

**From:** Kenneth Welch krwelch@moment.net

**Subject:** Courthouse Repairs

**Date:** March 30, 2023 at 10:38 PM

**To:** Brett Bray cojudge@co.blanco.tx.us, Blanco County Commissioner Pct #3 blcomm3@co.blanco.tx.us, Blanco County Commissioner Pct #2 blcomm2@co.blanco.tx.us, Blanco County Commissioner Pct #1 tweir@co.blanco.tx.us, Blanco Co. Commissioner Pct 4 blcomm4@co.blanco.tx.us

**Cc:** Deborah Earley d.earley@co.blanco.tx.us, Treasurer Blanco Co. bctreas@co.blanco.tx.us



In April 2022 you were presented with the 1916 Blanco County Courthouse Master Plan. It contained an extensive and detailed evaluation of the structure. One option was to correct essential needs such as structural intervention for the roof and cornice, updates to the mechanical system, ADA/TAS, fire and life safety and code upgrades. A second more extensive approach would be a full restoration of the courthouse. Both alternatives will be very expensive.

It seemed clear at the time that the Commissioners Court has every intention to continue to utilize the 1916 Courthouse far into the future. The report indicated that **"The largest threat to the courthouse is the outward movement of the north and south walls due to the roof structure's inability to transfer its weight properly."** The structural Engineer indicated that **"if repair is not undertaken within six months then quarterly monitoring should be done by a design professional."** Scott Schellhase indicated that the roof is sagging by as much as 6" - 8" under the cupola.

In your March 28, 2023 meeting the court unanimously approved for Judge Bray to work with D A Davidson to explore additional financing options to support existing projects. You authorized a 3rd phase of the Fairgrounds project, a contract for start of the Star Flight / EMS project, and the completion of the Old Jail conversion and Office building construction. The court indicated that these projects are all extremely important to the county.

I may not share your level of enthusiasm for the current projects, but I hope we can all agree that the integrity of the 1916 Blanco County Courthouse must be protected. As you explore the availability of financing **I ask that you prioritize the Courthouse work at the top of the list requiring funding.** I believe the structural work on the courthouse is **essential** and should be number one on your list of priorities. Then, it only makes sense to complete the projects that are currently under construction. Third, if funding is available, commencing on the 3rd phase at the Fairgrounds and the Star Flight / EMS could be considered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth Welch