

**RUSSELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
10:00 AM**

The Russell County Fiscal Court held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Those in attendance were County Judge Executive Randy Marcum, Magistrates Terry Waddell, Mickey Garner, Zach Wilson, Steve Richardson, Larry Skaggs, County Attorney Kevin Shearer and County Treasurer Kim Blanchet.

WELCOME, PLEDGE & OPENING PRAYER: Judge Marcum welcomed those present and asked Brother Ethan West to pray followed by the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES: Judge Marcum presented the minutes from August 11, 2025, regular meeting. Magistrate Skaggs made a motion to approve the minutes with Magistrate Wilson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

PAY BILLS: Judge Marcum submitted a list of regular bills to be approved along with a list of bills that came in late. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to pay the bills with Magistrate Garner seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

DETENTION CENTER REPORT: Chief Deputy Jailer McGowan read the jail report as follows: Nurse Visits \$54.91; Prescription Co-Pay \$397.22; HB 452 \$373.46; HB 556 \$22,642.00; State Inmate Housing \$48,203.76; Social Security Payment \$600.00; Clinton County Inmate Housing \$16,111.51; Booking Fees \$2,503.87; Fee Claim \$507.22; Transport Fee \$110.94; Phone Commission (2 checks) \$2,357.70; Reimbursement \$997.94; Reimbursement \$15.39; Per Diem \$2,593.12; Garnish Process Fees (2 checks) \$20.00; Interest \$34.82; Transfer from general \$125,000.00; Transfer to Road Fund for deposit error \$-1,500.00 for a total income of \$220,636.14. The expenses were \$157,533.16. The difference between actual receipts (less the \$125,000.00 transfer from general) to expenses is (\$61,897.02). The average inmates for the month was 109 There were 6 ¾ hours of overtime. As of today, there are 46 state inmates, 10 from Clinton County and 50 from Russell County for a total of 106 inmates. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the detention center report with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Polston provided the Sheriff's report for the month of August. He stated there were 518 calls for 911 service; 12 Domestic; 126 Traffic Stops; 17 1045's; 6 1046's; 8 Motorist Assist; 37 Requests for Deputy; 4 Shots Fired; 17 Suspicious Persons; 11 Welfare Checks; 3 Juvenile Complaints; 7 Mental Health Transports; 19 Juvenile Summons; 22 Subpoenas; 2 Eviction Notice; 35 Civil Summons; 1 EPO; 11 Criminal Summons; 89 court papers served; 115 Prisoner Transports; 5711 court security transport miles; and 12 CCDW permits. Magistrate Waddell made a motion to accept the report with Magistrate Wilson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT & PRE-APPROVED MONTHLY AE TRANSFERS: Judge Marcum stated the treasurer's monthly settlement report and pre-approved AE transfers were in the packet and asked the court if anyone had any questions regarding those reports. There were no comments or questions. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the report & AE transfers with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

2ND READING ORDINANCE 25-06 BUDGET ORDINANCE: Treasurer Blanchet read the ordinance which was for unbudgeted receipts. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept Budget Amendment 25-06 with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

2ND READING ORDINANCE 25-07 STREET LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES: County Attorney Shearer read the ordinance. Magistrate Richardson stated his opposition to the ordinance. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept Ordinance 25-07 with Magistrate Waddell seconding. Magistrates Waddell, Garner, Wilson & Skaggs voted yea with Magistrate Richardson voting nay. Motion passed.

1ST READING ORDINANCE 25-08 FEE POOLING & PURCHASE ORDER SYSTEM FOR RUSSELL COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE: County Attorney Shearer read the ordinance. Sheriff Polston express his strong

opposition to the ordinance and stated he felt it would be detrimental to his office and the community as a whole. Sheriff Office Worker Lisa Whittle also presented a statement with her strong opposition to the fee pooling system. Magistrate Garner expressed his position & stated he had concerns over the sheriff's office latest fee audit as well as the COPS grant audit which left the county in a non-compliance situation. He also expressed his concern with Sheriff Polston providing his road deputies and office staff a \$5.00 increase an hour in pay. He went on to state if the sheriff's office had that much excess money then why was the sheriff's salary coming out of the general fund budget and not the sheriff's own budget like the county clerk does. There was heated discussion from both sides. After lengthy discussions Magistrate Garner & other court members stated they would rather see Sheriff Polston run and manage his own office but they also would like to see the sheriff's office pay the sheriff's salary. Sheriff Polston agreed to try to make that happen.

1st READING ORDINANCE 25-09 BUDGET ORDINANCE: Treasurer Blanchet read the ordinance which was for unbudgeted receipts. She stated we would have the 2nd reading at the October meeting.

TAX RATES FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS: Judge Marcum stated the county and a one of the other taxing districts had presented the rates at the last meeting but the other districts would be presenting the tax rates tonight. Jonathon Oaks of the Extension office presented their rates. Those rates are 3.8 for real property; 6.23 for tangible and 6.23 for watercraft. Lindsey Westerfield from the library presented the tax rates for the library district. Those rates are 5.9 for real property; 6.76 for tangible and 6.76 for watercraft & 2.47 for motor. Charles Shepherd from the Ambulance Board presented their tax rates. Those rates were 6.4 for real property; 9.2 for tangible; 9.2 for watercraft. Scott Thompson from the hospital presented their rates. Those rates were 4.6 for real property; 9.2 for tangible; 9.2 for watercraft. Mr. Thompson stated he was pleased they were able to reduce the tax by 1% again this year. Treasurer Blanchet stated the rates for the conservation district remained the same at .09 for real property. Judge Marcum stated the special taxing districts just needed to present the rates but no vote was necessary.

RESOLUTION 25-11 FOR KACO GRANT: Judge Marcum stated we had Resolution 25-11 which was for a grant provided by KACo for an insurance grant for some additional training for the road department. Magistrate Skaggs made a motion to adopt the resolution with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

OPEN BIDS FOR COURTHOUSE JANITORIAL: Judge Marcum stated we had three bids and asked Treasurer Blanchet to open them. Treasurer Blanchet opened the first bid which was from Love To Shine which was our current provider. That bid came in at a yearly cost of \$39,780.00. The next bid came if from Linda Barnes Cleaning which is the current vendor at the Judicial Center. That bid came in at yearly cost of \$29,280.00. The last bid came in from Zaco Cleaning and it came in at \$37,500.00. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the bid from Linda Barnes Cleaning with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

GREASY CREEK PROJECT: Judge Marcum asked the court if they would give him permission to sign the agreement between the Army Corp of Engineers and the county to take over the Greasy Creek area which the county is trying to rehabilitate. Magistrate Garner made a motion to allow the judge to sign the agreement with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

KEAN ROAD: County Attorney Shearer stated many years this road had been taken into the county but for some reason the back portion of this road was not included in the mileage on our road list. He asked to court to make the correction of the additional mileage on the road list to fix the initial error. Magistrate Waddell made a motion to make the correction with Magistrate Garner seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

BICENTINNIAL UPDATES: Deputy Judge Melson & Tourism Director Danielle Wilsom came before the court and provided the updates of the recent Beauty Pageant and stated Miss Irene Loy was the winner of the over 65 category. They went on to state the Fall Festival, Battle of The Bands & Diner Cruise were all upcoming events and asked everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities.

OTHER BUSINESS: Judge Marcum stated the Russell County Animal Welfare League was having a lot of success in the spay & neuter clinic which the county helped finance in addition to a grant. He stated they were currently using the DAV facility and were looking for donations so they could keep the clinic open during the winter months. He also stated he really felt this was a worthwhile endeavor because it helped with the growing population of stray dogs and cats in the area.

ADJOURN: With nothing further to discuss Magistrate Skaggs made a motion to adjourn with Magistrate Wilson seconding. All was in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11.23 a.m.



Randy Marcum
County Judge Executive



Kim Blanchet
County Treasurer & Fiscal Court Clerk