

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Orange County Commissioners' Court held a Budget Workshop for Elected Officials on the Proposed Orange County Elected Officials Salary increases for Budget FY 2025-2026 on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. in the Orange County Commissioners' Courtroom, Orange County Administration Building, 123 South Sixth Street, Orange, Orange County, Texas, with the following in attendance:

John H. Gothia,	County Judge
Johnny A. Trahan,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Chris Sowell,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Kirk F. Roccaforte,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Viator Jr.,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

The workshop was called to order at 1:30 P.M. for the following purpose, to-wit:

PURPOSE:

To hear opinions and concerns from the Elected Officials concerning the proposed salary increases for this upcoming FY Budget for 2025-2026

Judge Gothia stated he is proposing 50¢ an hour raise to employees and \$1040 yearly to Elected Officials. He stated he got an Attorney General Opinion that the Elected Officials salaries can be posted at higher salary and if something was to change at the state level, he could lower without having the publish and do public workshop again. He didn't want to get locked in with Elected Officials getting \$1.00 an hour and then not being able to do anything at all for employees. He stated that would not look good for anybody.

Judge Joy Dubose Simonton, Justice of the Peace Pct.3, stated employees and Elected Officials should get the same raise across the board. She requested the publication be at the higher rate knowing that it can be reduced from there. She stated last year, we got caught up and there were extra funds but Elected Official salaries were already published; therefore, the Elected Official couldn't get what was equal to the employee.

Sheriff Bobby Smith spoke about the salaries at the Sheriff's Office. He stated they are lower than any other law enforcement agency within the county. He also spoke about his own salary compared to his Chief Deputy's salary. He is requesting his salary be around 11% higher than his Chief Deputy and he realizes this would not happen in one year. It would have to be done over a few years. He is advocating for an increase that is fair across the board.

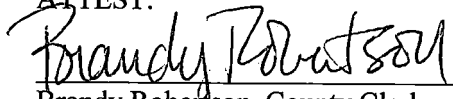
Judge Courtney Arkeen, 128th District Judge and Administrative Judge, gave many thanks to the Sheriff. She talked about the Sheriff's Office and their help within the court system. She stated things have been great since Sheriff Smith has been in office. She spoke about the courts' work and hearing cases. She also gave some historical information on the county supplemental pay for the Judges and DA. The State is wanting counties to raise the supplement pay up to \$25,000. Ours supplement pay is currently at \$18,000. She is asking for the Judges and DA to get \$3500 increase on the county supplement.

Jeremiah Gunter, Constable Pct. 2, stated it is actually costing the constables money out of their pockets to do their job. He also advocated to get the same raise as employees.

Christy Khoury, County Treasurer, spoke about the differences between Elected Official salaries and employee salaries. She stated even if raises weren't given, employees still get anniversary raises on the matrix whereas Elected Officials do not. This is another reason why employee salaries are getting close to the Elected Official salary. She also supports the same raises across the board, Elected Officials and employees.

There being no further business, John Gothia adjourned the Budget Workshop.

ATTEST:



Brandy Robertson, County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Commissioners' Court

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