



Lawrence County
**FACILITIES | PROPERTY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: September 11, 2025 | **Time:** 5:45-6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Sandy Newton, Dave Ray, Chris Sutherland, Phillip Heatherly, Scott Franks, Randy Brewer, and Barry Luffman. **Chamber President** Ryan Egly, **Chamber Tourism Director** Chandler Rose, **Chamber ECD Director** Ben Barnett, **Sheriff** John Myers, **Chief Deputy** George Barturen, **Court Security Lieutenant** Jason Runnels, Michael Wheeler, Anthony Washburn, and other county residents.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Scott Franks, Randy Brewer, and Sandy Newton.

ABSENT: Tim Clifton and Travis Cauwels.

Chairman Franks called the meeting to order.

- **Executive Morgan** offered report about Southern Tennessee Higher Education Center. Columbia State has made a \$9 million offer for facility and all the land, 56 acres. Some Commissioners have expressed reluctance to sell all the land, but Lawrence County Higher Education Center board members' recommendation is to sell it all. Columbia State is also unwilling to change this request.
- Goal was to have four-year college access in this area, and at the time, UT president Randy Boyd thought UT might expand at our site. It was a better investment for the state to buy Martin Methodist. Columbia State is working hand-in-hand with UT Southern to help people in this area get four-year degrees. The best chance for us to get further education facilities here is for the state to have control of that property.
- \$9 million will repay city and county investment in that facility. In negotiation with the city about what amount each invested. Financial advisor Steve Bates is working on our behalf in these negotiations. Will know exact numbers before purchase contract comes before the Budget Committee. Initial cost is \$5 million to the city, \$4 million to us.

Motion to Accept the Offer.

Motion: Brewer. **Second:** Newton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 3/0.

- Courthouse rehab report by **Executive Morgan**. \$1 million is set aside in the budget for this. It includes:
 - Sheriff's Department entrance remodel
 - Five-step sealing process for all granite and concrete
 - Entryway will be enclosed for better safety.
 - A single lift will be installed at that staircase.
 - New bulletproof glass or bulletproof film will be installed.
 - Elimination of skylight.
- TLM expects design and blueprint to be complete first week of October, will have another Facilities committee following.
- **Commissioner Franks**: God's Storehouse has identified a freezer they want to install, but property line between God's Storehouse and NHC is in question. The thought is that the freezer might go over the line by 2 feet. A survey may be needed.
- **Executive Morgan**: New courtroom jury area is not really big enough for a jury, there are ideas about modifying. One problem is that bathroom doors open directly into the jury room. There is no bathroom there for the judges or courtroom staff. Will take one bathroom for the judges and enlarge the other for jurors. There will not be a lot of cost involved.
- **Commissioner Newton** asked if upstairs courtroom remodel is being considered, biggest need is for new flooring.
- **Executive Morgan** met with Maintenance Director **Mark Brewer** and Veterans Service Officer **Donnie Morris** about move to current Election Commission. Minimal work will be needed.
- Current Veterans Office may be used as morgue for EMS. They received a cooler through a SAMHSA grant.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** stated opinion that Henryville would be better location for a future EMS station, rather than land proposed for donation by Lawrence Co. Schools.

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Brewer. **Second:** Newton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 3/0.

Minutes Submitted By: Nancy Brewer

Formatted By: Christian Tyree