

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

We are moving forward on the Juvenile Treatment Plan for our Juvenile Detention Center. We have hired the Clinical Director and she is working steadily on the details of the program that need to be developed before we can open the program to participants. I hope that is coming soon!

The building is ready for the Public Defender Program's attorneys to move in. We are waiting on them.

Our new (to us) records storage building on Simmons is ready for the filing cabinets to be installed. We should be functional there very soon. The county maintenance department is steadily moving into their side of the building.

We received the initial property tax renderings from the Atascosa Central Appraisal District, and it appears COVID is still doing its thing on valuations in our county. Last year was such a bad year for the property tax rate and the corresponding "no new tax rate" for the county. I had hoped we would see an increase in the valuations which would allow us to lower the tax rate. But it does not look like that will happen at this point. The preliminary numbers are an approximate (further) reduction of approximately \$280 million. This will impact the tax rate again but not as much as last year. I am so looking forward to the Appraisal District picking up the oil field valuations. That is one area that is hurting us. The other is COVID considerations on businesses that have suffered during the pandemic. Regardless of the impact, I encourage local businesses that were hurt to look at their options. We need our local small businesses to survive and prosper.

Thanks for listening. Let's keep Atascosa County moving forward!