

INVOCATION

Commissioner Pct. 3-James Strain, DeKalb, TX

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 23rd day of February, 2026, the **HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT** of Bowie County, Texas met in **REGULAR SESSION** at the Courthouse in New Boston, Texas after due notice had been posted on the 17th day of February, 2026 with the **HONORABLE BOBBY L. HOWELL** present and presiding with the following Commissioners being present.

Sammy Stone	Commissioner Pct. #1
Tom Whitten	Commissioner Pct. #2
James Strain	Commissioner Pct. #3
Mike Carter	Commissioner Pct. #4

Also in attendance were the following County Officials:

- County Auditor Jennifer Beckett
- County Clerk Tina Petty
- County Legal Advisor Samuel Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elections Administrator Pay McCoy spoke to the Court about voter turnout.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Court convened at 9:04 A.M. when the following **ORDERS, JUDGMENTS** and **DECREES** were had and **ORDERED** spread upon the minutes of the court to-wit.

Item 1: Public Comments were made by John Alquist, Wake Village, TX and Justin Binning, Hooks, TX

Item 2: There was no Commissioners Court response to Public Comments.

**Item 3: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve a Resolution Supporting Legislation to Improve County Road Infrastructure and Safety.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

**Item 4: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to pay Four States Fiber the payment of \$690,993.00 from ARP Funds for the Bowie County Fiber Ring Project.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

Item 5: There was no action taken to appoint Lance Hall as Bowie County Fire Marshal for a two-year term ending February 2028.

Item 6: There was no action taken to approve the bond of Lance Hall as Fire Marshal.

**Item 7: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Inter-Agency cooperation and Protocol for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) between Red River Army Depot (RRAD) and Bowie County Sheriff's Office.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

**Item 8: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report ending January 2026.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

**Item 9: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to appoint Aron Crabtree to the Board of Commissioners for ESD #5 for a one-year term.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

**Item 10: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve the Auditor's Monthly Report for January 2026.
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

**Item 11: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve budget adjustments (line item transfers).
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

Item 12: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve payment of accounts payable and payroll.

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

Item 13: On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the minutes as an Order of the Court (February 9, 2026).

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**

Item 14: There was no Adjournment into Executive Session pursuant to the following Sections:

- a. Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with attorney regarding legal issues relating to pending or contemplated litigation.**
- b. Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code: Deliberation of the purchase, exchange lease or value of real property.**
- c. Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters.**
- d. Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code: Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations.**

Item 15: There was no action taken to authorize the County Judge to execute settlement participation and release forms regarding confidential partial settlement matters in the Texas opioid multi-district litigation for Bowie County in the matter of *County of Bowie v. Purdue Pharma, L.P., et al.*

On this 23rd day of February, 2026, a motion was made by Commissioner Sammy Stone and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to adjourn.

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.
Motion carried.**