



## DELAWARE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners of Delaware County met in Special Session at 10:30 a.m. on September 23, 2025. The agenda was posted September 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. and placed in the kiosk on the courthouse lawn as well as the county website. Members of the Board present were Commissioner David Poindexter-Chairman, Commissioner Jake Callihan-Member, Commissioner David Beck-Member and County Clerk Barbara Barnes -Secretary. The Board of Delaware County Commissioners is hereby authorized to act on the following items:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Poindexter followed by the flag salute and roll call. All members were present.

**AGENDA #1** - A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to determine that notice of meeting and agenda for this meeting was properly posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

**AGENDA #2**- A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to discuss with possible action the county budget. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried. Commissioner Callihan said this meeting is not a finger pointing session, it a chance for everyone to talk. He said the BOCC has the final say how the money will be distributed, but there is only so much money.

Commissioner Poindexter said the budget can be read by department and each discussed beginning with the District Attorney. Pewitt said he asked for an additional \$68,000 to have an attorney on staff to deal with only civil matters. He said it is not necessary for him to receive the total amount up front.

The Sheriff thanked the BOCC for the amount potentially allotted to his office. He said the sheriff's office operates 24/7 and therefore needs more money. He asked about the jail medical allotment being \$150,000. He said the actual cost is \$330,000.

Treasurer Treasa Earp asked if her budget could be the same as last year. Her capital outlay was potentially cut from \$3,000 to \$1,000 and she said she cannot operate on \$1,000.

Concerning the commissioner budget, Assessor Larena Cook said since ad valorem taxes will bring in more this year, the elected officials are statutorily entitled to a salary increase. Poindexter said he would be willing to forego the raise to help balance the budget.

Brooke Downing said concerning OSU's personal services, it is projected to be cut from \$68,000 to \$55,000. She said this was why the office needed more money last year. The extra amount is to pay the 4-H educator full-time instead of part-time.

County Clerk Barbara Barnes said she has fewer employees than anyone in the courthouse and she had hoped to add another. She said supplies such as toner and paper have had an extreme increase, but she will make this budget work, which is basically the same as last year.

Court Clerk Karma Sapp said she must have \$12,000 in her M&O to pay for storage of court files because the files must be kept for so many years. She rents storage buildings for this purpose. She said her employees are paid the least in the courthouse.

Callihan asked how much space is needed, because if he moves to the old fairgrounds, there would be storage space at his barn.

Concerning the general government allotment, Poindexter said \$1.2 million for insurance off the top is a burden and he is trying to find out if this increase will now be the norm. He said ACCO dropped five counties from insurance altogether and five more were reduced to \$250,000 of one-time coverage for a large liability incident. He said this increase from the state self-insured provider is because of so many multi-million-dollar payments for lawsuits against sheriff's offices and jails.

Election Board Secretary Crystal January said her amount reflected an added stipend to her pay, but even though the commissioners declined to give her the stipend, January 1 all the election board employees will get mandatory raises because the number of registered voters in Delaware County has exceeded 25,000. She said her M&O amount has been reduced in this budget and last year she spent \$8,000 on postage. She said salaries are all she is worried about and \$192,477 will cover those.

Cook asked why there is a line item for retirement. Barnes said big payouts have been necessary for some employees who worked six months before they were added to OPERS. For instance, there is already \$16,000 more needed for OPERS payouts this year. Cook said her insurance is paid from her budget and she asked whose benefits come out of general government? Payroll Clerk Tayla Douglas said the highway payroll OPERS comes from general government. Cook said every office should pay its own health and retirement from its own budget. OPERS comes from general government for the commissioners. Poindexter said the money to run commissioner districts comes from fuel tax and it is supposed to pay for the roads. If it was used to pay the commissioners' OPERS benefits, there would be no money left for highway operations. Cook said she still thinks the commissioners should pay for their benefits from their own budget. Cook then asked if two people are needed for maintenance in the courthouse. There was a resounding yes from most everyone in the room.

Callihan and Beck said the \$600,000 requested for E-911 should not be a part of the budget. Callihan said he understands the county should pay for dispatch for the sheriff and the county barns, but he questions the amount.



E-911 Board Chairman Carl Tesreau said paying for dispatch per call will not bring in enough money to run 911. He said the number came from what the county paid for dispatchers before the E-911 trust was created. Tesreau said four dispatchers in the chairs is not enough and a fifth needs to be added. He said the amount other entities pay for dispatch is 70 percent of the amount they spent on dispatch before being rolled into the county system. Tesreau said the board hopes to operate two years without increasing the rates, but there were 5,200 calls to 911 in July and four dispatchers cannot handle that. He said there have been 7,000 calls to the center for the sheriff's office since May. He said the center does not need all the money up front but must have that amount to operate.

Callihan said the county has another trust, Solid Waste, which asked for more help from the county this year and was turned down. Beck said he wants to see the actual financials from the E-911 accountant to see exactly what the trust spends and where. Tesreau said the trust has some CDs that amount to approximately \$482,000, but this amount is in reserve in case the system has a catastrophic event. He said the free service contract that came with the system was for five years, so soon E-911 will have the added expense of a \$150,000 service contract. Callihan asked about extra employees who have been put on the payroll at a large hourly rate. Tesreau said both of those, Kyle Longacre and Harlan Moore, have been terminated.

Cook asked why there is over \$170,000 set aside for county audits. She said more is budgeted that was spent last year. Barnes said the county's CPA Bill Turner advised not to touch this amount. The state is behind on audits and the county only had to pay for two last year, but it is possible there will be three this year.

Fair board President Cory Crittenden thanked the BOCC for the new facility. He said FFA membership is up with 107 members at Colcord and the Jay Greenhand FFA class has doubled. Regarding the fair allotment, he said show pens, the show ring and a carnival are added expenses. For a time, the fair board will have electric bills at two places. Jim Hollenback said the water and gas rates are going up at the industrial park. He estimates it will take approximately \$30,000 a year to maintain the new fair event center. There is \$73,000 left from the Cherokee Nation donation to the fairgrounds and Callihan said he hopes the Nation will help to buy pens and furniture. Hollenback said hog pens have already been ordered and that cost is \$47,000. He said the Grand Lake Boat Show has committed to rent the facility for a weekend boat show at \$4,000 for the weekend. The first event scheduled inside the event center is a 26-church revival set for Jan. 7-9, 2026.

January said she got nervous but intended to say her salary is paid by the state and the cost will be \$53,581.71 with benefits.

Cook said Turner budgets at 90 percent of the revenue, but the actual ad valorem tax revenue will be 6.6 million this year if all of it is collected.

Pewitt said over \$2 million was on and off the spread sheets, but Callihan clarified this was the over collection from the sheriff lawsuit that was given to the commissioners by voters to use for road maintenance. That amount should never have been introduced into the budget. Pewitt said the insurance was about the only big difference in the budget and the actual base revenue will be more this year, so he sees no need to panic about the budget.

Callihan said he thought this was a good meeting and he hopes to do it every year.

Poindexter said the new adjustments will be made to the proposed budget.

**AGENDA #3-** A motion was made by Commissioner Callihan and seconded by Commissioner Beck to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes; Commissioner Callihan-yes; and Commissioner Beck-yes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

BARBARA BARNES- COUNTY CLERK



DELAWARE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DAVID POINDEXTER, CHAIRMAN

JAKE CALLIHAN, MEMBER

DAVID BECK, MEMBER



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DELAWARE COUNTY

DAVID POINDEXTER, DISTRICT ONE  
JAKE CALLIHAN, DISTRICT TWO  
DAVID BECK, DISTRICT THREE

DRAWER 550

JAY, OK 74346

#3

MOTION MADE BY Callahan SECONDED BY Beck

TO APPROVE/AMEND MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AND SEPCIAL MEETING **SEPTEMBER 23RD.**

POINDEXTER Y CALLIHAN Y BECK Y  
MOTION CARRIED.

WITNESS OUR HANDS THIS 30TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DELAWARE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

David Poindexter  
DAVID POINDEXTER, CHAIRMAN

Jake Callihan  
JAKE CALLIHAN, MEMBER

David Beck  
DAVID BECK, MEMBER

ATTEST: Barbara Barnes  
BARBARA BARNES- COUNTY CLERK