**HAND DELIVERED**

**ROBERT P. SHARPE**
131 County Road 933 • Teague, Texas 75860
[redacted] • 713-485-9006

August 17, 2026

Honorable Lloyd L. Lane
Freestone County Judge
Freestone County Courthouse
118 East Commerce Street
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Members of the Freestone County Commissioners Court

Dear Judge Lane and Members of the Commissioners Court:

I respectfully request that the following item be placed on a future Commissioners Court agenda for discussion and possible action:

*"Citizen request that the County Judge lead a coordinated conversation among Freestone County's hospital districts, related providers, and the Sheriff's Office toward a unified, countywide approach to rural healthcare that also benefits law-enforcement and first-responder safety."*

I have prepared a short written letter on this subject and request the opportunity to present it and answer questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Sharpe
131 County Road 933
Teague, Texas 75860
[redacted] • 713-485-9006

*(Submitted solely as a private citizen; not in any official party capacity)*

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August 17, 2026

Honorable Lloyd L. Lane
Freestone County Judge
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Honorable Clyde Ridge
Freestone County Commissioner, Precinct 4
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Members of the Freestone County Commissioners Court
Via Copy: Board of Directors / Chair, Fairfield Hospital District;
Board of Directors / Chair, Teague Hospital District;
Sheriff Jeremy Shipley, Freestone County Sheriff's Office

Dear Judge Lane, Commissioner Ridge, Members of the Commissioners Court, Hospital District Boards, and Sheriff Shipley:

I write as a private citizen and taxpayer of Freestone County to ask the County Judge to lead a coordinated conversation among the County's hospital districts and related providers toward a more unified, countywide approach to rural healthcare.

Current landscape. Freestone County has two hospital districts—Fairfield Hospital District (operating Freestone Medical Center) and Teague Hospital District. The Fairfield facility has invested in emergency-room capability that can stabilize trauma, cardiac, and other acute events. Smaller communities maintain local presence but limited scope. As new revenue streams develop (lake development, data centers, power generation), the County has an opportunity to present citizens with a clear, coordinated case for the healthcare capacity the county needs as it grows.

Benefit to law enforcement and first responders. A stronger, coordinated emergency and trauma capability is not only a civilian benefit. Deputies, officers, and other first responders who may be injured in the line of duty—or who respond to catastrophic accidents—deserve the best local stabilization available before transfer. Bringing the Sheriff's Office into this conversation underscores that a unified approach serves the people who protect the county as well as the public they serve.

Leadership and public trust. Sheriff Shipley received more votes in the last general election than the presidential ticket carried in Freestone County. That level of support reflects broad confidence across party lines. With the leadership of the County Judge and the endorsement of the Sheriff, a coordinated healthcare effort would carry unusual weight with the voters and would help any serious proposal move past fragmented opposition and reach the citizens with a clear, unified message.

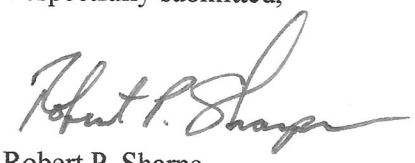
Opportunity. Other rural Texas counties have faced the same challenge. A practical path is stabilization at a strong local ER, orderly transfer to higher-level care when needed, and better use of satellite or campus locations so that Teague, Wortham, and other communities remain connected rather than isolated. The goal is not to raise taxes unnecessarily or to dissolve existing districts. It is to get the parties in the same room, learn from counties that have already done this work, and develop a unified presentation to the citizens of Freestone County.

Request. I respectfully ask the County Judge to consider convening the relevant parties—the Fairfield Hospital District Board, the Teague Hospital District Board, clinic operators, EMS, the Sheriff's Office, and interested state legislative staff—to explore a coordinated strategy. If state legislation proves necessary, the same table can invite input from our state representative, state senator, and the Lieutenant Governor's office. Good people, working together, can make good things happen while keeping taxes bearable.

This effort would not finish its work before the November election. Its purpose is longer-term stewardship: so that when voters are asked to support bonds or tax-rate decisions, they can see a coherent vision rather than fragmented districts acting in isolation.

Thank you for your service and for considering this invitation to lead.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert P. Sharpe
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