

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

When you read this I will have been to Beeville on Monday to attend a regional “County Judge Training Roundtable”. I have been to this training format for the previous two years, one in Beeville and one in Carrizo Springs. I believe I cannot get too much training. I have found these Judges’ roundtables to be very effective. I think I learn more when a small group of county judges share their problems and insights because we all seem to have the same problems.

That is why I believe in researching any item we have among the south Texas counties our size and comparing procedures, wages and policies.

We are moving forward with a full review and targeted search on alternative health insurance programs. We are self insured and our program has not been actuarially covering itself for over two years and we are reaching critical mass on the time to do something. We are meeting with several different possibilities and seeking ideas from others. It is so important to our county employees to have a good stable plan. I know everyone struggles with this problem as well. It falls on me to initiate action. I always include a commissioner to join these meetings as well as virtually any significant meeting I have that could result in a significant financial decision for the county. I never forget whose money it is (the taxpayer).

If claims continue on as they have the last 30 months, our present program is not sustainable. I am putting high emphasis on a solution.

We are seeing a changing in the chairmanship of the Atascosa Historical Commission. The Chairman, Barbara Westbrook is leaving and she will be hard to replace. She has done an amazing job, dedicating her heart and soul to the mission. Words cannot express how much she has been appreciated!

Quote for the week, “A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.” George Bernard Shaw

Thank you for listening.

We want you to be proud of your county government.