

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting

Administration Building

December 16th, 2025

Present for the meeting were Chairman Traylor Vice-Chair Fletcher, Commissioner Lovett, Commissioner Gilles, Commissioner Boyle, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield. The meeting was available via Teams.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Invocation

Pastor Jason Teal gave the invocation.

4. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Board Appointments

1. Annual Appointments

1. 2026 Vice-Chairman- District 2

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Jason Lovett as the FY 2026 Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. Commissioner Lovett abstained from the vote. The motion passed 3-0.

2. County Attorney-Scott Mayfield- Smith Welch, Webb and White

Vice-Chairman Fletcher made a motion to approve Scott Mayfield with Smith Welch, Webb and White. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Open Records Officer

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Anita Buice as the Open Records Officer. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Panel of County Physicians

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the FY 2026 Panel of County Physicians. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Doctors Woodall, Wilson, and Manley

Doctor Aaron Buice

Family Medical Center (Family Medicine) Griffin, Ga.

The Hughston Clinic (Orthopedic Surgery) Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Surgery-Thomaston Ga.

Resurgens Orthopedics-Griffin, Ga.

Resurgens Orthopedics-Fayetteville, Ga

5. County Surveyor

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to approve County Surveyor James Buter.

Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Board of Commissioners Appointments

E-911 Committee Appointee

County Commissioner-District 4 - Truman Boyle

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to appoint Truman Boyle to the E-911 Committee for the FY 2026. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. Commissioner Boyle abstained. The motion passed 3-0.

3. Barnesville-Lamar County Library Board Appointments Two Term Period beginning January 1st, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the Barnesville-Lamar County Library Board Appointments Two Term Period beginning January 1st, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The following people to serve on the board are listed below.

Pam Bryan

Diane Harvey

Octavia Jackson

Linda Olivier

Tim Turner

Tyler Young

4. Joint Planning Commission Board

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve Eddie Felton to the Joint Planning Commissioner Board for a term of 4 years; 12-31-2025-12-31-2029. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The passed unanimously.

5. Board of Elections

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to acknowledge the appointment of Lynn Hadaway to the Democrat Party with the term of 4 years: January 1st, 2026--December 31st, 2029. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Tax Assessor Board

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-23 re-appointing Betty Banks to serve a four year term as a member of the Lamar County Board of Tax Assessors

starting 1/1/2026 and concluding 12/31/2029 and Brad Bryan to serve a four year term as a member of the Lamar County Board of Tax Assessors starting 1/1/2026 and concluding 12/31/2029. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Board

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the resignation of Tyler Young from the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Board and to approve the appointment of John Hewitt to the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Board for the remaining term expiring 12-31-2028. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to approve the following set of minutes. Commissioner Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Budget Workshop 11-13-2025
2. Special Called Meeting 11-13-2025
3. Workshop Meeting 11-13-2025
4. Public Hearing-11-18-2025
5. Regular Business Meeting 11-18-2025

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

1. Resolution 2025-24- Fee Schedules: Animal Shelter and Planning and Community Development

Planning and Community Development Buice and Animal Shelter Director White went over the fee changes for the building permits, zoning request, animal shelter, and fire activity.

- Less than a one percent increase on an average 2000 square foot home for a building permit. The fee went from \$840.00 to \$900.00.
- Increase from \$300.00 to \$500.00 for zoning actions per application. The written notifications are currently 300 feet for property owners, but they will also increase the notifications to 500 feet for property owners. This is for advertising cost.
- Animal Services is lowering the cost that will impact pet owners reclaiming their animals from the shelter
- Lowering the dog bit cases where the dog is rabies quarantined for 10 day to \$210.00.0
- Lowering fees associated with picking the animal back up from the shelter.
- Lowering the impound fee from to \$45.00.0

- Lowering the boarding fee to \$15.00 daily
- Lowering the livestock boarding fee to \$25.00 daily.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-24- Fee Schedules: Animal Shelter and Planning and Community Development. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 2025-25 Qualifying Fees

The qualifying fee for election to each public office in the County for the upcoming election shall be three percent (3%) of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding year as follows:

Chairman Base Salary \$4200.00 Qualifying Fee: \$126.00

Commissioners Salary \$3,600.00 Qualifying Fee: \$108.00

Board of Education Member \$6,600.00 Qualifying Fee: \$198.00

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-25 Qualifying Fees. Commissioner Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution 2025-26 FY 2026 Budget

Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2026 Lamar County General Appropriations Budget are General Fund \$20,139,727; DATE Fund \$70,000; Law Library \$7,500; LCSO \$100,000; E-911 Fund \$503,124; Hotel/Motel Fund \$3,700; Capital Projects Funds \$4,800,000; and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2026 Lamar County General Appropriations Budget are General Fund \$20,139,727; DATE Fund \$70,000; Law Library \$7,500; LCSO \$100,000; E-911 Fund \$503,124; Hotel/Motel Fund \$3,700; Capital Projects Funds \$4,800,000; \$2,400,000 for SPLOST and \$2,400,000 for TSPLOST.

Revenue Driving Forces by Category

FLOST-new type of countywide sales tax of 1% that can be used exclusively for property tax relief. Sales tax are currently collecting about 3.6% higher than in 2024.

The digest will increase due to new homes/renovations

LMIG Funds will have a carry-over of \$2,072,778 into FY 2026 plus \$550,879 will be received for additional paving projects.

Contributions & Donations are collecting around 27.5 % higher

Expenditures by Function for 2026 Driving Forces

GDOT LMIG and LAR Funds are a considerable increase for the Public Works budget of \$2,623,657 for the Chappell Mill, High Falls, Rock Springs Road, and the 2026 LMIG project paving.

Additional funds of \$112,188 for the front Courthouse Windows.

Increase the Detention Center (Jail) \$148,000 inmate medical & meals

EMA's grants are 75% match for \$42,500 and \$9,700

Personnel Services and Benefits increase due to 7.5% salaries, FICA and Medicare.

The Animal Shelter added two new employees in the middle of 2025.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-26 FY 2026 Budget. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Request to add a second Deputy Coroner-Clay Tillery

Commissioner Boyle made a motion to approve the request to add a second Deputy Coroner assisting Coroner Clay Tillery. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion. The motion unanimously.

5. Justin Laney: Request for exception to moratorium in order to obtain building permit on commercial property

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to accept the permit applications from Justin Laney for 117 Hwy 41 North from the current development moratorium and authorize the Planning and Community Development office to issue a permit to same. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant –(LMIG)

Request Amount for \$ 550,879.24

County Match Amount for \$ 165,263.77

Total Cost \$763,459.58.

Roads: Freeman Road, Midway Road, Ponderosa Road, Shadybrook Roads.

Commissioner Gilles made amotion to approve the LMIG for a cost of \$763,459.58. Vice-Chairman Lovett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. FY 2026 Holidays

There will be 12 Holidays, and the County will close at 2:00 on Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve.

Commissioner Gilles made a motion to approve the FY 2026 Holidays. Vice-Chairman Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Administrator's Report

- Revenue: \$4,465,728.28 Total for Year: \$ 13,269,428
- Expenditures: \$1,068,542 Total for Year: \$14,180,758
- Forecasted Cash Flow: Approximately \$9,111,329.54 (variance between budget and actual)

- Updates provided for:
 - General Fund: \$3,903,821
 - Special Revenue Funds: \$56,480
 - Capital Projects: \$3,209,593
 - Sinking Fund / TSPLOST projects \$2,992,557
 - Total: \$10,162,452

Project Updates:

- GDOT SR 7 and Atlanta Street-EXP is preparing the RFP for Chapel Mill and High Falls: and Rock Springs Road. EXP has applied for the land disturbance permit with the State will be able to release the RFP
- Team meeting with C.W. Matthews and EXP according to C.W Matthews there are plans to begin paving the first week of February depending on the weather. This covers Piedmont, Howard, and Zebulon Road.
- SR 18 (Trojan Way) speed limit will change in 30 days from 55 mph to 45 mph with the school zone changing from 45 to 35 mph.
- Courthouse Flooring has been ordered and received. They will start on this project the third week of January.

Tax and Revenue Collections:

- LOST: \$157,571.15
- SPLOST: \$276,443.17
- TSPLOST: \$255,921.62

Other Items:

AmeriPro Health:

Request: 312 Transport: 156 Refusal: 102 Cancellation: 54 Response Time: 5:35

- Mutual Aid between Upson County: 8 and Lamar County had 6 to Upson and Pike

10. Public Comment

Elaine Hallada of 131 Steeplechase addressed the board.

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Read an excerpt from the Special Master's Report (bottom of page 24), stating: "The Director shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses." Questioned whether the County could be reimbursed, noting that only one meeting had been attended. Asked the County Attorney whether funds already received would need to be repaid

to the County. Suggested that the Board of Commissioners hold a Special Called Meeting to elect the new Solid Waste Authority (SWA) board members. Commented on the AmWaste agreement and expressed concerns regarding development in the County. Stated that while residents do not want an AI center, zoning approval allows for development on the site. Expressed a preference for attracting a company that would provide long-term employment for County residents. Noted that employment opportunities for approximately 200 people could lead to additional home construction, increased property tax revenue, and overall community benefit.

Donald Hartman of 507 Old Milner Road addressed the board.

Requested that the County continue moving forward in a positive direction in FY 2026. Reported that the Special Master rulings will benefit the County; the report indicates that funds are owed to the County, and additional matters remain pending for ruling. Stated that the bylaws for the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) should be amended to change meetings from monthly to quarterly once the new SWA board members are appointed. Noted that, with the loss of a long-time employer, the County should seek new industry to support residents who are losing their jobs. Reported that the bridge in Milner has deteriorating pillars and may require replacement of an entire lane. Reported that repair work on Roger Brown Road is beginning to fail. Expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services.

Bonnie Martin of 626 Piedmont Road addressed the board.

Reported that she began attending meetings approximately two years ago after learning about the SWA and commended the Commissioners for their service. Stated that the County should be cautious regarding development of land along I-75 and should not rush into granting tax exemptions. Expressed the opinion that the County should seek businesses that provide jobs and attract people to the area. Stated that a data center is not an appropriate use and that her research on data centers in other areas has shown negative impacts. Reported that residents in those areas are unhappy with the effects on their communities, including increased utility costs for citizens and concerns about water quality. Reported that several counties have enacted moratoriums on data centers.

Requested that the Board explore other development options and asked that the Commissioners reach out to the community for assistance and input.

James Hyde addressed the board.

Responded to comments made at the previous workshop, which he attended via Zoom. Chairman Traylor mentioned he surfaced Social Media occasionally and in the

same breath said that counties are fighting for these data center. If he had spent one minute on social media he would know that this is a lie. Mr. Hyde said that maybe it is true in the circle of corrupt politicians that you run with, however, he disagreed, asserting that every surrounding county are fighting this thing tooth and nail. To say that we are very tiny, with barely a 20 million budget and they need to give away tax revenue to a 300 million company is asinine. They should be telling them what it is going to cost them.

Stated that the Planning and Community Development Director's role should be limited to processing applications presented to the department and not recruiting development. Referenced comments made by Commissioner Lovett at the workshop and asked under what authority he had worked so hard. His belief was that a commissioner's constitutional authority is to represent constituents. Questioned whether there was documented support from a majority of constituents for the actions discussed and stated that, if so, such matters should be formally presented to the Board. Emphasized that the issue would affect the entire County and asked under what authority the work in his portion of the County was affected. He asked under what authority he has done all of this work.

11. Round Table

Vice-Chairman Fletcher:

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hoped that everyone would have a good Holiday Season.

Commissioner Gilles:

Thanked everyone who came out for the Christmas Parade on December 13th. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Boyle:

Stated that Commissioner Gilles and her spouse Nate put a lot of time into the Christmas Parade Commissioner Float and said it was a lot of fun.

County Administrator Townsend:

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

County Clerk Davidson:

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Chairman Traylor:

Chairman Traylor acknowledged County Clerk Carlette Davidson for her many years of dedicated service to the County as she prepares for retirement, noting that her departure will be difficult and that her position will be hard to fill. He stated that, from a knowledge standpoint, County Clerk Davidson is one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the community. Chairman Traylor recalled entering his role as a Commissioner feeling like a “deer in headlights,” having initially assumed the job would be easy, and noted that some in the audience may feel the same way. He shared that, after spending time in County Clerk Davidson’s office, he realized how much responsibility and detail the job entails. He stated that County Clerk Davidson encouraged and enrolled him in training classes, emphasizing the importance of education and continuous learning, which he found invaluable. Chairman Traylor expressed his appreciation for her guidance and mentorship throughout his service. He stated that County Clerk Davidson has been a resource for everyone in both the current and former County buildings, noting that any question—large or small—was directed to her. Chairman Traylor said it will be difficult not being able to call on her but noted that he will continue to do so as he always has. He concluded by expressing sincere gratitude for her lifelong dedication, talents, and service to the County.

Chairman Traylor and the Commissioners presented County Clerk Davidson with a plaque for 15 years of Service and Proclamation for her service as the County Clerk for Lamar County and the Lamar County Board of Commissioners.

County Clerk Davidson stated that she supported Chairman Traylor when he was a student at Lamar County High School while she served as the Registrar. She reported having 40 years of service in government, beginning with the Lamar County School System, then working in Atlanta with the Department of Education, later in Columbus, and ultimately returning to Lamar County as County Clerk. She remarked that she never imagined she would one day work for a former student who would become her supervisor and Chairman of the Lamar County Board of Commissioners. County Clerk Davidson advised everyone to never “burn bridges,” noting that you never know who you may work for in the future. She encouraged everyone to learn as much as possible, as you never know what job or assignment you may eventually have. She concluded by advising everyone to always keep Christ first.

Chairman Traylor continued with his Round Table comments and stated that public comments do not always require an immediate response; however, he addressed remarks made by Mr. Hyde regarding corrupt politicians. Chairman Traylor stated that he has friendships with many individuals in Lamar County, surrounding counties, other counties, and state offices, noting that such remarks broadly characterize many people. He stated that Mr. Hyde is entitled to his opinion but emphasized that slandering others should be carefully considered. Chairman Traylor noted that he does not personally know Mr. Hyde but knows others who do and stated that he would never speak about him in that manner.

He stated that Mr. Hyde is treated with respect each time he attends meetings, records meetings, and provides public comments. Chairman Traylor stated that while he answers to the people who voted for him, he ultimately answers to God.

Chairman Traylor stated that he is encouraged by positive articles, such as those featuring C.J. Allen, but expressed concern over the number of articles involving vehicle accidents, particularly fatalities. He noted concerns regarding distracted driving, cell phone use, increased traffic, and the number of students driving. He stated that he prays for everyone's safety during the holiday season and noted that three Commissioners, including the spouse of a Commissioner, have recently been involved in life-changing accidents. Chairman Traylor shared that, due to a car accident, he is unable to throw a football with his son. Chairman Traylor stated that there are many aspects of the community to be proud of, including the recent illumination ceremony. He reported that new residents contacted him and described the event as resembling a Hallmark movie and suggested that a television production be considered in the future. Chairman Traylor stated that the event was a great success and an incredible experience for the community.

Chairman Traylor stated that the Christmas Parade began with the celebration of Lamar County's 100-year anniversary and noted that it was a great event; however, he said this year's Christmas Parade was even better. He commended the work Logan Evans did on the website and forms for the Christmas Parade. Chairman Traylor stated that Commissioner Gilles and her spouse, Nate, outdid themselves on the float, describing it as phenomenal. He shared that when Commissioner Gilles initially drew the concept on paper and sent it to them, he hoped it could be accomplished and was pleased with the outcome. He noted that Commissioner Lovett drove the trailer, with all Commissioners dressing as the misfit toys from *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Chairman Traylor reported that the Mayor called to say the float was the best one in the parade and expressed appreciation to all Commissioners, as well as Media Specialist Logan Evans and Human Resources/Payroll Director Melinda Corley.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and noted that many activities are ongoing in the community, with numerous initiatives ahead in FY 2026.

Chairman Traylor stated that the County will miss Continental Tire/Aldora Mills as a tax base but emphasized that, more importantly, many families who worked there for years are now affected. He expressed his best wishes to those individuals who are now seeking employment. He noted that some employees recently purchased homes and are now facing uncertainty regarding their ability to make payments. Chairman Traylor shared that while he does not always enjoy going to Gordon State College, he values going for the students and expressed gratitude for his position.

Chairman Traylor concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

12. Executive Session

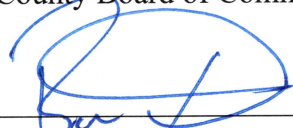
None

1. Real Estate
2. Litigation
3. Personnel

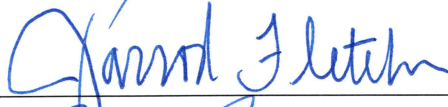
13. Adjournment

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at 8:08 p.m. Vice-Chairman Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

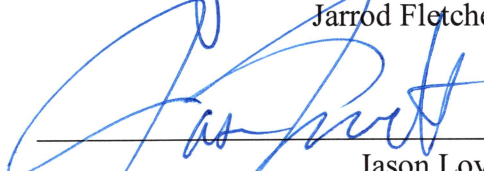
Lamar County Board of Commissioners



Ryran Traylor, Chairman



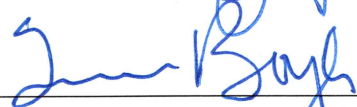
Jarrod Fletcher, Vice-Chairman



Jason Lovett, Commissioner

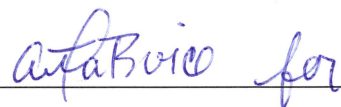


Ashley Gilles, Commissioner



Truman Boyle, Commissioner

Attest:



Carlette Davidson, County Clerk