music]

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

We are back and we'll take up item 5B.

Consider and take appropriate action regarding the following.

County response to natural disaster or other emergencies, including but not limited to, necessary measures and actions related to the July 2025 severe weather and flooding disaster, including Travis County's response, operations policies, emergency assistance agreements, and measures necessary to preserve public health and safety, and rehabilitation of property and applicable orders, declarations or resolutions and authorization for expenditure of funds and contracts related to disaster response and recovery efforts.

>> Good morning, Judge, Commissioners.

I'm Chuck Brotherton, County Executive for emergency services here once again with my esteemed colleagues to provide you all a briefing on our flood recovery efforts.

And I'm going to look down the table and start with TNR.

[Laughter]

>> Will do.

So a quick just a quick update.

We'll start with Cow Creek.

With respect to Cow Creek, there's multiple things little projects we have going on.

One of them is the Cow Creek Paving Project.

That project, we currently have selected a contractor to go and repave portions of Cow Creek.

That contract is currently in its final stages of being wrapped up, so that that progress will begin soon.

In addition, we do have some signage that will be reinstalling out along Cow Creek, and that's hopefully we'll have that wrapped up by or begin the end of this week or first part of next week.

In addition to that, we have the study of the low water crossing that is washed out along Cow Creek.

That study has we we do have a draft of that that shows two different options.

We have selected one.

We are currently working finalizing estimates as far as the design contract for that option.

In addition, we'll be out there on site with FEMA next week conducting site inspections.

With respect to Big Sandy Bridge repairs, the contractor has made some really good progress over the past week.

I believe today marks seven days out there.

We are currently will be updating our work schedule end of this week based upon some materials that we're anticipating arriving at the site later this week as well.

So we'll have a better update on on the completion of that repair.

In addition, we'll be probably transitioning into some more daytime operations pending the the receivable.

Receiving those materials, if you will.

In addition, FEMA did meet I did meet with FEMA on site last week, and we completed the damage site inspection on that as well.

In addition to that, the part of the contingency plan, we had a temporary bridge installed on Friday to provide access in the event that the low water crossing does get overtopped during the repairs of the bridge.

Lastly, we have bundled a couple projects into one to make one big project, the Juniper Trail crossing. River Fern Court crossing, and Rock Cliff crossing.

Those are bundled into one project we are currently.

We have received an engineering proposal for those from an assessment standpoint to provide options for repairs.

Will be working through processing that agreement.

Next steps after that would be the selection of options and the design contract, and then the repairs of that.

In addition to that, we'll be meeting with FEMA on site on on that one as well.

We have I'm sorry, on Juniper Trail, they have conducted their site inspection on that as well.

So a lot of things going on in that area.

But that's that's kind of where we're at today.

Shea: Judge?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

Shea: Is it possible to with these updates include sort of a running tally of our estimated costs?

I don't think people really realize how incredibly expensive these destructive storms are.

And we're in the unfortunate situation of only being able to pay for government services through property taxes when the real culprits are the companies that are driving climate change, and they're seeking immunity so that they can't be held accountable, which is profoundly unfair.

But I think it's important for people to understand the costs associated with it.

And I'd like this to be part of our updates.

>> We can do that.

Shea: To the extent that we can get that estimated cost info.

>> Absolutely.

Shea: Thank you.

>> And, Rob, if you wouldn't mind introducing yourself for the clerk's records.

>> All right.

Robert Valenzuela, TNR Public Works.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

>> Go ahead, Emily.

>> Good morning, Emily Acland, natural resources and environmental quality, managing the debris removal efforts for this event.

I am very happy personally to announce that Travis County, operationally is done with debris removal for the Sandy Creek area and basically what that means, you know, two weeks ago we stopped debris removal operations and yesterday we were done with the haul outs from our temporary debris management sites.

So all of the debris that Travis County has been responsible for removing is now at the landfill or at various recycling facilities.

We are done and, Commissioner Shea, we we spent about \$8 million on debris removal.

So now TDEM, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, has taken over debris management for Sandy Creek and the Cow Creek areas.

And as of 9/7, they have removed 15,300yd<sup>3</sup> and have serviced 16 individual properties.

We've got 120 right of entry forms total, and for Cow Creek and for the vehicle removal efforts, we're still working on locating a temporary debris management sites for both of those.

I think we're pretty far along with the Cow Creek location, but the vehicle removal part of it is what we're stuck on right now.

Shea: And is it the state that will be responsible for the vehicle removal and the boat removal?

>> Correct.

Shea: Okay.

>> Yep.

Shea: We're just trying to find a place to put the crushed vehicles.

>> Exactly.

Shea: And store them.

>> Over 100 of them, so it's taken a minute to figure out where to put those.

That's the end of my report.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

Shea: Thank you.

>> Good morning.

Pilar Sanchez, County executive, Health and Human Services.

We are health and Human Services staff are still at the DAC on site at Round Mountain.

And we are still holding drop in hours.

We have two full time case workers that have been hired specifically for this response.

And they they work throughout the day at Round Mountain or near the site.

But they also have open office hours for drop ins.

And those are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6.

And on Saturdays 10 to 2.

After being out there for quite some time now, those are the most popular hours.

And so those are the times that we're open for drop in.

The staff is focusing on promoting access to benefits and completing applications like FEMA and CARES.

We're assisting them with other needs that they present and supporting them through navigation of other services.

It's also, we're happy to report that our partner, Integral Care, has applied for a grant specifically for this response to hire two positions to serve Travis County impacted individuals.

And so we've got our fingers crossed, and hopefully they'll receive that grant as well.

We continue to work with the community.

The Texas Department of Emergency Management and with nonprofit and volunteer organizations to work on long term recovery.

Our staff have joined a couple of committees with the long Term Recovery Alliance, and they're not voting members, but they're to.

They're there to assist, provide information and help them and help that committee in any way.

And so our our staff, especially Jimmy, Jamie Bilal is working with the Case Management Committee to see how we can split up some of the case management and community members can work on some cases, and our staff can work on others just to spread the load, because there is a large number of families that do need assistance.

And that's my report.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

Shea: And are we getting many people showing up still in the drop in time frames?

>> I don't know that it's a lot of people, but we do have a consistent trickle.

Shea: And I understand that the deadline for applying for FEMA has been extended to September 28<sup>th</sup>?

>> That's correct.

Shea: Are we seeing many more people participating in that?

I know it's difficult because so many people can't afford the mandatory flood insurance that's required for the FEMA, FEMA programs, but are people at least.

>> They're.

Shea: Further exploring what they can do?

>> Well, there are various ways that they can apply.

They can call in directly, apply online or come in, and we can assist them with the application.

So I don't know how many have continued to apply.

That would be.

We would have to request the information from FEMA.

Shea: Got it.

Thank you.

>> The last time we met with FEMA, there was over a thousand applications from Travis County.

Shea: Oh, that's great.

>> Mm-hmm.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you, Pilar.

Hey, Sean.

>> Good morning.

Shea: Morning.

>> Judge. Commissioners, Sean Snyder, Travis county floodplain manager, TNR.

Similar to what Pilar said, we see a somewhat a consistent slow trickle when it comes to folks coming in and talking to us about permits and recovering what they want to do on their property.

Since last Tuesday, we've had four people come and talk to us about getting permits and what that would look like, and we currently have, if I'm not mistaken, three projects in the system that we're looking at that hopefully we'll be issuing here very soon.

It's just a very slow trickle, and my hope is, is that folks are still working on determining where all of their aid is coming from, what they have after they have all those avenues coming to them, and then what that means for them.

We do hear things in the neighborhood about people repairing have not gotten permits.

I just can only stress how important it is that they do get permits.

It's it's one of those domino type effects, type of things that if they don't, how that could end up turning into a larger issue, even for the county.

Because if we don't apply our program, we are at risk of coming under scrutiny from FEMA.

And that's not what we want to happen.

But more importantly, we do want folks to be able to come back safer.

And if they're not talking to us, then we can't help them with that.

So that's all I have today.

Shea: So just to underscore the seriousness of of this potential examination by FEMA, if people rebuild and they don't comply with the requirements to either elevate or other aspects, that could threaten the loss of the entire National Flood Insurance program for all of Travis County, is that correct?

>> Yes, ma'am.

Shea: So everyone who has flood insurance through that program now, which is really the only vehicle for flood insurance, could potentially lose it.

>> Yeah, and they would also be limited to no disaster relief if there was a presidential disaster declaration, meaning like the federal funds that we have coming in would be extremely diminished if we would even be offered anything.

And so it's it's kind of a big deal.

And on top of that, if folks aren't getting the permits, we have to apply our program.

I don't like talking about these things because it sounds very indelicate given the situation.

However it is it.

It's a realism, right?

If people don't get permits, then we will end up having to issue notices of violation and we can't.

We we have to follow through with that.

And typically with FEMA, once a community has a disaster, they do start looking to determine whether or not they're going to come in and do a community assessment visit, which we had a couple of years ago, to see how we're doing with applying our program.

And so once we get that other layer of scrutiny, then it really kind of ties our hands as to how quickly we have to work on certain things.

And so that's like I said, the biggest thing is I want people to come back safer, you know, and to be able to do that, they need the information.

But in a longer domino effect type of situation, it could have far, far greater implications for the county.

Shea: Yeah.

I mean, it's you're right.

It's it's a very difficult regulatory requirement.

But it would affect everyone.

>> Yeah.

And it's independent of flood.

Like if people had flood insurance or don't have flood insurance, if we don't apply our program, then that that is going to bring us under scrutiny with FEMA and in not flattering light.

Shea: Thank you.

Howard: Judge, I have some questions for the subject matter experts.

Do you want me to go now or do you want me to wait?

Judge Andy Brown: I think we have two more reports, maybe, and then we can go.

Howard: Okay.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Oh, okay.

>> May I add something?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

[Laughter]

>> Sorry, I just want.

I forgot to mention that the county clerk's office has been amazing.

They put a call center together, and they've been working with HHS, calling the people that were impacted, especially when we had the mark.

They made many, many, many calls for us.

And it and it worked really well.

We got a great response and.

Shea: And they called out, telling people to come?

Is that what they did?

>> Yes, mm-hmm.

Shea: Thank you.

>> And we're working on with them now to try and gather more information from by making calls to try and determine where people are in the recovery process.

So I just want to give a shout out to the county clerk's office.

Shea: That's great.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

Shea: Thank you.

>> Judge, Commissioners, Hector Nieto, Director of Public Information Office.

My office continues to promote all of the good work that my colleagues have been doing.

Things like the call center and other items that will be coming up over the next several days.

This also includes a moving of deadlines and also making certain that everyone has information at their fingertips.

Additionally, we have partnered with the Travis Central Appraisal District.

They contacted my office to let us know that they were going to be going to the community, going door to door to help on those filing for exemptions on their properties.

That will happen this week.

We have started.

We have we will be notifying the community with a warm Central Texas message, letting them know that people will be going door to door.

They'll be offering.

They'll be staging over at the Round Mountain Baptist Church, and then being going directly into the community to help people with their exemptions for their property.

Additionally, we have worked also with Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Travillion to do an op ed with the statesman.

With regards to the effects of this flooding and how it's directly going to cost us and how we expect for that to be paid for.

That op ed just ran this this morning online and should print tomorrow.

We'll continue promoting information over the next several days and as if there's any any needs that you all see, please feel free to reach out to myself or my office and we'll help you all out.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

Shea: Thank you.

>> Just to re-emphasize, the FEMA Individual Assistance deadline was extended to the end of the month, September 28th.

FEMA remains on site at the at the DAC so folks can go in person if they need handheld hand-holding in applying.

We really encourage them to do that.

Or they can go online.

Pilar's team is there.

They will be able to provide some level of assistance.

So that's that's all the good news.

The Office of Emergency Management continues to provide support to all the agencies at this point.

They're deep into the vertical or the work that they do.

And and that's ongoing.

I don't want to overlook the the folks who are not at the table, but but have also been providing assistance.

Our facilities folks with security are out there every day.

We keep a team out there every day.

And the parks folks have been fantastic with TNR, so they're not here.

But shout out to them as well.

With that, I'll close and take any questions.

Oh, and I'm Eric Carter.

I'm the emergency manager, chief emergency management coordinator.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

Commissioner Howard?

Howard: Thank you.

Good morning and thank you again for all your leadership in this recovery effort.

Rob, you mentioned paving part of Cow Creek Road.

Why not the whole road?

>> So the portions that we are repaving are the portions that were damaged as part of the flooding event.

Howard: Okay.

>> There's a significant amount of Cow Creek Road that is not that was not damaged by the flooding event.

So we're primarily focusing on those areas that were damaged or missing now.

Howard: Okay.

What I've noticed when we do part roads, we get a lot of calls.

And it it seems.

Very patchy.

So I'm hoping under your leadership it'll be smooth.

Emily.

I'm glad that things are wrapping up in some regard.

We still have the need for the pickup of debris in the waterways, and I just want to say it out loud that I appreciate the effort you've been doing to help us make the connection between TDEM and the LCRA, and try to close that gap of jurisdiction.

But it's not finished yet, is what I'm hearing from residents.

And so there are still sinking docks and debris, and that's entering into the navigable water of Lake Travis of the Colorado River.

And so if TDEM or LCRA are listening, we still are appealing to them to work this out.

And assign each other, figure out who's going to pick up that debris, that we don't have jurisdiction to do.

>> Yep.

You're absolutely correct.

And I know that those conversations are ongoing between TDEM and LCRA.

And I will continue to voice the urgency and the and the voice of the people that are living there.

I agree that the the materials that are washing up on the shore are hazardous.

And hoping, hoping that TDEM and LCRA can work something out.

Howard: Thank you.

Sean, do we we've talked about maybe hosting a meeting about development and the idea of this call center.

I wonder if we could braid concepts here and figure out how to target families that need to redevelop and invite them to dinner or something, and really focus on.

I think sometimes in a group conversation, we we could make progress with trust and understanding.

What do you think?

>> It is something that we have talked about.

Howard: Mm-hmm.

>> We have talked about potentially having something set up at Round Mountain Baptist Church to have the folks come in as a whole, and for us to talk to them.

We're still we're still looking at we're still trying to, you know, I need to go out and talk to the the pastor, to be honest with you and see about their capabilities and what that looks like.

And I'm committed to it, I want it, I want to be able to help these folks out and for them to understand I there's some strange disconnect that's happening.

You know, we had folks we talked to just the other day and explained the process to them.

And what they were then giving back to us was something that was kind of in a completely different direction.

So it's something yes, we're we're going to do it.

Howard: Do we have any better clarity of which homes are damaged to the point of needing to rebuild?

>> So.

The Tuesday after the event, my group went out and did damage assessments on all the properties.

We walked all the properties and we have information as far as what we would consider a level of damage on, on the structures.

That does not mean that folks will not try to rebuild that structure and that is their prerogative.

Howard: Sure.

>> However, there is part of the program is is that there has to be a cost associated with that, whether it was volunteer hours or not, that there still has to be a cost associated with that, along with materials, and we have to compare it to the value of the structure.

I don't know if there is an idea that folks are like, well, if I can repair it, then I can have it back to where it was prior to the damage, which in some cases they might.

In other cases they would not be able to.

And in the cases where they might, we would want to have a proactive conversation about maybe voluntarily coming up higher if possible.

So we we have our information as far as the damage that was done in the neighborhood, which we do look at when we're talking to people and we look at when we do have someone who submits for a permit.

And there's the process is set up across the board that when people come in and apply for a permit, they should be providing us a line item cost estimate of the repairs, irregardless of what they do, be it, all we had to do was throw some new drywall up and paint it.

There's still we still have to do that because that's part of our obligation as being a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program.

It's we just aren't getting the folks in the chute for the process, you know?

And I know there's a lot of people out there who they take care of themselves.

They do what they can do.

And I and I understand that.

But we still have to go through this process.

Howard: Okay.

I think we should follow up offline about some how we might invite folks to something.

Maybe it's not at the church, maybe it's different.

Maybe they'll come, I don't know, but I think we should try.

>> I agree.

Howard: I think those were all my questions.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Do you have any other questions?

Shea: No, I asked mine during the.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay, great.

Thanks, y'all.

>> Thank you all.

>> Thank you, Judge, Commissioners.

Shea: I had one.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Up next we have item 12 D consider and take appropriate action on budget amendments, transfers and discussion items including but not limited to the following listed items and any other necessary budget amendments and transfers attached to the Commissioner's Court.

Backup for the agenda item.

Part D requests from the Human Resources Management Department to transfer

\$13,666,906 from the Employee Health Benefit funds allocated reserve to pay for expected remaining fiscal year 2025 health plan expenditures, of which an estimated \$3,198,577 will be reimbursed from stop loss coverage and pharmacy rebates.

>> Good morning, Judge.

Judge Andy Brown: Good morning.

>> Commissioners, Travis Gatlin with the Planning and Budget Office.

To my right is Latif Zaki.

He is our planning and budget analyst assigned to HR.

And I've got members of HR and tech ops here.

I'll let them introduce themselves.

We're here because the the health fund does require a rather large transfer at the end of the year to close out the year to make sure that we've got all the all the expenses that are encumbered as a part of that.

We are as you as the item sub item notes, we're going to get some of that back, about 3.2 million of the 13.6, but it's a large increase.

We came to court earlier and we talked about a 2% rate increase for next year.

And since that time, there's been a lot of increased expenditures.

And HR will lay that out to you.

But I think this what this means is likely that the rates for next year will not be sufficient.

We'll have to come back next year to use further use reserves.

And it's likely that the 2027 rates will need to factor in these increases.

We've been really fortunate over the past ten years.

This year we had 2%.

The previous year was 4.124, 2.20, 2.10, again 4.9 and 4.0.

That is far better than our peers.

And it may be that some things are catching up to us, but with that, I'll turn it over to HR so they can walk you through the shortfall, talk more about it, and and also talk about some mechanisms on how we can all work together to better communicate to the court on a timely basis what expenditures are looking like so there's no surprises at the end.

And with that, I don't know who's going to be talking first.

>> Hello, Eric Stockton, chief Deputy technology and Operations.

I will turn it over quickly to Shannon and and team for to give you an update on the details behind the spike or increase in claims, just want to let you know that we have missed the first two quarterly reports this year on this fund.

And we've we're now back on track with that.

We've taken, you know, we've addressed that.

Also in the last few years in terms of reporting, we've been submitting three out of four of the of the reports have been done on consent in writing.

We're now pivoting back to regular layout or discussion type reports each quarter.

HRD is going to lay out some of the information or details behind the increase in the claims.

And then we are also working to see how we can enhance our monitoring and forecasting.

You'll also hear from them.

There are some challenges with that because of the nature of the fund.

It's it's difficult to forecast in a linear fashion because of, excuse me, the nature of claims.

You know, they can spike, you can have one catastrophic claim in a week or a month that can increase the cost.

There's also a lag on the data and reporting.

So we're going to be looking to find ways to really enhance our forecasting ability and our monitoring so that we can get ahead of this.

And hopefully it will not be an ongoing trend.

As you know, a gap of this large, it is unusual.

We've always maintained healthy reserves, and we're committed to protecting and keeping those healthy reserves and keeping the the fund healthy.

So with that, I'm going to turn it over to June and Shannon.

>> Okay.

At this point, commissioners doctor June, I'm going to turn it over to Shannon to provide you the update.

And then we'll come back and just talk to you about the strategies that we're going to be using moving forward.

Howard: Thank you.

>> Good morning, Shannon Steele, Benefits manager.

And David, do you want to introduce yourself?

>> Yes, I'm David, the finance and admin manager for HRMD.

>> Okay.

So first of all just to give a quick summary.

So the the higher cost for this year have been a combination of several factors.

It's not just large claims, it's also the medical and pharmacy expenses have significantly been higher than normal.

There's been an increase in the volume of claims both medical and prescription, as well as increase in the average cost per claim.

There's also been an increase in the large or catastrophic claims that are defined as \$100,000 per claim, and as well as increase in the stop-loss claims, which are our very large claims that are over 400,000 per person.

We have stop loss coverage, insurance coverage that reimburses the county, the amount over the 400,000, and we will be getting some additional money back from the carrier on those claims.

We, the estimate that Travis mentioned has increased as of 8/31.

It's now one point 15,000 or million, 1.015 million.

Sorry, that will be reimbursed.

But as claims are paid this month, in September, those people that are already over 400,000, anything that they have will get reimbursed as well.

So at the end of September, I'll be able to give a better estimate of what we will be getting back for reimbursed on those claims.

So just to give a little more detail, comparing FY 24 to 25, the average number of medical claims has gone up 12%, with the average cost per individual medical claim up 8%.

Per prescriptions, the number of claims is up 4% and the average cost per claim is up 10%.

These percentages are more than the trend amounts that we had anticipated or projected.

For large claims, there's been number of claimants that are over 200,000, which is half of our specific deductible, our stop loss coverage.

So over the last five years we've averaged 26.5 people that have been over 200,000.

And this year we currently have 37.

And then the same with the number that have gone over 400,000, which is included in those numbers.

It's was six last year and nine this year.

So it's just a combination of everything has increased our total health plan budget.

And just real quickly, these are some slides from UnitedHealthCare and Optimax on our medical and pharmacy trend.

Just highlighting on this the the medical paid per member per month.

The.

P m and that's every belly button on the plan has gone up 18% since last year, with the catastrophic cases going up or currently at 31.9% of the total claims, which is up 4.8 points.

Next slide.

All the claims, 50% of the claims have medical claims have been the top five diagnosis groups.

Go next slide, David.

Factors influencing healthcare is a new term that the medical Coding Association has created.

They carved out cancer treatments like chemo and radiation and combine them with other medical exams and evaluations.

So there's still a neoplasm category.

But the treatments are in this first category.

And then musculoskeletal would be your back surgeries, osteoarthritis and the mental disorders has increased, circulatory system.

And then injury and poisoning and injury and poisoning can be everything from a fractured lower limb and sprains and strains.

The next.

Catastrophic cases are 31.9% of the total paid.

And these are the claims that are at the 100,000 that I mentioned.

So 80 individuals have made up 31.9% of the total paid claims.

Next, on prescriptions, the prescriptions have have a 13% increase for this year.

45% of those have been specialty medications, which will be a lot of the chemotherapy drugs, diabetes.

Well, no, the the those shots are not especially those are traditional Humira, the rheumatoid arthritis drugs and the other just inflammatory disease medications, which are on the.

Oh, so the next one is this also shows that the prescriptions, the total prescriptions, the total plan paid and the number of utilizers have all increased significantly.

Total prescriptions are up 9.2% from this time period.

The previous compared to the previous year.

The total plan paid is 18%, up from compared to last year, and the number of Utilizers are up 6.9.

So not only did our eligibility increase with the new hires, but the number of people using the plan has increased.

And then last, the top five diagnosis disease states for prescription claims are are similar to the medical, with inflammatory conditions being the number one.

And that would be your anti-inflammatory like rheumatoid arthritis medications that are also now indicated for other diseases like IBS and Crohn's and those kind of things.

Then diabetes.

But you will note, diabetes was not on our medical top.

Having the medications be higher is actually good because that means hopefully that people are more compliant with our diabetes health plan.

We have been seeing great influence on that.

People are getting their medications and taking them, which helps them be in compliance with their diabetes.

Oncology continues to be high, as well as the HIV drugs are expensive, sleep disorder.

Sleep disorder is just a few people, but those prescriptions are very expensive.

So all these top five are the most expensive prescriptions in in we have utilization in that.

So just a quick summary.

And this.

UHC and Optum RX data, I forgot to mention, is through June 30th.

So it is Q3 data.

We will follow up at the end of the planning year when we have the new data for the whole year and summarize that.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Thanks.

Any?

>> Any questions?

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> Okay.

All right.

>> So as as Travis and also Eric mentioned that we do need to sort of just take a look in terms of how we how we track and monitor this, this fund.

So there are some things that we, we plan on doing internally.

One of course, one of the things we want to do is make sure that we're able to create a dashboard so we can really look year over year to really see what is actually taking place.

We will be having more ongoing discussions with PBO to make sure that they are also abreast of any changes or trends in in the the fund.

Really, one of the things that the staff communicated is again, it's very sometimes challenging to really know when these claims or what types of claims or the number of claims, but there is a mechanism, I believe, that we can work, collaborate with PBO to actually what tools can we use to better assess where we're headed and to project so they can do a better projection in terms of the budget.

So we've already started including some of those things, even as of yesterday, making sure that Shannon attends the weekly PBO meetings and if there's any trends she's able to provide that update at that time.

We will, of course, engage.

We have a monthly meeting with PBO, and we'll make sure I'll make sure that we highlight that.

And what we will do is we are going to be meeting with UHC and the actuary to really get a better understanding of how we need to look at the projections.

What should we have in the reserves?

How can we get better data?

The timing of the data to help us track.

So we do have some mechanisms in place.

What we will do is we had planned on providing the court an update on the final report on July 20th.

Did I say July?

September 23rd.

However, that's a consent date.

So we will actually provide you the update on September 30th and we'll give you more information at that time.

And also the things that we're going to put in place to mitigate this issue.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> I would just say so just to kind of recap it.

So our our rates for this year, which we did factor in a 4% increase, weren't sufficient to cover the claims.

We have a 2% rate increase for next year.

Obviously if we're short this year, what you weren't seeing is what the 2026 expenses may be like with inflation and all those other kind of trends.

So I think we need to be prepared when we go into the 2027 budget process to likely have bigger rates.

Now, we've been very fortunate for a very long time of having lower, lower rates.

We also haven't had to make plan design changes in a very long time.

So I think given all the constraints of the revenue caps, all the desire to free up money for compensation, all the programmatic needs out there, we need to we'll have to look at that as well.

We have to put everything on the table, depending on how big this increase could be.

But just I think at least looking at this, it could be double digits.

So we will, we will, we will have to get those numbers and talk about that with you and see how the best to proceed with that.

Howard: Judge, can I ask a question?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

Howard: So are we under budgeted for 2026?

Do we need to address that?

>> Well I think, so so you've already approved the rates.

And so I would say that we are the rates of the 2% increase likely would not cover the expenses.

But we do have a reserve.

We're going to use eat into some of it now, we're likely going to eat into some of it again.

We have a we've been mindful of having a healthy reserve so that we can be a little bit more aggressive on the rate.

So if we have a larger reserve, we can, you know, we can.

Howard: And the rate indicates what the employees pay?

>> Well, it indicates the cost sharing, not only the employees, but also the county and retirees.

And so it's all factored in together.

But I don't if we're short this this much this year, I'm.

Yeah, I'm concerned that the rates the rates won't hold for next year.

But again we're going to pay all the claims and we have a reserve and we're going to do that.

But as the reserve gets spent down.

You know, it could get to the point where we may not feel comfortable with it, depending on what happens this year and next year.

But, you know, this is we're looking at this hearing about this relatively in real time.

And I'm glad that there's going to be lots of discussions going on about what's happening.

And maybe there's some things that we can do to help make make the healthy decisions for people easy and the unhealthy decisions a little bit harder.

And that's kind of what we've done for many years that have helped us have those lower rates better than our peers.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

Shea: I know a lot of drugs are manufactured in India and China.

Do we have any sense for the impact of tariffs on these increased costs?

>> For now, the tariffs won't be applied to prescriptions.

But the most of ours are coming from the Europe.

Eli Lilly in those areas.

Shea: Most of our the medications are coming from Europe.

And those tariffs are applied?

>> They're not applied as of now.

Shea: On prescriptions.

But are is there a proposal for them to be applied on prescription drugs in the future?

>> That changes with the administration changes.

So I do keep an eye on it.

And then our Optum RX notifies us if that's going to be a significant change or not.

But for now.

Shea: There was discussion in a previous administration about attempting to purchase drugs from Canada because they are quite a bit cheaper.

Is that something we can explore at the National Association of Counties Conference?

There were vendors there who specialized in purchasing drugs for counties from Canada.

>> I think.

Commissioner Shea to your question, I think one of the things would be good for us to go back to Optum RX and have that discussion.

There was a brief, brief mention about this at the annual update that they provided us.

And so what Shannon is providing you is accurate, but I think we would need to go back and just find out and and explore what the possibilities are so we can get some information will come back to you.

>> And those are actually separate vendors.

And that that's something that in the past, the Travis County hadn't wanted to explore because of the.

Keeping getting stuff from outside the county.

But that is those are options that could be explored.

Shea: Was that a policy decision we made?

I don't recall that.

>> Not a policy decision, just a appetite for that.

Shea: I think we need to be aggressive about finding the the least expensive but high quality options for providing health care coverage for our employees.

We need to get really creative about it.

>> Yeah.

>> So and actually the PBM contract is going to be out for bid in FY 26 for October 1 '27.

So that will be part of what we would look at.

Shea: And the PBM contract is our.

>> Sorry, the optimal the prescription benefit management.

Contract.

Shea: Okay.

>> But employees and retirees would be getting their medicine though from pharmacy.

So the county doesn't buy the medicine directly.

We have a contract, but you go to Walgreens or CVS.

Shea: We have contracts with these entities that are bundlers, if you will, or providers.

So yeah.

>> But yeah, the international contracts are different.

Shea: I just think we need to pursue whatever options we have.

>> Right.

Judge Andy Brown: Any other questions, Court members?

All right.

Anything else?

Okay.

Thank you.

>> Just need approval of the item.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Shea: Move approval.

Judge Andy Brown: Motion from Commissioner Shea.

Howard: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: Second from Commissioner Howard.

Any discussion?

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

>> Great.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Passes unanimously, we have no callers.

Shea: Thank you all.

And we will be looking forward to regular updates on this in the future.

We need to keep a closer eye on it.

>> Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Item 22 consider and take appropriate action on an update related to HMS courthouse and other large facility projects.

If you all want to.

You're looking at me funny.

What?

Do we.

Let's do that.

Yes.

Sounds great.

All right, so we're going to back off of 22 for now and call up item 15.

Approve exemptions, ratifications and contract awards for opioid abatement and harm reduction.

Investment.

Contracts as follows.

Contract number 440000-8330 with Texas Harm Reduction Alliance, in the amount of \$175,000 contract number 440000-8331 with Vivint Health in the amount of \$175,000 and contract number 440000-8332.

With Youth and Family Alliance, dba LifeWorks in the amount of \$175,000.

Got.

Laura, are you?

Taking us there?

>> Yes, Judge, Commissioners, thank you very much for this opportunity to present on the overview of the new harm reduction contracts.

We're super excited to have our partners here with us today.

Courtney and I are going to go very quickly through our slides and then give opportunities for our community members to introduce themselves and share a little bit about how they'll be able to use the funding to make our community safer and healthier.

And I forgot to introduce myself, Laura Peveto, County Health and Human Services.

All right.

>> Okay.

Courtney Lucas, Travis County Health and Human Services, so quickly, background.

On November 12th of 2024, the court directed HHS to invest \$400,000 of opioid abatement funds into our harm reduction services, and we HHS, under the Public Health crisis declaration, were able to directly negotiate three contracts to fulfill this directive.

We did come back to the court in June to ask to increase this investment to a full \$525,000, and so the three harm reduction contracts before the court today are with LifeWorks, Texas Harm Reduction Alliance, and Vivint Health.

All three of these contracts are following the SAMHSA guidelines for harm reduction best practices as allowable in the state.

And all of our contracted services are community based.

They have an outreach component, and they're all going to be delivered through harm reduction principles.

So the contract term is June 1st, 2025 through September 30th of '26.

And each contract funding amount is \$175,000.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> All right.

I'm going to give you a brief overview of the contract.

And then I'm going to turn it over to LeShawn.

So our first contract is LifeWorks under that harm reduction umbrella.

The services are going to be outreach and drop in harm reduction, recovery support and mental health services.

We're going to have wellness groups and individualized peer supports.

They're going to be focusing on transition age youth.

And they have the performance measures there on the slide for the court's review.

And now I'll turn it over to LeShawn if you'll introduce yourself and present to the court.

>> LeShawn Arbuckle with LifeWorks.

And at LifeWorks, our mission is solving youth homelessness through housing, mental health, education and workforce services.

Our peer support and street outreach teams are collaborating to provide an integrated harm reduction approach for our unhoused transition age youth.

That's youth 16 to 26 years old, and most of whom are homeless or recently housed.

Together, the Peer Support and Street Outreach Team provides three service areas the outreach and drop in wellness groups and activities, and individualized peer support services.

With our Street Outreach team, they conduct our mobile outreach right all across Travis County, and they operate our Youth Resource Center, which is located at our LifeWorks East location.

And it's a drop in center, and it's available Monday through Friday from noon to four.

Everyone noon to four.

Also, our street outreach team engages with youth regarding their wellness and safety.

They distribute educational materials and safety supplies to our youth.

Our peer supports provide community based services in locations across Travis County as well, and it can be in the client's home.

It can be at their school, their library, wherever they will engage.

We're there to serve them.

Peer support also helps host the drop in hours at our Youth Resource Center, again at LifeWorks East location.

Drop in hours noon to four.

They provide wellness groups and activities and provide immediate low barrier mental health services, including, of course, harm reduction and recovery support.

They also provide the individualized services and this is to help a youth explore life decisions, reflect on what is helping or hindering their progress toward their goals, and build skills or success.

They're also there to help support the mobile community outreach led by the Street Outreach team.

So again, it's integrated between the outreach team and peer supports.

We tailor our harm reduction services to address the specific substances, risk and needs of these transition age youth.

Okay.

And how do we know what they need?

They tell us.

We survey them.

We have focus groups.

We have impact specialists, which are former youth that we were serving that have been out of services for two years but have reengaged to help us get our services right.

Our preliminary data shows that so far we've held 14 total groups.

We which have resulted in 46 engagements in 22 Unduplicated clients.

And that's just since June.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

>> Good, LeShawn.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks for your work.

>> Okay.

Next we'll talk about Texas Harm Reduction Alliance.

Their services are through the drop in center for Harm reduction, basic needs and other resources, including navigation and service linkage.

Street outreach team as well.

Reentry services.

They're serving individuals who use drugs and are at high risk of an overdose.

And then the key deliverables are there.

And we have representatives from Texas Harm Reduction.

And if y'all introduce yourselves and then update the court, thank you for being here.

>> Yeah.

Thank you for having us.

My name is Gabby Libretti and I'm the capacity building manager for Texas Harm Reduction Alliance.

And I'm here with my coworker Lillie Hughes, who is our outreach team lead.

We are very grateful to be included in this and really grateful for the direct investment in harm reduction services, especially as our community is still facing really unprecedented overdose numbers.

Even this past weekend, dealing with overdoses downtown, being aware that the work is still needed and we are still here to be doing that work.

We have a wonderful outreach team that goes all throughout Austin to different parts of the city, reaching people, primarily unhoused individuals, but also individuals who were recently housed and individuals who are in unstable housing situations as well, with the common goal of supporting people with substance use disorder who are at the highest risk of overdose, especially people using opioids and stimulants off the street.

We also have our drop in center on the east side, where we provide direct services, again, mostly to people who are unhoused, but to a variety of individuals.

We serve people Mondays through Fridays at our drop in center, and then our reentry team works with folks currently incarcerated in Travis County and with folks as they leave incarceration.

We are really grateful to be able to provide peer support as part of that.

So all of our staff have lived experience with substance use disorder.

Many of our staff have also been impacted by incarceration and homelessness, and are able to lead with their own experience and their own stories in recovery to inspire the folks we work with, which can look like connecting people to robust substance use disorder resources, but also connecting people to whatever they need.

And sometimes that looks like combining our work with Central Health's work to get street medicine at our drop in center, and directly on outreach to address complex medical needs of people who often aren't seen and are afraid to go in and get care.

Sometimes that looks like working with our mental health outreach workers in the county to provide mental health care to people who have been disconnected from care for a long period of time and have untreated diagnoses like schizoaffective or schizophrenic schizophrenia.

And sometimes that looks like domestic violence, care, housing, food stamps or whatever it need be.

We're here to support people with all their needs, and I'll let Lily share more about that.

>> Our outreach team was able to connect with 378 individuals across Travis County last month, in a record heat, and they were persistent and kind and showed up and continued to build these relationships with folks that we often see are underserved and getting pushed further and further out into the woods or further away from other resources.

And I think what Gaby touched on with that peer led and lived experience model, because we look like people who we see, we relate to people with our stories and our own experiences, that instant connection that comes from that, and combining that with the ability to talk about substance use from a harm reduction lens, to try to remove the stigma that every person who uses drug faces when they seek mental health or.

Regular health care, or even try to seek getting into treatment, it can be very difficult and it's such a beautiful thing we've built, and we're so grateful to be a part of this, but also this funding allows our staff to continue to develop community relationships so that we have a wider net and this web to catch people and facilitate them getting the care that they need.

And I can tell you, every single person on our team is so proud and so grateful to be able to do that work.

So thank you for making it happen.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

>> Thank you.

And then finally, but of course, not least is Vivint Health under the harm reduction.

And so Lifepoint is providing low barrier harm reduction based health care services to people who inject drugs and those that are at risk for an overdose.

They have the HCV navigation program, which is going to provide personalized case management, and they are focusing on serving individuals with OUD/SUD are, of course, at risk of the overdose with co-occurring medical conditions.

And I will turn it over to them to provide more detail.

Thank you so much.

>> Good morning.

Thank you so much for having me.

My name is Cassandra mabry.

I'm the director of prevention at Vivent Health.

So I'm here today to tell you guys a little bit more about the program that is being funded by Travis County.

Hopefully.

So just for reference, Vivent Health is a program for people living with HIV.

We currently provide wraparound services, including medical care, case management, food pantry, dental clinic.

All of that is available for folks living with HIV.

But we also have a prevention team.

The prevention team provides free walk in STI testing and treatment, as well as access to pre-exposure prophylaxis or Prep, condoms.

Anything folks would need, and it also contains the LifeWorks program as well, which is a harm reduction program.

The goal of our our work with Travis County is to expand access to testing and treatment for infectious disease that are resulting from identified risks of intravenous opioid use.

And so we are currently trying to outreach to folks who are.

Often unhoused.

We are collaborating closely with actually Texas Harm Reduction Alliance.

We go on site with them multiple days a week and provide STI testing and hepatitis C testing with them.

We're also partnering with the Other One's Foundation and Travis County EMS to provide free STI testing and hepatitis C testing.

And so when we do provide that testing, we are also talking to folks about harm reduction strategies.

So we give information on reducing overdose, infection prevention, wound care, safer sex supplies, including Narcan.

And we give referrals to community partners as well.

And so that's all done under our STI testing program.

Additionally, we're doing our hepatitis C linkage program.

And so this is specifically pinpointed towards folks who are opioid use or currently experiencing opioid use disorder or at risk of opioid use disorder, and are also experiencing hepatitis C.

And so we do have hepatitis C navigators.

And their focus is on getting folks into treatment and retaining them in treatment.

Folks obviously face a lot of barriers, such as being unhoused, experiencing transportation issues, communication issues as well.

And so we work to reduce those barriers to hepatitis C treatment so our navigators can offer them free transportation services.

They can offer linkage to community resources and referrals.

And they also work closely with them just on on things like appointment reminders.

You know, what do I need to do to help you get to your appointment?

Because hepatitis C treatment is rather lengthy, it can be up to 8 to 12 weeks.

They check in with those folks really regularly and to see how they're doing.

And it is a daily medication as well.

And so they're working with them on making sure that they're able to adhere to their medication.

And, you know, even linking them with Sunrise navigation if needed, because they have a medication housing program where folks can house their medication if they're unhoused or just working with them to get them things like daily pill counters.

Right.

So anything that we need to do to ensure that folks are able to complete their hepatitis C treatment successfully.

So all of this is done under this umbrella, and we're very excited to be able to continue to provide this service.

It is a service that is very much needed in the community, and our team already, since we started really directly trying to identify folks living with hepatitis C have identified over 20 people with hepatitis C and have been working to link those folks.

And so this is a super needed service.

And I really appreciate your time.

And thank you so much for for listening.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you.

Shea: Thank you.

>> Thank you all.

So we're excited to welcome these new providers to our Travis County community.

And additionally, the county has contract with a C for our communities, for recovery, for peer support services, as well as to contracts with CMS and APS for methadone.

And so currently operating six contracts to address our opioid crisis in our community, along with our naloxone services that we were passing out naloxone and to the community.

And then our kiosk collecting our sharps.

So that is our current portfolio.

We have several other slides that we've put into this slide deck as backup for the court to review that have to do with our investment strategies going forward, but we're not going to provide that information today unless the court directs us to do so.

We will be coming back in November, where we'll provide a much more in-depth opportunity and recommendations about opportunities the court has for further investment.

And we would then request the court approve these contracts.

And with the ratification date back to June 1st.

Shea: I'm happy to make the motion, but I do have a question.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Motion from Commissioner Shea.

Howard: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: Second from Commissioner Howard.

Go ahead.

Shea: The I think it's important for the public to understand the funding for these programs comes from the litigation that was brought against the opioid manufacturers for knowingly lying about the harm of their products.

And that's and it's a result of that litigation being successful, that these funds are made available to try.

And, you know, put people back together who are struggling to recover from opioid addiction from these drugs that many thought were safer or or safe.

So I think that's a really important context for everyone to understand, because that's a key tool for counties to be able to use is to go to court to recover damages so that the public doesn't have to pay for everything.

When companies made enormous profits, knowing that they were peddling incredibly dangerous drugs, do we have any updates on the overall effectiveness of these programs?

Are we seeing a declining trend line on overdoses and deaths?

And if you can just quickly speak to that, I think that would be helpful.

>> Sure.

So these three organizations have been working in our community for many, many years.

And so they have been doing this work without direct county support for a period of time.

So they may be able to provide their own perspective on that.

I think what we will say is we are making progress, but the work is absolutely not done.

There is still a lot of work to do, and we make incremental progress in this area.

So it is a combination of making sure we have enough resources available to reach the people, educate them, provide them with the supplies and supports they need, and then to help them navigate back to whatever path they have or choose to do for recovery and making sure that those paths are open, accessible, waitlists are reduced.

And so it's a a large continuum of services that need to be resourced over time.

And I think this is a wonderful start in that area.

But it is just a start.

And if we are to continually bring down overdose deaths in our community, we're going to have to continue to commit resources.

And as you said, an uplifted the opioid abatement dollars gives us that opportunity to do so in a way that we would not be able to under our regular limited funds through the tax dollars.

So I think I would say we're making progress, but we still have a lot to do.

And would you want to add to that?

>> Yeah, and I have so one of the things that we have done at THRA since we started is track overdose reversals using the naloxone we distribute.

And so the last year look-back period I have, we have 379 reversals from naloxone that Texas Harm Reduction Alliance distributed in Travis County.

Shea: And is it fair to understand that many of those might have resulted in death had the had the overdose not been reversed?

>> Yes.

Yes.

Shea: So 379 this last year?

>> Yes.

Shea: Thank you.

>> Which is a huge, huge accomplishment.

Shea: It's great news, yeah.

>> And I think that it's hard to track that.

So a lot of kudos to THRA for being able to track that and the overdoses.

Additionally, we're not doing this work alone.

We're doing it in collaboration with Austin Public Health and Central Health, who also have received opioid abatement settlement funds and are using those to invest in our community.

So through the three organizations, we're providing support to these amazing organizations that are actually serving the people in our community.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

And, Lily Hughes, are you here?

We have one.

Oh, that was you.

Okay, so you're done with the comments?

All right.

Thank you, Lily.

Right on.

Well, we have a motion and a second.

Any further discussion, court members?

Anything else?

Laura?

>> No, sir.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

We have no more callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

Passes unanimously, and then I think we wanted to try to.

I see some other.

Are y'all here for this as well, in the back?

Shea: It's a proclamation.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Oh, okay.

Shea: Proclamation on National Recovery Month.

Judge Andy Brown: All right, let's do that then.

Where is that one?

Commissioner, you want to read this one?

Shea: Sure, I can.

Judge Andy Brown: So I'll call up so that that passes unanimously.

And then we'll go to item two.

Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation recognizing September as National Recovery Month in Travis County.

And we'll have Commissioner Shea read.

Shea: And do we want to invite people who are here for this item to come and sit in the front?

I'm going to start reading as you all are coming down, but you're all welcome to come and participate.

Since 1989, America has celebrated National Recovery Month to support evidence based treatments and recovery practices, the resilient individuals living a life of recovery and the service providers, family, friends and communities who make recovery possible.

And Whereas recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life and strive to reach their full potential.

And Whereas peers, family and community support are vital to effective mental health and substance use services, and recovery built on hope, strengths, culture and resilience is a holistic process with many pathways to success.

And whereas in 2024, 48.4 million Americans aged 12 and older met criteria for a substance use disorder, yet only 1 in 5 receive treatment.

And whereas Austin Public Health reported in 2024, 1102 opioid overdose overdoses, and Whereas the medical examiner's office reported 380 accidental drug induced deaths in Travis County in 2024.

And Whereas, through the ongoing efforts of community organizations, Austin Public Health, Travis County and Central Health providing naloxone, raising public awareness, expanding recovery services, and promoting harm reduction principles in our community has seen encouraging declines in overdose deaths.

And I'll just note again, we did hear that 379 overdoses were reversed last year with the use of naloxone.

And whereas in 2024, parental substance use was a factor in 69% of child protective Services lawsuits filed in Travis County.

And Whereas over 451 individuals in the Travis County Jail can participate in recovery programs designed to support their journeys to wellness, including 12 step groups, withdrawal management, medication assisted treatment, case management, skill building and reentry planning.

And Whereas, around 72% of U.S. adults with substance use or mental health challenges report being in recovery, that's 72% of U.S. adults with substance use and mental health challenges.

Travis County Whereas Travis County operates five specialty court programs with dedicated staff and services to improve public and child safety and begin the recovery process for families affected by substance use and mental health issues.

And Whereas, recovery ready workplaces lower costs, reduce risks and boost productivity by fostering a supportive culture that welcomes employees in recovery, celebrates their journey and promotes education on substance use, mental health, resilience and recovery.

And Whereas, in fiscal year 2025, Travis County invested \$14.1 million in evidence based mental health and substance use services, including medications, treatment, housing, peer support and harm reduction.

And Whereas, prevention of mental health and substance use disorders works, treatment is effective and recovery is possible.

And whereas Travis County dedicates the month of September each year to promote awareness of substance use and mental health issues, eliminate stigma, and celebrate the resilience and long term recovery of its residents and families.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that we, the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby recognize the month of September 25th as National Recovery Month and I move approval.

[Applause]

Judge Andy Brown: Motion from Commissioner Shea.

Howard: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: Second from Commissioner Howard.

Thanks, you all, for being here.

Judge, did you want to say anything?

>> Of course.

>> Want me to start off?

Well, first, I'm Aurora Martinez Jones.

I'm the 126th District Court judge.

Thank you all.

It's good to see you.

Shea: You as well.

>> Very happy to be here, especially with this proclamation.

My role is designated to oversee all of the child welfare dockets.

I'm also a designated juvenile court judge, so I oversee our dual status youth who are in both systems.

And I'm also very proud to oversee our family Drug treatment court for Parenting and Recovery.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for all the support that you have done to invest in the community for recovery, for helping support our parents who are doing that parenting while they're in recovery, and everything that you have done, even today, hearing about the investments that the county is making.

This is very important because I find myself in a unique role where in my court I see some of the most vulnerable people in our community who are there, not by their choice, dealing with substantial issues with significant and extreme poverty, substance use disorder, mental health needs, and especially for those families, as you heard, majority who do deal with substance use disorder and addiction, 69% of our CPS cases in the process of being in our court, especially through our family treatment court, I'm able to see them coming in before they're able to get all the support that our community has brought to invest in them through that journey of recovery and the amazing transformation when they are there, when they are doing it, when they are their best selves and their best parenting selves.

And it is an amazing thing to experience, if nobody has ever been in that honorable position to see families just transform while in recovery.

I wanted to brag just a little bit about our community as well, because this year we have received a distinction in our family treatment court.

We are a Sesame Street in Communities demonstration site, so we are partnered with Sesame Street Workshop to help talk about parents in recovery and parents who have

suffered from addiction and how their children can understand what's going on and the importance of all the support and guidance in removing the stigma.

So if we get Elmo down here, we will be sure to invite you all for that fun time.

[Laughter]

Shea: Absolutely.

>> But I did want to make sure that I said, thank you so much for bringing the attention, doing this proclamation, and supporting even more as the investments you've already done in our recovery community, because from our peer recovery specialists to bringing in-patient treatment for parents and their children back to the community, I have been proud to serve in Travis County and help the most vulnerable people in our community.

So I wanted to take some time and say thank you.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks, Judge.

Shea: Yeah, thank you for your work.

>> Yeah, we're just going to go down the line.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, okay.

>> Myron?

Go ahead, sir, mm-hmm.

>> Okay.

Good morning, Commissioner and Judges.

I was at rotary when you came and spoke.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, right on.

Good to see you again.

>> I'm a recovering addict.

My name is Myron, and I introduced myself that way for a specific reason.

I've been clean 33 years.

August 23rd was my clean date.

But I also want to say this.

I've been in business for about 26 years now.

I own Clean Investments incorporated, which is a counseling center, so we work with youth.

We work with Travis County Juvenile Court before, drug court, CPS, Texas Department of Corrections, TDCJ, probation, parole, the whole gamut.

We work with the criminal justice system, and out of all those years, what I've I've learned a lot.

One of the things I've learned is this.

I have two minutes to explain 33 years of recovery.

I'm 70 years old.

I got to do all that in two minutes, which is very impossible.

But anyway, what I realized is this, is I spent most of my adulthood recovering from my childhood because as a child, there's things that I missed.

Not blaming my parents or anything like that, but some things people need as they grow up.

And when you don't have those things, you seek them outside of yourself.

You know, a lot, a lot of the drugs we talk about, whether it be prescription, alcohol, they're legal.

But in when they're abused, they become illegal.

So street drugs are all kind of drugs.

When you change the person, you everything around the person changes.

A lot of times we focus on changing everything around the person and hope that changes them.

But when you change the person, everything around them changes.

That's what happened to me.

I went in the military, I'm a veteran.

I went in the military and my drug addiction took off like a rocket because back in the 70s there was a lot, a lot going on in the 70s.

So I left the military with a huge drug problem.

And all the way up until I was 37 years old.

I got clean at 37 and life changed.

So I was in treatment the last time, and the counselor said that I used to complain about treatment because there wasn't really the way things really operate.

And so he said, if you can do it better, start your own program, and I did.

[Laughter]

I left and I started my own program in January 2000.

We got a brick and mortar.

We had a grant through the governor's office when Ann Richards was here.

I was part of the first TTC, which is a therapeutic community, was on Lamar back then.

So I've been around a long time.

I remember when harm reduction first started, what it was, what it's about, you know, but a lot of times people don't understand that when you change, when you change the person, the way people treat you and talk to you will also change.

Respect is earned over time, you know.

And just because a person's been clean does not mean they're in recovery.

It just means they haven't picked up any dope.

My dog is clean.

He ain't never got high, but.

[Laughter]

You know, so recovery is about change.

It's about changing who you are and the way you do things.

You know, I'm grateful to be in this process.

When I introduce myself, and I don't normally do that, but I did it here because I'm an addict but I'm telling you what kind of addict.

I'm a recovering addict.

I have friends all over the country, as far as Sweden.

Every state in the United States.

I got friends that are lawyers.

They're all in recovery.

Judges, police officers.

I mean, the whole gamut.

When a person can find themselves and recover from some things that went on as a child, whether it be abuse, whatever it may be, their full potential comes out.

You know, anybody can, can, can stay clean if you're willing to do what it takes to stay clean, because all the services in the world doesn't matter if you don't change, if the person does not change.

You can give them everything around him or her.

If they don't change on the inside, nothing changes in the world around them, you know, and I I really appreciate this time.

I have two minutes.

I don't know how much.

[Laughter]

I'm I'm a long talker, you know, so.

[Laughter]

I want to thank everybody for being here, and she gave me the little sign like shut up, Myron, so.

[Laughter]

>> Thank you.

Howard: I enjoyed listening.

Shea: Yeah, exactly.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

Chief?

>> Chief Robert Luckritz, Austin-Travis County EMS.

You know, first of all, I just got to say what an honor it is to be able to sit here next to all these wonderful individuals that have dedicated their lives to really pushing harm reduction and making a difference in the community.

It was just a few years ago for Austin-Travis County EMS that we recognized that we really needed to shift our paradigm and how it was that we thought about the exponential growth that we were seeing in our community and the way that we addressed emergencies in this community.

We recognize that we really had to take a focus on social determinants of health, and we had to take a step back and look at prevention and recognize that substance abuse, behavioral health, and homelessness are driving so much of what we see here in Travis County each and every day.

And thank you to the court and thank you to all the individuals who've supported us along the way.

This financial support we've received from this court, from the City of Austin, from Central Health, have allowed us to really move the needle on this, on this effort to grow our programs.

As of this year, we have almost 50 individuals in our community health paramedic program and clinical navigation program dedicated to social determinants of health and trying to move the needle.

And we could not have done that without the support of all of the all of you, all.

But the key for us, and I think the key today is really to take a step back and recognize that, you know, for those of us that are here in uniform, you see us each and every day.

You see us in the community.

We get recognized day in and day out, and we get the support that we need.

But it's the individuals that are standing here behind me and standing here alongside of me that did this long before anybody else in this community was putting an effort on this, and they deserve all of the kudos here today to say thank you for bringing the attention to this.

And thank you for allowing us to be a partner with you so that we can continue to move the needle.

We know harm reduction works.

We've seen a decrease in opiate deaths here in Travis County, and we are committed to continuing to work together.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks, Chief.

Shea: All right, thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: And, hey, to Commissioner Shea's question earlier, I don't want to put you on the spot, but I see you have some other support team.

Do y'all know the number of reversals offhand from last year, more or less?

Or is that a.

That's if that's a more technical question, we can ask it later.

>> Off your head?

>> Not off my head.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Thank you.

>> We'll come back.

Judge Andy Brown: That's all right.

Hi.

>> Hi.

>> I'm Marsha Chaney and I work with Santa Maria.

And we are just coming into Austin, and I want to stop first and thank the commissioners and county judge for your support and early investment into our move here.

I see our friend Aurora Martinez Jones, who came knocking on our door in Houston about three years ago and asked us to find a facility here and open a program like the one we have in Houston.

Shea: So that's how it happened.

[Laughter]

>> And she's pretty hard to say no to.

So for the last three years, Santa Maria has been acquiring a new property out in the Manor area, not far from Austin, and we will be opening a substance use treatment program for women who are pregnant and women who will bring their children with them to treatment.

That is a very unique thing.

It.

Bringing your children with you is important because it's often a barrier for treatment.

And I can just echo what the judge said about the enormous change we see in people.

Santa Maria is a 60-year organization here, brand new to here.

We're making friends everywhere with people who are doing incredible work, and I'm so happy to see that Travis County supports the those people and those organizations and the courts, because that special relationship that people have, and especially court, we've just seen amazing transformations just every day.

I see I am in the development side, so I do the fundraising and I'm just an ally.

I have addiction in my own family.

It's what brought me to this.

But for me, it's the joy and the hope and the excitement of all the people behind me.

Every time you go somewhere, the recovery community shows up for each other.

They celebrate together.

They celebrate out loud.

It's not an anonymous thing anymore, which I'm very excited about.

And so I just appreciate that front row seat and that ability to assist people to make those really important changes you talked about in their lives.

So again, thank you for your early support, and we'll need all of that to continue.

And we're grateful.

Shea: Welcome.

Glad to have you here.

>> And, Judge, we'll just have Michelle close us out.

She has a few words and then she'll just tell you who is here in the background, and then we'll be ready to close out.

Judge Andy Brown: Great.

>> Yes.

Thank you, Commissioners and county judge.

My name is Michelle Kimbrough, and I am the services manager for the Parenting and Recovery Family Drug Treatment Court Program.

I do want to thank you for this proclamation, for all of your support for recovery, not just because of how important it is for the work that we do here at Travis County, all the work that all of these community members do, but also because of the way it touches so many of our lives, both personally through our families, friends, neighbors, other professionals.

I want to recognize the many people who have come here today in order to celebrate with us, not only our Travis County civil courts and Health and Human services, but we also have communities for recovery.

We have the Safe Alliance.

As you saw earlier, we still have LifeWorks, Vivent Health, THRA, Texas Harm Reduction Alliance, Integral Care, the Sobering Center, and EMS from Travis County.

I apologize if I've left anybody out, but I definitely appreciate all the support of the community members that came to declare how important recovery is and how it is possible for everyone.

>> Thank you, Judge.

Thank you, Commissioners.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Thank you all very much.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Did we vote on this?

I can't remember.

Shea: Did we vote on.

No, we haven't voted on it yet.

Judge Andy Brown: We did not vote on this.

All right.

We have a motion and a second.

Any further discussion?

Shea: Judge, I just want to say the the transition from an incarceration model at Travis County to a diversion model is also a really hugely important part of this.

And you all represent this so much of this incredible ecosystem that's been pieced together over time that I think will be crucial to the success of the diversion effort.

And and just such a remarkable undertaking by the county.

So thank you all for everything you're doing.

Judge Andy Brown: Commissioner, any discussion?

All right.

Yeah.

I.

Hi.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you, Judge Brown.

Judge Andy Brown: Wow.

Thank you.

[Laughter]

Shea: You're welcome.

Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: And just to double check, Cassandra mayberry?

Did you you you spoke?

Okay.

And LeShawn Arbuckle, you spoke?

And then Chief Luckritz, you spoke.

All right, so we have no further commenters signed up.

Commissioner Gomez, any any comments?

Nope.

Thank you all very much.

Really appreciate your work and your partnership.

And, Chief, thanks for being here today, Judge, as well.

All right.

So we have a motion and a second.

Any further discussion?

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously.

All right.

And if you all.

Thank you.

[Applause]

Give yourselves a hand.

Yeah.

And we'd love to take a picture.

We'll recess now, media, and then we'll come down there.

We'd love to take a picture with everybody here.

Thanks.

>> Perfect.

Everybody come this way and we're all going to take a picture.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, yeah.

I'll sign.

Got it.

[Music]

Pop.

Pop pop pop pop pop.

Rub.

Rock.

Dead dead dead dead dead.

Bop bop bop rub rub rub rub rub.

Dead dead dead.

Dead.

Dead.

Bop RA bop bop bop bop bop bop.

Dead dead dead dead.

Dead.

Ra ra ra ra ra rub rub.

Dead.

Dead.

Dead.

Dead.

Da da da da.

Da rub bop bop.

Dead dead dead dead.

[Music]

[Music]

>> 15 minutes worth?

[Laughter]

Judge Andy Brown: All right, we are back.

We're going to take up item 22.

Consider and take appropriate action on an update related to HMS courthouse and other large facility projects.

And.

Hoping we can.

Shoehorn this into a.

[Laughter]

Before lunch presentation.

>> Thank goodness for Media.

They're getting there.

Okay.

Thank you.

>> Okay.

Good morning.

>> I'm Gabe Stock.

I'm the director of facilities management department.

So earlier this year we were here to talk about the HMS and next steps forward, the historic courthouse.

And we got direction from the court to look at, to answer a few questions, talk to different people and also just prioritizing of larger projects that we're currently working on and how this this fits in.

So we're back to discuss HMS is one part of it, but we're also going to talk about larger projects that we're also working on and just everyday work that FMD and EDSI are involved with.

So I'll just start by everyone introducing themselves.

>> Kristy Moffitt.

I'm the director Of EDSI and the Planning and Budget Office.

>> Amy McWhirter, I'm the managing director for economic and strategic Planning and Planning and budget.

>> Erin Poffenberger, assistant director of admin and planning and facilities.

>> Paul Hoffman, County Executive, technology and operations.

>> So the agenda we're going to talk about again is HMS Courthouse and project follow up from earlier this year.

Other large projects and timeline and status of what we're currently working on or future upcoming projects, additional ongoing work, and then questions and further guidance.

So the first up, we'll talk about HMS courthouse and the project follow up, and I'll pass it off to Amy.

>> Thank you.

So as Gabe mentioned, we are back to you, so just to summarize what we talked about when we were last before this body in May was we made a presentation about the kind of current state of HMS.

We have several county tenants located in there, and we also reviewed some of the conceptual designs that were prepared for the Texas Historical Commission grant for a restoration of the courthouse, and that project, the THC grant project and those schemes, was about \$124 million project per the consultant.

We recommended foregoing future THC grants because of the grant requirements, timing, and really the limited funding level available compared to or scaled to the projected cost of the restoration.

So next steps moving forward to determine sort of the path for the HMS courthouse would be a feasibility study, design, construction, etc., so following that sort of familiar path.

For fiscal year 2025, there is a \$10 million earmark for project design.

And then in fiscal 2026, the preliminary budget contained a \$2 million earmark.

And just a quick reminder about the HMS courthouse.

It is the site of the historic Sweatt versus Painter case, which is a landmark civil rights decision that was made.

It's also adjacent to or in proximity to several other historic sites, including Wooldridge Square, which was the site of Booker T, Washington and LBJ speeches, and the Austin

History Center building, which was also a previous site of black churches, including First Baptist Church, which was founded by Reverend Jacob Fontaine.

The Commissioners Court had asked staff to meet with the Austin History Center Association, as they had expressed some interest in what happens with HMS.

As the Austin History Center is undergoing their restoration work at the time, and then they have additional work happening at fork, which is also in the general vicinity down here.

And the Commissioners Court at the time indicated interest in opportunities for museum spaces, historic preservation, or housing of archives or other historic documents.

And just to go back to the meeting with the Austin History Center Association, we did meet with them and they expressed support for or an interest in seeing the building be preserved.

And also just sort of support for the Travis County Archives.

As a fellow archive organization, that felt important to them as well.

We also met with some members of Commissioners Court, and we heard some interest in external partnerships around preservation and archives, like, for example, with someone like Austin History Center Association or other groups that have sort of similar activities to us in the area.

And you also asked to learn more about the EDSI FMD workload related to larger facility projects, which brings us to today.

>> Okay, so there's multiple large, multi-phase, multi-year projects currently in the works.

HMS is one potential one.

We have the precinct two potential relocation of that facility that we're we're looking at different options.

Travis County Exposition Center that we've presented on a few times.

So that's kind of in a holding pattern currently.

Then we have the Palm School.

That's a future renovation and site development.

And then the biggest one that's currently underway is diversion center and central intake facility that are really two large projects wrapped into one that's currently in the phase one of design, that there was a presentation update a couple weeks ago.

So those two are the ongoing right now.

>> All right.

[Laughter]

I will move us into talking about other work done by FMD and EDSI.

First, we'll talk about the joint work and then go into detail about the work we do separately.

We're very fortunate to enjoy a collaborative partnership between our two offices, and we're able to share our strengths and expertise on many of the long range planning efforts that are underway.

Here, we've just highlighted some of the things we do jointly.

Juvenile probation and the sheriff's office both have their own facility department and staff, but they will sometimes partner with us on their planning efforts, on fitting their large projects into the overall capital planning for the county, and then for projects involving ground up construction, FMD serves as the project manager for those projects and delivers them to the departments.

As we've shared previously in other presentations, we get numerous requests, I would say weekly, both internal and external requests, inquiring about space, needs and space availability, whether it's changes to an existing space or department has, a request to move somewhere different, or a request for external groups to use county space on a long term or short term or long term basis.

We also engage in the budget process in a few ways.

This can mean receiving and analyzing budget requests from departments with various needs.

Some of those needs are directly facility requests that come straight to us.

Others are requests for more staff that impact space or long range planning.

And we then obviously have our own internal budget requests for maintenance, renovation, etc. so those are all things that we collaborate very closely with EDSI on to ensure that we are in lockstep on our recommendation on the plan.

We also coordinate together on planning, planning efforts and capital improvements for county facilities, and we serve as the point of contact for external entities like the city or the state regarding their work and how that could impact our county buildings and operations.

Those are the main ones that we feel we do together a lot.

Gabe will talk more about the FMD ongoing work.

>> Our current ongoing work space requests and real estate agreements.

We were the main point of contact for any real estate agreements, so we deal with that internally and with the county Attorney's office hand in hand.

So anytime there's an event or anything, we're heavily involved with those to make sure that the county's resources are protected.

We presented a couple of months ago the capital improvement plan and deferred maintenance projects.

So that's going to be a heavy workload.

We were able to get the 15 million for this year that we're going forward and issuing POs on, and then we have more funding coming in FY 26.

So that's a significant workload to manage.

Some of those are managed by maintenance and then others our project managers have to get involved for the larger the larger items that need more oversight.

We currently have multiple large construction and renovation projects.

A few are wrapping up pretty soon.

The new evidence warehouse is finishing up, USB building, public Defender's first floor.

That's the final phase of their build out.

We've worked with them for the last 5 or 6 years on building out the entire USB.

So the first floor is wrapping up.

We're currently working with the county attorney on the on the current project and the Granger Building for the first floor there.

We're renovating the old law library for their use.

We have the Multi-phased West Service Center.

We're currently in the first phase of that design's finishing up, and we're starting the permitting process.

That's a very large project.

The BCP Wilson Park building.

That's a very exciting project, but it's also multi-phase.

So we have the second floor construction.

It's mainly offices for TNR.

Third phase is in design currently.

We've been working with TNR on that.

And then the first phase obviously is the visitor center.

That's that's moving along and going to be in permitting east East Command, fleet building, Estray Barn.

And then we have 10 to 15 other small to medium projects at any, any given time currently and upcoming in October.

And I'll pass it on for EDSI.

>> Thank you.

So EDSI's ongoing work is more long term, looks at planning for facility usage in Travis County, so that includes looking at the county's real estate portfolio portfolio and determining if there is potential for redevelopment for public uses such as affordable housing or other uses.

We also do the Comprehensive facility plan.

And there's and that involves continuous coordination around employee projections.

So we gather data on how departments have grown over time.

We meet with leadership on a regular basis at different county departments to understand if there are any things potentially coming from legislature or anything that they know that might create an outlier in those staffing projections, so that we know that we can plan for that.

And we look at that out on a about a 20 year forecast.

We also look at space needs around things like if you have an increase in a certain county.

Activity, does that increase your storage needs for paper storage and then are there alternatives for decreasing our paper storage and using that space in a more effective way?

We look at service level projections and service delivery, and also catchment service analysis, particularly around community centers.

But we're looking kind of consistently at the demographics of areas, growth in housing, types of housing.

And we kind of project how that can affect the county's need to be able to provide services in certain areas.

And then we do other research as needed, primarily around site analysis and one off basis as properties come up and people approach us about it.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

>> So this slide is intended to be a conceptual visual analysis representation of everything we just told you.

So the vertical lines represent the fiscal years.

So we're every year we're doing budget work.

And then the jagged lines represent the ebb and flow of all the other work that we're doing in our departments.

And just, you know, the higher it is, the more level of effort.

So this is just to help you visualize what we just described.

And then the next slide is a representation of all the projects we talked about earlier HMS, the Palm School diversion, etc., overlaid with our ongoing work.

So it's not meant to have data points, but just to show that we are busily working on all of the other things while we're also doing the long range planning work.

Shea: Does the does the effort to reduce our revenue ability get factored in here?

I mean, we're still at 3.5%, but there was an effort to reduce it to 2.5% or 1%.

>> That would probably cause us to have fewer projects if we had less funding.

And then obviously our analysis around budget, we would look at prioritizing and making that recommendation to the departments based on funding.

>> So what we are asking for today, and we are requesting some guidance regarding regarding prioritization of the HMS courthouse project and next steps, specifically in light of what we've presented about our ongoing collaborative work and individual work.

We're looking sort of for a path forward for HMS or some direction there.

>> Would you all like me to move back to a different slide to look at?

Shea: Yeah.

If you can give us something that contains more of the costs and the options and what's being considered.

[Laughter]

>> We have something like.

>> Yeah, like, I think we we would love to hear your options and ideas.

>> Yeah.

Shea: But it's all driven by what, what things cost.

And I don't have a good sense of the cost of options or even the range of options.

>> The estimate for HMS from the consultant report was about 126 million, for the total project, but that includes soft costs.

The construction was about 10 million, or 100 million of that, and 26 were for design consultants and other expenses that go into a project.

So our earmark, we had an FY 25 that we presented a few months ago was for to get a design consultant on board that was about \$10 million.

We didn't move forward with that because that wasn't the direction the court gave us.

So I think the \$10 million earmark is going to go away in FY 26.

And PBO kept a \$2 million earmark in case the court wanted to do any other analysis to cover that.

So that's that's currently where we're at budget wise.

And that that \$126 million budget that's a ballpark was just to cover kind of the different options that were presented.

And that was mainly driven by the grant potential grant, just what could be in that space.

And again, that was a range of what could be in the building.

But the square footage of the building doesn't really change.

I mean, the the proposal was going to reduce part of the square footage to make it symmetrical again.

So whatever goes in the building, the price per square foot, you know, it's pretty.

It's not going to change too significantly.

So that was the ballpark.

Shea: So we had a \$10 million earmark.

Now we have a \$2 million earmark.

And that's.

I mean the design.

Didn't we estimate the design cost would be 10 million?

So what is the 2 million for?

>> Any analysis that you'd want to do, anything other than hiring a design consultant to actually do the construction documents.

It would be whatever analysis.

It's just a it's just a number, a placeholder.

>> If court wants to use the space differently than it is today, there would probably be a different type of design consultant or other consultant that we would want to get on board.

And that's what the 2 million would hopefully cover.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Howard: So, Judge?

Judge Andy Brown: Commissioner Howard?

Howard: Yes, we've spent some time looking at the proposal and then talking with partners in the community, and I misread the budget.

I thought it was that we had the 10 million from 2025 plus the 2 million.

So we had \$12 million to work with.

So I think the question to us is, what do we.

Do we have an opinion about what should take place at the Sweatt courthouse, should it be a where I've sort of landed is that if the county needs it to if we desire it to stay functioning as a courthouse, which I think we've been told we need the space, and that's how it remains our courthouse.

Then to me, it's it's a preservation and a modernization of the work working space.

And maybe if that can leave room for some historic interpretation education and maybe connectivity, sort of a hub, if you will, to pointing visitors to other county and community historical places, I think that could be very appropriate, given its proximity to the Austin History Center, to the capital.

And so I'd be interested in a consultant that could explore doing both of those.

The preservation and modernization so that it can be functional as well as space for recognition of the history and connecting folks to other historical places.

The judge and I were part of a conversation with the Austin History Center about really attempting to tie the space from the capital West to Wooldridge Square, the Austin History Center, and there's going to be a metro stop.

I don't know what we're going to call them.

A big bus stop, a train stop right in front of Wooldridge Square.

So I think it's it's a way to enliven this side of downtown.

And part of that, I don't know when to announce this, but there's a movement underfoot with the Ann Richards Legacy Project to explore the plaza here at 700 Lavaca as a space to recognize the governor's service to Texas, from being a county commissioner up through being a governor.

Judge Andy Brown: Precinct 3 County Commissioner.

Howard: A Precinct 3 county, and maybe tell that story out here on the Plaza, just another connectivity to the capital.

And it could be perhaps broader, you know, like but it's just a thing to start imagining how this significant history could be told.

And so maybe there's a way to have a consultant that could weave in what the work we've done already, looking at preservation as well as being a partner in these community efforts around history and.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Howard: History.

>> Yeah, the design consultant, the team, they can do whatever we write in the scope.

I mean, it could be, I mean, similar BCP in the visitor center I mentioned earlier, it's an architecture led team, but they have museum curators and different groups that are part of their team.

So anything can be added.

It just we just have to write it into the scope and understand what the what the court would want to include in the scope.

We would just have to go back.

I mean, depending on what the court decides today, we would have to talk to PBO because the \$10 million was an earmark.

Currently, I'm not sure what the anticipation is.

I think that's just a.

Howard: Got about 20 days left in the.

[Laughter]

>> Yeah, I don't know what the anticipation was about next year, so we would have to get with them and see.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

And I think we're missing one person also who I think would have some feelings and thoughts about what to do with that, the historic nature of the courthouse, so we might want to get his impression.

Howard: Right.

I guess we don't want to lose the history piece.

It's too significant.

Shea: Yeah, that's really important.

Howard: And the I see your very busy and dizzying slide here.

We know it takes time, right?

To put the scope together and so, given our big project of the diversion center, perhaps not that you will be free of it, but we will be advancing that project while we then could suck up any brainpower left to advance this project.

Just I know it'll be a year maybe before we would get a scope and someone hired to look at that.

So I would suggest we move on.

We?

The building is in disrepair, some of it, but yet Travis County staff, I see our clerk here.

We have a lot going on in there, security needs and.

So I think the longer we don't tackle it, the more expensive it gets and the more we're asking staff to work in places that are, you know, less than ideal.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

>> Yeah, that's correct.

When we presented the deferred maintenance and the capital improvements, we mentioned that HMS wasn't included in those calculations because those would be taken care of in a future large renovation, just like Palm, and try not to sink money into it if there's going to be a big renovation.

So it would be treated like we did the the old federal courthouse, the probate courts.

I mean, we we demoed all the slab and took out all the plumbing.

And it's a completely new building.

It looks I mean, it still looks historic, but it has all new features.

And that would be the goal with HMS as well.

Judge Andy Brown: Right.

I see we have one commenter here if our clerk wants to come on up.

Shea: And I do think it'll be important for us to understand just the basic costs of that, because I don't have a good sense of what we think that kind of work would.

>> It would be part of what we were talking about, it'd be part of the construction costs.

Sean: I got it.

Just be good to know the cost of that.

>> Oh, sure.

Shea: So that we have some understanding of what the various phases cost.

>> Okay.

>> Hi, Commissioners, Judge.

Judge Andy Brown: Hi.

Shea: Welcome.

Dyana Limon-Mercado, County Clerk here.

I just wanted to note in y'all's consideration about where this falls in the priority list for FMD and they have a lot of important projects on their plate that for a lot of needs.

Wherever that falls in the priority list, that the clerks in our staff that are currently housed at HMS are a priority in the planning process and not an afterthought.

I have about 60 staff that are still in that building.

Shea: Oh, wow.

>> People forget about us.

We were kind of stepchilded and left as like one of the last tenants with the JP and we are the longest tenant in that building since it was originated, and we are still the biggest tenant in that building.

And so my staff, until I came into office, they hadn't had new cubicles in 30 years.

They couldn't even FMD was a great partner, but like, we couldn't even refresh the cubicles because they don't even make those cubicles anymore.

[Laughter]

You know, air quality and water quality have been tested.

They all come out fine.

But I tell you, I have a medically fragile kid with reactive airway and asthma.

She came to work with me one day and she was in the building ten minutes and coughing all over the place.

And I have employees that say the same thing about going in there.

So whatever happens with the building and wherever that falls in the county's priority, I would ask that our office, our staff, our clerks, our frontline employees who are C5, some of the lowest paid on our pay scale currently, are prioritized and not here's the great plan for this building, and we'll figure out what to do with the clerks.

The clerks have to be in proximity to the criminal courts at law.

I've been told there's not room at CJC for them.

I've been told there's not room at the district attorney's office.

There's not room at the county attorney's office.

So everywhere that we currently know of that would put them in proximity to that building, I've been told is not an option, which tells me this is the only option.

So if I see a plan that erases their footprint or puts their footprint at a minimum, that is not going to work for them.

And again, they are the longest serving tenant.

They need physical proximity to that building.

They are some of our most dedicated, lowest paid employees that are critical to making sure that our courts are.

Howard: Dyana, is this building too far from for them?

>> No, it's it works for now.

Judge Andy Brown: No, no.

>> Is 700 Lavaca?

Judge Andy Brown: No, no, this building.

>> Oh.

That's a little bit far for them.

Imagine it's a, you know, 108 degree day and they're having to trek over to court multiple.

Judge Andy Brown: So they need to be close because they actually go back and forth?

>> They actually go back and forth to court.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> They do also still run carts of case files across the street.

We are working with the judges to get more digitized for that footprint as well.

The footprint of our of our paper files in addition to our staff.

But our staff are still in court and do still need proximity to the court.

Howard: So we ought to note that on as we look at if if we build the as we build out a new intake center.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Howard: And diversion center.

Shea: Yeah, absolutely.

Howard; If we whatever space is down there, it could be that we could build them a new space.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Howard: and get them out of Sweatt, because that would then free up space at the courthouse for other things, so.

>> And I think that is part of, you know, moving forward with the diversion center and central Intake.

Also informs and helps us have how we need to use HMS.

Howard: Yup.

>> To meet the space needs, so it is super helpful that that project is moving forward, and then we can figure out who can go where and how HMS could be utilized in the future.

Maybe there's more museum or exhibits.

Excuse me, exhibit space.

Or maybe we need the HMS to house staff in close proximity for other services.

We'll have more information as the diversion center project moves forward.

>> And where also the county clerk, y'all know, houses many of the county's records where the clerks for commissioners court.

We have the property deeds titles.

Many of our records and our collection of records.

Right, is complimentary to cars and vice versa.

So, you know, in considering museum and community space, all for it, I think that would be a great use of that space.

I love the vision, Commissioner Howard, of bringing it together with the History Center and Wooldridge Park.

Proximity to the capital.

I would love to see more school children in little field trips coming down there.

I think about it all the time.

I think the county clerk's office would be a good partner in that.

We have our own records management staff that could work alongside cars to really bring that space to life, and also just want to make sure that our clerks and our court support staff don't get shuffled around without real plans for how they're going to be able to successfully do their work and not feel like an afterthought.

Shea: Thank you for advocating for them.

Howard: I'm glad you brought that up, yeah.

Shea: Yeah, that's really important advocacy, and it gives me a deeper appreciation for what's still going on in the building.

>> Yeah.

Shea: Yeah, thank you.

>> Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

>> Can I ask one more question?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

>> I think at some point, as we develop the scope and next steps, it will be important for us to understand what role you want around community engagement, not just of the potential tenants and the people who are involved in that building right now, but also acknowledging the history in engaging the community in a way that is meaningful.

We want to make sure that we capture that.

We have already started looking at previous community engagement that has occurred at different commissioners court meetings in years past, to summarize that, but we would also want to make sure that we understand what the court's interest is around gathering additional information or to use what we already have to move forward.

So we'll probably want some additional guidance as we build out that scope.

Judge Andy Brown: Thanks.

I'm not sure you're going to get that guidance today, sadly, but.

>> No, I know, I know.

Judge Andy Brown: Is there any way to shrink that diversion timeline, like.

[Laughter]

To maybe address the clerk's needs and other needs more quickly?

Shea: Are we really looking at.

Judge Andy Brown: But maybe that's a different topic for a different day.

Shea: 20 34?

Or '32?

>> It should be '30.

>> 30.

>> Either 30 or 30ish.

Judge Andy Brown: That's I don't even know that.

>> 32 ish.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

All right, so.

Yeah.

I'm not I don't feel comfortable giving guidance.

I wholeheartedly agree with what Commissioner Howard said.

I thought that discussion we had about making it more of a historical museum sort of space and encouraging people to walk into this part of downtown is sounds like a great plan, but I don't know.

I want Commissioner Travillion to be able to weigh in on that.

Shea: Yeah.

Judge Andy Brown: I think the clerk's needs are.

I'm glad you brought that up.

That's also very important to me and I think all of us.

So.

You know, other than that vague statement, I don't know what we're going to give y'all specific direction unless somebody else thinks differently at this point.

Shea: Well, I think given I'll just say, given our limited financial resources, I think we do need to start with sort of the functional needs.

I honestly was not as aware of how many clerk employees are still working in HMS.

I don't know how we would be able to do the basic refurbishing and modernizing of the building with the staff still in there.

I mean, maybe it's possible, but not a good idea, so I think just some basic functional needs should be at least a starting point, and I'm less clear on how those would proceed.

We'd need to have space for the clerks and the other current uses during the modernization or updating process.

So I don't have any good sense for how any of that would proceed, basic costs associated with it, but I think we need to start with that.

But I do love the vision of sort of tying together this notion of a kind of a downtown museum row with the historic buildings that we have and the resources and the rich heritage that we have there.

>> So the, yeah, the building will be vacated during any renovation because it'll be a you can't be in the building was renovated.

All the mechanical equipment, everything will be pulled out, so we've already started talking about what are the options of who might be able to go where.

But there are other.

It's not just the clerk in the building.

You have JP five, you have the business court.

You have other functions.

District clerk uses some space over there.

So there's it's not an empty building by any means currently.

So yes, that's a logistical thing that had to be figured out.

But there is time to figure some of that out as well, because we're talking about we don't even have a consultant on board when they come up with the scope, we need to go out for

an RFQ for the design team, that takes time, and then the design is going to take time before construction ever started.

So we're a few years out before anyone had to vacate the building and just it's fine if we don't get a decision today.

Just nothing's happening and the clock doesn't start.

And maybe that's maybe that's fine.

It's just not starting until we get direction on how to move forward.

>> So perhaps what we can bring back to you is look at the timeline for the diversion center and central intake, and how that would intersect with our knowledge around what might be needed at HMS.

And then come back to you with some kind of stair step work that can be done, taking into account the \$2 million budget.

That's the earmark and next year's budget.

And talk to you about how we can make progress while allowing the diversion center and central intake facility to move a little further along.

Shea: I think that's a helpful recommendation.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> Right.

Shea: I think that would give us some information to work with.

>> But we'll bring it back to y'all and we'll make sure that all the court members are here so that y'all can hear it all at once and respond and approve our path moving forward, or adjust it as needed.

Judge Andy Brown: Sounds good.

Just to keep you on your toes, we could also replace the parking garage and put some retail on the bottom so that there's more people in this part of town.

Since we don't, we have to adjust it anyhow because of the the train, the.

Shea: Yeah, because of the.

>> 800 or the 700 Lavaca parking garage?

Judge Andy Brown: The one that we park in, yeah.

>> We don't know how 100% how it's going to be impacted yet.

Those are ongoing discussions with ATP, but yeah, potentially we'd have to.

Judge Andy Brown: Exciting times.

All right.

[Laughter]

Anything else, court members?

Okay.

Shea: Did that give you, I mean.

>> It did.

It helps us.

Shea: Some guidance?

All right, that's helpful.

Judge Andy Brown: All right, so.

>> Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: We will pause now, break for lunch, I think, and come up come back with item 19 after lunch.

Do y'all have a time preference?

It's 12:15, 12:16 right now.

Shea: 1:15?

Howard: 1:15?

Judge Andy Brown: 1:15?

Sounds good.

So we'll recess until 1:15.

Thanks.

[Music]

[Music]

[Music]

[Music]

[Music]

Travillion: Oh, you know.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

We're back from our recess.

It's.

Let's see.

Item 19, consider and take appropriate action regarding setting the salaries of elected officials for fiscal year 2026.

Shea: Didn't you have a motion on that previously, Ann?

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Howard: I did.

Shea: I'm good with that.

>> Good afternoon, court.

My name is Stacy McClure.

I'm the assistant director of Total Rewards for HMRD.

This afternoon, we're here to discuss the options for the court on how to go about setting salaries for fiscal year 2026.

The items, as they're laid out in the backup.

We laid out a 0% option, a 1% option, a 2% option, and a 3% option as based on discussions with the court, as we held that public hearing and had discussions back in August regarding that.

So.

We published the the ad in the Austin Chronicle on August the 26th, laying out the maximum amount of 3% in that article.

And today we're here to to visit with you and have y'all consider action on the proposed options that have been laid out.

We provided four different court orders in your backup just to go through what if the court elected to set elected, elected salaries at 3%?

The overall estimated cost is 88,630.

That's just the increase in the change from fiscal year 25 to fiscal year 26.

A 2% increase would be around \$44,393.

A 1% increase would be \$643.

And that's due to the offsetting reduction in the supplement for the district attorney.

If the Commissioners Court determined that a 0% increase was appropriate, the only change that would still be applied would be reducing the county's supplement for the district attorney from 86,309 to 51,309, while leaving the total salary unchanged for that position at a total of 226,309.

And that's due to the state contributions in fiscal year 2026, increasing from \$140,000 to \$175,000.

We attached the salaries' orders based upon the the direction that the court wants to go.

And once that decision is made, we'll be forwarding that order to y'all via DocuSign for signatures.

>> And, Stacy, if I could just add on top of that, you were talking about the non-judicial and so would the judicial.

The county supplement was 18,000.

That was the max that was provided by law that we could supplement what is assumed in all of these orders is 25,000 going forward.

And also the the updated numbers here for all the judicials that were changed in the last legislative session.

And then I just want to add on to that one thing that we haven't talked about, and that we'll have to talk about either next week either on the changes list or in the comp item, is the third Court of Appeals.

We do have six judges.

They also have a supplement.

Currently it's maxed out at 9000.

So depending on what you do today, we'll bring back action for you.

That supplement can go from 9000 now to 12,500.

And so assuming that the court does choose the 25,000 for the district judges, we would assume the 12,500 for the Court of Appeals.

It's a minimal cost of 26,352.

We do get reimbursed, but then we also pay a portion for for that.

So just wanted to mention that.

And then there's also the associate judges that will have to bring back.

I think you heard a snippet of that from Travis under the compensation item last time, with the options that were laid out.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Great.

So.

Shea: We're posted for action on this.

>> You have to take action today.

Shea: Yeah.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

So your your, like, question to us is do we support what you just outlined for the judges.

And then should we vote on that first and then do the non-judicial separate?

>> Yeah.

If you'd like to, to give us direction on the on the supplement moving from 18,000 to any number up to 25,000, that would be great.

Judge Andy Brown: I support doing that.

I'd make a motion to do that for the judges, but I would want to discuss separately the non-judicial.

Is that what do y'all think about that?

Well, let me hold off.

Is there any discussion before I go down that path?

Shea: Well, I'll second, but I do have a question.

And is that supplement paid for by the state?

>> No.

The 25,000 maximum is actually paid for by the county.

Now we do get I think Travis talked about a reimbursement that we get for the county court at law judges that we talked to you about at markup that was added to revenue in the fourth revenue estimate that we then added to the comp reserve.

But no, to be clear, the 18,000 moving to 25,000 is paid for by the county.

Judge Andy Brown: And I just I want to be crystal clear.

I'm making this motion for the real judges.

This does not include the county judge salary.

[Laughter]

Is that correct?

>> That is correct.

It's for the the judges county court law.

Excuse me.

It's for the district judges.

Judge Andy Brown: District judges.

>> District judges, right?

Judge Andy Brown: And and third court judges.

>> And then the third Court of Appeals.

We'll bring that action to you back.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, okay.

>> But that's going from 9000.

We will assume, if you take this action that we would be okay going from 9000 to 12,500.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay, so then that's that's that would be my motion then, is that it.

What you said, for the district judges, and I think we had a second from Commissioner Shea.

And just want to be crystal clear, that does not include my own salary.

Travillion: Judge?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes?

Travillion: We think of you as a real judge, too.

Shea: I don't.

[Laughter]

Shea: When people come up and say Your Honor, we have to correct them.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Shea: So I'm not clear on what we get reimbursed from the state on these judicial increases.

>> Okay.

>> I'll do that.

Sorry.

Travis Gatlin with the planning and Budget office.

So the state pays the base salary for all district judges, and that's increasing to \$175,000.

Again, that's the state portion, and that's for all district judges.

The state, though, also reimburses the county for 60% of that amount for a county court law judge.

Even though the county court at law judge is a 100% county employee, the state does reimburse us 60% of that base amount that's going up and that amount going up was 189,000.

And we talked about how we were going to receive that, and we put that in the compensation reserve to help offset some of the cost of the judiciary.

So again, we don't get we don't get anything for a district judge.

The county pays a supplement which can be from 18 to 25.

And again we pay the full amount for a county court law judge.

But again, the state does reimburse us 60% of the base amount of a district judge.

Is that helpful?

It's a little.

Shea: Yeah.

It's a little confusing.

>> It is.

Shea: We get 60% back.

>> Yeah, we got 100 main thing.

We got 189,000.

And we put it to help cover some of these costs.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Any other discussion, court members, on the judicial part?

Howard: Does your motion include going up to the maximum of 25?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

Howard: Okay.

Judge Andy Brown: Because I think we're currently at 18.

Howard: We're currently at the maximum of 18.

Shea: And is this an annual supplement that.

>> It is.

Shea: That happens?

Okay.

Judge Andy Brown: But the increase is not annual.

>> It well, it doesn't go up and up and up.

Judge Andy Brown: Right.

>> But it is.

Shea: That was my question.

Judge Andy Brown: Yes.

>> I'm sorry, no.

Shea: That increase is not an annual thing.

>> And and so just to be clear, you know we in the backup you'll see the county court at law judges.

If you take this action, and I'm not a lawyer, but there is a relationship between the district judges and the county court at law judges.

So in effect, you're also taking action on the county court at law judges being at 1000 below in their respective tiers.

Judge Andy Brown: When's the last time the state increased the supplement?

>> 2019.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay, so that's.

>> 2019, they did the tiers, but did they.

>> They changed the benchmark.

The base salary was 140,000 with the county maximum of 18.

And that was 2019, which increased it from 125,000 years before.

This is the first time that the legislature has changed the benchmark to now 175,000, and also allowed the maximum county supplement can be to 25,000.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay, so.

>> And it increases, that's 0 to 4 years of service.

Judge Andy Brown: Right.

>> The benchmark will change as the judges have more years of service.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Shea: And is this a use or lose it?

If you don't take advantage of the benchmark in the year that the legislature authorizes it, it's it's not available past that?

>> You would take action this year and then you have that same action next year.

I mean, the legislature won't meet, so the law won't change next year.

Shea: So you have to authorize the supplement every year?

>> Every year you come and vote.

Howard: Yeah, yeah.

That's way it's presented in your order.

Shea: Sorry, I didn't see the backup on it, so.

>> Yeah, all the backup options include a max of 25,000.

If you vote otherwise, that would change.

We'd have to redo those figures.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Shea: The last time they increased it was 2019.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Any further discussion?

We have any commenters on this?

All right.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously, and we're Commissioner Gomez is no longer present in this meeting.

Okay.

That passes.

What's next?

>> I believe next would be setting the percentage amount that you want to apply for the court and those included in the order to all the elected officials and the judges and the county court at law positions.

Shea: So the judges get this increase as well?

>> Excuse me?

Shea: The judges who we just voted on the pay increase for would get whatever percentage increase as well?

>> No.

>> No, I think.

Shea: I wanted to clarify that because you said the judges.

>> And I meant the.

>> I'd say non judiciary.

>> Non judiciary.

>> I think is where we're at now.

Judge Andy Brown: Great.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: And so we have to do this today.

We cannot wait until we the 60 days for the other compensation.

>> We have to do this today because it kicks off a grievance process that's legally required, that's tied to your budget being, you know, filed and then approved.

And so we this is, I think, the what what law legal gave you.

>> So once you get action today, a letter will be sent to the elected officials that are required to receive a letter. and they have a period of time to grieve.

And so that all has to be addressed before you adopt your final budget on September 30th, which is why today is the last day you really have in the calendar to vote, take action on the elected officials' salaries.

>> Mm-hmm.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> And so the options are in the backup.

It includes this county supplement for the judges as one, as the top line.

And then you're looking at all the different electeds.

As Stacy indicated with the 1% or 0%, a 1%, a 2%, a 3% increase.

So those are all the options in the backup that you all can decide today.

>> And to clarify the the date by which the elected official would have to determine if they wanted to propose or file a grievance is September 15th.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay?

Anyone have any thoughts on this?

Shea: You made a motion the last time we were discussing it.

Howard: Well, Judge, last week.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Howard: I incorrectly made the motion to budget for a 1% increase for elected officials, believing that that's what we would likely afford for the across the board increase for county employees.

And based on the policy that we usually tie the elected official increase to the employee increase.

I know there's a pause on what that exactly is going to be, but we have to take this action today, and I don't see that we can go above the 1%, because that might indeed be what we need to do for the rest of the employees.

So it's unfortunate, but that's to put something on the table for y'all to react to.

That's how I see what we're the we're sort of in that situation.

Shea: I'll second that.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Motion from Commissioner Howard, second from Commissioner Shea.

Any discussion?

Shea: I think you laid it out pretty clearly.

I mean, we are in an exceptionally tight budget.

We just transferred \$13.6 million today because our health insurance is so severely overdrawn.

So we know we're looking at much higher costs, at least next year and probably future years.

And we just don't have we don't have much money to spend on compensation.

So I think if we do 1%, we're safe.

And I don't see that we we have a lot of options.

Since this is the deadline, we have to act by.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Any other discussion?

Travillion: Is what it is.

Shea: Yeah.

>> And so for that motion for the 1% that you adopt the salaries of the elected officials in the amount shown in attachment A, that we're specifying the 1% and that the allowances described in the endnotes, endnotes to that attachment with the 1% are authorized for each elected official named in the endnotes for the fiscal year October 1st, 2025 and ending September 30th, 2026.

That is what your order would say if you approve this motion.

Judge Andy Brown: Mm-hmm.

All right.

On the different things that you are juggling around for compensation, any thoughts about if we if you end up coming back with a proposal that we like that addresses market salary, compression, whatever the things are, do those worlds also include?

Obviously, for some people it would be greater than 1%.

But do your proposals and have they so far included or do you think they will include at least a 1% for everyone?

>> County Judge Brown I, I would hope that those.

Calculations would be able to include that we have not gotten into the calculating the actual dollar amounts.

I can, if you'd like, I could go ahead and give my update on that process.

That's on another agenda item.

Shea: Or we need to vote on this.

Travillion: Judge?

Judge Andy Brown: Yes, sir.

Travillion: Can I say something quickly before we vote?

Judge Andy Brown: Sure.

Yes, sir.

Travillion. Yeah.

At some point we are not going to be able to we should not treat budget as a zero sum game.

It's not just what happened this year.

There's a path that got us here, a number of decisions that got us here, and we have to take a broader view and address and address historical inadequacies and think about when I, when I, when I talked to our, our budget director, you know, there are things that we need to pay attention to the the relative health of our organization, whether we have done succession planning adequately.

There are a number of things that we need to think about that started 3 or 4 fiscal years ago and are going to reach out 3 or 4 more fiscal years.

For example, you know, we probably could have taken a better approach to, to, to dealing with not only compensation, but but our, our, our significant issues last year with, with a percentage going one way instead of the other way.

When we put ourselves in the position where we've got a zero sum game and then you have to pick winners or losers, that is never good and is never healthy for an organization.

And we've got to take a longer view, the view that we've taken over the last when we had money, we you could do whatever you wanted to do.

We've got a plan for when we won't, we don't have money.

The years coming, the years coming forward are not are going to be lean years, and the legislature might make them more lean.

And we've got to have a path that takes us at least back three fiscal years so that we understand the decisions that we've made and how the whole organization has been impacted.

And if we know that we've got a study that is going to take multiple years to implement that, we know that that year, and we begin to make preparations for the.

The, the part that that concerns me is.

We have known our vulnerabilities and our limitations, and we still find ourselves in this spot.

This is an uncomfortable spot.

So I and this is pre, you know, this is pre.

But at the end of the day, I'm interested to see what what you what you have coming back.

But I don't know that it addresses the things that we need in a historical or futuristic context.

And that concerns me.

>> Thank you, Commissioner.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

We have a motion and a second.

Any further discussion?

All right.

All those.

[Laughter]

In favor, I guess, raise their hand.

Travillion: So I'll give you this for a unanimous vote.

Judge Andy Brown: I'm probably I'm going to just in full disclosure, I'm going to abstain.

I think, just given the uncertainty, but go ahead, Commissioner Travillion.

You were saying?

Travillion: No, I'm going to give you this.

Well, I guess we won't have unanimous.

Judge Andy Brown: Almost, almost.

Travillion: Well, maybe I shouldn't give it to you.

I don't know.

But no, it's necessary.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

All right, so we've got Commissioner Shea, Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Travillion in favor.

Judge Brown abstaining.

Thank you very much.

That that passes at 1%.

>> You mentioned the DocuSign.

We're going to have that order for you all to sign here today.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Okay.

>> Make sure we get that.

We have to get sent out the letters today for the grievances.

Judge Andy Brown: Great.

All right.

>> Thank you very much.

Judge Andy Brown: What other torturous things do you have for us here?

>> I believe I don't recall what agenda item it is, but we have an.

Judge Andy Brown: 23, the next item up.

>> We have an update for you of where we have been since last.

Judge Andy Brown: Let me go ahead and read it out.

Item 23 receive an update.

Take appropriate action on compensation options for fiscal year 2026.

>> Again, my name is Stacy McClure.

I'm the assistant HR director for Total Rewards for Travis County.

Today I wanted to bring back with you just a high level overview of where we've come from last week's budget markup discussions, which was held on Wednesday.

At that point in time, y'all authorized us to be able to go back and do some additional analysis over the next 60 days to analyze the benchmark data that we brought forward to do the market study adjustments.

We also agreed to being able to analyze the information to see what we could do, if anything, on pay compression.

We also.

Stated that then we would look to see, after we took those actions, whether or not how much would be available for an across the board adjustment.

I will let you know that the Executive Committee met last week and we had good discussions.

We have another meeting this Thursday that will be considering additional feedback from them.

I we've been analyzing the benchmark data to take a look at it.

We've also pulled additional employee compensation data as of August 31st.

So when we get to the point of being able to cost it out, we already have that data in place.

We are working to identify the most appropriate solution to deal with pay compressions.

And looking for that.

I will let you know, Commissioner Travillion.

We did we are working on that project charter for this project for looking at the 60 days and also have a project plan that we are working through and working with the technology and operations.

Project management office to to allow us to get that in place.

I will let you know that it is our intent to come back to you no later than we have.

We committed to giving y'all 30 weekly updates on where we are in this process, and we will continue to do so.

We have a 30 day check in point, which actually will be probably sooner than 30 days because it will probably be September the 30th.

If I recall my dates right, we have to have in order for PBO to cost anything out, we need to have data to them no later than October 10th.

My intent and our intent from HRMD would be able to try to get that to them a couple of days earlier to to cost those things out.

We will let you know that if during these weekly updates, if there are issues that we believe cause concern on moving forward with the path that we have looked at that we'll bring them forward to you at that time.

And certainly my hope that we can continue to modernize the the pay structure and make it a good structure going forward to allow us to be diligent and thoughtful in how we move forward with the limited resources that we will have in the upcoming fiscal years.

Shea: Can you say anything more about how you're attempting to deal with compression?

That's been the most lingering concern that I've heard that seems to present a serious inequity.

>> Commissioner Shea, that is a.

We have already been having discussions on what that methodology might look like.

It could be a methodology of presenting a certain percentage point adjustment based on the number of years a person has been in that position.

It may need to be a phased approach.

We haven't gotten the data.

We are trying to apply the the market benchmarks first and ensure that we have the.

The parameters within the scale, like if you have an accountant, you have a senior accountant, that everything is applied consistently.

And we're working already to to kind of set some guardrails and boundaries on how we will deal with pay compression, although I don't have any final information that I could provide to you today.

Shea: Yeah.

No, it's helpful to just hear some of your thinking about it.

Yes.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Who's on the executive committee that you mentioned?

>> All your county executives.

Paul.

Cynthia.

Judge Andy Brown: Cynthia McDonald from TNR?

>> Yes, yes.

>> Yeah.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh, so just the executives.

>> Pilar.

Judge Andy Brown: You don't have to name them all.

>> Yeah, the county executive team, yes.

Judge Andy Brown: Is there.

So I know, and Commissioner Travillion, you can stop me if you want, but I think this Commissioner Travillion and I think Commissioner Gomez are on the subcommittee.

>> Yes.

Judge Andy Brown: And I think last week I asked if you could include staff of commissioners.

Commissioner Travillion would it.

Am I the only one?

I thought I kind of asked for his staff in particular to be on that, in those discussions.

I don't know if I'm stepping over a line, but.

>> I can certainly we can certainly add those.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> To that meeting that we're having on Thursday.

Judge Andy Brown: Well, is that okay?

Have I?

I just heard that that didn't happen last week, and so I was a little surprised, honestly.

Travillion: We've kind of been clear in writing/

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Travillion: What our concerns are.

We've laid them out very succinctly and carefully.

I mean, staff is well versed at doing it, but I mean, you know, we've been saying the same thing for two years.

I don't know if it'll be heard any differently now.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Travillion: So I mean, we we will be available, but at the end of the day, we have been clear and consistent for 24 months.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

I would leave it offline to his decision.

>> Okay.

Judge Andy Brown: But if if he would like his staff person to be on there, I would like you all to include his staff person.

>> Right.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

Thank you.

>> Thank you very much.

>> And, Judge, Commissioners?

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

>> I've got one item, though, if you would entertain me.

So you, as a part of item 19, again, Travis Gatlin with the Planning and Budget Office, you did set judicial salaries and you did set the maximum county supplement for district judges at 25,000, I have discussed, along with HRMD, as a part of comp updates that the district, the associate judges' salaries were still pending and you couldn't take action on that, or I didn't recommend until you decided what the district judges' supplement is.

The district judges would like to pay the associate judges 90% of what a base district judge makes, which is the 175,000 from the state, plus the 25 from the county, which is 200,000.

So 90% of that would be 180,000.

I discussed two proposals.

One option would be to increase all the associate judges in year one.

That would be 600,000, \$600,220.

I did reach out to the criminal and civil district judges, and they and you do set the salary for associate judges under the criminal and civil judges and discuss the proposal to do the increase over two years.

So you would get halfway there, so they'd go from 150,100 right now to \$165,050?

And then they would go to 180,000 in 2027.

The probate judges wish to do the increase all at one time.

And by statute, they do determine that.

So the probate judges determine the salary for associate judges per statute.

The Commissioners Court approved the salaries for criminal and civil.

The cost of the two year plan, which would include halfway there for the civil and criminal judges, along with the full increase for the probate judge, is \$337,623.

I've shared that with you at least twice.

That would be an additional 262,587 in 2027 to get the criminal and civil there, but that is one of the pending items that we're awaiting on.

And you could take action today and at least get that resolved.

And the intent would be those would be effective 10/1, and so that's a pending item that we do need to resolve.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay, we don't today, though.

There's not a deadline on that, is there?

Or it.

>> Not today, but if it's not today, then it would be next Tuesday.

But we do need to take action.

If you do it today, it gets it out of the way.

But it's you know that that would the recommendation would be if you could take.

Shea: Can you simplify can you summarize what it is we need to do today?

I thought that was the judge's motion.

>> Well, the judge's motion had to just do with elected officials' salaries and that and judiciary and that did.

Shea: Well, he included the judiciary, yeah.

Well, he made a separate motion on the judiciary.

>> Sure, and the associate judges are nonelected officials.

They're appointed, and you determine their salary.

And I didn't think that was a part of the elected officials' motion.

It really probably needs to be a separate motion unless I misunderstood the motion.

But again, right now it's my understanding you haven't taken action on that.

And there is a request.

Howard: And you had this listed on our chart that showed the three options?

>> Right.

Howard: And one, you had a full year.

>> Which is this.

Howard: In one year, 600 and some odd thousand.

>> Right.

Howard: And then you talked to the civil and criminal courts.

>> Right.

Howard: And asked, could we spread that over two years?

>> And they're and they're open to that.

Howard: And they're open to that, and the hope.

Howard: And did you ask that spreading over two years because it allowed you to then budget all those other additions?

>> It gave the court more flexibility.

Howard: Bilingual pay, all these different things we want to pay for.

>> I am appreciative of the criminal and civil judges for being open to that, because it freed up some more money under the B and C options that you could do other things with.

Howard: All right.

And we don't know that we're still looking at A, B and C options.

>> Right.

Howard: But this is one piece that we need to resolve.

>> Yes.

Howard: I'm willing to make the motion today that we do allocate the cost that spreads it over the two years.

>> Could I, could I modify it that you approve the salary of associate judges under the criminal and civil district judges going from 150,100 to 165,500, which is the halfway point to where they want to go to 180,000.

We wouldn't be sending the money to the departments yet.

But you're you're you're setting the salary so that that the departments can work with payroll to enter them in the system so that they those will be effective October 1st.

And then whatever we do, all the budget adjustment for all the compensation and recalculate everything, we'll move all the money.

And we typically do that in December, but we may need to do it in a couple stages depending on, you know, the work that HR is going to be presenting to you.

Howard: I'm happy with that motion.

Shea: And that's to do it over two years with all of the explanation that Travis just gave?

I'll second that.

>> For criminal and civil, but again, probate is.

Howard: Right.

>> Under their authority to do it all in one year.

Howard: They're doing it in one year.

>> Yeah.

Shea: I didn't think that they had budget authority.

>> By by and I'll defer to the county attorney, but by statute, the the.

Shea: Probate judges do?

>> Probate judges do.

>> By statute, the probate judges would set the salary of their associate judges.

That's in the statute.

It's not the same for the criminal and civil associate judges outside of the probate.

Shea: But setting the salary is different than funding it, and we make the funding decisions.

So they don't can they dictate to us that we must fund it all in one year, as opposed to doing it over two years, as we're doing with all the other judiciaries?

Howard: They can tell us what they want the salary to be.

>> Well, they're going to they're going to approve the salary and they're going to spend the salary, so we would I mean, we would need to budget that salary.

And the compensation reserve.

Shea: Well, how can they spend it if we don't allocate it?

I mean, if we say we're going to do this over two years for all of the judicial positions, it's we are not authorizing the money, be fully funded in their account for them to spend.

Or am I missing something here?

Is there some super power that the probate judges have that I'm unaware of?

>> That you know, this this statute and I can pull up the language.

I don't have it in front of me.

It gives them the authority to set the salaries for their the probate associate judges.

Judge Andy Brown: I think.

Shea: No, I get setting it.

Howard: We have other.

Shea: I get setting it.

It's just a question of funding it.

Howard: It's a.

Yeah.

Judge Andy Brown: You want to.

We can take this executive session, Commissioner Shea, if you want to.

I hesitate to letting her give advice here.

Shea: I'm not going to.

>> I think we laid that before.

It's just the way the statutes are written and it just differentiates between those two courts.

The or the probate court is different.

Shea: Okay, so it's out of our hands.

We don't have control over how this gets spent.

Seems odd, but.

Travillion: That's a difficult difficult philosophical question.

We came across this with the purchasing board a couple of years ago and we said, you know, at the end of the day.

Shea: Oh, okay.

Travillion: You can make recommendations, but you can't spend money that's not there.

So there's a need to work with our budget officers and make sure that we're all on the same page and we've tried to do that on the purchasing board.

>> We requested that the probate judges consider the two year plan, but they felt strongly that it was needed for various valid reasons.

Travillion: Maybe the legislature will let 'em borrow it.

[Laughter]

Judge Andy Brown: Mm-hmm.

Well.

Shea: Well you've offered.

Judge Andy Brown: OK.

Shea: An amended motion.

Judge Andy Brown: Yeah.

Shea: And I've seconded it, so.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

We have a motion from Commissioner Howard, second from Commissioner Shea on over the sort of two year option for, I guess, civil judges and criminal judges?

>> Criminal and civil associate judges.

Judge Andy Brown: Associate judges?

>> Yes.

Judge Andy Brown: And then, I guess, acquiescing to the probate court on the probate court, it's associate judges as well.

>> It's associate judges, yeah, and I'll defer to.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

>> To the county if you need to take a motion on that.

But you do set the salaries for criminal and civil associate judges.

And that's what I'm asking you to take action on today.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

The motion is seconded?

Any further discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise their hand.

Passes unanimously.

>> Great.

Well, and we'll we will I think that I asked Paul to put a compensation item on for, for maybe the next two weeks, just in case.

But now you have taken action on elected officials, on those employees on the POPS pay scale, those employees on the EMS pay scale, and also now the associate judges.

So a lot of the items have been checked off, and what's left is going to be classified employees.

And then it's more of administratively, we'll need to transfer some money related to bilingual pay based on capturing just all those people that have have updated have recently passed the test, and then some overtime, so you've made a lot of progress.

Still some things to do, but thank you.

>> Thank you very much.

Judge Andy Brown: Thank you, Travis.

>> Look forward to bringing you another report soon.

Shea: Thank you.

Judge Andy Brown: Okay.

All right.

Up next is item 36.

So we're going to executive session for I think three items.

Item 36 receive briefing.

Take appropriate action regarding Travis County security and information security issues under consultation with attorney security and IT security exceptions.

Item 37 receive legal briefing.

Take appropriate action regarding a settlement offer in Travis County, Texas, versus New Life Baptist Church of Pflugerville, Case number C, one CD 2511, under consultation with Attorney in Real Property exceptions.

Item 38 consider Post Award appeal of HCS, Inc. and any related submission regarding contract number 44 00007900 and take appropriate action under the consultation with attorney exception.

And.

Just for the can we, if we've already voted on something, can we still get legal advice on it in there, or does that cause us to have to do something else?

Shea: I mean, it would be useful to get further legal insight into it.

I'm still a little baffled.

Judge Andy Brown: If not, we can do it in the future.

>> Recall the item and recall the vote if you wanted to.

Judge Andy Brown: Oh.

I don't want to do that.

I we can do it for a future week.

Okay.

All right.

So just the three that I read out will go to executive session.

And we'll come back here before taking any action.

Thank you.

[Music]

Judge Andy Brown: We're back from executive session.

We discussed item 36.

We're not taking any action on that.

We also discussed item 37.

Travillion: I have a motion, Judge.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

And it's relating to Travis County versus New Life Baptist Church of Pflugerville.

And what's your motion?

Travillion: Judge I moved to authorize the Travis County attorney to take the necessary actions to accept the settlement offer and authorize the Travis County attorney to finalize and sign the settlement agreement as discussed in executive session.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Motion from Commissioner Travillion.

Second from.

Howard: Commissioner Howard.

Judge Andy Brown: Commissioner Howard.

Any discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

Passes unanimously.

And Commissioner Shea had to step out.

So it is me, Commissioner Travillion, Commissioner Howard here.

Item 38 is consider a post-award appeal of HCS, Inc., and any related submission regarding contract number 440000-7900 and take appropriate action.

Travillion: Judge, I have a motion.

I move, we uphold the purchasing agent and the purchasing agent's and staff's decisions regarding the requested modifications to the contract.

Howard: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: All right, motion from Commissioner Travillion.

Second, from Commissioner Howard.

Any discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously, and we'll.

That's it for court things.

Then we've got corporations?

All right.

So I'm going to.

You good with that?

All right.

I'm going to adjourn the meeting of the Travis County Commissioners Court voting session at 3:05 p.m. and convene the meeting of the Travis County Housing Finance Corporation voting session at 3:05 p.m.

Item one, consider and take appropriate action related to a second amendment to indenture of trust and a Second Amendment to loan agreement for capital view flats and related matters.

>> Hi.

Christy Moffitt, Assistant Secretary, Travis County Corporations.

The Capital View Flats project experienced some delays during the construction of the project.

The corporation issued tax exempt bonds in July of 2021, and as a part of moving from the construction loan to the permanent loan, they have to meet what's called a stabilization rate or a stabilization date.

And so, because of the delay, they need a little bit more time to be able to get to the right percentage of occupancy to meet that stabilization date.

So they are requesting an extension.

And we are in agreement with that.

And so we are requesting approval of that today so that we can with the of the resolutions so that then we can execute documents to allow for that extension.

Howard: Can you remind us which project this is?

>> It's Capital View Flats.

And hold on just one second.

It is located at 3600 East Slaughter in Austin.

It has a total of 324, one, two, three and four bedroom units with income restrictions at or below 60% of the AMI, and it's a 4% tax credit property, and it is being developed or partner development partner is Elmington.

Howard: I move approval.

Travillion: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: All right.

Motion from Commissioner Howard.

Second from Commissioner Travillion.

Any discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor please raise your hand.

That passes unanimously.

Next is we'll adjourn the meeting of the Travis County Housing Finance Corporation voting session at 3:07 and convene the meeting of the Travis County Housing Finance.

Wait.

No.

The TCC Hill Country Development Corporation voting session, right?

>> Christy Moffitt, Assistant Secretary.

It's a companion item to what you just approved.

Judge Andy Brown: All right, that's.

Howard: Move approval.

Judge Andy Brown: Hold up.

Item one, consider and take appropriate action.

>> Oh, I'm sorry.

Judge Andy Brown: Related to a second amendment to loan agreement for Capital View Flats and related matters.

Motion from Commissioner Howard.

Travillion: Second.

Judge Andy Brown: Second from Commissioner Travillion.

Any discussion?

We have no callers.

All those in favor, please raise your hand.

Passes unanimously.

>> All right.

Thank you very much.

Judge Andy Brown: And I think that is everything, so we'll adjourn TCC Hill Country development Corporation voting session at 3:08 p.m. and we're done for the day.

Thank you.

Howard: Woo hoo.

[Music]