

**FINAL COPY**  
**Torrance County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**June 26, 2024**  
**9:00 AM**

Commissioners Present:

**RYAN SCHWEBACH – COUNTY CHAIRMAN**  
**KEVIN MCCALL – COUNTY VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**SAMUEL SCHROPP – COUNTY COMMISSIONER - ZOOM**

Others Present:

**JANICE BARELA – MADAM COUNTY MANAGER**  
**TRACY SEDILLO – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER**  
**MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
**LINDA JARAMILLO – COUNTY CLERK**  
**GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I**  
**DONALD GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR**

1. **Call Meeting to order.**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Calls the June 26, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

2. **Pledge led by:** Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman

**Invocation lead by:** Kevin McCall– County Vice Commissioner

3. **Changes to the Agenda: None**

4. **PROCLAMATION: None**

## 5. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS:

### A. **TREASURER:** Presentation of Retirement Plaque and Retirement Recognition for Larry Halliday, Delinquent Tax Specialist I.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I have the honor and privilege of presenting Larry Halliday with his retirement plaque from Torrance County. As you can see, we have a full house today on his behalf. It's not just the Treasurer's Office, but it's also the Assessor's Office. The Treasurer's Office and the Assessor's Office work very closely together. They feel like they are one team serving the public together. They consistently help each other throughout the day. Larry started in the Treasurer's Office nine years ago. I was working there as the Chief Deputy Treasurer at that time, and he said over the years, I'm going to retire this year. Then another year goes by, and I'm going to retire this year. This time when he told me that he was going to retire, I didn't believe him. I thought whenever I see his letter of retirement, and we get the plaque ordered and he comes up and accepts it, then I'll believe it. I think it is happening today. I'm excited for him. He's earned this. He's worked very hard throughout the years. In the time that I've worked with him, I can tell you that he has excellent public service. He is always friendly and helpful, knowledgeable in collecting taxes, and working on returned mail. There are a lot of issues that he deals with day in and day out. He's been somebody consistent in the front office, a face that people are familiar with when they come in, and he will be greatly missed when he's gone. I know when I moved to the County Manager's Office, he was one of those who still popped in to see how I was doing and gave me updates on how things were going with him and his family. I'll miss that as well. We become a family here when we work together. This is 10 hours a day and we spend more time sometimes with each other than we do with our own families. Having another one retire is a loss to the County, but something well-deserved. Larry, we wish you the best as you move on to the next adventure of your life and ask you to please come up and accept a retirement plaque.

Congratulations on your retirement. I'm very proud of you for the work that you've done here, and we will greatly miss you. Thank you.

**Larry Halliday - Delinquent Tax Specialist I:** Leaving the job is not hard, it's leaving the people. This is the best working environment in my life. I'm 78 years old, I've been working since I was 16 years old, and I will go to my grave saying, this is the best working environment I've ever been in. The people, the

Commission, and everyone has treated me well. I've gone through some health issues, but they've stood by me, and I am going to miss all of you. You've all been very kind and good to me and watched out for me. That means a lot. This is like my second family. I will be coming back from time to time to harass some people. The employees that are here know we have a thing on Wednesdays. It's based on an old commercial that used to be on TV, but Wednesdays are hump days. That's my thing. I know some people are probably glad they will not hear it. It's Hump Day! I'm still going to harass some people with it. Thank you very much. Thank you, Commissioners. I appreciate you all very much. You have been very good to me. It has not gone unnoticed. I love you all. Thank you very much for the honor and the privilege of being an employee of Torrance County.

## **6. BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

- A. COMMISSION:** Discussion and possible appointment of Manny Encinias to the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee as the Torrance County Agricultural Representative.

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** I'm assuming he is the only applicant who applied.

**Donald Goen-County P & Z Director:** I served as the Treasurer for the Committee; Manny Encinias was on the roster as an at-large member. Torrance County had a vacant Torrance County Ag Representative position. He wants to move over into that position. The at-large position is appointed by the committee itself. That lets us fill a spot that's been vacant for some time. I think he is qualified; I don't have a problem.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I believe it's time to quit appointing the same people over and over. That it's time for new blood. I'm talking with constituents who are very angry about water issues. It's time to start giving opportunities to other people.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to appoint Manny Encinias to the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee as the Torrance County Agricultural Representative

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - No: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Chad Hamilton – Resident:** I was here two weeks ago when we were discussing the road shutdown between Shondale and Rio Vista. I was wondering if anything came out of that.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I don't have an update on that. I was out last week for a conference. I haven't had a chance to follow up on that. It is on my list.

**Chad Hamilton – Resident:** I understand. The other concern that we're having is Shondale Road. They blade it, but the material on the road is so fine, and then that they inflate it, two days later, after the lovely winds we have out here, it's right back to holes, pits, and washboard. I was wondering what would have to be done to get a base course or something put on that to keep it from doing this.

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** We just need to get with our Road Department.

**Russell Fausnaugh Resident:** I didn't make the agenda. Thank you, Torrance County, for the exceptional response with EMS when they came to my property to serve me last month. The staff is so exceptionally well trained and compassionate and caring that you should be proud of what they did. The problem I have is a zoning issue. I'm going to introduce it to you by giving you some documents. (hereto attached) I think we have a clerical error on the computer. They put an RR instead of a P and so I'm hoping that the Commission can get that sorted out for me. I look forward to working with you in August on that when I get back in town. We appreciate what you do. We know that this is not an easy job. Thank you.

**Danette Langdon - County Animal Services Director:** I wanted to give an update about what we're doing in Animal Services. Puppy and kitten season has officially hit. We keep receiving litter after litter after litter and more are waiting to come in. We can only accommodate so many at a time. A couple of things have changed with Animal Humane. That's primarily who we transfer our animals to if they don't get adopted. They have set some strict guidelines. Now they changed them. We can't send behavioral and behaviorally challenged animals. That means that we have a hard time fixing them. The rates have gone up. Unfortunately, we are trying to figure out ways to get them adopted, so we don't have to send them. We're looking into doing an adoption event soon, then we are going to be participating in Woofstock in Edgewood in September. We're going to be trying to raise money for the food pantry, which is widely popular. We always need funding for that and food donations. We're going to try to get some animals adopted out since they are making it so hard to get animals to Animal Humane. We have some animals that aren't as social. I have considered asking Janice and Tracy if they would mind us bringing an animal now and then to the County building to visit people. Puppies, kittens, the ones that need a little bit more socialization.

We are very short-staffed right now. We are down one Animal Control Officer and one Kennel Assistant. Tapanga did have her baby. She is planning on coming back in September, but I don't know if she's going to want to come back full-time or part-time. We are trying to get the third Animal Control position. We don't seem to be having much luck with it. The person who did apply, whom we wanted to hire, declined the position.

The fires and flooding have an impact on animals. We transfer most of our adoptable animals to if you don't get adopted up here in Albuquerque. Due to the fires in Ruidoso and the flooding in Las Vegas, most transfers are cut off for any animals, regardless of whether it's puppies, kittens, adult dogs, or adult cats because they're taking animals from those areas. It's affecting us really strongly right now, because we have animals that we can't place, and we post them on Adoptive Pet Finder on our Facebook page. That's why we're thinking about doing an adoption event. We're trying to do what we can. We don't like to euthanize animals, but unfortunately, that's part of our daily operations when we don't have any other options. We do the best we can for the animals. I've changed my hours to Tuesday through Saturday, to accommodate the need that we have. I will be doing that until further notice. I'll be off on Sundays and Mondays, the days that

we are closed. I don't think it'll have too much of an impact on my job. We're very busy. We all answered the phones and took calls; we all helped out.

We're looking forward to posting these positions. So we can have a full staff again, we do have an intern right now. She's a go-getter and she's got so much energy. It's nice to see that because we don't have that energy. We are tired. When things are going well, we're gearing up for more puppies and kittens, and we're doing the best we can.

\*Comments by ZOOM

**Tess Borneman:** We are representing the Collective of Students working with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center. Our purpose here today is to address the ongoing mistreatment and alarming conditions faced by people in the Torrance facility. Currently, large numbers of people are being detained in Torrance, and some have been there since January. We would like to address a few of the concerns that we observed during our recent visit to the detention facility. Recently, some colleagues and I interviewed people actively detained at the Torrance County Detention Facility. These people informed us of the mistreatment by facility workers, brutal working conditions, lack of access to medical care, and inaccessibility to any forms of communication.

These conditions are concerning, and we hope to share some of their experiences to bring awareness to their living conditions. A man from India seeking asylum in the US due to religious persecution for being a Christian, has mentally suffered during his time in a detention center. Additionally, an elderly man experienced severe conditions, including only sleeping for two hours a night, falling on his back, waiting for hours for medical attention, and finding cockroaches in his food. Others have endured overly spicy meals that caused hemorrhoids and waited long periods for medical or dental care. Many detainees who do not speak English or Spanish lack access to medical to translation services in processing.

Many people are fearful of speaking out against unfair treatment as they worry about facing repercussions where guards may restrain their access to food, personal hygiene, and showers. We urge the people of Torrance County as well as the City Council to take a compassionate stance alongside the people facing these

inadequacies. We hope others will take issues with these inhumane conditions and be reassured we reassert our shared humanity.

**Ian Philabaum: Innovation Law Lab a nonprofit:** We work with people detained in the Torrance County Detention Facility. Today I'm going to play a recording from somebody detained in Torrance who wanted to share their experience with the county. (Audio in Spanish) My colleague will translate. Thank you very much for your time.

**PJ Podesta- Legal service provider with Innovation Law Lab:** This is the 24th of June of 2024. My name is David, I'm detained in Torrance. As of June 27, I will have been detained for four months. This story comes from a migrant who has been hurt and suffered a lot. I had a very hard fall here at this detention center. There was a water leak that had been reported to staff five days before and I had a slip and hit my back. After five minutes I felt my legs shaking. A friend ran over and told me we had to call for an emergency. We got to the emergency line, hit the button, asked for help. An emergency didn't come. We asked for the guards, "Please", my legs were shaking, and my legs and hip began to swell.

A guard eventually came and said, "You have to go to your room." "I can't," I said, "Where's the protocol for emergencies?" I know the Human Resources protocol called Saving Lives. It has an emergency protocol for attending to you within five minutes. Not here. One hour. I climbed to my room holding on to the railings the best I could because the guard said if I didn't he was going to write me up. I climbed up several hours later at 11 pm. They took me to medical because my back, arm, and hip were swollen. I spent the next day not eating at all. No guard appeared who knew whether I was eating. I felt like I was going to die. I'm telling you, honestly, this is inhumane. Thank you.

**Michelle Ortiz - Las Americas and Advocacy Center:** We provide legal services to migrants detained in Torrance County Detention Facility. On June 28, I went to see TCDF to provide services and spoke with three people. They asked if I would share the following grievances with the public to expose the conditions that they are subjected to while detained by ICE and TCDF. The main complaint by the people in Torrance is the lack of access to telephone calls. Ever since unlimited

phone calls were taken away in June 2024, making any phone call has become incredibly hard. The phones often don't work. They ring and ring because calls rarely go through. Despite this, their accounts are being charged. They haven't been able to talk to anyone. This has hurt their mental health. It makes it almost impossible to get a lawyer to deposit money into their accounts for phone calls. It is very complicated as well. When they can get money through it often doesn't show up in their account. They are instructed to use the tablets to check account balances, but they are never shown how the tablets work. Often times they get incorrect login info. They are woken up to have breakfast at 4 am, but they're locked up at 8 pm and expected to go to bed despite having a flashlight shone on their face every 20 minutes. The guards often speak to them aggressively and annoyingly, sometimes even pushing them around when they walk too slowly. The men that I spoke to mentioned the additional stress this has caused them.

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. COMMISSION:** Request approval of minutes of the June 12, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

### **Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve minutes of the June 12, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. FINANCE & PURCHASING:** Request approval of payables.



**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve payables.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE/AMENDMENT TO COUNTY CODE:**

**11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:**

**12. APPROVAL**

- A. FINANCE:** Request approval to pay Ambitions Technology Group invoices from 2022 that were covered under the contract, totaling \$37,672.16.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** Ambitions sent us a statement that included these old invoices from 2022. We would like permission to get these paid. We believe these were missed due to the transition to the Tyler system. We are trying, especially at the end of the year, to make sure that we're caught up on all services being paid for, not just Ambitions, but with any others that we may have outstanding to finish up before the end of the close of the fiscal year.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Why did why take two years for this invoice to pop up?

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** I think Ambitions didn't notice it right away, or what had happened after their software conversion. Maybe they were doing cleanup as well. I'm not 100% sure on that. I think these were brought to light with us in January.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** If it took that long for them to figure it out, how did we verify that we already didn't pay for some of these services?

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** We did verify that we do have a contract with Ambitions. These are services that were covered under the contract. A lot of these invoices were for their monthly services that were covered by the contract. We checked in Triadic, Square Nine as well as Tyler to make sure that there were no payments for these. We did find a statement that was already paid that they sent us. But these are the outstanding ones that we could not locate within any of our systems. This should not happen again.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve to pay Ambitions Technology Group invoices from 2022 that were covered under the contract, totaling \$37,672.16.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

- B. FINANCE:** Request approval to pay 6/10/2023 invoice to Ronald Sturchio for \$100 for a call out for blood draw service requested by Torrance County Sheriff's Office; no Purchase Order was in place before the call out.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** Mistake again with Torrance County finance. These are invoices that would have qualified as an emergency purchase. When the deputies pull somebody over for suspected DWI, they call out this vendor to do a blood draw to verify. We can't project when those are going to happen. These are old invoices that the vendor did bring to light that were outstanding for blood draws. We would like to get this paid. There was no purchase order because they were an emergency.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** When the requisition was put in, to get this paid as an emergency PO, the documentation that was provided from the Sheriff's Office on this particular call for service, or incident that occurred that required the blood draw, didn't state that a blood draw was conducted. I questioned that and found out that in fact, a blood draw had not been conducted, but the

invoice stated that he had done a blood draw. There were inconsistencies there and I asked for that to be cleared up on the invoice. I didn't mind if he was called out by the Sheriff's Office to go do a blood draw and it was no fault of his that he wasn't able to do a blood draw. I think that he still should be paid for his time. I had an issue with the invoice stating that he did a blood draw when he did not. I asked for that to be fixed, but it never was fixed. Now whenever they requested for him to go do an additional blood draw recently, he declined because we hadn't paid for prior services. We're getting everything in order now so that we can get him paid for the services he did provide or for the time that he did respond to do the services and was not by any fault of his ability to do it.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to approve paying 6/10/2023 invoice to Ronald Sturchio for \$100 for a call out for blood draw service requested by Torrance County Sheriff's Office; no Purchase Order was in place before the call out.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**C. SHERIFF/FINANCE:** Request approval to pay the 11/09/2023 invoice to Ronald Sturchio for \$100.00 for a blood draw service performed as requested by the Torrance County Sheriff's Office; no Purchase Order was in place before the blood draw service.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** This is a similar situation, where they pulled someone over for a DWI and requested the blood draw. This time a blood draw was performed. We did verify with the incident report that the blood draw was performed. Mr. Sturchio's invoice does reflect that the blood draw was performed as well.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve paying the 11/09/2023 invoice to Ronald Sturchio for \$100.00 for a blood draw service performed as

requested by the Torrance County Sheriff's Office; no Purchase Order was in place before the blood draw service.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**D. SHERIFF/FINANCE:** Request approval to pay T-Mobile invoice # 9889381901 dated 2/8/2024 for \$25.00; no Purchase Order was in place before the service was provided.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** The T-Mobile invoice that we're seeing is for investigations conducted by detectives within the Sheriff's Department. Historically, T-Mobile was not charging for these services. They have recently started charging for these services. We have talked with them in finance about ways to put in an open PO to cover some of these services as they pop up, so we don't have to come before you as an unauthorized purchase.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve paying T-Mobile invoice # 9889381901 dated 2/8/2024 for \$25.00; no Purchase Order was in place before the service was provided.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**E. DWI/FINANCE:** Request approval to pay to New Mexico Counties for Summer Conference on-site registration for DWI Program Coordinator; no Purchase Order was in place before conference attendance. (\$350.00)

**Deanna Lopez-County DWI Program Coordinator:** I want to apologize for not getting approval before attending the New Mexico Association of Counties last week. I've spoken with finance to ensure that my mistake does not happen again.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve to pay to New Mexico Counties for Summer Conference on-site registration for DWI Program Coordinator; no Purchase Order was in place before conference attendance.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**F. ANIMAL SERVICE:** Request approval of Contract for Professional Services between Torrance County and Western Trails Animal Hospital for the provision of professional services to the Animal Shelter.  
(hereto attached)

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** This is a professional services contract between Torrance County Animal Services and Western Trails. It's for inspections of the shelter. Dr. Hutsul is our supervising veterinarian. She signs for us to be able to get the drugs that we need to run the shelter. She is allowed to do inspections each year, up to \$1,000. It's the same one we've had in place for years. It hasn't changed, it's the same.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve the Contract for Professional Services between Torrance County and Western Trails Animal Hospital for the provision of professional services to the Animal Shelter.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**G. ANIMAL SERVICE:** Request approval of the Veterinary Services Agreement between Torrance County and Dr. Krystle Hutsel. (hereto attached)

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** This is our veterinary services agreement. It is what we have in place to cover sterilizations for any medical needs of the animals in the shelter.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve the Veterinary Services Agreement between Torrance County and Dr. Krystle Hutsel.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**H. DWI:** Request approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Torrance County DWI Program and New Mexico Department of Public Safety for law enforcement activities. (MOU hereto attached)

**Deanna Lopez-County DWI Program Coordinator:** Lieutenant Jose Aguilar with the New Mexican State Police is on Zoom in case you have questions. This Memorandum of Understanding is with the Department of Public Safety State Police for the amount of \$11,000 for fiscal year 25, to do checkpoints and also Torrance County to do directed patrols and underage issues. The Department of Finance, to whom I report, requires me to do an MOU with every law enforcement agency that we will be working with. With the \$11,000 we'll cover two checkpoints in fiscal year 25, six directed patrols, and one underage drinking operation. This is a grant DWI receives and then DWI will pay law enforcement to perform DWI operations. We're choosing to use the State Police. We are paying for the overtime.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Why don't we use our own Sheriff's Department?

**Deanna Lopez-County DWI Program Coordinator:** They are currently short-staffed.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Historically, we partner with the Torrance County Sheriff's Office as we are able. We also have partnered with Moriarty and Estancia.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I keep hearing about State Police being short-staffed.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** The Department of Public Safety has a DWI unit that they can send out to support us. That is a possibility of where some of that manpower is coming from.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Can we pay overtime for our people, to keep it in-house?

**Deanna Lopez-County DWI Program Coordinator:** That has been offered, but they declined it. At the end of this fiscal year, I was trying to spend the money that I had left in the grant and my distribution. They were only able to perform two Director Patrols in May and in June. The City of Moriarty, for instance, was able to do about 10 of those. What I understood from those emails was that they're short-staffed and they're unable to assist. We offered it to Moriarty PD and will be working with them as well. I haven't developed an MOU with them yet. I have not figured out what the amount will be with the City of Moriarty yet, but it's the same kind of grant.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We offer overtime to our deputies when they are able. Another challenge is when we sent this out to ask for support for the Sheriff's Office, they did need some equipment that wasn't funded by our grant.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** Historically, money has been allocated from the grant with each one of the local PDs. The County paid for overtime because this is picking up individuals who are working extra hours. It didn't impact their normal patrol schedules. It's not uncommon for the State Police to also be under that same kind of opportunities for overtime.

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Just because we have an MOU doesn't mean we're married to use the State Police if something changes. It simply says we can work with them.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Torrance County DWI Program and New Mexico Department of Public Safety for law enforcement activities.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

- I. **GRANTS:** Request approval of Professional Services Contract between Torrance County and Presbyterian Medical Services for the County to receive and administer funds from the New Mexico Department of Health for the Rural Primary Health Care Act (RPHCA) to provide primary health care services in underserved areas of New Mexico, specifically at the Mountainair Clinic. (MOU hereto attached)

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Every year we get the RPHCA grant from the Department of Health. That grant comes to us and then we pay the Presbyterian Medical Services to operate the Mountainair Health Clinic. It's time for this MOU to be renewed with Presbyterian Medical Services. It's every four years, which is the same term as the grant.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to approve the Professional Services Contract between Torrance County and Presbyterian Medical Services for the County to receive and administer funds from the New Mexico Department of Health for the Rural Primary Health Care Act (RPHCA) to provide primary health care services in underserved areas of New Mexico, specifically at the Mountainair Clinic.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**



**J. GRANTS:** Request approval of Operating and Use Agreement between Torrance County and Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) d/b/a PMS Torrance Senior Services for PMS to provide senior services in Mountainair, Moriarty, and Estancia Senior Centers. (MOU hereto attached)

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** This is the operating and use agreement for the Senior Centers. Presbyterian Medical Services provides meals, activities, etc. at all three of our senior centers. This is a three-year contract. The only change legal had with this is we made sure each Operating Agreement has a clause where we can terminate within the contract term if necessary.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** The previous agreement that we had was signed in 2015.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Michael, did you check on the insurance?

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** I did not check with New Mexico Counties.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** One of the things that Angela Coburn mentioned was this is a template that has come down from AAA. This is something that would normally be in the contracts. This is a boilerplate that expects that both would carry that insurance.

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** I'm sure that would be New Mexico County's answer. I don't have any doubt about what their answer would be that both parties need insurance.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** As far as money transactions, they're receiving all the money that we would like from the state. There's no money out of pocket for Torrance County.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We have an in-kind match in that we provide the maintenance of the facilities, cleaning service and vehicles.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** We provide a list every year of the in-kind services that we are providing. Including the cleaning services that are provided annually for them, so they can use that whenever they are showing the support that the County is providing.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** There hasn't been a contract in place, but yet we've been showing them this annual expense report from us to them?

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** The money's not going to them.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I understand. It's awkward that there's not a contract in hand on file, yet we're still acting as if there is one by giving them our expenditures.

**Tracy Sedillo-Deputy County Manager:** We pay for all of the maintenance on the vehicles because we own the vehicles, and we pay the utilities on all the centers because they are our buildings.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** We have no say on who drives the vehicles. Why? That's a concern to me, as we own the vehicles, we do the maintenance on the vehicles. But we have no say over who drives.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We could require them to have our Road Ready, and all of our training.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** We're on the hook for liability.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** If we have a driver that is not on our list, and an accident occurs, we probably have no coverage at all. The insurance for the vehicles are provided by both local government service providers. We need clarification from the insurance companies to make sure that our vehicle and liability are covered when we don't have a say-so on who's driving. I'm sure it's not a hard thing to do. It just needs to be on paper somewhere.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Are we still transporting people? Are we strictly delivering meals?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I believe they still transport people to doctor appointments, etc.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Like a chauffeur. I know there are laws that if you go over a certain number of people like a small passenger van, you have to have a chauffeur's license. I'm trying to make sure that the County is not liable. This contract is going to be for three years.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Let's ask for clarification, work with the County Attorney, and satisfy those questions that you have in the contract.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'd feel better with more explanation in detail before I approved it.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I understand the concerns of my fellow Commissioners, and I agree with them. We need to give directions to Miss Lujan, as to what we expect, and have the County Attorney review it, to make sure that it satisfies our concerns.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We need to make sure the insurance company knows exactly how these vehicles are being used and who's managing the people using them. I think as long as they're aware, they're going to say this is what you need to do.

**Action Taken:**

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Motion to Defer

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**K. GRANTS:** Request approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Torrance County and Valencia Shelter Services (VSS) for domestic violence services in Torrance County. (hereto attached)

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** This is the MOU renewing our contract for services from Valencia Shelter Services for domestic violence services for FY 25.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Legal reviewed it?

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** Yes.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We made sure there was a clause in here for termination within the term of the contract, and then we are no longer providing Wi-Fi for them. But otherwise, everything has remained the same.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Why are we not providing Wi-Fi anymore?

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I was notified by Ambitions that by connecting to our Wi-Fi, they had access to our server. So we ended that.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Ambitions can't change that.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** They did not express that they would be able to.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Torrance County and Valencia Shelter Services (VSS) for domestic violence services in Torrance County.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 13. DISCUSSION

**A. GRANTS:** Discuss projects for the 2026-2030 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). **Public Hearing**

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to move into Public Hearing.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

10:17 AM

**Michael I. Garcia-County Attorney:** Swears in Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator; Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director; Misty Witt-County Finance Director; Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief; Jim Winham - County Fire Chief; Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk; Mr. Hindi – Resident; Mayor David Dean, Willard; Samantha O’Dell-County Emergency Manager.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** At the July 10th meeting we will formalize the ICIP with a resolution. I will then submit it to the state. Today, we will discuss the ICIP. We will prioritize the projects for the next five years.

The Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan is Torrance County's five-year plan for all our Capital Outlay funds. We created a priority list from 2025 through 2029. From October through January, we can submit Capital Outlay requests to the Legislature. This year, we're going to look at what we still have on our lists that need to be provided to be funded and what we might want to shift around. There was some confusion about what was funded last year, what hasn't been funded and why it didn't go to the Legislature. We submitted 12 projects submitted to the Governor's Office and the Legislature for funding during the open application period. Right now we have six projects for 2026, and three for 2027, two for 2028, seven for 2029. Only the 12 that we prioritized for 2025 were submitted for consideration by the Legislature.

FY25 Capital Appropriation is everything that was appropriated this past year, and that is captured in what has been funded by Capital Outlay. Currently, the County Fairgrounds have been funded with about \$4 million. This is the total amount, not just from last year, but over the past five years. I can tell you the Fire Station Water System is for FY25. The County Admin Building is \$375,000. The Fire Department's Comprehensive Plan is from FY25. County Road Improvements did not get any funding this year. Road Department Equipment had received \$40,000 from Capital Outlay, and \$200,000 in Junior Bills, which they're now calling Grow Funds. Medical Response Vehicles, we've already purchased an ambulance and we're currently in the process of fitting a vehicle. We also believe this next year emergency vehicles and emergency shelters will get \$50,000 from Capital Outlay for FY25. The Restoration and Preservation of Historical Records got \$50,000. The Road Department shop hasn't been funded, we got funding from Capital Outlay. These are all the other projects on the list that we have not gotten any

Capital Outlay funding for. The Torreon Well and Water System was \$300,000 and we requested that, but I want to be clear on this. There is Torreon, Duran, Estancia, Abo, and Mountainair. I want to clarify that we put them in our ICIP as a show of support. We don't necessarily get the money or serve as their fiscal agent. There's a resolution guiding how exactly that process will take place if we serve as the fiscal agent. Those are the current projects.

I sent out a form to every department and asked them if they had any pressing projects that they wanted to add to the ICIP list. The result of that is the New Projects List. The Sheriff's Office is asking for their Annual Fleet Maintenance, almost \$2 million over five years. It would be about \$350,000 each year over the five years. They would like to start planning a new building. They would also like to, in the interim, upgrade the existing building. They're having some challenges because it's shared with the courts.

Dispatch asked for a Mobile Dispatch Unit, as well as an addition to the building for a gym for the use of all the public safety employees because dispatchers cannot leave during their shifts. They would like to contribute to some of their physical and mental health by adding that.

Emergency Management needs to update radios in the Mobile Command Center, replace vehicle radios, move to the state IT system, and purchase and equip vehicles.

The Clerk's Office is also looking for another vehicle to transport voting machines, and they need some more storage.

The DWI Program needs a new vehicle for the Smart Choice Program.

Animal Services is different from the Regional Animal Shelter in that it's to improve the current shelter until we can get a new animal shelter built because they're having several problems as well with that facility.

I reached out to the land grants, municipalities, etc. The only community that contacted me was Mountainair. They wanted to add the Municipal Airport improvements to ICIP along with the rodeo grounds. County Fairground improvements.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Are we good with that?

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** No. My belief is the role of government is to provide the greatest good to the greatest number of people. In the events of flooding and storms. I think the \$14 million to be spent on a County Fairground is a misuse of taxpayer funds. Is the multi-use building fully funded at this time?

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think we are close to fully funding it.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** We're committed to that and went along with that project because I think it would benefit Estancia. I think to continue to spend money at this particular time when we have greater needs that are on this ICIP list is a mistake. We're looking at the total cost of the project of \$14,863,120. We have a Fire Department Comprehensive Plan that is going to benefit everyone in the County and a need to upgrade Dispatch. If anybody wants to look at the NPR story that came out this morning about the weed growers, we need to build our Sheriff's Department. It's my opinion, that rather than spend a total of almost \$15 million on the Fairgrounds, it would be better spent on the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, and the Road Department. I know that this is a project that is dear to your hearts, and I understand about promoting agriculture in Torrance County. However, our constituents of 15,000 people in Torrance County have greater needs than improvements to the County Fairgrounds.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I appreciate your comments, Commissioner. We also have to understand that this is asked to be appealing to Legislators. The broader picture, a more well-rounded list that we can put out has to hit the fancy of that Legislator. I cannot disagree with your statement, but at the same time, I think County Fairgrounds has a seat at the table somewhere in our top 12.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I agree with that. However I would reduce the ask, I think that law and order Republicans in the Legislature are going to see a greater need for the Sheriff's Department with the news that's coming out of Torrance County with the problems we're having with weed growth and different issues. We discussed how we cannot staff up DWI checkpoints. I think also that public safety with EMS and Fire will be something that will appeal to the Republican GOP Legislators as well.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** At the same time, this is Capital Improvement. If we want to talk about buildings, I agree with you. If we're talking about staff, that's on the County, and those are wages, those that are at a different level than ICIP. If we want to talk about water grade-up systems and buildings, I

have no problem with promoting the Sheriff's Department, Fire, and EMS, in that regard, a lot of that was a lack of staff. That's not an ICIP type of talk.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** A multigenerational facility with a gym, all field development, and rail to trail. Those are all very frivolous projects, which are good, but frivolous. We are asking for funding for 2029, which is the P 25/700-megahertz radio system. We are in desperate need of that. The development of the Torrance County Park, we need to sell that property. I look at this and look at fiscal responsibility and the best use of taxpayer dollars, I think we need to rearrange our priorities.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** The purpose of the ICIP is to put in overall, what the State, Federal government, and we for that matter need to see as a long-term plan. It doesn't necessarily mean this is what we want, this is what we need. You don't want to ask for \$5 million on the County Fairgrounds, and they give it to you unless that's the end of it. With that particular item, there was an overall plan. It doesn't mean it has to be implemented and asked for. It needs to be shown where they see we have a plan at any given time, we can move that. On some of these other things on listing it, it all needs to be listed in rank, depending on what it is where the money is, and where these Legislatures are. Some don't care about fire improvement. They want a building with a name on it. It needs to be on the list, it is that variable. With that being said, I don't have a problem changing some of these rankings. In the grand scheme of things. It's important to have it all there. I think that what we need to take away from here is that we have a plan with all of it, whether it's recreational, whether it's small, or large, all of it needs to be there. That's how the Legislative body thinks when they start identifying us.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I've been at the Legislation and for the last five, or six years, Legislators asked, one simple question, "Is it on your ICIP list?" If you say, yes, they're good with it and doesn't matter where on the list.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We can ask for things from different years if they move up in priority based on County Manager and Commission concerns.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Is there a limit to how many can be on the ICIP List?



**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** The unwritten rule is, they look at the first 12. We do have Legislators who don't care and look at the entire list and fund what they want. To show our due diligence in the planning, I also wanted to mention that for some of the projects we put on here, County Manager Barela, Commissioner Schropp, and I were there when we spoke with Ben Ray Lujan and Melanie Stansbury's staff tried an idea for rural development, that our Capital Outlay projects are supporting the community as well as the economy. That's where things like the park and the fairgrounds come into play.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Part of the reason I wanted all of this up on the Zoom screen, is that in speaking with my constituents, people are whipped up over the election season. I want them to know that they are being heard. Whether we reprioritize this or not, whether I'm successful in arguing my point or not, I want the people who have been calling and talking to me to know that I'm paying attention. I don't see the County Fairground improvements as helping enough people in Torrance County. I understand the velocity of money and understand bringing money in from outside, but we can bring money in from outside the County for buildings and infrastructure, which will be of greater benefit to a larger number of people. I want my constituents and everyone who's been contacting me to know that I am watching out for you.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** Part of the multi-use building at the fairgrounds will also become an emergency shelter. It is more than just for agriculture. It's also an important part of our emergency services in Torrance County.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'm not changing the rank or the movement of the building because we've been working on it. We've seen in the past, that it is not the only thing that's funded, I looked at the fire station, and water system upgrades that need to stay up there, and the County Government Offices that are up there and we have funded that on our own because we found an avenue to do it. It needs to be shown that's why it's on here. Torreon Water System needs to stay up there. That did not get funded. A comprehensive plan was funded for \$90,000. That's going to continue, that needs to stay up there. County road improvements, \$16 million. I don't have a problem. Road Department Equipment, which is similar to the Sheriff's upgrading the vehicles, constantly upgrading the fleet that needs to stay up there. Same with medical response vehicles. Duran Water System improvements are nearly complete. We need to keep it up.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I heard back from Mayor Garcia. They are looking to rebuild the second tank. We would need to move it to where they're the fiscal agent.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** Yes, that is correct. We did inform the Village of Vaughn that they would be responsible for being the fiscal agent now that they have their accounting or their audits in order.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** The Emergency Management Facility and Shelter. When we started on the public safety building, we were going to include the EOC. Are we moving forward with planning for the public safety building? Are we moving back to renovating the red building in Moriarty? What shape is that project going to take going forward?

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We need to have both options on the table.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Or in the new County Administration Building.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** As everyone knows, the funding for the new firehouse fell through with the Federal Government, that funding was going to improve the Fire and EMS side, which was going to provide for a helipad and a bunk room for after-hours urgent care through Lifeguard. We are looking for different sources of funding. That is a project which needs to be on our ICIP list. Some of these things appear frivolous, but in reality, they may not be so. Getting the thoughts of this Commission is very important in this process.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** In my six years of being a Commissioner, this Commission has stayed the course with our priorities and our asks, and I think it's been very fruitful. I think it's safe to say that historically, this County has never received as much money as it has in the past few years. A lot of that is our relationship with our Legislators and we're consistent with our asks. I believe this Commission has been very aligned with our asks and I believe that's been very fruitful. The other reason you're seeing vehicles not being on this list is they frown very highly upon assets. Capitals that do not have a five-year life expectancy will be vetoed by the Governor.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** In our annual budgets and operating budgets, we have moved a lot of that to our list. When you go to the state, they have tight guidelines for this Capital Improvement. They have allowed those

vehicles, but only in underserved counties. When we go there, and we can show them that we have more money coming in or taking care of our own home, we're taking care of our officers. We have the funding for officers. This is our overall plan, it becomes so much easier for those Legislators to say, yes, we're going to help you fund it.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** It's a strategic plan. I think we could move the restoration and preservation of historical records; we did get funding for that to start. County Manager Barela or Deputy Manager Tracy Sedillo can let me know if we may be able to couple some of that with the planning of the new admin building because they are adding so much storage, or do you think we should continue for a greater ask?

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** We receive appropriation for that. I don't think that we'll be including it in the architectural design of the new building.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I believe Clerk Jaramillo said, the restoration money we had gotten was going to be for converting our records from Microfiche to a digital format \$44,000. There will be other needs.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** My understanding is they're old books, and they're looking at restoring. That is why I said there would be no additions that would not be incorporated into the architectural design.

Abo Water System Development.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** This was put on several years ago when Commissioner Sanchez was sitting as a Commissioner. His vision at that point was to do a study. There were several families out there to see what it would cost to put in the water system.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Is this going to be spearheaded by the county? Are there people out there I need to be speaking with? I have very little information on this particular project.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Yes, there are people you need to be speaking with, I'll get you that information. I told the Commission last year when

we put it there when this was left on. This was my predecessor it wasn't one of his asks, and it's still something that needs to be done.

Mountainair Rodeo Grounds.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That was more of support from out there, correct?

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Correct.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** In visiting with Moriarty and Estancia, it is a need, for the foreseeable future.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** The way this reads is 2026. We would move this to the next fiscal year. You would want to keep this in 2027 or ask for it next fiscal year? It's always been on the ICIP for the past several years. We did not ask the Legislature for funding for it, because it was in 2026.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** In speaking with the County Manager, this is Mountainair City property. This is us supporting them. This brings in Gross Revenue Tax to the County, and it's going to increase the velocity of money in the Town of Mountainair.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I agree with the Mountainair Rodeo Grounds.

Regional Animal Shelter.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** The Regional Animal Shelter, is going to be state-mandated. We may want to move that up.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I want to keep it on the list. I do see that being a need.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I want to discuss what region are we looking at. We need to identify that. We've heard from Legislators that if you can get multiple agencies to have it on their ICIP list, it goes a whole lot further.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** In the past few years we used to partner with Mountainair, Moriarty, Estancia, etc. Things have changed over the past few years with Torrance County Animal Services.

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** When I first started with the shelter, we were Estancia Valley Regional Animal Shelter. Edgewood, Mountainair, Estancia, Moriarty, and Torrance County, the unincorporated areas were all part of that. Everyone paid the bills. I'm not exactly sure what happened but Edgewood decided to go their way with their shelter. They have a nice shelter that they built. Mountainair also has its shelter. Not huge, but they do have their building. Moriarty has a building, Estancia does not. The incorporated areas need to be included in this regional shelter. We hadn't discussed Santa Fe County. There are parts of Santa Fe County that are right outside of Torrance County.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I've heard this from some residents in the southern Santa Fe County area, they have to go to the City of Santa Fe?

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** They have to go to the Santa Fe Humane Society to get help with animals. There's a need for southern Santa Fe County when we're talking regional.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** They've increased their taxes. I am not inclined to facilitate them until they come to the table and say we want to partner up.

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** We haven't worked with the City of Edgewood in quite some time because they want all of those things. I would like to be able to help the unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County that are close to us, but not necessarily Edgewood because they do have their own shelter and animal control.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** By law, Torrance County is required to have an animal shelter for all unincorporated areas. That's a state mandate, and there is funding coming. This is an issue all across the state and there's going to be a lot of state funding available for it coming up.

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** We currently have an MOU with Estancia, Mountainair, and Moriarty they hold their animals for the required straight hold time. Then they can bring them to us for euthanasia, adoption, transfer, or whatever we deem appropriate for that animal. We don't have an MOU with Willard, but I was discussing networking with Mayor Dean.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** We need to start with Amanda Lujan and reach out to the incorporated cities of Torrance. We also should contact the Santa Fe County Commission and see about getting on their ICIP list, they may have funding.

Mountainair Rodeo grounds improvement.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'm good with that, provided Mountainair has it on their ICIP list.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** They do, yes.

Duran Schoolhouse.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'm good with that.

**Mr. Hindi – Resident:** This project we presented to the Commission almost a year ago has to do with refurbishing our Community Center. We've spent quite a chunk of money on it already. There's still much more to do. We submitted a request from an architect for the different projects. The architect would be doing a study on the different tasks and breaking them down by cost. Our intent, once we have that, then we have an opportunity to go out and try to find other funding sources to do them individually. The Community Center is a former school building. We've already spent about \$115,000 on restoring the roofing, irrigation, restrooms, and all-new glass. We need to set what we're looking for in his planning funds then we look for other funds to move forward with actually doing it.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Leave it on there.

Roads Assessment.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That was referring to a study on traffic?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** It was a study so they could go out and determine the conditions of all the roads. That way when the Road Department creates their five-year plan, it's based on this study rather than other input. It would be a comprehensive study of all the roads in the County and to help them determine, what needs to be done in the next year. There may be other funding for this.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Leave it on there.

Multi-generational Facility with Gym.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We're looking at a \$50,000 study and then decide on a tentative location.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We got \$53,000 from Aging and Long-term Services to start the study and we've been speaking with Pettigrew, one of our on-call engineers to start that process. The current Moriarty Senior Center is deteriorating. Then next year, perhaps we can ask for a larger chunk of money for that building from Aging and Long-term Service.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Is this a Senior Center?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** It's up to you. It can be both or separated.

Emergency Management Equipment.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We need to move that up. Based on what we're talking about within the Fire Department, we're seeing that ask needs to be done sooner. We put it down on the list because that was our long-term plan.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** What kind of equipment are we talking about? I see Emergency Management Facility and Shelter is number 10 in 2025.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** This was put on here because, during the time that there were fires, the County was not able to provide any resources. If there were issues here in the County, up in the mountains, I think it was for water buffalos, there were different items that you thought would be beneficial to have, as part of our inventory, not only to help with supporting any issues that we had in the county but also our county that is adjacent to us.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** The facility and equipment for the facility would be a much higher priority than the water buffalo and that sort of thing that we're discussing.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** When I said I wanted to move it up, I was honestly thinking about emergency vehicles with paramedics After talking about this, put that there for plans. That's why we had it down there just because we tried to get a long-term plan, assuming we're going to beef up Emergency Management. That's what those funds were for.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** What could we change up here in the 2025 list? Emergency Management Facility and Shelter, what can we change that to? That would incorporate anything Emergency Management?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I could change the legislative language to say furnish and equip. I'll look through the recommended legislative language. I think that would cover a lot of what we're looking for in that project.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** The road shop is off the list because it's done.

Asset Management Plan.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** What is that referring to?



**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** We're currently working on our assets and getting these inventory lists. I think we're pretty far off meeting a \$100,000 asset. We need to determine what we have and finish cleaning that up within Tyler and our finance files before we get ready for that. What we would like to do is go out to individual departments, such as the Sheriff's Department, and Fire Department, and go through into physical inventory. I know that will probably take most of FY 25. Then we can determine from there what our needs are as far as Asset Management.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We still don't know what it's for. Scratch it.

Road Department Shop/Yard Water System.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We scratched that one.

Ball Field Development.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We will be supporting Estancia.

Highway 285, Corridor Fire Station, and Highway 60 Corridor Fire Station.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think we need to leave that one in there. Putting them on our ICIP was the development of the wind farms. It doesn't mean we can't move it up. For this year, I don't think now is the time to move it up. The way it is down there. Agreed?

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Yes, I think it's more of a Federal ask.

Emergency Medical Services Building.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** This was for urgent care, right?

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** When we started our Emergency Medical Services, it was geared more towards calls for services for medical care in the County. Now we've incorporated it to where we're asking our EMTs to become Firefighters One certified. It's more of a well-rounded response. When this was initially put on there, it was to provide Emergency Medical Services. It'd be very similar to what a Superior Ambulance would have that didn't necessarily have the fire bays for fire apparatus.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** After visiting Stansberry's office, this region needs Urgent Care. Not a level one trauma like UNM, but open 24/7 that can handle stroke, heart attacks, accidents, etc.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** We could bundle this 5 million into what the plan that fell through, having an urgent care, and EMS/fire station, all bundled into one. We have a 5 million dollar ask. The total on that proposed Firehouse was 9.1. Would we be able to use this money for urgent care and bundle it into another facility EMS/fire facility? I'm entirely with you on needing urgent care of some sort and asking for this money.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** There was an initial discussion when I was visiting with Chief Winham about having a clinic in the facility. Having staffed with Certified Nurse Practitioners is an option and that could serve as a type of urgent care if it's able to take care of 24-hour services. For example, having staff in the daytime and then having another shift come in at night.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I think this is a good ask.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** With it being for 2029, we can work out some of the logistics, but so that you understand if the County owns the building, we either need to lease it out to somebody that provides that service, or we need to be willing to take over those services ourselves and pay for them as county employees.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I've never built a hospital. My point is that I know many of these urgent cares are blended public funds and private wealth, I'm not saying I want to own a hospital, maybe we ought to look at a separate deal on a plan on how to get urgent care because I do feel that's a real need. When you start looking at the pressures I-40 is put upon us that we have to deal with. When you start looking at something like that, it alleviates so many other operating costs and

convenience to this county, and jobs. What does that look like? How do you talk to private business and say, look, this is what we need up here? How do you pull those funds? We should look at putting a planning segment in here to try to figure that out instead of just letting everybody else tell us what to do. You're adding a new item, a whole new project. I view these as two separate projects. We'll leave the Emergency Medical Services Building and urgent care.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Are we adding the public safety building (Fire Station) that we did not get federal funding for?

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I would like a little bit more input from our Fire Department. I'm not opposed to it.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** The Fire Department did get some funding for its comprehensive plan.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We can add this later. This is preliminary. We can change how we rank it for the final submittal. The purpose of this today is to make you think about how important it looks as the list goes on.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** The plan was there for additional Fire Stations. They were just strategically placed in different locations. For example, Highway 285 and Highway 60, the need is there. It's been expressed that an additional Fire Station needed to be at some point built. Even though it happened quickly, we do have that shovel ready now. If renaming one of those, even if it's the Highway 60 corridor that doesn't have as much traffic as the 285, to make it just the Fire Station within Torrance County, and that opens up the ability to place it anywhere, would be beneficial, and would incorporate the possibility for the project that we were working on. We already have property identified and owned. That one would be shovel-ready if you take off Highway 60 and just put the fire station location in Torrance County. We could identify where exactly we'd like that fire station to be. It wouldn't have to be labeled just in the corridor.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We're good with that.  
Water wells in tanks.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** To lower the ISO ratings. We were looking at drilling wells to different locations in the county to see if we were able to get the property and have tanks stored there.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** That's an interesting project because I've got an email from Senator Stefanics. From a constituent who suggested the County establish metered water sales for water haulers. This project would benefit the fire service and the County could also run a card swipe type to fill up a water tank to deliver water to people. I don't know if that was when that was written if it was specifically for our Fire Department or was owned by the County it would be available of course to the Fire Department and then water haulers could use it as well.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'm not willing to go down any of those roads as far as the return on the ICIP unless it is tied together with EMWT because you have the water right ownership and if we're not careful it's a whole different animal. Water wells and tanks, I'm assuming that I do believe what that was for Fire Stations to improve the existing wells or repair wells and put in water tanks for storage for that. I think it needs to be reworded to make it specifically for our Fire Stations because that is an issue.

**Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief:** We have recently gone through an ISL inspection, we got the results last Friday that we were able to take McIntosh Fire Station from a six rating down to a five. Within that, we had to prove where we could get water, how quickly we could get water, and how much we would have on hand. The additional tenders that we received; I believe two years ago the grants helped us in that situation. I also utilize water from around us, I believe on this current ISO, I utilized the Echo Ridge water system. I was able to prove how long it took to fill up 3000 gallons in a tank, and then get it back on the road to deliver the water.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think you could go through this valley and strategically pick the spots where you need water for this ISO rating. In turn, we could enter into an MOU for the use of existing irrigation wells. It will take a little bit of infrastructure at the wells to make sure you have your tank, along with whatever the irrigation system is for. I have no clue what the State Engineer would say about this. I think on a metered emergency basis on how they read New Mexico's Water Source, they're not going to have an issue. You could conceivably take a 10,000-gallon tank, not a very big one with the right fittings, \$10,000 worth of infrastructure within the system, and have between 500 to 1000 gallons per minute accessible, maybe a little bit building up a road or the equipment there. It's something to think about.

**Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief:** Water is depleting in this valley. I don't know at this point if it's an issue of going deeper with a well, we take those chances every single time.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Chief Winham was talking about an Australian-style water tanker that was a monster tanker, Commissioner McCall brought up concerns about running on our roads. I think that your idea of having water fill stations and places that the fire service determined would be a good location. If it's doable the OSE is good with it since it would be for the public for good. I think that's a very good plan that you outlined.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think it needs to be reworded Fire suppression/fire storage and wells to supply tanks.

New Mexico 41 Rail to Trail.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Leave that in there that was planning done years ago. I would leave that in there to recognize the people planning for 20 years.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** It doesn't hurt anything.

The P25/700. Mhz Radio System.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We put it way down here later in the list because we knew it was coming. We didn't know how the state was going to administer it. We didn't know how it was going to get paid for. There was a lot of unknowns. Do we have more information that says we need to move this up?

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Yes. If you recall, I attended a roundtable meeting with all the public service agencies in McIntosh. I listen to all of the people there about dead spots and problems. At our last meeting, Ms. O'Dell presented the grants for our approval for submission. Under the FEMA terrorism matrix. We've got a pretty good chance of getting that money from FEMA. This is a good ask. I think we should move it up the list.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** On the new projects list, the move to the state IT system is the same as this project, we've got more information. It's the move to the Doit system. We got a quote for that at about \$500,000.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** The \$500,000, that's for the new six upgraded consoles. That was \$483 from the need so it was going to cost a lot more for the omnidirectional towers for this system. From this grant and this meeting, we need to upgrade, we have six consoles, and we want to upgrade three of them at Dispatch. Then we would need to locate omnidirectional digital antennas and it was a 1.25 estimate. We could make up any shortfalls in those other grants that we're asking for. I think this is a good thing to leave on here and leave on at this rate because we can always take the junior or the small appropriations and supplement what we hope to get from FEMA and the state of New Mexico.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** To clarify the amount on the list for the 3 million was because we did not know what it was going to cost. The amount on the new list is \$480,619. That is to upgrade all six dispatch councils. In the grant, we asked for all six, but we did say that we would accept three because they primarily are using two at a time. That will only take care of the dispatch side and will not take care of the radios for any of the responders.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** On the new projects for Emergency Management, Samantha did include radios, etc.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** My recollection is it would be handheld radios and the mobile, the actual in-the-vehicle radios.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Did we approve some money for that?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** We should receive information on the grant probably at the end of August. That was to upgrade the Sheriff's Department's handhelds, the new insert will get them up to the best software, so they can be compatible. Then to get mobile units in their vehicles. On the new projects, this is a little bit different. The radios in the mobile command would be upgraded to be compatible with the new system, and then the replacement vehicle radios would be upgraded to the radio in my vehicle to be compatible.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think we need to leave it there, because of the year it's on.

## New projects

### Sheriff's Office

Annual Fleet Maintenance, and Upgrades.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We've always had that on there. For the Sheriff's Office, correct?

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** It was an ask for a long time.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We are looking at maintaining this fleet. That was a constant irritation from our Legislature. I remember being told that. I would rather not see it on ICIP.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** This plan helps with grant funding because the USDA will fund vehicles, etc. Their plan was really helpful.

Plan for the new building.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'm not going to argue that we need a better Sheriff's Office. I don't know where it fits.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** It is probably a good place to have it here. We can get supplement USDA grants or something else that we would be chasing.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I hesitate on some of these buildings. We're sitting in one right now. We're going to have some square footage become available that may suit other departments in this building we're sitting in when we get the other one running. I'm not saying we don't need to improve our Sheriff's Office. The current location is not ideal. Then you have other factors that come into play. I don't know what that plan looks like. It makes no sense to plan for a new building and 2029 upgrade the existing building in 2029. We then need to scratch that or go one way or another, we've already funded the existing building.

It makes no sense to me to be asked to improve the existing one because we've already funded it.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I believe the plan for the new building would be more like a 2029, ask, whereas the upgrade to the existing building would be like a 26/27, ask.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** There was an approval during this last budget for the next incoming budget that would be improving the security. It would be separating the lobby area making the judicial side one area and entrance secured, separate for the Sheriff's Office. Did they express additional needs other than what was approved by the Commission already?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I believe this was submitted on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** It was probably part of the same submission request. I think that you have funded it already.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Improves staff supplies, and evidence, consolidates offices, increases space designed, specifically for law enforcement needs, improves fitness health, and well-being of Torrance County Sheriff's Office, Dispatch, Fire, and staff with the gym-designed facility to allow for growth of the department.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** This isn't the same request; the request is for the Sheriff's Office that one was Dispatch.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** This was from the Sheriff's Office. Dispatch asked for a gym to be added to the new building. The Sheriff's Office also asked for a gym in their new building. Between Fire, Sheriff, and Dispatch, they're just trying to get a gym.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** You brought up, that we want, once we get our new administration building, we'll have square footage available. The Commission room would make a good gym, once we move out of it.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That's a very valid point.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** We should start looking at the repurposing of this building. Do we have an idea what it's going to cost?



**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That needs to be in the discussion, depending on what is being used here. One of the reasons we're looking at a new building is because this building has some inherent risks with the plumbing the heating with the cooling. If this place shuts down for a couple of weeks, because of some breakdown, it's not going to be the end of the world.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Have we exhausted the life expectancy of the current building before we want a new building? How long have they been in the building they're in?

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I believe it was under Judge Matt's Page that closed down the Magistrate's Office here in Estancia. When he did that, that's when the request came. Then Sherriff Heath White worked to renovate the Sheriff's Office around 2016-2017. They were here in this building before that where the early voting currently is.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I'm not ready to abandon what we have until I look at it more.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I think there are some other needs ahead of that.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I feel we just funded that. I would scratch that.

## Dispatch

Mobile Dispatch Unit.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** This is on there if Dispatch is ever under attack, we are trying to ensure that we're able to provide dispatch services. This is a request that came forward by our new 911 Director. I wasn't aware that this was added as one of the requests, but it's being able to go to an alternative site and be able to continue dispatching in the county. Currently, if dispatch does go down, we do have services lined up with Valencia County to take over our dispatching for us.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** Not sure of the logistics with a strain on the VHS system that we're on right now because Valencia County is moving to the state system. I don't know if that affects Dispatch.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I remember at one point the question was asked if we move over to the state system can VHS still be something that's dispatched? We were told, yes. Is that something that is not accurate?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** That is accurate if we choose to do that when the system that we're looking to stay with VHF, and it would be a backup system for agencies that can't move to the state system immediately. I am unsure if that is what Valencia County has done. I can reach out to them and find out and confirm that there are no issues with covering for each other based on the changes.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** If we already have a backup for the existing system, we don't need to spend \$400,000.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I would agree, I need to know what that looks like, what that \$400,000 would be spent on, and what that looks like. If we do have a fire or tornado or some disaster come through, we may need a secondary location. What does Selena want for this \$400,000?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** I think that Selena could clarify some of this better. My understanding is when they flip the switch for calls to go to Valencia County, it's just that. The calls go to Valencia County. Then they get a phone call on the cell phone, of what the call is, I don't believe that Valencia County has access to truly dispatch our units.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** They simply received the 911 calls.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** They contact dispatch through another means. The dispatch can then send those units. There's been talk that it can be done from a dispatch vehicle, but that's essentially a radio and a vehicle. I don't believe they have access to the CAD system.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Selena states, a large vehicle that has two computer console setups, radios, and phones. In case something happens at the Dispatch Center. This mobile unit would be a second location to Dispatch.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** There's a little bit more in Torrance County than just taking a call on a phone and calling on the radio and sending somebody. Our dispatcher's local knowledge is very valuable in coordinating incidents. I see that this is a valid ask. I need to look at this more.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I know we need to have that. I would like to have some answers as to what some other Dispatch Centers are doing. If we flip the switch? What does that look like? I think that makes more sense than a mobile unit that you know, you buy a computer today. It's obsolete next year. Same with radios. The battery's dead on it, it goes on and on and on.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I would recommend that my fellow Commissioners speak with Ben and Selena and get an understanding of the things that Torrance County dispatcher deals with within dead spots, and ridgelines, hopefully, the 700 megahertz will take care of a bunch of that. Once again, local knowledge can't be beaten. So yes, in an emergency, we can flip the switch and get Valencia to take care of it for us. Ben and Selena and their staff know the county and can be of great assistance. So probably we should have a conversation with them and see exactly what it is they want, and what they think they can accomplish that Valencia County cannot accomplish.

**Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief:** I can speak to the envision what Selena is looking at because I have been in Dispatch where they've had to flip the switch, whether that was consoles being maintained and it puts them down for a longer period. The CAD system doesn't just keep track of the calls, but it also has a mapping system. Valencia County takes the call, and it goes to pen and paper. They take the call they then call the mobile phone, so it was done from I believe it was the dispatch truck at the time. Selena had access to the radio, but then it didn't have the CAD access portion. All the notes were being taken on a piece of paper, the mapping has boundaries, and depending on where the incident occurred, she wouldn't exactly be able to see what units and what districts whether it was fire or EMS that she needed to tone. Having a mobile unit would be able to get the CAD access along with the mapping system in the case that we have an emergency that could disturb, the Dispatch Center where it's currently located, and could provide the assistance as it would be if they were sitting in the building.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** So I believe this is a good ask. We need to find the money for it.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think it is too. I would like a long-term plan.

Dispatch – Building Addition – Gym

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** The long hours that they have, they're very sedentary. They could use this and also have Fire/EMS close by so they could utilize it as well. They currently have their gym. I know I provided equipment for that previously. This did come up as part of the request for the budget cycle. All three of you and your independent meetings said no to that regarding the ICIP.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** \$100,000 or \$250,000 for county employees use only. That's where I have the holdup with that much public funds for county employees. It just doesn't sit well with me. That's why I said no.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I vote to scratch it.

### Emergency Management

Updated radios and mobile command vehicle radios.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Department of Information Technology for the state. This is tied to that radio upgrade that we discussed earlier. They're the same project.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We need to place that elsewhere, because of the same project?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Yes. The upgrade to the P25/700 and this project are the same, it's moving to the state system.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Do we need to put it somewhere else?

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator** I think you can put it wherever you like. I need to rework some of the language on it. The P25/700 was put in for \$3 million because we anticipated this project having to happen, but we had no idea how much it would cost. The \$480,000 and other items to upgrade the radios are actual quotes. We now have an idea of exactly what it will cost.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman**: Does that cover all our emergencies, or does it just cover your department?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager**: The \$480,000 covers dispatch. The other \$88 and \$24 cover Emergency Management.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman**: The Emergency Management Department are separate deals from Sheriff's, and Fire Departments?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager**: Correct. It was just under \$500,000 for the Sheriff's Department.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman**: If we just upgraded Emergency Management will it do anybody else any good, if we don't upgrade them all at the same time?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager**: Yes and no. The way the system will work is there will be a patch between the VHF and the state system so that anybody who's still on VHF can still talk to Dispatch. Not everybody has to upgrade at the same time. Even though there is some benefit to that. Currently, Moriarty Fires is on the state system. They have a patch so they can talk to Dispatch.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman**: Then why not just stay with the patch?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager**: There are some concerns that the state is very opposed to any patches, patches are supposed to be for a specific event.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman**: The state is forcing our hand on this; therefore the state needs to pony up some to offset our past investments that they're making obsolete.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager**: The state isn't forcing us to do this. This will benefit us because then we have that interoperability

communications with other agencies and we'll have better coverage throughout Torrance County.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** When you say the state, you're right. They're not forcing us to do this. We all know; they don't recommend the patch. By all rights and reasons, if they're not forcing me to do this that patch should pass indefinitely. These assets need to be put up because the argument can be made. Because we're moving to the system, they need to help us fund this sooner rather than later.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** They are putting their system on existing towers. They are doing that piece of it. They've also eliminated the subscriber fees, which was an issue with the system initially.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Regarding ICIP. Do you agree with that?

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** On an unfunded mandate.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That's the reason for me pushing forward on everything. In the meantime, we can also say you don't like it, we've asked for this money for many years, and we're still using the patch, but that also has to go back to how many problems it's causing our departments on the ground. Right now, It's okay.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** It's not okay.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I've got reports of our deputies using a cell phone during a car chase, and then getting out of the car, and running license on their cell phone. This is a critical thing. We have dead spots in the county. We have two deputies per watch. They've got one hand on his cell phone, and you're trying to drive the car and do business. This is something that's right now in our face that's a critical safety measure for fire/EMS and own for the Sheriff's Department.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** The patch doesn't fix this?

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** VHF is a line of sight. We have a lot of dead spots. When the state puts up its omnidirectional 700 megahertz, that will take care of the dead spots, but there will still be VHF involved in this, we need to go to this new system.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** Moriarty Fire has gone to some of the areas where we do not currently have radio communications with their 700 system and have confirmed that they were able to speak to Dispatch. They also have radio contact with Dispatch to the hospital when they're transporting patients.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Didn't we upgrade all of the radios in the Sheriff's Department because of this?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** Yes, you did. They don't have the software that they need.

**Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief:** The radio, and then when we can convert to the digital system, it can be upgraded to be operable.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:**  
Are they in their units as well?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** Handhelds.

**Hanna Sanchez-Deputy Fire Chief:** For Fire, they upped the amount for communications on the FY 25 APG Grant, what we plan to do this year. Our grant request is for communications. We have also been in the process of rollover funding to start upgrading mobile and portable radios, so we are in the same position as the Sheriff. If we do go to the digital system, then they can be compatible.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** As far as an ICIP is concerned, we need to get numbers in all of our departments that require it. We need to lump it together, where we get the whole system up to date. Everything that I'm looking at here on Emergency Management has to do with the radio system. Except for the last one concerning vehicles. I don't have a problem putting the vehicle on there. I just don't know what year.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** We have a human shelter trailer and an animal shelter trailer. We currently have five vehicles in Emergency Management. Two of them aged out of Bernalillo County and were obtained when we had a CERT team. We're having some difficulty with both of those vehicles. We have had an Expedition for a very long time, it has some issues. We don't know the extent of the damage. We do have an Impala that is a very good vehicle

to get around in, but it can't pull trailers or haul things. Then we have my truck. The plan of this being on here is to get us in a situation where two vehicles can pull trailers and do the things that Emergency Management needs to be able to do.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Are these shelter trailers gooseneck fifth wheel or bumper pole?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** They're both bumper pulls.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Do we have another county vehicle in the Road Department? Since these are emergency-use trailers, you would take them in case of an emergency to where they need to be and leave them there. Is it possible for us to have a Road Department or Fire Department vehicle that can accomplish that task without spending \$98,000 for a dedicated vehicle?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** To clarify, this wouldn't be a dedicated vehicle we would hopefully be able to have the two vehicles at that point, and either sell them off for other vehicles, or other departments can use them. This will be essentially moving from five vehicles to two vehicles that can do the things that need to be done. I don't know the answer as far as whether the Fire Department Road Department or somebody else has a vehicle that can be used for this.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** You're talking about two trucks?

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** Correct. My concern is if we are relying on another department, is somebody's going to be available to move things when we need them during an emergency or are they going to be busy with other tasks? Are we going to have somebody that can assist with that would be my concern.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** Since they're not dedicated vehicles to pull trailers, I'm a lot more at ease with the thought of purchasing them. If they're for general use plus pulling shelter trailers for the Emergency Manager Office, that changes my view of what we're discussing.

**Samantha O'Dell-County Emergency Manager:** To answer your question about the mobile command, we are trying to get that stocked and in a position where it could be available for any situation. It's only been used a handful of times, and it was never truly stocked. That's the mobile command that's listed first as upgrading



the radios, that is to make those compatible. I'd like to get it to where it's more ready for use.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I don't have a problem with that, I need to think through something.

#### **Clerk's office.**

Vehicles needed to transport voting machines.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That's all this vehicle is going to do?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** We have two voting technicians who need their vehicles on election day. If we have a situation in the northern part of the county and then something comes up in the southern part, we're not waiting for something to be finished in the north we can immediately have someone go down to the south part of the county and get to any repairs or take another voting machine if necessary to have that taken care of. Right now we currently have a cargo van and a trailer that the cargo van pulls. Only one vehicle handicaps you, with anything that needs would need to be taken care of on election day.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Primarily the secondary vehicle is needed on election day.

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** It's needed also for the delivery and setting up for election day, which is usually done that Thursday and Friday before the election. It makes for an extremely long day for not only our voting techs but also for our vendor that we use that comes out from Albuquerque to hit all of our 11 polling locations and get those readily available for election Day. There are a lot of things that have come up like we can't go to a facility because they're used. Then we have to go and test that other location that they may have for us, for Wi-Fi connection. That puts the delivery schedule way behind our delivery for this past election probably on the first day, we were set back about five hours because of the internet access. The second day was set back about three hours.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We have a vehicle to do it, but the issue is timing. Is one vehicle not enough?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** No.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Could we satisfy this by renting a vehicle?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** They possibly could. Yes.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** If we have one that's working and we have those tight timeframes, which I'm not going to argue with, I don't see the need for a \$100,000 vehicle seat here, when will your price satisfy it with a \$1,500 rental during those times.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Agree, rental.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Scratch that.

Storage unit facility storage is needed for voting machines and other equipment and files.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Where is the current storage?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** Currently we have the building that is up in the old Road Department. It's the building that's on the northwest corner that was built by Linda Kayser when she was Clerk, she got Capital Appropriation for that. It was built at the time for the needs then, which was probably 18 years ago. With everything that we have now and using more machines at our polling locations, we are running out of room in our current warehouse to store the stuff that we need as far as our election machine, material, and all of the election data that we have to keep for the 22 months after an election.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** That's what this is primarily for the 22 months?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** Yes.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** What kind of storage unit, I'm thinking tuff shed.

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** The Clerk's Office has bought two storage sheds off to the side. It would be great if they were all centrally located in the same building. We walk into one building, and we'll have our voting machines on one side and maybe all of our election equipment on the other side. We could make it work if we were to get another shed.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Solid Waste had a lot of documents stored in a shed; it caught fire. That's a concern of mine on location and type of building. I'm not arguing with it.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** What is the current assessment of the new County Administration building and what does that storage look like for your department?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** I asked, it was more of what we currently need in our office, nothing as far as our election material.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Surely there's storage somewhere in this County that would work?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** So currently, in our early vote area, there is an office that has documents from the DAs office that I believe sometime back there was an agreement with a prior County Manager that have their records stored in the office there, we have met with the DAs office and brainstormed on what would be the best avenue for them to maybe get their storage building. Then we could utilize that room for our election material, which needs to be sorted for the 22 months after the election. We haven't heard anything as far as what they need to do. I know they're just like us, they have to wait for their budget cycles to come through. I don't know what they're planning on doing. If they do plan on getting their storage facility, then that room would be readily available for us to use. That would solve this issue. It's one of those things that we offered; it's being used. Now we just have to wait for them to get their storage facility.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I think we need to leave it on here because it helps me remember that we have an issue. We need to exhaust all possibilities.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Is there an agreement with the DA's office?

**Sylvia Chavez-Chief Deputy Clerk:** I am not privy to that information.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

### **DWI Program**

The vehicle needs to be replaced due to the age and mileage.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Deanna has taken over the DWI Program, the vehicles that she currently has, particularly the Smart Choice van, we use to pick up people from bars, etc., and drive them home. We make sure they have a safe ride home. It's an older van that could probably use replacing and then I know she's had many challenges with the other two. They took them to Albuquerque to get repaired the other day, and they almost didn't make it back. I don't know if we have explored the possible use of any of our fleet of vehicles that could meet the needs of either of those programs. I don't know if we have another van.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** We don't have another van for the Smart Choice Program. However, for the DWI program, we did take in the Community Monitoring Vehicles which they have been utilizing as part of the fleet, they don't have their vehicle for the DWI program. They've been utilizing what we have in the fleet. We are working to make sure those vehicles are getting repaired. The Journey in particular is not in bad shape. That's the main vehicle that they have been utilizing. We are getting those issues addressed.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I have to go back that vehicles are frowned upon on the ICIP.

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** That is correct. Currently, the amount of money that the state has, the appropriations is coming out of the General Fund in the past, it's been bonds that are sold. The bonds aren't paid off by the time the vehicles are no longer useful. That has been the main push.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** We need to explore some other opportunities within the County and or budget cycles and do what we do with most departments. Talk about this during a budget hearing.

### **Animal Services**

Current kennels are deteriorating.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Danette showed me there are several places where they need repairs. There are holes in the walls and the kennels are pretty bad.

**Danette Langdon-Animal Shelter Director:** The materials used when it was built were not appropriate material, and the chemicals that we use are pretty corrosive. We use hydrogen peroxide-based chemicals, which is the industry standard to prevent disease. It started to corrode the bottom of the kennels. There were some repairs done and they were prepared with the same materials, about six inches up and we didn't get all of them repaired. Now, it's just corroding through those inch holes in the walls and the exterior walls. They're metal. Those are corroded down into that concrete. It's not safe, and they just keep getting bigger and bigger. We also need to have the floor resealed. The more we use them, the more they corrode and get bigger.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** This is a good project for this ICIP.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I agree. Sooner than later.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I'm good with that.

### **Town of Mountainair**

Mountainair Municipal Airport improvements.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** It's on there just for support.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Yes, to support their request for those improvements.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Is there anybody else from the public or on Zoom who wishes to comment?

**Mayor David Dean of Willard:** We have had some issues in the county in the last week with Mother Nature. We were prepared and I'd like to applaud them for that. We, unfortunately, are antiquated with our systems. We have arterial roads Highway 60, Highway 41, and Highway 42. These roads have no shoulders. It makes our emergency responses having to travel down the center of the roads. It's personal. As a person driving my car down the road, I see an emergency vehicle coming towards me. I cannot get off the road. We need this to happen. These types of things need to be done. I'm not suggesting this just to the County because many of these are going to be Federal and State roads, but once they're gone, the County must deal with them. What we need is more things such as box culverts, to be put in and installed and the highways to be redone. These need to be engineered and done properly. It needs to have the County oversight to do this. These types of things the state can come through and say it's good. Look at US42, it was an old railroad that pulled the rails up and put a road grader on it. The state said it was a highway. These are the types of things Torrance County is dealing with.

We must move forward, and we must have a plan/idea. This may not be the right spot to say it, but it is our infrastructure, something we need to look at, we need to have it in the back of our heads. Some of the places that are coming up right now are like I-40, from the county line, the roads tore up and you're getting ready to put a new business in there. They need another bridge. These are the types of things that affect the County that are in our County once the states are gone. These are the types of things I'm asking us to look at. There are other things, for instance, from Encino to Willard, you have 35 miles of road, and there's no shoulder.

If a semi gets off that road, because of the wind turbines, it's going to turn over, and then who do we ask to go get an emergency response? These people are doing the best job they can with what they have. These things need to be dealt with. They

need to be engineered and you the County Commission need to have the oversight on this.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** I will update the list for the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will have the ICIP on the agenda again to prioritize the list and have the resolution signed, then we can submit it to the state.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I want to go back to our ICIP list from back in 2021. There were seven projects, and one that caught my eye that still needs to be on the list is Green Road repaving it from Martinez to old 66. It was talked about and on the list at the time, it got left off. I know law enforcement uses that to get around Moriarty. If Mayor Hart were here, he would remind me that he feels like they repaved part of Martinez which was our portion and was still arguing over who owns it. The City of Moriarity did a nice job, an overlay from Hwy 41 to Green Road. I would like to see that on our ICIP. So it doesn't get lost.

**Amanda Lujan - Grants Administrator:** Do you want those pulled out specifically rather than being under county road improvements?

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I think it would be good.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** I would agree.

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I'll support that, I'm sure Ms. Jaramillo will support that when she takes office.

**Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to move into Regular Session.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

12:58 PM

**B. FINANCE:** Update on FY25 Interim Budget.

**Misty Witt-County Finance Director:** We got a notification that our interim budget was approved by DFA. They required a detailed debt schedule, which broke down principal and interest payments for everything. That breakdown differed a little bit from our budget spreadsheet that was approved so that will be updated on the final spreadsheet to match what LGBMS shows as far as that schedule goes. It's only those debt service funds.

### **C. MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Janice Barela-Madam County Manager:** I want to give a Road Department update. The Road Department finished the chip seal Snake Hill on Deer Canyon. I did receive several emails from residents expressing their gratitude for the work completed on Deer Canyon Road.

Last week, as many of you know, Mayor Dean alluded to it as well. The Willard area received over seven inches of rain in two hours. A few county roads were washed out and the road department fixed those roads. They also fixed the road to the dairy yesterday. They will be finishing up the tree trimming and removal of branches on Lexco, today. They will move to King Farm Ranch to begin preparing for the paving project. In July they'll begin the county's paving projects.

We have opportunities for employment in Torrance County, and I think I might have hired Larry Halliday to be our spokesperson. He did an amazing job expressing what kind of environment we have here in Torrance County. We are a good place to come and work. The following positions are open. EMT/Firefighter, the PRN positions. We have applicants for that already. Grants Assistant, Equipment Operator, 911 Dispatcher, Sheriff's Deputy, and Float Clerk we will be posting the Animal Control position this afternoon. We know that we are short-staffed and Animal Services, we want to get that position posted again. The part-time Kennel Assistant that this Commission approved is effective July 1.

### **D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

- 1) Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman, District 1



**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** I have gotten calls of gratitude for Snake Hill. I hope speed is not a problem there. It's a very windy, curvy, steep road.

2) Ryan Schwebach - County Chairman, District 2

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Someone brought something to my attention and I'm not sure how to address it. McIntosh post office, which is where I have my post office. Essentially, Estancia's zip code has laid claim to the southern side of that building. Moriarty zip code to the northern end. When you start talking shipment, they're going off Google Maps, the most recognized mapping system. Google Maps gets information from rural addresses, this is what I'm told. When you go to Amazon and you try to ship it to 87032, McIntosh zip code, you're never going to get it, I've seen that with my shipping. We have to play some games on our farm with UPS, you have to put 87035 in there with it. It's a train wreck. Long story short, what I have been told is it all boils down to how rural addressing enters it. I would like that looked into. I have no idea if that's true or not.

3) Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner, District 3

**Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner:** I need to compliment Leonard Lujan and his crew, I received a couple of photographs from Diane Watts down on Dairy Road and talked to Aden Corliss and let them know, on Monday, that someone would be down to look at the roads and the roads are already fixed. That's responsive to the number of roads we've got here and the amount of damage that we had out of that storm.

I've been getting a lot of calls about marijuana grow operations in the county. I want to remind everyone that the County's authority is limited in this. There's a good story, in which Don Goen and I were interviewed on National Public Radio. You can find a link to that on the Republican Party of Torrance County page. It goes into a bunch of detail. I want to tell everyone who called me or emailed me that I checked into this, and it's being handled. Let's have a little patience. The NPR story will give you a little more context into what a complex situation DA Banali has going on down here for law enforcement and the legal system.

Getting a lot of calls and fussing around once again, about water issues. I am encouraging everyone as Chairman Schwebach said six months ago, to get involved with EMWT, learn the process, learn what's going on there, join in, and help out because that is our best chance for equitable distribution of water in Torrance County at this time. Our system of government requires the participation of the citizens and during the Zoom meeting, there's a chat feature. Pamela wrote that this is our first meeting, and we have a newfound appreciation for everything. So get involved in the system. Get involved with EMWT, learn how it works, and we can make this work together. Thank you.

#### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A. COMMISSION:** Discussion regarding the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property for Torrance County operations, NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8).

**B. COMMISSION:** Probation Performance Evaluation, closed under NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2), Fire Chief.

#### **Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to move into Executive Session.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**1:07 PM**

#### **Action Taken:**

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** Motion to move into Regular Session.

**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**3:06 PM**

**A. COMMISSION:** Discussion regarding the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property for Torrance County operations, NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8).

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We discussed the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property for Torrance County and nothing else. Manager Barela will move forward as directed.

**B. COMMISSION:** Probation Performance Evaluation, closed under NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2), Fire Chief.

**Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman:** We discussed the probation performance evaluation closed under NRS 1978. 10-15-1(H)(2), Fire Chief. For the public, this Commission has given him a very good review. He's doing a good job and he's moving forward. We have a plan. There's not going to be any changes made and continue the good work chief.

**15. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:**  
July 10, 2024, at 9:00 AM

**16. Signing of Official Documents.**

**17. Adjourn.**

**Action Taken:**


**Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman:** Motion to adjourn.


**Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair:** Seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

**MOTION CARRIED**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Schwebach - Chairman

  
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Genell Morris – Admin Assistant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Jaramillo – County Clerk

The Video of this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the  
Torrance County NM website. ([torrancecountynm.org](http://torrancecountynm.org))