

THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF ARCHER COUNTY, TEXAS

met in Special Session on Friday, August 18, 2023 at 8:45 A.M.

Those present:

Randall C. Jackson		County Judge
Wade Scarbrough	Absent	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Darin Wolf		Commissioner, Precinct 2
Pat Martin, III		Commissioner, Precinct 3
Todd Herring		Commissioner, Precinct 4
Karren Winter		County Clerk
Conner Deen		County Attorney Assistance
Jack Curd		Sheriff
Missy Hoegger		Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4
David Levy	via zoom	County Attorney
Christie Mooney		Elections Administrator
Dawn Vieth		Tax Assessor/Collector
Whitney Schreiber		Assistant Treasurer

Public in attendance:

Nathan Lawson with Archer County News
Callie Lawson
Mayor, Jake Truette, City of Archer City

A. CALL TO ORDER

Greeting, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum
Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flags
Registration of Attendees by the County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Randy Jackson, and a quorum was noted.

B. Approve Final Agenda:

No items were removed from the agenda.

ORDER TO APPROVE FINAL AGENDA

The motion was made by Todd Herring and seconded by Darin Wolf to approve the Final Agenda. Voting yes 2-3-4-Judge

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS, MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS OR PRESENTATIONS AGENDA:

Randy Jackson welcomed Jake Truette, Mayor for the City of Archer City, to the meeting to discuss the ambulance service.

D. ACTION AGENDA:

1. Discuss financial assistance to Archer County VFDs and responding VFDs. **Randy Jackson discussed the budget strains each Volunteer Fire Department is having because of the recent grassfires. Jackson stated that the VFDs will be able to apply for a grant from the State to help recoup their expenses. No action taken.**
2. Discuss and/or take action on Elections. **Christie Mooney explained the Order that needs to be approved for Special Election to be held in November, 2023.**

ORDER TO APPROVE ORDER OF ELECTION

The motion was made by Pat Martin, III and seconded by Darin Wolf to approve Order for Special Election. Voting yes 2-3-4-Judge

3. Discuss and/or take action on ambulance service countywide.

Jake Truette discussed the ambulance service for the City of Archer City. Truette reported that the city was managing the service themselves when he came on as Mayor. AMR came into the picture because the city had tried raising salaries and hiring more staff to keep the ambulance service fully staffed. It became clear early on that the city could not sustain the ambulance service because the funds were not there, without having to dip into city reserves. Truette stated that the city had pulled from reserves last year to pay AMR. He stated that the city would like to be in some sort of partnership with the county. Truette agrees that this is not a long-term solution to fix the problem, but to keep the ambulance here in Archer City. Truette believes the city would be willing to put up \$250,000.00 with the county's matching funds. Randy Jackson questioned who would manage the ambulance service. Truette stated that the city would continue to manage the service at this time. Darin Wolf asked for the numbers of calls that have been made inside the city verses outside of the city. Nathan Lawson gave the numbers to Darin Wolf. Pat Martin, III questioned the difference in the three proposals that were given to the city. Jack Curd stated that the sheriff's office could give a report on how many calls are made by the ambulance service. Todd Herring asked if a 501(c)(3) nonprofit has ever been considered. Truette explained that they are looking into this option. Herring stated that once a nonprofit was established, it would be able to receive grants, donations and memberships. He believes that the city and county should have a say on what happens. Herring discussed paying for the service and then AMR needing the ambulance in Wichita County and Archer not having an ambulance here. That would allow AMR to be getting paid twice, once in the city contract and then on the call they were sent on. Christie Mooney addressed the Court on her thoughts for having an ambulance service. Ms. Mooney stated that you don't think about them until you need them. She is thankful that they were there when she needed the ambulance. She agreed with the Court that a long-term solution needs to be made to fund the ambulance service. Commissioners Todd Herring, Darin Wolf and Judge Randy Jackson discussed finding a sustainable solution for long term ambulance coverage. Archer County will consider subsidizing or partnering on a short-term solution with the City of Archer City and AMR. Randy Jackson questioned Paul O. Wylie, III about forming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Wylie stated that he had never filed for a 501(c)(3) but David Levy had. David Levy gave an update on how a 501(c)(3) could be formed. Jackson asked Mr. Levy to send a brief startup and procedures on a 501(c)(3) corporation to the commissioners and Mayor Truette. Darin Wolf talked about the billing process of the ambulance service of not charging if they did not transport. Pat Martin, III asked what the city's decision is on the ambulance. Truette stated it was still up in the air about what to do with the ambulance. Martin believes that something needs to be done for this year. Martin suggested the court meet with the City of Archer City Council. No action taken.

Having no further business to consider, the Court adjourned at 9:42 a. m.

I, Karren Winter, County Clerk of Archer County, and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, Archer County, Texas do hereby certify that the foregoing Commissioners Court Minutes are a true and correct record of the proceedings.

ATTEST: *Karren Winter*

Karren Winter, Archer County Clerk