

Hello 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 January 2023 through September 2023.

- Courthouse Construction
  - New Roof is currently being installed.
  - Fisher Heck Architects have been hired to create a master plan for the courthouse renovation.
  - Preliminary estimated cost to renovate the courthouse and square is about \$5 million.
  - Communication has been made with the Texas Historical Commission for applying for grants to help with renovation cost.
  - Preliminary estimated time for courthouse renovation completion is about 3 years.
- American Relief Plan Act of 2021 (State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) also known as ARPA funds.
  - \$1.1 million used to complete the Live Oak County Sheriff Department's digital communication upgrade.
  - \$250,000 designated to the Live Oak County Fair Association for improvements to the Live Oak County Fairground facilities.
  - \$200,000 allocated to the construction of 4 additional helipads throughout the county.
  - \$150,000 allocated to the Marbach School Water supply.
  - \$100,000 allocated to the Live Oak County Park facilities.
- Planning has begun for a new Live Oak County Fire Station to be located close to the Criminal Justice Center.
- Purchased a Crash Attenuator Truck used to protect firefighters and first responders while working accidents.
- Purchased or replaced (Outdated) technology equipment for multiple county departments.
- Live Oak County Library (George West location) sign has been repainted and the sprinkler system has been repaired.
- Trees on the courthouse square have been pruned and grounds maintained.
- Commissioners' Court voted to transfer \$2 million from the Road and Bridge Fund and allotted each Live Oak County Commissioner's precinct an additional \$500,000 for road repairs.
  - Over 50 miles of roads in Live Oak County have been paved or repaired.
  - Multiple bridges have been repaired or are under construction.
- 2024 Budget Commissioners' Court approved and has been adopted (Some highlights below).
  - Approved a \$26,000 County match (Grant) towards the purchase of a Fire Department Brush Truck.
  - Live Oak County Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Protection fee per run was raised from \$50 to \$100 (This had not been adjusted in over 30 years).
  - Budgeted additional funding for road and bridge projects.
  - Funded Tri County Court at Law Judge Position.
  - Court Approved \$7,000 annual raise for all county employees (Raises have not been given 6 out of the last 8 years).
  - \$3 million allocated for Courthouse renovation.
- 2024 Tax Rate was adopted and remains the same amount as the last 3 years at \$0.49602.
- Live Oak County Criminal Court, officiated by the county judge, has presided over 627 court cases and 3 jury trials.

It is an honor and privilege to represent Live Oak County at the Texas State Capitol, meet and develop relationships with members of our Texas Legislatures, and build relationships with other Texas County Judges. Having been placed on many committees and boards across the Coastal Bend region, I proudly represent the interest of Live Oak County. I especially appreciate the hard work, dedication, and support from the Live Oak County elected officials and employees as we serve you, the great people of Live Oak County.

Respectfully,

Live Oak County Judge James Liska