

## ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

We are working very hard to transition the Atascosa Public Defender's Office from management by TRLA (Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid) to a stand-alone office covering our four counties (Frio, Karnes, Wilson, and Atascosa). I will be traveling to Frio and Karnes to make the presentation to their Commissioner's Courts. Wilson and Atascosa have already passed all of the necessary documents. We believe we will better manage the PDO under our oversight. I am hopeful we can have the new board in place by July 15 and take over on August 1.

Our new treatment program for Juvenile Detention should be up and running by August 1 (only three years after I started the process). This program will do a better job for our juveniles and the juveniles of nearby counties. It also should make up the necessary revenue to keep the facility open and be less of a burden to Atascosa taxpayers.

We will be starting the county budget process in August, and I am hopeful we can see a reduction in our tax rate. Reducing our tax rate and giving the county employees a 3% COLA are my two priorities. I know inflation is higher than 3% and would like to do more, but until we get into the nuts and bolts of the numbers, I will not know. Budgeting is a balancing act that tries to make everyone happy and can never do.

Please pray for rain! Please pray for peace in Ukraine. Thanks for listening. May God bless us all.

Judge Robert L. Hurley