FREESTONE COUNTY
GOOD GOVERNANCE
COUNCIL

**Freestone County Good Governance Council**
*Independent research. Informed citizens. Accountable government.*
131 FCR 933 • Teague, Texas 75860
713-485-9006 • robert.sharpe@freestonegoodgov.org
www.freestonegoodgov.org

**VIA EMAIL**

October 23, 2026

Ms. Kelsey Atkinson
Freestone County Auditor / Officer for Public Information
118 East Commerce Street, Room 209
Fairfield, Texas 75840

cc: County Treasurer; County Judge

**Re: Follow-up to Public Information Act requests of August 17, 2026 (compensation of County Judge and commissioners) and September 3, 2026 (jail and Criminal Justice Center cost and debt records)**

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

Thank you for your office's response to my August 17 request for minutes and financial reports. I am writing about a separate request delivered the same day, for compensation information on the County Judge and commissioners, which I have not yet received a response to. It asked for:

1. The annual salary, longevity pay, supplements, allowances, and other compensation paid to the County Judge and each commissioner (Precincts 1–4), for the current fiscal year and each of the five preceding fiscal years.
2. Any County policy, order, or schedule governing longevity pay, salary supplements, or other additional compensation for those offices.
3. Budget line items or payroll records showing the total compensation package for each office for those years.

I have the County's public notice of the proposed salary and longevity increases for fiscal year 2026–2027, so the current-year proposal itself is not needed. If the adopted budgets already show the figures for some years, a note identifying the pages would be enough for those years.

I also have not received a response to my September 3, 2026 request for jail and Criminal Justice Center cost and debt records. That request asked for existing records only, and only those not previously produced:

1. General-ledger detail, vendor expenditure reports, or check registers identifying payments for outside inmate housing, prisoner transport, jail medical services and prescriptions, ambulance and hospital services, and jail repairs, maintenance, and professional services.
2. Invoices and payment support for counties, detention facilities, medical providers, pharmacies, and transport vendors paid for Freestone County inmates.
3. Existing annual or monthly reports of inmate-housing, medical, transport, overtime, and vehicle costs.
4. Adopted budgets, amendments, and actual-to-budget reports for Sheriff and jail operations and any Criminal Justice Center project accounts.
5. Existing debt schedules, debt-capacity analyses, bond scenarios, financial-advisor workpapers, and tax-impact schedules for the proposed bond.

6. Records of County recoveries or reimbursements for inmate medical care.
7. Aggregate amounts billed to inmates for medical or confinement reimbursement, collected, outstanding, and written off.
8. Any existing cost comparison, feasibility analysis, or financial model comparing a new facility with repair, renovation, expansion, outside housing, or a phased approach.

I am not requesting any inmate's medical record or personal health information. Aggregate or de-identified information is sufficient. If some of these records are kept by another office, please let me know and I will direct the request there.

Separately, the outside auditor's July 22, 2026 letter said the FY2025 audit was expected to be final by August 31, 2026. If it has been completed, I would appreciate a copy or a note on where it is posted. If not, an expected completion date would help.

More than 10 business days have passed on each request. I would be grateful for the records, or a written date when they will be available under Government Code 552.221(d), within the next 10 business days. Salary information for public officers is public under Government Code 552.022(a)(2). Copies of both requests are attached. I would appreciate a brief reply confirming that you received this letter; a reply to this email is fine.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Freestone County.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Sharpe

Robert P. "RancherRob" Sharpe
Founder, Freestone County Good Governance Council (forming)

Attachments: requests of August 17, 2026 and September 3, 2026

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

August 17, 2026

Officer for Public Information / County Auditor
Freestone County
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Via Copy: County Treasurer; County Judge

**Re: Public Information Act Request – Compensation of County Judge and County Commissioners**

Dear Officer for Public Information:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code, I request access to or copies of the following information in the custody of Freestone County:

1. The current annual salary, any longevity pay, supplements, allowances, or other forms of compensation paid to the Freestone County Judge and to each Freestone County Commissioner (Precincts 1–4), for the current fiscal year and for each of the preceding five fiscal years.

2. Any County policy, order, or schedule governing longevity pay, salary supplements, or other additional compensation for the County Judge or County Commissioners.

3. Any budget line items or payroll records that show the total compensation package for the County Judge and each Commissioner for the periods requested above.

I note that section 552.022(a)(2) of the Texas Government Code provides that "a completed report, audit, evaluation, or investigation made of, for, or by a governmental body," and information concerning "the name, sex, ethnicity, salary, title, and dates of employment of each employee and officer of a governmental body" are among categories of information expressly made public. Salaries of public officers are therefore subject to disclosure.

I prefer to receive the information in electronic format (PDF or spreadsheet) if available. If the volume is small, paper copies are acceptable. Please advise me of any estimated charges before incurring costs that would require a deposit.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Sharpe

Robert P. Sharpe
131 County Road 933
Teague, Texas 75860
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*Submitted under the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code*

**HAND DELIVERED**

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

September 3, 2026

Kelsey Atkinson
Freestone County Auditor
118 East Commerce Street, Room 209
Fairfield, Texas 75840

**Subject: Jail / Criminal Justice Center - Detailed Cost and Debt Records**

I am trying to determine the actual taxpayer cost of the current jail system before comparing that cost with the proposed Criminal Justice Center and bond. Summary financial statements are not enough to answer this question, so I am requesting the existing ledger-level and invoice-level records that show where the money is going.

I am making this request as a private citizen to assemble a reliable factual record, answer existing questions accurately, and perform a fair analysis of the need, cost, alternatives, financing, operations, and taxpayer impact associated with the proposed Criminal Justice Center bond and the separate long-range countywide healthcare discussion. The records are necessary so any eventual support, opposition, or recommendation can be based on documented facts rather than assumptions. I am requesting existing records only; I am not asking your office to create a new analysis or answer questions that are not already reflected in existing records.

I appreciate the time your office has already spent responding to prior requests. I am specifically trying to avoid duplication. Electronic copies in native or text-searchable format are preferred whenever available.

Respectfully requested,

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)*