

**Texas Board of Criminal Justice
241st Meeting**



Minutes

**June 26, 2025
Bryan, Texas**

TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**The Stella Hotel
4100 Lake Atlas Dr.
Bryan, Texas 77807**

**June 26, 2025
10:15 AM – 2:30 PM**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Convene Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) Meeting

I. Regular Session – Celeste Ballroom

A. Recognitions

B. Consideration of Approval of Consent Items

1. Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests
2. Personal Property Donations
3. 240th TBCJ Meeting Minutes
4. Excused Absences

C. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Adoption of Amendments to Board Rules Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Sections

1. 152.71, “Acceptance of Gifts Related to Buildings for Religious and Secular Programs”
2. 163.33, “Community Supervision Staff”
3. 163.42, “Substantial Noncompliance”

D. Report from the Chairman, TBCJ

E. Report from the Executive Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

F. TDCJ Parole Division Spotlight

G. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Purchases and Contracts Over \$1 Million

H. Report from the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Ombudsman

I. Report from the Office of the Independent Auditor

J. Report from the Office of the Inspector General

K. Report from the Office of the Independent Ombudsman

L. Report from the State Counsel for Offenders

M. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Facilities Division Construction Projects

1. Request to Install Air Conditioning System, Inmate Housing, Boyd Unit, Freestone County, Teague, Texas
2. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Gurney Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas
3. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Hightower Unit, Liberty County, Dayton, Texas
4. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Jester III Unit, Fort Bend County, Richmond, Texas
5. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Luther Unit, Grimes County, Navasota, Texas
6. Request to Install HVAC System, 3 Building, Polunsky Unit, Polk County, Livingston, Texas
7. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Powledge Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas
8. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Stevenson Unit, DeWitt County, Cuero, Texas
9. Request to Install HVAC System, 8 Building, Stiles Unit, Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas
10. Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Terrell Unit, Brazoria County, Rosharon, Texas

N. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Land Transactions

1. Request for a Waterline Easement Renewal, Briscoe Unit, Frio County, Dilley, Texas
2. Request for a Valve Site Easement Renewal, Clemens Unit, Brazoria County, Brazoria, Texas
3. Request for a Pipeline Easement, Gurney Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas
4. Request for an Access Easement, Halbert Unit, Burnet County, Burnet, Texas

Recess TBCJ Meeting

The TBCJ may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda.

II. Executive Session – Orion Boardroom

- A. The TBCJ may convene into Executive Session.
- B. Discussion of personnel matters relating to the Board of Criminal Justice, the Executive Director, the Inspector General, the Director of the Office of the Independent Auditor, the Director of the State Counsel for Offenders, the Director of the Office of the Independent Ombudsman, and the Prison Rape Elimination Act Ombudsman or to hear a complaint or charge against an employee (closed in accordance with Section 551.074, Government Code).
- C. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or security audits (closed in accordance with Section 551.076, Government Code).
- D. Discussion regarding security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology, confidential network security information, or the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices (closed in accordance with Section 551.089, Government Code).
- E. Consultation with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers; to receive legal advice on items posted on this agenda; or consultation on a matter where the TBCJ seeks the advice of its attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas (closed in accordance with Section 551.071, Government Code).

Adjourn TBCJ Meeting

The TBCJ may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda.

**MINUTES OF THE
TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Meeting No. 241**

The Texas Board of Criminal Justice convened on Thursday, June 26, 2025, in regular session at 11:24 a.m. at the Stella Hotel in Bryan, Texas, recessed in executive session at 1:47 p.m., and adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Eric J.R. Nichols, Chairman
Hon. Faith Johnson, Vice-Chair
Rodney Burrow, M.D., Secretary
Thomas Fordyce
Hon. Molly Francis
Pastor Nate Sprinkle
General Bill Welch
Sydney Zuiker

**TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ambassador Sichan Siv

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STAFF
PRESENT:**

Bryan Collier, Executive Director
Jason Clark, Chief Programs Officer
Bobby Lumpkin, Chief Operations Officer
Ron Steffa, Chief Financial Officer
Ashley Adkins Eric Guerrero
Mary Babcock Rene Hinojosa
Richard Babcock Ron Hudson
Andrew Barbee Bill Lewis
Kate Blifford Angie McCown
Chris Carter Rebecca Waltz
Tina Clark Rachelle White
Marvin Dunbar David Yebra
Jennifer Gonzales April Zamora
Carey Green
Stephanie Greger

**TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Cirrito Wyvonne Long
Lance Coleman Cassandra McGilbra
Jill Durst Brian Patrick

Convene the Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Chairman Eric J.R. Nichols convened the 241st meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ or board) on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 11:24 a.m., noted that a quorum was present, and declared the

meeting open in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, the *Open Meetings Act*. He stated the TBCJ would be conducting business from the agenda posted in the *Texas Register*.

Chairman Nichols stated that the TBCJ is committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on posted agenda topics and public comments on issues within its jurisdiction in accordance with Board Rule 151.4, "Public Presentations and Comments to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice." No registration cards were received for public comment prior to the deadline, so the board will not hear public presentations on posted agenda topics.

Recognitions

Chairman Nichols recognized the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) employees who have dedicated 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service to the state of Texas. He stated these individuals represent the strong commitment of this agency's staff systemwide. On behalf of the TBCJ and Executive Director Bryan Collier, he expressed deepest gratitude for the continued service of these employees. During the months of May and June 2025, 64 employees attained 25 years of service, 49 employees attained 30 years of service, 11 employees attained 35 years of service, 16 employees attained 40 years of service, two employees attained 45 years of service, one employee attained 50 years of service, and one employee attained 55 years of service. Chairman Nichols stated that the names of these individuals would be submitted as an attachment to the official board meeting minutes. He thanked them for their unwavering loyalty and dedication to the citizens of Texas. As a symbol of appreciation, these employees will receive a board certificate along with a personal letter of gratitude.

(Attachment A – Employee Names)

Chairman Nichols recognized Executive Director Bryan Collier for 40 years of service and his impending retirement. He stated Mr. Collier became the executive director for the TDCJ on August 1, 2016. He highlighted Mr. Collier's career which began as a clerk in 1985. Mr. Collier holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Corrections from Sam Houston State University and is an active member of the Correctional Leaders Association (CLA) and American Correctional Association (ACA). He serves on the board of the Fourth Purpose Foundation and is the chair of the CLA Recruitment and Retention Committee. He also served two terms as the chair of the CLA Southern Region. He is the newly elected ACA Vice President and a member of the ACA Standards Committee and has served on the ACA's Board of Governors. Mr. Collier has served as a past president for the Texas Correctional Association (TCA) and on the Board of Directors for the Council of State Governments Justice Center. He has been recognized as one of ACA's "Best in the Business," received the George J. Beto Hall of Honor award from the TCA, received the CLA Michael Francke award, and has been recently selected for the prestigious ACA E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement award.

Chairman Nichols recognized Chief Audit Executive Chris Cirrito for 30 years of service and his work with the Office of the Independent Auditor. He stated Mr. Cirrito's experience in corrections has served him well in his position. He highlighted Mr. Cirrito's career, which began in 1995 as a correctional officer. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Corrections from Sam Houston State University. Mr. Cirrito is known for his balance and common-sense perspective. Mr. Cirrito thanked the board for the recognition, acknowledged his wife and son for their support, and recognized his staff.

Mr. Collier recognized Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services Division Director Chris Carter for 30 years of service. He highlighted Mr. Carter's career, which began in 1995 as a correctional officer at the Garza East Unit. Mr. Carter has worked to improve the agency's faith-based and volunteer services, including

the creation of peer life coaches. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in criminal justice administration and obtained his certification as a professional life coach from the University of Houston. Chairman Nichols thanked Mr. Carter for his dedicated service. Mr. Carter thanked the board and Mr. Collier for the recognition and recognized his wife for her support. He thanked Mr. Collier for his leadership and acknowledged several others for their support throughout his career. He recognized all agency staff, the board, and the incarcerated peers for serving the agency's mission.

Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO) Director Brian Patrick recognized Susie Gunnels for being selected as the new OIO Deputy Director. He highlighted her career with the agency which began at the O'Daniel Unit as an inmate records clerk. She briefly departed the agency to work for the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce as the executive director where she focused on training, community outreach, and leadership development before returning to the agency. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University and is widely respected for her tenaciousness and willingness to assist others. Chairman Nichols thanked her for her contributions to the agency and expressed excitement at this new opportunity for her. Ms. Gunnels thanked the board and Mr. Collier for the opportunity to serve the agency. In her previous role in the Office of Family Services, she learned the value of building relationships and leading with empathy.

Business and Finance Division (BFD) Director Jennifer Gonzales recognized Ashley Adkins for being selected as the new Budget Director. She highlighted Ms. Adkins' career with the agency, which began in 2015. Ms. Adkins demonstrated strong analytical skills and leadership qualities and quickly promoted. In her new role, she will develop the agency's Legislative Appropriations Request and the annual operating budget. Ms. Gonzales described Ms. Adkins as a steady and thoughtful leader and a natural mentor. Chairman Nichols thanked Ms. Adkins for taking on this new role. Ms. Adkins thanked the board and Mr. Collier for the opportunity and expressed her appreciation for the Budget Department staff.

Consideration of Approval of Consent Items

- 1. Hazardous Duty Pay Authorization Requests**
- 2. Personal Property Donations**
- 3. 240th TBCJ Meeting Minutes**
- 4. Excused Absences**

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any amendments, abstentions, or objections to the proposed consent items. Hearing none, the consent items were approved.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Adoption of Amendments to Board Rules Title 37 Administrative Code Sections

152.71, "Acceptance of Gifts Related to Buildings for Religious and Secular Programs"

General Counsel Stephanie Greger presented Board Rule 152.71, "Acceptance of Gifts Related to Buildings for Religious and Secular Programs," for the adoption of amendments that revise "offender" to "inmate" and "rule" to "section" throughout; revise the policy statement for clarity; remove language specifying a building related to the provision of religious and secular programs; add language to state the TDCJ shall meet with donor groups to evaluate a prospective donated building or enhancement; revise

language to state a donor or designee will be qualified; remove language specifying the building be used for religious and secular purposes; and add language to specify building enhancements. These amendments were posted in the *Texas Register* for public comment. No public comments were received.

Chairman Nichols commented on the significant relevance of the rule, as he had previously mentioned the importance of the groundbreaking ceremonies held for the new chapels for the agency, which is authorized by the rule. Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Faith Johnson moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve for publication in the Texas Register the proposed amendments to Board Rule Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 152.71, "Acceptance of Gifts Related to Buildings for Religious and Secular Programs," to receive public comments as presented.

Pastor Nate Sprinkle seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

163.33, "Community Supervision Staff"

Ms. Greger presented Board Rule 163.33, "Community Supervision Staff," for the adoption of amendments that revise "rule" to "section" throughout; revise the definition of "direct supervision"; and make grammatical and formatting updates. These amendments were posted in the *Texas Register* for public comment. No public comments were received.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Dr. Rodney Burrow moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve for publication in the Texas Register the proposed amendments to Board Rule Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 163.33, "Community Supervision Staff," to receive public comments as presented.

Judge Molly Francis seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

163.42, "Substantial Noncompliance"

Ms. Greger presented Board Rule 163.42, "Substantial Noncompliance," for the adoption of amendments to reflect the Office of the Independent Auditor as independent of the TDCJ. These amendments were posted in the *Texas Register* for public comment. No public comments were received.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Molly Francis moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve for publication in the Texas Register the proposed amendments to Board Rule Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Section 163.42, "Substantial Noncompliance," to receive public comments as presented.

Dr. Rodney Burrow seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Judge Francis asked to revisit the motions made for the board rules, as the board rules were intended to be adopted.

Judge Molly Francis moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice adopt amendments to Board Rules Title 37 Texas Administrative Code Sections 152.71, "Acceptance of Gifts Related to Buildings for Religious and Secular Programs," 163.33, "Community Supervision Staff," and 163.42, "Substantial Noncompliance," as published in the Texas Register, and that the Chairman sign the order to this effect.

Judge Faith Johnson seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Report from the Chairman, TBCJ

Chairman Nichols recognized Executive Director Bryan Collier for his planned retirement in August. He thanked Mr. Collier on behalf of the board for his tremendous service to the agency and to the people of Texas and called for a standing ovation. He stated the board has initiated a search committee made up of the board officers, including Vice Chair Faith Johnson and Board Secretary Dr. Rodney Burrow. The search committee will do an initial screening of applicants for the position, and the entire board will be involved in the eventual selection of TDCJ's next executive director. Mr. Nichols stated the board will be carefully evaluating each qualified applicant, and the goal will be to identify the best man or woman who meets the qualifications and applies to be the next inspirational and dedicated leader for the agency. He stated that the TDCJ can create opportunities for people to advance themselves, but creating opportunities is not enough. Fulfillment of the mission requires men and women to step forward to take advantage of those opportunities, so the open and fair opportunity to succeed Mr. Collier as the next outstanding leader of an incredible agency is there for those qualified candidates. The application period for the incredible opportunity to lead the vast and talented TDCJ team and operations is currently set to expire on July 12, 2025.

Chairman Nichols highlighted how the agency is transforming the way it communicates with its 30,000 employees across the state. Keeping a workforce informed, connected, and engaged is no small task, especially when the employees are geographically located across a state as large as Texas. Recognizing this, the TDCJ has implemented numerous communication tools and initiatives to reach agency staff and keep them up to date. Administering these new initiatives is the Communications Department, which oversees all internal and external communications for the agency. The team of 15 manages the agency's social media pages; produces and publishes content such as videos, photos and graphics; corresponds with media; and manages the website. Additionally, the Communications team assists with board meetings by running the audio, producing the live stream, taking photos, and assisting with presentations.

Mr. Nichols recognized the Communications Department for their work to make the board meetings a success and introduced Communications Department Director Dr. Amanda Hernandez, who began working for the TDCJ as the Director of Communications three years ago. Prior to that, she worked as the Communications Administrator for the Windham School District. He stated she has more than a decade of experience helping state agencies, universities, and private companies leverage marketing and communication strategies to fulfill the organization's mission and goals. She earned her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Sam Houston State University, a Master of Arts in Journalism from Baylor University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from Sam Houston State University. Dr. Hernandez was awarded the Merit Award for Media Excellence by the Texas Corrections Association.

Dr. Hernandez shared the new tools the agency has developed to increase communication with staff. She thanked the Information Technology Division for partnering with the Communications Department on some of the projects, as their team played a tremendous role in launching the new items. She stated effectively reaching every staff member is a significant challenge for any large organization, and for the TDCJ, communicating to all staff can be difficult. Currently, the majority of the agency's workforce does not have a state-issued email address. Although the number of employees with email addresses will increase in the future, the new digital signage, *Connections Magazine*, mass email, and employee mobile app initiatives combined with the agency's strong social media presence help get messages to the staff.

The agency finalized an initiative that consisted of installing 454 digital signage monitors across the agency, which includes a minimum of one monitor at each unit and parole office, as well as additional monitors in administrative offices across the state. The TDCJ used funds from a Department of State Health Services grant awarded to the agency to purchase and implement tools to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases throughout the agency's facilities. Specifically, the digital signage can be used as a method to mass distribute updated protocols and information regarding mitigation and prevention of diseases. In addition to those messages, the agency uses the signage to display a variety of content such as important updates, new program opportunities, event notifications, and health, wellness, and safety tips. Updates are sent from the Communications Department to all monitors or specific monitors in certain areas and can also be controlled at a region and unit or office level. The Communications Team provides training to administrators at each location to learn how to update the screens, in hopes that individual units and offices may use the digital signage to display content related to their location. For example, the signage can be used to highlight staff, welcome new employees, advertise upcoming events, and provide noteworthy updates related to the specific area. The goal is for digital signage to help increase staff recognition and retention.

In 2023, the agency officially relaunched *Connections Magazine*, a printed publication specifically for TDCJ employees. Published twice a year, each issue features articles about agency happenings, including new programs and initiatives, employee spotlights, and more. Each issue centers on a different topic or theme. Past themes have included "The 2030 Plan," "Innovation," "Impact," and "The TDCJ Community." By sharing employee stories and highlighting various departments, *Connections Magazine* helps to build a stronger sense of community and shared purpose among staff. It offers a tangible way for employees to learn about their colleagues' experiences and contributions. The magazine also serves as a valuable development opportunity for the Communications Department. Each team member is assigned an article to write, allowing them to flex their creative muscles and enhance their writing skills. Though it is printed, issues of *Connections Magazine* can be viewed in a digital format on the TDCJ website.

TDCJ's new mass email system allows the agency to send communications directly to an employee's inbox and is used to inform employees and the public of agency news, events, and updates. Each month, the agency sends a newsletter highlighting the monthly theme from the Communications Strategy. This newsletter includes articles, photos, and videos related to employee spotlights, agency programs, and relevant news. Additionally, the agency sends a mass email every time *Connections Magazine* is published, which includes a link to the full online version and all the individual stories. The agency also sends stand-alone mass emails with important agency updates. She stated the last email had an open rate of 53%. She stated there are two ways to receive the emails, either an employee has an established TDCJ email address and is automatically enrolled to receive emails, or an employee or individual can sign up to receive emails using a Quick Response (QR) code. In addition to emails from the Communications Department, an individual can sign up to receive emails from Volunteer Services, Victim Services, and the Office of Family Services.

The newest tool to communicate with staff is the secure employee mobile app. As part of the previously mentioned Department of State Health Services grant, the TDCJ implemented a mobile application and web portal to provide an electronic communication channel for the agency to provide critical information to employees. The MyTDCJ App allows employees to access their paystubs, W2, and time balances, and receive notifications from the TDCJ. The notification features allow app administrators to send notifications to all users or individuals in select regions or at specific units. This is a great feature for important agency messaging as well as emergency updates like weather delays. TDCJ launched the application on May 5th, and as of May 20th, there were over 8,800 active users on the app. Currently, there are over 11,000 users. In addition to a mobile version available for Apple and Android devices, staff can also access this information via a web application. To download the app and enroll, TDCJ staff can use a QR code or visit the TDCJ website. She showed a video of staff describing their positive experience with the mobile app and digital signage.

Dr. Hernandez discussed the agency's social media channels. She stated the Communications Department works hard to develop content for the agency's social media pages. From employee spotlights to inmate programming features, the agency's videographers and social media teams work diligently to highlight the positive stories of the TDCJ. Those stories are shared on the agency's Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and X, formerly known as Twitter, channels. In addition, there are more than 40 TDCJ unit Facebook pages. Those pages are run by unit staff trained by the Communications Department. She stated those unit employees work hard to build a community online for staff and inmate families to learn more about unit happenings. She encouraged everyone to follow the TDCJ on all social media channels and stated the TDCJ website has a full list of the agency's social media pages. She thanked the Communications team for going above and beyond to highlight the wonderful people of the agency and for the services they provide. She also thanked the board and Mr. Collier for their support of the department's communication efforts.

Chairman Nichols thanked her and her team for telling the stories of not only the hardworking women and men who serve the agency but also the stories of redemption and second chance success of those incarcerated.

Report from the Executive Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Executive Director Bryan Collier provided an update on the agency's activities related to the 89th legislative session and the Female Inmate Policy and Practice Assessment consulting project.

89th Legislative Session

Mr. Collier stated the 89th regular legislative session is now complete and has been the most successful legislative session in the agency's history. The Sunset legislation went through the House and Senate, and the funding decisions made by legislative leadership will help the agency make substantial improvements over the next two years. The funding decisions included:

- Funding for a 15% pay increase for Parole Officers and a 10% pay increase for Correctional Officers;
- \$20 million to help increase salaries for targeted positions that are currently difficult to fill due to their current pay;
- \$71.4 million in new funding for probation to help with salaries and increased costs for contracted services and pre-trial services;

- Funding for continued Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments services and additional dual diagnosis beds;
- Funding for seven of the eight private prisons was moved to reflect the legislative intent for the agency to operate those facilities. The East Texas Treatment Center will remain privately operated but the Bradshaw, Bridgeport, Coleman, Kyle, Lindsay, Moore, and Willacy units will be operated by the Correctional Institutions Division on September 1st;
- Funding for a new learning management system, training center equipment, 50 new training sergeants, and staff for employee support services;
- Significant enhancements to the agency's major repair funding to include \$118 million for the addition of approximately 18,000 more air-conditioned beds;
- The agency's full request for vehicle replacement funding;
- Funding for Information Technology (IT) projects to include the new Corrections Information Technology System, Centralized Accounting and Payroll Personnel System (CAPPS) integrated solutions to address gaps in the CAPPS system, broadband expansion, additional IT support positions, telephone system upgrades, video surveillance replacements, and funding for inmate phone system security features;
- Funding to construct an officer dorm in Amarillo;
- Funding to construct 5,600 new expansion dorm beds;
- Funding to purchase the Dalby Correctional Facility in Post, Texas; and
- Funding for the Office of Inspector General's Crime Management System.

Mr. Collier stated the agency received over \$1.8 billion in new funding. He thanked agency leadership for their hard work during the session. He stated many of the agency division directors provided testimony and each of them did an outstanding job. He recognized Governmental Affairs Director Kate Blifford, Chief Financial Officer Ron Steffa, Chief Operations Officer Bobby Lumpkin, Chief Programs Officer Jason Clark, Budget Director Rebecca Waltz, Business and Finance Division Director Jennifer Gonzales, Executive Assistant Britteny Skains, Executive Assistant Shannon Deveney, Executive Assistant Stephanie McKee, Executive Assistant Terri Putnam, Executive Assistant Julie Wheat, and Executive Assistant Stacey Thompson for their hard work and sacrifice this session.

Female Inmate Policy and Practice Assessment

Mr. Collier provided an update on the Female Inmate Policy and Practice Assessment consulting project. He stated the agency posted a request for proposal for a consulting group to evaluate the agency's female security practices and programming to help determine what steps were needed to ensure the agency is following correctional best practices. In December, the agency awarded a contract to the Moss Group, a well-known correctional consulting firm, to conduct the review. The review began in January, and the Moss Group conducted a comprehensive review of the agency's policies, protocols, and practices as it relates to the management of female inmates. The group visited the Plane State Jail and the Crain, Murray, and O'Daniel units, interviewing both staff and inmates. The recent assessment report provided key observations and actionable recommendations across five priority areas that the agency identified, and the agency will use the report as a foundational tool to prioritize and sequence its next steps.

Training will be a key driver of change, helping to improve operations and strengthen a healthy correctional culture. On July 1st and 2nd, the Moss Group will lead a full-day foundational training for agency leaders who work with female inmates. This session will focus on leadership and organizational culture and is designed to set the tone for ongoing investment in staff development to ensure that policies and practices reflect a real understanding of the unique needs and experiences of women in custody. The agency is implementing a regional realignment to place all female facilities within Region VI under the direction of Regional Director Jennifer Cozby. The agency will hire a specific female programs director

position within the Rehabilitation and Reentry Division to help focus on female programming. To meet best practices and better align with Prison Rape Elimination Act standards, the agency will be updating transportation protocols to specifically reflect the unique needs of female inmates. Guided by risk and needs assessments, the agency will use those reports to ensure that classification and programming tools are applied in a way that fully supports female inmates based on criminogenic needs, individualized case planning, and strong reentry support to help them succeed while incarcerated and after release.

The agency will use data and feedback to improve how the agency manages inmates and to ensure accountability at every level. This will help align the agency's daily operations with best practices, especially in key areas like staffing plans, hygiene maintenance, facility upkeep, grievance reporting, and how searches are conducted. This project supports the agency's 2030 Plan, which focuses on key pillars of impact crucial to the well-being of staff, success of the inmate population, and overall advancement of the agency. The agency will prioritize recommendations that can be implemented short term, while continuing to carefully evaluate and plan for the more complex ones over the long term. Mr. Collier thanked Chief of Staff Rachelle White for her work in coordinating the Moss Group review within the agency.

TDCJ Parole Division Spotlight

Parole Division Director Rene Hinojosa introduced Parole Officer Shawn Noorlun, who started his career with the agency as a correctional officer at the Ellis Unit in 2016. He works for the Bryan District Parole Office and is a graduate of Sam Houston State University. His daily goal is to help his clients become better people. Mr. Noorlun stated he knew the inmates who were rejoining society needed more help and opportunities to better themselves, which allowed him to see how critical the Parole Division is and led to his decision to become a Parole Officer. He introduced his client, Matthew Kelly, who was released to parole in 2016 and will successfully discharge in June 2026. Mr. Kelly has completed participation in a therapeutic community and peer support programs with zero violations during the last nine years.

Mr. Kelly stated he was arrested in 2011 for the manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance and received a 15-year sentence. He eventually lived in the faith-based dorm at the Travis State Jail where he took marriage and parenting classes and learned life skills. He stated he returns every year for the alumni picnic and hopes to teach a class in the future. He described his experience at the Pack Unit, working as a mechanic at the farm shop and living in the trusty camp. During that time, he led worship and bible classes and was enrolled at Shalom Bible College to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Divinity. He stated the cognitive intervention class provided by the Windham School District helped him tremendously. He eventually began the in-prison therapeutic community program at the Havins Unit. He recalled a conversation with a counselor where he stated he never wanted to use drugs or return to prison again and stated he was fourteen years sober. He was released from prison in 2016 and lived at a halfway house. He took recovery classes and worked at an auto-body shop. He thanked his family for their love and support for helping him start over. He stated Parole Officers Derrick Johnson and Janet Thane were supportive and helpful during this time. He discussed overcoming challenges, such as a lack of transportation, and stated he was able to obtain a car from his family and began work at a cabinet shop, which is the position he currently holds. He became involved in the organization Impact Burleson County, which aids those in recovery. He eventually began conducting recovery groups at the Burleson County Jail, where he received his original sentence of fifteen years. He showed a picture of Mike Jones, who ran Impact Burleson County and unfortunately passed away. Mr. Kelly continues Mr. Jones' legacy as a recovery outreach counselor for the organization. He also serves as a deacon and worship leader at his local church and has started a

lawncare and property management business. He stated successful change does not happen alone and thanked God, his family, and his mentors for helping him along the way.

Chairman Nichols thanked him for sharing his story and expressed appreciation for his acknowledgement of the Parole Division's impact as well as the support of those around him.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action **Regarding Purchases and Contracts Over \$1 Million**

Chairman Nichols abstained from taking action on this agenda item due to his firm representing entities listed.

Ron Steffa, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the purchases and contracts over \$1 million. Mr. Steffa stated there will be 50 items brought for the board's consideration and approval. Items one and two are increases to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 contracts with the Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC) and the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) for correctional managed health care services. This funding was provided through the supplemental appropriations process to cover the projected health care expenditures for the rest of the biennium. Items three through eight are increases to the FY 2024-2025 contracts for residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment and aftercare services for inmates released from substance abuse felony punishment facilities or in-prison therapeutic communities or referred to the Substance Abuse Counseling Program. Item nine is an increase to the FY 2025 contract for courier and delivery services with FedEx due to increased utilization. Item ten is an increase to the FY 2025 contract for aluminum sign blanks to manufacture highway signs from the amount previously approved at the June 2024 TBCJ meeting due to increased usage. Item 11 is an increase to the FY 2025 contract for inmate mortuary and funeral services from the amount previously approved at the October 2024 TBCJ meeting due to increased utilization. Item 12 is an increase to the FY 2025 contract for electronic monitoring from the amount previously approved at the August 2024 TBCJ meeting due to a contract extension. Item 13 is the FY 2026 contract for the renewal of electronic monitoring. Item 14 is the FY 2026 contract for the renewal of food services at the Kegans State Jail. Item 15 is the FY 2026 renewal for bulk fuel used at fuel depots located at various units across the agency. The agency is requesting a 10% variance on these items to accommodate any fluctuations in pricing or usage. Items 16 through 21 are FY 2026 contract extensions for 122 days for residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment and aftercare services for inmates released from substance abuse felony punishment facilities or in-prison therapeutic communities or referred to the Substance Abuse Counseling Program. These services are currently in the process of being rebid. Item 22 is the FY 2026 contract renewal for the operation and treatment services provided at the East Texas Treatment Facility. Item 23 is the FY 2026 purchase of commissary items. An itemization for each category is provided for informational purposes. The agency is requesting a 10% variance on these items to accommodate any fluctuations in pricing or usage. Item 24 is the FY 2026 purchase of food items for inmate meals. An itemization for each category is provided for informational purposes. The agency is requesting a 10% variance on these items to accommodate any fluctuations in pricing or usage. Item 25 is the FY 2026 contract renewal for the existing body-worn camera program. Item 26 is the FY 2026 replacement contract for fertilizer to be used on field and vegetable crops. Item 27 is the FY 2026 replacement contract for courier and delivery services for FedEx. Item 28 is the FY 2026-2027 renewal of an interagency contract with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to provide for the state Medicaid match for the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) services that are provided through the local mental health authorities. Items 29 and 30 are FY 2026-2027 contracts with the TTUHSC and UTMB for correctional managed health care services consistent with the funding decisions made in the past

legislative session. Items 31 through 46 are FY 2026-2027 replacement contracts for the TCOOMMI for case management and continuity of care services with the local mental health authorities. Item 47 is the FY 2026 renewal for inmate mortuary and funeral services. Item 48 is the FY 2025 contract for inmate banking, warehouse management, point of sale application, and parole fee management within the commissary and trust fund operations. If approved, it would be awarded to Advanced Technologies Group, LLC. Item 49 is the FY 2025 contract for walk-through metal detectors. Item 50 is the FY 2026-2027 contract for cloud-based analytics technology to be used with the inmate telephone system and is funded through a grant from the Office of the Texas Governor.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Chairman Nichols asked for further clarification on Items 11 and 47. Mr. Steffa stated one is an increase to the FY 2025 contract and the other is for the contract coming up next year. Pastor Nate Sprinkle asked if the unit mentioned in Item 22 would be included in the move from private management. Mr. Steffa stated it would not be due to the facility not being state-owned. Chairman Nichols asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

General Bill Welch moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the purchases and contracts over \$1 million as presented.

Dr. Rodney Burrow seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Report from the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Ombudsman

PREA Ombudsman Cassandra McGilbra presented a report from the PREA Ombudsman. From April 2025 through May 2025, there were 340 PREA inquiries, with 167 from the public, one from a legislator, and 172 from inmates. She stated the PREA Ombudsman Compliance Specialists have assisted with 12 PREA audits at TDCJ facilities, including six Correctional Institutions Division facilities, four community supervision corrections departments, and two transitional treatment centers and residential reentry centers. She stated 236 PREA investigations were reviewed, and PREA management attended two warden's meetings. Chairman Nichols thanked her for her report.

Report from the Office of the Independent Auditor

Chris Cirrito, Chief Audit Executive, presented the Office of the Independent Auditor (OIA) Status Report for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 and 2025. For FY 2024:

- One remaining full scope carry-over project:
 - **2409** – *Incident Reporting* is in reporting.
- **2411** – **Emerging Risks:**
 - *Time Scan Application* is in reporting.

Mr. Cirrito continued with updates to the Internal Audit Status Report for FY 2025:

- Two consultations are ongoing.
 - **2502** – *Inmate Custody*
 - **2508** – *Purchasing*
- Eight full scope projects:

- Five are ongoing.
 - **2504** – *Inmate Communication Contracts* is in reporting.
 - **2506** – *Super Intensive Supervision Program and Electronic Monitoring Program* is in planning. This will include following up on the Texas State Auditor’s audit report and recommendations.
 - **2507** – *Windham School District Career and Technical Education Tool Control* is in reporting.
 - **2510** – *Inmate Identification Documents* is in planning.
 - **2512** – *Internal Audit Self Study* is ongoing. The OIA has to be audited every three years, which is conducted by an outside party.
- Three are not yet assigned.
- **2514** – **Walkthroughs:** *Facilities Division Ongoing Risk Assessment* is complete.
- **2515** – **Follow-Up and Action Plan Tracking:** *Allegations of Improper Vendor Payments* is complete, which found no merit to the complaint that improper payments were made. *Structural Integrity* is in reporting.

Mr. Cirrito stated the OIA is currently tracking 70 recommendations. Tracking recommendations creates a pool for possible follow-up projects:

- 50 are reported as implemented with confirmation by the respective final approver.
- Three are reported as implemented pending confirmation by the respective final approver.
- 20 are ongoing.

Mr. Cirrito recognized Deputy Chief Audit Executive Renee Russell for 20 years of service and the OIA staff in attendance. Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Cirrito for the status report.

(Attachment B – Office of the Independent Auditor Status Report)

Report from the Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General Lance Coleman presented a report on the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Mr. Coleman highlighted some of OIG’s training staff, including Lieutenant Lee Duren, Investigator Erin Fontenot, and Investigator Daniel Lenox. He stated these three individuals conduct Texas Commission on Law Enforcement training and have taught over 2,300 students.

Mr. Coleman discussed a Strike Force Operation, which was a joint effort between the OIG and Fusion Center. Six individuals were arrested in Odessa, Lampasas, Killeen, Laredo, and Austin. Information was received that synthetic marijuana was being mailed into TDCJ facilities, and that contraband was intercepted. He showed a picture of the contraband seized from one of the individual’s home, which included several books soaked in synthetic marijuana and 461.3 grams of methamphetamine. He stated that individual has been charged with seven first degree felony charges.

He discussed a Special Operations Investigation at the Telford Unit, which was initiated after the Texas Department of Public Safety conducted a traffic stop and found 487 grams of methamphetamine and one pound of marijuana packaged to be introduced into a correctional facility. This information was shared with federal authorities, prompting a federal investigation. The OIG received intelligence linking the delivery to contraband that was being introduced into the Telford Unit. On April 9, 2025, OIG Special

Operations, Strike Force, and Unit Investigations with assistance from local and federal authorities executed arrest warrants for seven correctional officers from the Telford Unit. Ten inmates were implicated as well. On June 5, 2025, a Bowie County Grand Jury issued 19 first degree felony indictments for engaging in organized crime to the individuals involved. Three additional former employees were arrested with two receiving indictments. He showed pictures of the contraband seized from various individuals involved in the case, which demonstrated the various ways an individual may attempt to introduce contraband.

Mr. Coleman stated the OIG met with the correctional law enforcement community and developed a sign to install at units establishing a contraband-free zone. The signs will be installed at the entry and highway gates of the units.

Chairman Nichols commented on the significance of the work the OIG is doing and the relationship with law enforcement partners to achieve success. He stated the contraband coming into the units has a devastating impact on the population. Dr. Rodney Burrow stated the board has spoken with active correctional officers who are proud of the agency's efforts to combat contraband and feel safer on the job as a result. Judge Faith Johnson expressed gratitude for the arrests that have been made and stated it may be a deterrent for others. She asked for the street value of the drugs that were confiscated. Mr. Coleman stated the investigation is ongoing, and that information would be provided later. Chairman Nichols commented that the majority of correctional staff are coming to work and doing the right thing by keeping the units and the state of Texas safe. Thomas Fordyce, on behalf of the Law Enforcement Committee, expressed appreciation for the OIG and the work being done and complimented the Fusion Center operations. Mr. Coleman thanked Executive Director Bryan Collier for his support in creating the Fusion Center.

Report from the Office of the Independent Ombudsman

Independent Ombudsman Brian Patrick presented a report on the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO), encompassing March 16, 2025, through May 31, 2025. The OIO received 1,439 inquiries during this period that required substantive work.

The OIO responded to 1,430 inquiries from the public or an inmate and nine elected official inquiries. There were also 14 unit visits conducted. The three most common inquiries received were related to life and safety, medical issues, and allegations against staff.

Chairman Nichols asked for an update on additional resource allocations, such as staffing. Mr. Patrick stated the OIO has a deputy director now and promoted another supervisor. The OIO has a 2030 plan for staffing and is looking for additional office space. He expressed appreciation for the Business and Finance Division and the chief financial officer for collaborating to find resources within the TDCJ to assist the OIO.

Report from the State Counsel for Offenders

State Counsel for Offenders (SCFO) Director Wyvonne Long presented a report on the SCFO. She thanked Mr. Collier for enabling the SCFO's work. She stated, in the past two months, the SCFO opened 178 cases, closed 96 cases, and had approximately 1,400 cases actively open. The SCFO answered or handled more than 3,900 pieces of correspondence. Ms. Long recognized Investigator Maxine Myers for

thirty years of service. She stated Ms. Myers continuously demonstrates her dedication by often making constructive suggestions for improving the effectiveness of the investigative role. She has proactively taken on the role of administration and support functions whenever the supervisor is unavailable. Her dedication to the role and mission of the SCFO serves as an example to the staff, and her vibrant personality is well known and appreciated.

Chairman Nichols asked for a status update on changing the name of the SCFO. Ms. Long stated HB 3488 was adopted into the Sunset bill, and it passed recently. The relevant statute will be changed, effective September 1st, and the board will then be able to propose a motion to rename the SCFO. She stated the name for consideration is the Independent Counsel for Inmates (ICI). Mr. Nichols agreed that the term independent was important to signify the independence of the SCFO who reports directly to the board.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action **Regarding Facilities Division Construction Projects**

Request to Install Air Conditioning System, Inmate Housing, Boyd Unit, Freestone County, Teague, Texas

Facilities Division Director Ron Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for all inmate housing areas at the Boyd Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$26,275,100.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Sydney Zuiker moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install air conditioning system, inmate housing, at the Boyd Unit, Freestone County, Teague, Texas, as presented.

Dr. Rodney Burrow seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Gurney Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for all inmate housing areas at the Gurney Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$10,301,600.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Pastor Nate Sprinkle moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Gurney Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas, as presented.

General Bill Welch seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Hightower Unit, Liberty County, Dayton, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for all inmate housing areas at the Hightower Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$23,148,000.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Thomas Fordyce moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Hightower Unit, Liberty County, Dayton, Texas, as presented.

Sydney Zuiker seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Jester III Unit, Fort Bend County, Richmond, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for inmate housing at the Jester III Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$5,828,300.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Faith Johnson moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Jester III Unit, Fort Bend County, Richmond, Texas, as presented.

Pastor Nate Sprinkle seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Luther Unit, Grimes County, Navasota, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for all inmate housing at the Luther Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$8,484,600.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Dr. Rodney Burrow moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Luther Unit, Grimes County, Navasota, Texas, as presented.

Judge Molly Francis seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, 3 Building, Polunsky Unit, Polk County, Livingston, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for 3 building at the Polunsky Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$8,291,500.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Molly Francis moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for 3 building at the Polunsky Unit, Polk County, Livingston, Texas, as presented.

Judge Faith Johnson seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Powledge Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for inmate housing at the Powledge Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$7,585,000.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

General Bill Welch moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Powledge Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas, as presented.

Dr. Rodney Burrow seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Stevenson Unit, DeWitt County, Cuero, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for all inmate housing areas at the Stevenson Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$28,070,400.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Sydney Zuiker moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Stevenson Unit, DeWitt County, Cuero, Texas, as presented.

Judge Molly Francis seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, 8 Building, Stiles Unit, Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for 8 building at the Stiles Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$7,957,200.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Pastor Nate Sprinkle moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for 8 building at the Stiles Unit, Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas, as presented.

General Bill Welch seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request to Install HVAC System, Inmate Housing, Terrell Unit, Brazoria County, Rosharon, Texas

Mr. Hudson presented a new project for consideration which includes the installation of an HVAC system for inmate housing at the Terrell Unit, as briefed during the Business and Financial Operations Committee Meeting. The total estimated program cost is \$12,154,000.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Thomas Fordyce moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request to install HVAC system for inmate housing at the Terrell Unit, Brazoria County, Rosharon, Texas, as presented.

Judge Molly Francis seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Mr. Hudson stated the approval of these projects brings the agency total of fully air-conditioned units to 45. Judge Johnson shared her personal experience of visiting the units during the summer to experience the heat and expressed the board's excitement at approving projects for air conditioning until all the units have air conditioning. Chairman Nichols thanked the agency and all external stakeholders for their efforts to mitigate the heat.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action **Regarding Proposed Land Transactions**

Bill Lewis, Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics Division Director stated each of the projects being presented include language requiring indemnification as the grantee's responsibility and the most-favored-nation clause. Compensation has been negotiated at the current geographical appraisal value.

Request for a Waterline Easement Renewal, Briscoe Unit, Frio County, Dilley, Texas

Bill Lewis, Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics Division Director presented the request of the City of Dilley to renew an expiring easement for one twelve-inch pipeline at the Briscoe Unit. The easement

includes an area of approximately 1.437 acres of land or 3,130 feet long by 20 feet wide for the transportation of water. The City of Dilley has agreed to pay \$5,472 for the renewal of this easement for a ten-year term. Mr. Lewis presented a map of the area.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Faith Johnson moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request for a waterline easement renewal at the Briscoe Unit, Frio County, Dilley, Texas, as presented.

Judge Molly Francis seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request for a Valve Site Easement Renewal, Clemens Unit, Brazoria County, Brazoria, Texas

Mr. Lewis presented the request of Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC to renew an expiring easement at the Clemens Unit which includes a surface area of 0.70 acres of land along with a utility access road consisting of 0.20 acres, 30 feet wide, for a combined acreage of 0.90, to continue to transport natural gas liquids. Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC has agreed to pay \$15,255 for the renewal of this easement for a ten-year term. Mr. Lewis presented a map of the area.

Chairman Nichols abstained from taking action on this agenda item due to his firm representing entities listed. Sydney Zuiker abstained from taking action on this agenda item due to the entity being a donor at her workplace.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Dr. Rodney Burrow moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request for a valve site easement renewal at the Clemens Unit, Brazoria County, Brazoria, Texas, as presented.

General Bill Welch seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request for a Pipeline Easement, Gurney Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas

Mr. Lewis presented the request of Solution Midstream for an easement for one twenty-four-inch pipeline at the Gurney Unit, which includes an area of approximately 11.738 acres of land or 10,225.83 feet long by 50 feet wide to transport natural gas. This request includes temporary workspace for an approximate total of 5.028 acres for use during pipeline construction and installation. Solution Midstream has agreed to pay \$340,124.95 for this easement and temporary workspace for a ten-year term. Mr. Lewis presented a map of the area.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

Judge Molly Francis moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request for a pipeline easement at the Gurney Unit, Anderson County, Palestine, Texas, as presented.

Dr. Rodney Burrow seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Request for an Access Easement, Halbert Unit, Burnet County, Burnet, Texas

Mr. Lewis presented the request of Atmos Energy Corporation for an easement at the Halbert Unit which includes an area of approximately 0.517 acres of land or 22,500 square feet. Additionally, the request includes a 0.584 acres road access easement and temporary workspace of 0.137 acres for use during construction and installation. The easement is adjacent to an existing surface easement granted to Atmos Energy Corporation in 2019. Atmos Energy Corporation has agreed to pay \$210,895.80 for a total of 1.238 acres for the easement and temporary workspace for a ten-year term. Mr. Lewis presented a map of the area.

Chairman Nichols asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion and a second.

General Bill Welch moved that the Texas Board of Criminal Justice approve the request for an access easement at the Halbert Unit, Burnet County, Burnet, Texas, as presented.

Pastor Nate Sprinkle seconded the motion, which unanimously passed when called to a vote.

Executive Session

There being no further business, Chairman Nichols thanked everyone for attending the meeting, announced that the next meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice will be August 19, 2025, in Austin, Texas, recessed for Executive Session at 1:47 p.m., and reconvened into Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business following the Executive Session, Chairman Nichols adjourned the 241st meeting of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice at 4:15 p.m.

Chairman*

Secretary*

* Signature on File