

## **ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT**

“Bits and bobs” this week: The Public Defender office is moving into the building we have prepared and are leasing to them. The lease income should pay back our costs of preparation in about five years. Then all rental income will be extra revenue.

The added records building is nearing completion and we are starting to move the county clerks’ records into it. Our records storage needs have ramped up considerably with the additional court burden we have as a growing county. All commissioners and department heads believe we have saved a considerable amount of money by purchasing an older, existing building to get this done.

We are starting a service to transport our deceased persons in our county to the Medical Examiner’s office. This is a concern to all our surrounding counties and we are going to combine our needs with them for autopsy transport service and share the costs. I believe we will have an opportunity to bring down our costs with the implementation of this program.

Juvenile Detention is running well under the supervision of Daniella Martinez, and we are still working toward implementing the juvenile treatment program I have told you about. Hopefully soon.

I want to compliment our EMS ambulance service. We have an outstanding program headed up by Don Penny, assisted by Sam Jankowski. You should be proud of what we have. I look around at other nearby counties and they don’t have anything close to our program. The foresight of former commissioner courts and county judges to create this system has enabled us to be where we are today.

As I have been telling you over and over in this column – county functions are multi-faceted. We have so many different responsibilities that most citizens are not even aware of.

Thank you. I pray that God will bless Atascosa County and all its citizens.