

FORD COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION
AUGUST 27, 2026

The Ford County Public Building Commission met on August 27, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in the small courtroom.

Roll call showed the following members present: Jeff Lattz, Tom McQuinn, Ronald Shapland, and Chairman Del Bruens. Thomas Townsend was not present.

Non-Voting members present: Taylor Burnett, Ford County Treasurer; Andrew Killian, Ford County State's Attorney.

Department heads present: Sheriff Johnson, Pam Bruens, Jennifer Harrison, Kasi Schwarz, and Kelsie Vaughn.

Mr. Shapland moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Lattz seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Under public comment: Jennifer Harrison, CMO Ford County Probation Department spoke on the displacement of the probation department since the flood. Since the flood, the department has set up office in the small courtroom. Due to the individual needs and circumstances of clients, the Probation staff have had to meet with clients at various locations. Mrs. Harrison does not believe the basement will ever be a safe place for employees or clients due to the amount of mold that is growing. Mrs. Harrison is concerned about where her office will relocate due to the lack of space in the courthouse and around the Paxton area. Wherever the office moves will need to be secure and staffed with security. While there are other spaces available in Paxton, there will need to be renovations completed. Mrs. Harrison has looked into a mobile office solution that could be brought in that could be hooked up to the water system and utilize courthouse security. A printout was provided with a quote for an 18-month contract for \$143,883.95.

Mr. Shapland moved to approve the **June 24th, 2026, Public Building Commission minutes**. Mr. Lattz seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Mr. Lattz moved to approve the submitted treasurer's report. Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Mr. Lattz moved to approve the claims submitted. Mr. Shapland seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Under new business, Mr. Bruens tabled the discussion/possible action for the FY2027 levy with Ford County until the next meeting.

Sheriff Johnson discussed the Siemens contract. The proposed two-year contract is \$21,468.00, which has already been included in the budget. Sheriff Johnson looked into lower-cost options with another company; however, those options would include installation costs, and he questioned whether there would be any overall cost savings. Since the Siemens contract is already included in the budget, no roll call vote was necessary.

Sheriff Johnson spoke on the water treatment program. The new boiler warranty requires a water quality test. The tests are showing the water test is not where it needs to be. A one-year contract to improve the water quality would cost \$4800, after which the maintenance crew could assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The chemical cost is \$3,2xx.

Mr. Lattz made a motion for the Public Building Commission to cover the \$4800 for the one-time, one-year contract to improve the water quality and the Sheriff cover the cost of the chemicals. Mr. Shapland seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Sheriff Johnson discussed the shut off valves for the chillers. The current valves are leaking and will likely continue to get worse. Glycol is to be put in soon and if there are issues with the valve or needs replaced after, then the Glycol will have to be drained and replaced again so it would be best to change the valves prior the having Glycol put in. Not a definite quote but an estimate would be around \$5,000. Mr. Shapland made a motion to approve the replacement of the shut-off valves for the chiller not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Discussion on the elevator progress. The courthouse elevator was included in the CIRMA claim associated with the flood. The circuit board was replaced and seems to be working fine. The elevator at the jail is still a work in progress – have tried numerous things to fix it. The company is trying new circuit boards today. If that doesn't work, it will be back to square one.

Sheriff Johnson spoke on new cell doors and locks. Several doors and locks need to be replaced due to safety and functionality. Action on this was tabled.

Discussion on flooding issues in the courthouse. CIRMA has opened a claim. Several things were lost in the flood. No bill has been received from Servpro. Servpro will not touch plaster walls until they have been tested for asbestos which Servpro has a third-party company complete that testing. Sheriff agrees with not having any employees in the basement and using for storage only in the future. Members of the Public Building Commission are going down to the basement to assess after the meeting today.

The Public Building Commission agreed to meet on September 10th, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. with the location to be determined.

Under old business, Mr. McQuinn would like to see the fencing outside of the courthouse taken down, to locate the Halo that was purchased by the Public Building Commission, and dead trees removed out front.

Mr. Shapland moved to adjourn. Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion.
The meeting ended at 9:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder