

THE COMMISSIONERS’ COURT OF ARCHER COUNTY, TEXAS
met in Budget Workshop on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Those present:

Randall C. Jackson		County Judge
Wade Scarbrough	Absent	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Darin Wolf		Commissioner, Precinct 2
Kendall Coleman		Commissioner, Precinct 3
Todd Herring		Commissioner, Precinct 4
Karren Winter		County Clerk
Patricia Vieth		Treasurer
Cristi Kellar		Auditor
Jack Curd		Sheriff
Jordyn Berend		County Attorney
Lori Rutledge		District Clerk
Shane Wright		EMC
Dawn Vieth		Tax Assessor/Collector

Public in Attendance:

Ronnie Myer – City of Archer City

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.

Randy Jackson discussed rescinding item #9 in the Commissioners’ Court meeting held on July 28, 2025. Darin Wolf asked if an Elected Official salary could be changed at this time in the budget process after the Officeholder had received their salary notice. Cristi Kellar responded that the salaries have not been posted at this time. Jordyn Berend explained the timeline of posting in the local newspaper of Elected Officials’ salaries. Mrs. Berend explained the situation with her last year’s published salary and the salary amount in the approved FY2024-2025 Budget. Todd Herring asked about the supplement that was also approved. Randy Jackson reported that it was also in the same order that he rescinded. Darin Wolf asked Ms. Kellar if setting the County Attorney’s salary at \$62,330.14 base salary would correct the mistake from last year’s budget. Cristi Kellar stated that was the correct amount. Darin Wolf addressed Ms. Berend stating that the money she didn’t receive was money she wasn’t supposed to receive. Mr. Wolf asked Mrs. Berend if she was still asking for that amount. Mrs. Berend said that she was not asking for one thing or another. She admits that she was upset with not receiving a raise, so if she couldn’t get the 7% raise, could she at least get the difference of the mistake in the amount of \$2,600.00. Mr. Wolf replied to Mrs. Berend if she realized that it was a mistake, and she discussed it with the Auditor; she was okay with it why was she asking for it now? Mrs. Berend stated that she was not okay with it; she didn’t have any grounds to ask for it until she was overlooked for a raise. Mrs. Berend stated that she was asking for a raise to her salary. She felt undervalued. Mr. Wolf stated that was not the case, she was valued. She was not considered to get a raise because her State Stipend was increased this year.

ORDER TO RESCIND

The motion was made by Randy Jackson and seconded by Kendall Coleman to rescind Order, Item #9 from July 28, 2025 Commissioners’ Court meeting, and to set the County Attorney’s base salary at \$62,330.14 plus a 7% raise for FY2026. Voting yes 2-3-4-Judge

Randy Jackson reminded Todd Herring that they had discussed part-time employees. Herring wanted clarification on the difference of part-time employees and regular part-time employees. Patricia Vieth explained the difference of the employees and reported how many regular part-time employees work for Archer County. Vieth reported that the regular part-time employees get retirement. Jack Curd stated that the reason they get

benefits is to meet a federal requirement. Todd Herring stated that he would like the Court to look into offering the regular part-time employees health insurance. Mr. Herring wanted to know if there was any law that said you can or can't give benefits. Mrs. Berend stated that we are required to give them benefits to any employee that worked at least 37.5 hours a week. There is no prohibition against giving employees that work less than 37.5 hours benefits. Randy Jackson stated we have to offer them a health care plan, but we don't have to fund it.

The motion was made by Randy Jackson offers to regular part-time employees that average 20 hours a week and have been employed with the County for one year; the employee would be offered health care premiums from the County but do not receive the health savings contribution from the County. Motion was withdrawn.

Jordyn Berend stated a policy change would need to be made. Mrs. Berend suggested putting the policy change on the next agenda.

Court asked Ronnie Myer to give them an update on the Ambulance. Mr. Myer stated that the contract price had gone up \$13,000.00. Mr. Myer also stated that the City of Archer City would start their budget workshops on Saturday. Randy Jackson reported that HB 3000 offers \$500,000.00 to counties with populations under 10,000. Jackson stated that the funds would cover the cost of equipment. Kendall Coleman stated that the funds will be available January 1, 2026 for equipment. Ronnie Myer discussed ambulance data on the ambulance. He discussed runs in Archer City and runs outside of Archer City. Jack Curd discussed that most of the calls are outside the city limits of Archer City. Mr. Meyer stated that 20% – 23% are Archer City calls the rest are outside of the city limits. Darin Wolf asked what the Archer City council feels about the ambulance sitting outside of Wichita Falls. Jack Curd stated that the Court was not told the truth about if the ambulance would stay in Archer City at a cost of \$500,000.00 and \$250,000.00 if the ambulance stayed in Wichita Falls. Todd Herring agreed with Jack Curd; he heard it the same way. Mr. Herring doesn't think we are getting what we pay for. Mr. Herring stated that the County and the City were paying for the ambulance to stay in Archer City unless there was an emergency for mutual aid. Darin Wolf stated that AMR is a business, but why are we having to fund a business. Mr. Wolf asked Mrs. Berend if the County was required to furnish an ambulance service. Mrs. Berend said the County was not required to furnish an ambulance service. Herring and Kendall Coleman reported that they had visited with a care flight team at conference. They suggested that the County use the SB 3000 funds to purchase an ambulance and let the city fund the employees.

Cristi Kellar discussed the proposed budget with all of the items that have been requested.

Court recessed at 11:10 A.M.

Court reconvened at 11:15 A.M.

Kendall Coleman asked how much funds were in the non-departmental budget. Mr. Coleman reported that the Courthouse air conditioners would be installed before the end of the budget year at a cost of \$20,000.00.

Jack Curd reported that the Wave System for the Courthouse and Annex was no longer working. He requested for it to be considered in current year's budget.

Jack Curd stated that he had a meeting with the 97th District Judge and that she had requested to have bullet proof backing in the Judge's bench.

Cristi Kellar asked the Court if they wanted to move the inmate working expense and Sheriff's IT to the Sheriff's budget. Court chose to leave in non-departmental. Mr. Curd discussed turning their cell phones into radios. Clay County is already using this service. This would take care of a third repeater. The cost is \$3,000.00 per year, and he included it in the 2026 budget.

Darin Wolf discussed that several Elected Officials that he would like to see not receive a 7% base salary increase. They said in here Friday that they did not want a raise. Mr. Wolf wanted to know if anyone wanted to look at that again, or were they good with what they decided on Monday? Randy Jackson stated for reasons stated he was good with it. Mr. Wolf also stated that there were two or three offices that asked for extra money for their employees plus a raise.

Jordan Berend discussed her request from July 28, 2025. She stated that she requested for both employees to receive a 5% raise and her legal assistant receive an additional \$2,600.00 raise to allow both of her employees to receive the same amount. With that request granted, it still didn't give them the same salary. Mrs. Berend asked the Court to consider not giving either a raise and raising her legal assistant to match her other employee.

Kendall Coleman discussed allowing the Elected Officials to determine what raise each of their employees would receive, not going over what the Court approved. Example, if the Court approved a 7% raise, the Elected Official could give each of their employees up to 7% but not more depending on how the Elected Official evaluated their performance. Jack Curd explained that it would be hard for the first year, but once the employees understood that if they didn't receive a good performance evaluation, they may or may not receive a raise. Jordyn Berend requested the ability to allow her to give performance raise to her staff. Darin Wolf stated that the Court has never had a budget year that so many Elected Officials asked for their employees to get a base salary raise and a percentage raise. Mr. Wolf stated he would be in favor of leaving it up to the Department Heads to give whatever raise to their people, with it being capped at 5% or 7% for budget reasons. Jordyn Berend stated her extra money for staff was 5.6%. Wolf stated he wasn't talking about her office. He stated that one Commissioner wanted to give his foreman a salary raise so that he would be making more money than the road hand, which is because of longevity of the road hand.

Karren Winter discussed that several years ago we talked about raising base salaries, explaining if a new employee came to work for the County, they would receive the beginning base salary and their salary would increase as they received raises. This would keep them from making the same as someone who had been here several years. Ms. Winter said that everyone says it is about the position and not the employee, but it is about the employee, and how they perform.

Jack Curd liked the idea of setting beginning base salaries.

Dawn Vieth also discussed a performance base salary.

Patricia Vieth discussed that she could not change a salary if documentation is not submitted to the Treasurer.

Jordyn Berend reported that all this would have to be approved by the Court during budget session.

Darin Wolf stated that the reason he is asking for a 7% raise for all employees is because one Elected Official should not have received a raise but did and their budget should have been cut. Because that happened all employees should receive a 7% raise to be fair to everyone.

Darin Wolf made a motion to give a 7% base salary raise to all employees, and to leave it up to that department head to decide how much raise everyone receives; a full 7%, 5%, 2% or no raise. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Having no further business to consider, the Court adjourned at 12:00 P.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