

Merry Christmas Fellow Citizens of Live Oak County,

As your Live Oak County Judge, I would like to update you with some of the things that we have been working on in the county from October 2023 through December 2023. Also, some of the end of year highlights are included.

- Courthouse and County Facilities
 - Roof update - expected completion 12/30/2023.
 - Courthouse Master Plan will be submitted to Texas Historical Commission in February 2024.
 - County Commissioners' Courtroom A/C has been replaced.
 - Senior Center – repair and replace awning.
 - New Christmas lights and decorations for the Courthouse square.
 - Courthouse electrical repairs on the rooftop.
- Staffing or Pay Changes
 - Added Tri County Court at Law Judge - Harvey Hardwick (Appointed Unanimously).
 - Mandated by the State - increased juror pay from \$10 to \$20 (first day), if chosen to serve pay went from \$40 to \$60 per day.
 - Added pay to airport manager at \$500/month.
 - The Assistant District Attorney's salary increased at no additional cost to Live Oak County.
 - New medical staffing for the County Jail.
 - Contracted Dr. Ray Fernandez in Robstown to perform autopsies for Live Oak County.
 - Contracted Grant Writer, Yvette Utley, with Lone Star Strategy.
 - Approved Lone Star Strategy Group LLC to apply for the TDEM winter Storm Disaster Grant and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant.
- Software for Financial Intelligence upgrade for auditor's and treasurer's offices.
- Increased budget \$15,000 for the Live Oak County Historical Commission.
- Purchased new elections equipment - first utilized in the November election.
 - More training was approved for county clerk employees and elections workers.
- Senior Center - continuing to serve and add people to the meal delivery program.
- Purchased 12 Automated External Defibrillators.
- Visited with Union Pacific about railroad crossings in Live Oak County.
- Met with TXDOT about intersections and roads in Live Oak County.
- Received 2 used vehicles for constables from the City of Three Rivers.
- Presided over 220 Criminal Cases from October through December.
- Some of the Community Activities participated in
 - 4-H Proclamation week 10/1-7/2023.
 - 3rd grade courthouse tour.
 - Presided over a mock trial for Mrs. McClendon's Senior class.
 - STEER (South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable) 2023 Excellence Awards.
 - Spoke at the American Legion's Veteran's Day Celebration.
 - National Wreaths Across America Day.

- Veterans Day Open House at the Grace Armantrout Museum and Veterans Depot.
- 4-H decorating of the Courthouse Christmas tree.
- Annual First Responders Christmas Dinner.

- 2023 Year End Highlights
 - Presided over more than 800 cases.
 - Held over 36 Commissioners Court Meetings.
 - Over 60 miles of Roads in Live Oak County have been paved or repaired.
 - Multiple bridges have been repaired or under construction.
 - The County ended the year fiscally sound.

This first year as your County Judge has been an honor and a privilege. It has been a great experience learning and being involved in so many new as well as familiar things throughout this year. Visiting, working, and meeting with new and former associates has been a pleasure. The hard work, dedication, and support from the Live Oak County elected officials, Live Oak County employees, and you the great citizens of Live Oak County have made this first year one I will cherish. I would personally like to wish you a Merry Christmas and pray blessings for you all in the coming new year.

Sincerely,

Live Oak County Judge James Liska