

GRANT COUNTY

CHRIS M. PONCE
Commissioner, District 1

ELOY H. MEDINA
Commissioner, District 2

NANCY STEPHENS
Commissioner, District 3



EDDIE M. FLORES
Commissioner, District 4

THOMAS L. SHELLEY
Commissioner, District 5

CHARLENE WEBB
County Manager

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION JUNE 10, 2025 9:00 AM

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to Flag

III. Approval of Work Session Agenda

IV. Public Input

During this portion of our meeting, we welcome your suggestions and want to hear your concerns. This is not a question and answer period; speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes. Any individual who would like to discuss an item in more depth may request to be placed on a future agenda. Request forms are available in the County Manager's Office.

V. Presentations

- a. Silver Consolidated Schools Update - Superintendent William Hawkins

VI. County Reports

- b. Updates for the Month of June from the Airport, Detention Center, Emergency Management & Code Enforcement, Fire Management, Fiscal Services, Planning & Capital Projects, Public Works (Facilities & Fleet), and Road departments.

VII. Review Regular Meeting Agenda

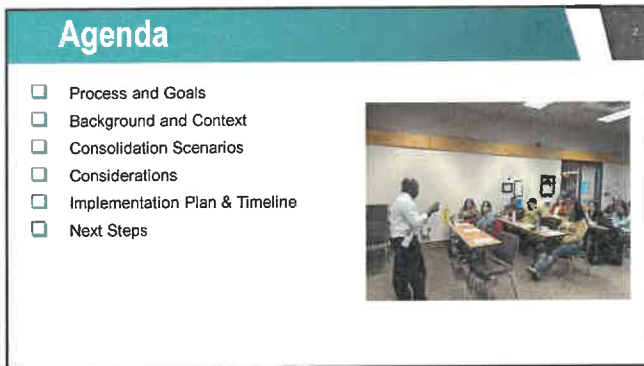
VIII. Commissioners' Reports

IX. Adjournment

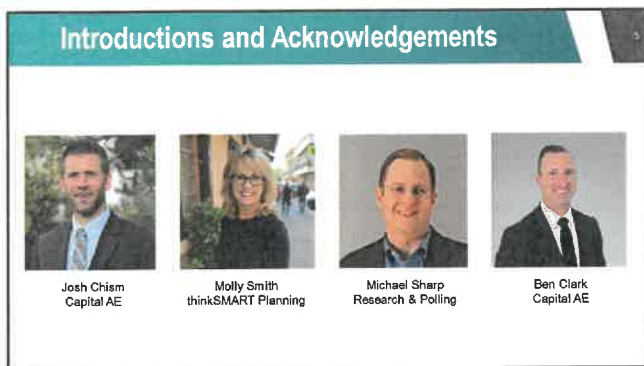
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1



2



5

Study Outcomes	
Consolidate	Determine what is the best strategy to more efficiently use vacant space at SCSD
Best Fit	Find the best facilities/ boundary "fit" for projected enrollment
Improvements	Recommend any improvements to schools being consolidated if warranted
Dispensation	Recommend strategies for dispensation of any evacuated space
Timeline	Committee will recommend timelines which will work best for SCSD families and community

7



8

COMMITTEE WORKSESSIONS

20+ Committee Members

- Staff
- Parents
- School Administration
- Community
- Board Representative

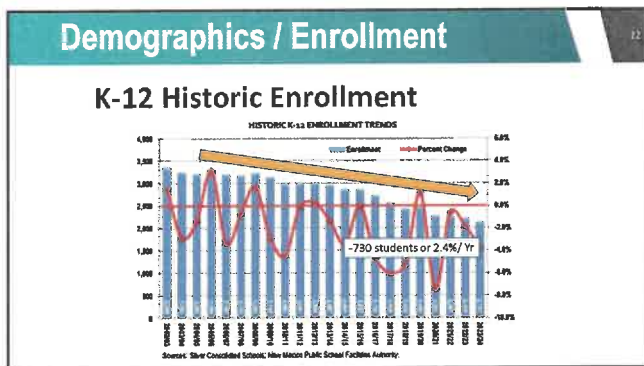
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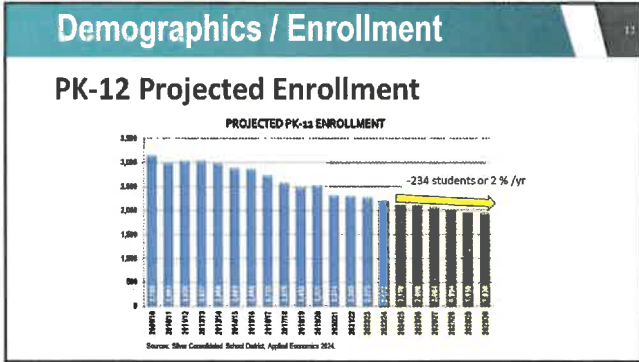
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11



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13



14

FMP Recommendations (May 20, 2024)

SELECTED OPTION— \$24,000,000 BOND + PSCOC FUNDING WAIVER

- RIGHT-SIZE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO ALIGN WITH CURRENT/PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**
 - South Street ES and Jose Barrios ES recommended for consolidation; Phased approach over next 5 years via task force.
- REBUILD PK-12 CLIFF SCHOOL**
 - Demolish all buildings except New Gym and Rock Building
- SAFETY & SECURITY UPGRADES VARIOUS SCHOOLS**
- UPGRADES TO BEN ALTAMIRANO SPORTS COMPLEX**
 - Improve Drainage, Artificial Turf for 1 Softball, 1 Baseball, and 1 Soccer Field
- \$22M FOR PRIORITY REPAIRS – ALL REMAINING SCHOOLS**
 - \$17.7M District Funds, \$4.3M State Matching Funds

15

Consolidation Scenarios

A.

Traditional Schools

Scenario	6th St. ES	Samuel ES	Silver School	Submitt ES	Oliver ES
1	Close	K-6	PK	K-6	K-6
2	Close	Close	PK	K-6	K-6
3	Close	Close	Close	PK-6	PK-6

*6th Grade goes to ES or MS?

B.

Grade Banding

Scenario	6th St. ES	Samuel ES	Silver School	Submitt ES	Oliver ES
4	Close	K-1	PK	2-3	4-6
5	Close	Close	PK	K-2	3-6
6	Close	Close	Close	PK-2	3-6

*6th Grade goes to ES or MS?

C.

MS & HS Consolidation

Scenario	La Plata MS	Silver HS
7	Close	7-12
8	7-12	Close

*6th Grade goes to ES or MS?

19

Capacity / Utilization 6th Street ES

6th Street ES

Functional Capacity	388
2023 Enrollment	186
2025 Enrollment	160

48% Utilization
160 Seats Open
136 Students

WILLIAM LIVING

- 1 Elementary Classroom
- 2 Special Education Classroom
- 3 Music Classroom
- 4 Art Classroom
- 5 Library
- 6 Computer Lab
- 7 Multipurpose/Reception Classroom
- 8 Multipurpose Classroom
- 9 Reception Classroom

SIXTH STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CURRENT ROOM USE

20

Capacity / Utilization Jose Barrios ES

Jose Barrios

Functional Capacity	314
2023 Enrollment	213
2025 Enrollment	199

68% Utilization
101 Seats Open
213 Students

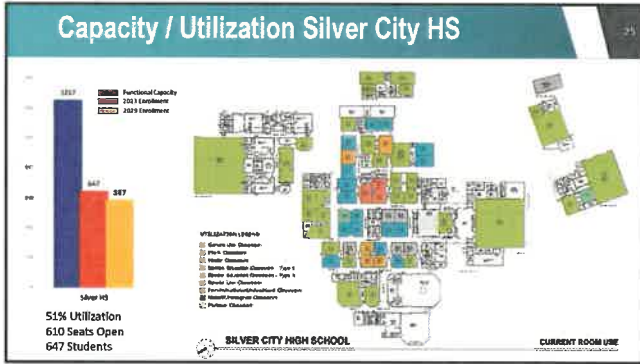
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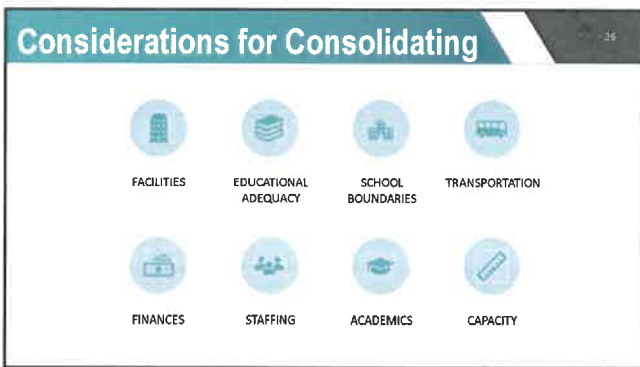
JOSE BARRIOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CURRENT ROOM USE

21



25



26

Considerations

27

Traditional vs. Grade Banding

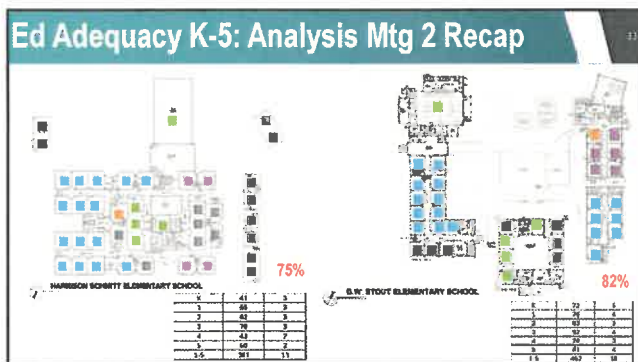
Category	Neighborhood Schools	Grade Banding (Elementary)
Definition	Students attend the elementary school closest to their home (K-5 or K-6).	Schools are organized by grade levels (e.g., K-2, 3-5) regardless of location.
Community Connection	Strong community and parent engagement; fosters neighborhood pride.	Less neighborhood identity; students mix from various areas. Cohort Connections form and stay together through 12 th grade.
Transportation	Many students may walk or are dropped off.	Bus routes and coordination required. Many students may still be dropped off.
Family Convenience	Siblings usually attend the same school.	Families with multiple children may have to travel to multiple campuses. (Same number as before.)
Class Size Balancing	Varies by neighborhood demographics. Some schools may be overcrowded.	Easier to balance class sizes across the district by redistributing students.
Specialization of Staff	Teachers cover all elementary grades in one building.	Teachers and staff can specialize by developmental stage or grade level.
Collaboration Among Staff	Grade-level collaboration limited to a few teachers per site.	Larger peer groups for collaboration within the same grade band. (Share experts, Time & Support for Interventions)
Curriculum Consistency	May vary more across schools due to different staffing and admin.	Easier to ensure consistency in curriculum and instruction.

31

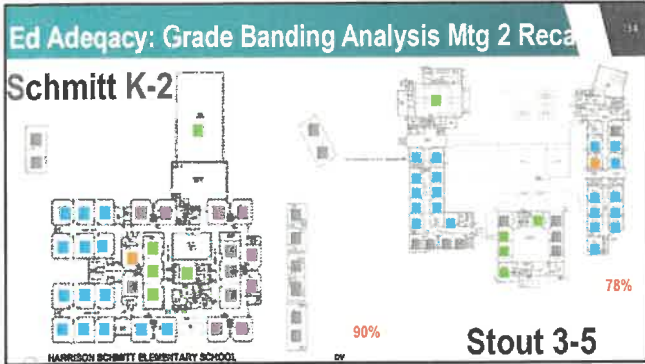
Traditional vs. Grade Banding

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Definition	Students attend the elementary school closest to their home (K-5 or K-6).	Schools are organized by grade levels (e.g., K-2, 3-5) regardless of location.
Facility Use	Each campus must be equipped for all grade levels.	Facilities can be customized for specific age groups (e.g., smaller toilets for K-2).
Student Transitions	Fewer transitions; often one school from K-5 or K-6.	More transitions (e.g., from K-2 to 3-5), but with the same cohort of friends and peers.
Administrative Efficiency	May require more principals/admins to cover each neighborhood school.	Fewer campuses may allow for streamlined administration and support services.
Equity of Programs	Enrichment and intervention services vary by campus.	Easier to centralize and equalize access to programs and resources.
Sense of Belonging	Students may live near peers.	Students attend school with the same cohort of students K-12.
Impact on Facilities	More campuses maintained regardless of size or enrollment shifts.	Consolidates resources; possible savings through fewer, fuller campuses.
Parental Involvement	Often higher due to proximity and personal investment in the neighborhood.	May decrease with travel barriers or split siblings.

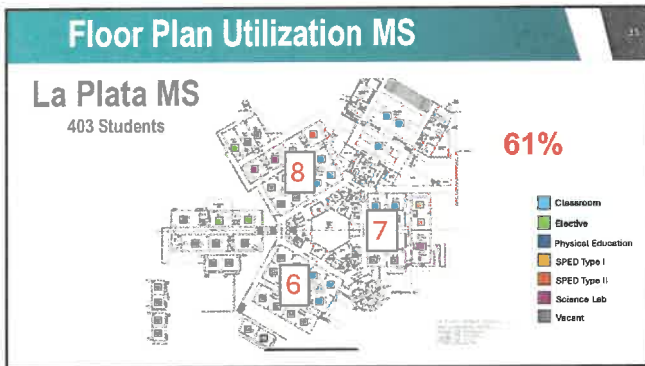
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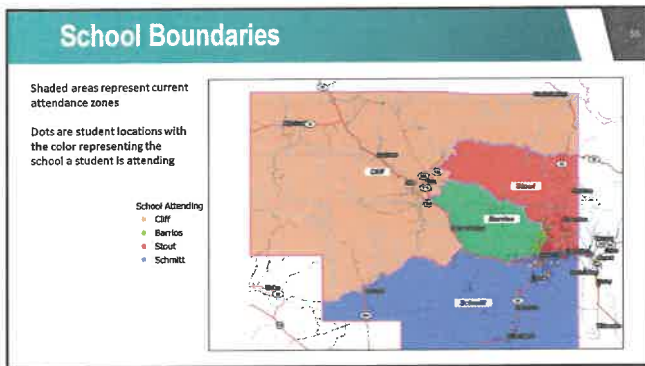
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34




35



36




Transportation

- ☐ FY23/24 Ridership: 450 Students
- ☐ Traditional Schools
 - Increase Route Times by 5-10 minutes
- ☐ Grade Banding
 - Decrease Route Times by 5-10 minutes



37

Other Considerations

-  **Finances**
 - Current Bond Program
 - Future Bond Initiatives
 - Improvement Costs
 - Savings
-  **Staffing**
 - Attrition
-  **Academics**
 - Curricular
 - Teacher Collaboration

38

Summary of Scenarios

K-5 Scenarios	3 schools			2 schools			K-5 Scenarios	3 schools		2 schools	
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5	Scenario 6		Scenario 7			
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5		
Utilization	82%	78%	78%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%	82%		
School Fit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Def. Maint.	\$20.3M	\$19.6M	\$19.6M	\$20.3M	\$20.3M	\$20.3M	\$20.3M	\$20.3M	\$20.3M		
Improvements	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M		
Transportation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Savings	\$4.8M	\$18.8M	\$18.8M	\$4.8M	\$4.8M	\$4.8M	\$4.8M	\$4.8M	\$4.8M		

Does Not Include Priority 4

39

Preliminary Findings:

Scenario	6th St. ES	Barrios ES	Schmitt ES	Stout ES
5B	Close	Close	K-2	3-5

The Facilities Master Plan Committee (comprised of over 50 representatives of our community) recommended to consolidated 6th Street and Jose Barrios.

The Taskforce, after deep diving into the data considering grade level needs, utilization capacities, school site fit scenarios, deferred maintenance costs, necessary improvement needs, transportation impacts and district savings over the initial next 5 years, reaffirmed the initial recommendation of the Facilities Master Plan Committee.

40

Successful Implementation

- Communication to Families and Staff
- Transportation
- Curriculum
- Staffing / Human Resources
- Professional Development / Training
- Facilities Maintenance
- Bond Project
- Food Services
- Information Technology
- Finance / Budgeting



51

**Traditional Boundary Map
FINAL Recap**

*Backup Plan

52

Proposed Boundaries

- Follow logical transportation patterns, where possible
 - All of Arenas Valley goes to a single school
 - All traffic that flows onto Cottage San Rd goes to a single school
- Balance attendance utilization
- Finalized during May 9, 2025 Committee meeting

53

Proposed Boundaries

Concept 2 FINAL

(finalized in committee)

SCSD - ES Attendance Zones Concept 2 FINAL

54

Implementation Timeline

2025

- May 2025 Final Committee Mtg
- Jun 2025 BOE Presentation
- Aug 2025 BOE Decision on Closure
- Sep 2025 Admin Planning Start Work

2026

- Fall 2025 – Spring 2026
 - Prepare to Consolidate
 - Communication with Staff, Students, Parents
- Jun-Jul 2026
 - Construction
 - Moving
- May 2026 Closures
 - ✓ 6th St
 - ✓ JB
- Aug 2026 School Starts
 - ✓ Schmitt (K-2)
 - ✓ Stout (3-5)
 - ✓ La Plata (6-8)

2028-2032
(Tentative)

- 2028-2032
- Decide on moving forward on La Plata MS & Silver HS as a 6-12 Combined School

61

Next Steps

- August 25, 2025**
 - Board votes on consolidation plan.
- September 2025 – May 2026**
 - Consolidation preparations and implementation
- Summer 2026**
 - Construction and move into consolidated schools.
- August 2026**
 - School starts at Schmitt ES (K-2) and Stout ES (3-5)

63

That's a lot to consider...

A focus on school quality and effective educational practices should underpin any grade reconfiguration effort. Regardless of the grade span configuration used in a district, I want to focus on implementing best practice.

I will have presentations like this for parents, community, and staff. In the late summer, I hope to be able to do some sort of survey, similar to what we did for the Calendar Adoption when we were looking at the balanced calendar.

Ultimately, I want to make sure we are making "sound educational practices" "What's Best for Kids," decisions will be the goal of the final grade reconfiguration recommendation.


We have to look at student achievement and student well-being.

Teacher collaboration, specialized instruction, curriculum alignment, behavior and academic gains/loses, support services, transitions, family logistics, community concerns....

All of these sentiments and more weigh on me heavily.

64

Consolidation Feasibility Study



SILVER
The Future of Education

End Board Update

CAPITAL AE June 16, 2025 **SMART**

65

Airport

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- Two bids were received for construction of the upcoming airfield lighting project. A local business, Southwest Solar and Electric was the low bidder. We are currently submitting the grant application to the FAA and hope to start construction in the next two months. During phases of the project that require work near the runway, we will have nighttime closures.

Training:

- Roger Groves and Loren Gonzalez completed their live fire training at DFW. This is an FAA requirement for all ARFF responders to be completed once each 12 consecutive calendar months.

Briefings:

- The annual Capital Improvement Program meeting with the FAA was held on 5/30. This is a five year plan for the airport. Through 2030, more than 8.6 million in projects and equipment have been identified.
- The airport currently has one large air tanker, a C-130, two SEATs, one type 2 helicopter and one type 3 helicopter on site. These crews have responded to fires in southern Arizona, Ruidoso and the current Paradise fire near Quemado Lake.

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:



C-130



Type 2 helicopter

Detention Center

CURRENT :

- Currently have one Officer opening.
- Accreditation update.
- On May 31st , 2025 population was 96 detainees (49 in facility, 47 in Luna and Hildago county. Average daily population for May 2025 was 54.
- shower project ongoing (Completed female units)
- Rise Program : May 2025 had 31 RISE participants, with 14 in facility and 17 in the community.

PROJECTS:

- Working with Maintenance for Laundry room project
- Male Unit Control enclosure project
- SRT (Special Response Team) Training Aug. 2025

KEY EVENT DATES:

- New Mexico Counties Summer Conference
June 2025

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

- Support / Guidance : CM, Team (Maintenance, Finance):
for purchase of equipment and Grant Opportunities for five-year plan.
- Updated Five Year Plan for 2026/2027

Emergency Manager

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- Ensuring FY24 EMPG associated reports are submitted & accepted by NM DHSEM per prescribed timelines.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision (HMP) – NM DHSEM approved revisions & final draft on 5/8/25. HMP sent to FEMA for approval.
- NM EMNRD grant & project for update of Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Evaluation Team met on 5/15 and selected the contractor to complete CWPP. Contract on Agenda.
- Procurement process for the HMPG & SHSGP grants has been initiated. HMPG RFP to be issued in June-draft has been completed. SHSGP Sole Source Procurement posting in June.
- Initiated 2024 NMC Wildfire Risk Reduction-Community Outreach & Education project on March 1. The theme is learning & understanding Ready, Set, Go! and Defensible Space

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds on 11/25/24 for 11 generators for VFD fire stations and four portable solar generators. Awaiting approval from NM DHSEM/FEMA
- Applied for NMC 2025-2026 Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Grant. Completed application was submitted 3/21/25.
- Applied for additional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds on 3/18/25 for extension of Onsolve contract until 2030 for public alerting software and IPAWS access. Received additional request for more information from FEMA on 5/30/25.
- Applied for additional HMPG funds (\$83,000) on 5/9/25 for 2 back-up generators for Cliff and Mimbres Senior Centers.
- FMI Community Investment Funds Application to be submitted by 6/27/25 for update of County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

KEY EVENT DATES:

- Every 3rd Thursday of the month NM DHSEM EOC conducts a virtual stakeholders meeting
- Every 1st Tuesday of the month NM Energy Conservation & Management Division conducts a virtual stakeholders meeting
- LEPC meets quarterly, 1st Wed in Jan, April, July, Oct
- VFD Chiefs meet Fourth Wednesday of the month
- Quarterly Area 6 Preparedness meetings
- Monthly required IPAWS Proficiency Demonstration
- June 13 – DHS CBRN Update on Threats
- June 16 – DOT Rail Car Incident Response Course in Las Cruces.
- July 1 – AWR330-53 Whole Community Emergency Management Planning Course in Las Cruces.

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

- Continued guidance and support from the following entities/partners is greatly appreciated.
 - Commission Board
 - County Manager
 - FEMA
 - New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 - LEPC members
 - USFS and NM EMNRD
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - NMC and associated affiliates
 - National Weather Service

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CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2025

Citations, Court Dates and Pending Cases:

Citations Issued: 2 new citations and 11 citations awaiting court dates

Total Court Dates: 5

Pending Court Dates: 4

Pending/Follow-up Cases: 27 – Property Owners, Tenets, Lessee or Property Managers are receiving Notices of Violation and follow-up on progress of previous Notice of Violations.

Cases Closed 2023 to Present: 78

Court Results:

May 6, 2025- Ordinance 0-22-02 Abatement of dangerous or abandoned building structure, mobile/manufactured housing: Jeff Baldwin - Judge Runnels gave Mr. Baldwin a 30-day extension to find owners of mobile homes. No court date set.

May 7, 2025- Ordinance 99-03-01 Solid Waste and Ordinance: Nick Carter - Judge Runnels gave Mr. Carter a 30-day extension to due to Mr. Carter making progress on cleaning his property. No court date set.

May 12, 2025-Ordinance 99-03-01 Solid Waste and Ordinances: Charles Sanchez - Plead guilty after being arrested on 03-18-25 for Failure to Appear and released on 04-14-25 for violation of this citation. Mr. Sanchez was fined \$60.00 and 90-days probation.

May 14, 2025- Ordinance 99-03-01 Solid Waste and Ordinances: Kerry Geren - Plead guilty after being arrested on 03-19-25 for Failure to Appear and released on 04-14-25 for violation of this citation. Mr. Geren's received a deferred sentence with unsupervised probation.

May 15, 2025- Ordinance 99-03-01 Solid Waste and Ordinances: Joyce Ruebush - Charges were dismissed due to property being cleaned up. Defendant was compliant.

County Fire Chief

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- Annual Fire Marshal Inspections
- Working on equipment list for the New Aircraft Rescue Firefighting apparatus
- Incident command team for large incidents
- County Chipper rental Program.
- Attending Town Hall meetings
- New Stipend for policy VFD's
- PSA fire prevention programs
- Fire Suppression and Emergency Response

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Joint training with municipal departments.
- Ensure VFD members receive required Wildland Fire and new recruit training and Structure fire training.
- Developing a training program for new firefighter and officers
- County Automatic Aid agreement.

KEY EVENT DATES:

- Attended VFD Chiefs meetings 4th Monday of the month
- Attending monthly VFDs Business meetings and training
- Participated in fire suppression efforts as needed throughout the county.
- Continuing Airport training attended training in ARFF Dallas .
- Total new Recruits for the County VFD's May 2025
- 5 Total Pinos Altos 2, Whiskey Creek 1, Sapillo 2,

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

- Continued guidance and support from the following entities is greatly appreciated.
 - Commission Board
 - County Manager
 - Rural VFD Fire Chiefs
 - ISO
 - USFS & BLM Representatives
 - NM EMNRD Representatives
 - Fire Marshals Division - New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and
 - GC Emergency Management
 - NM STATE FIRE ACADEMY

Finance Director

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- Tyler System Reconfiguration
- FY 2026 Final Budget Completion
- New J.P. Morgan P-Cards rolled out the week of June 2
- Transition to Western Bank is complete
- FY 26 Preliminary Budget was submitted to DFA on May 29, 2025.
- Chris Allison, our A/P, and Sam Hernandez, our Payroll, successfully passed the week-long Tyler Payroll Training and Testing.
- Betty, our AFD, and Yvonne Hernandez, CPO, completed the NM Edge Chief Procurement Officer Certification.
- The Grants Administrator position is open for applicants on the website.
- It is fiscal year end as of June 30, 2025, and purchasing pauses while we close out the fiscal year.
- Staff is training over next two weeks on year end processes.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- FY 25 Quarter 4 LGBMS Reporting
- FY 2026 Final Budget Adoption and submission
- FY 2025 Financial Audit
- Timely submission of the FY 25 Audit to the Office of the State Auditor
- Amplifund Implementation

KEY EVENT DATES:

- 06/01/2025-Closing Fiscal Year End Process Began
- 07/01/2025-Begin new Fiscal Year 2026
- 07/01/2025-Begin preparation for FY 25 Audit
- 07/31/2025-FY 26 Final Budget due to DFA
- July 2025- Projected completion of the Amplifund project
- August 2025- Projected completion of Tyler Reconfiguration
- September 2025- Projected on-site Audit
- November 2025- Audit due to the Office of the State Auditor

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

Thank you to the Finance Department, Betty, Yvonne, Sam, and Chris, for their hard work every single day...

Thank you to Mary Rae and Nicki for jumping in and helping whenever we need them.....

Thank you to Brye and Michelle! They are always willing to jump in and help without hesitation....

Thank you to Charlene, you are always a wealth of knowledge and we appreciate your guidance and dedication.

Planning & Capital Projects Director

As of Date:
06/3/2025

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- **Under Construction:**
 - North Hurley Roadway and Drainage Improvements Phase III-complete
- **Design phase:**
 - Public Safety Building – Developing CDs
 - Courthouse renovation & new construction-presentation
 - Franks & Crumb Road

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Ridge Road-Construction
- Little Walnut-ROW and Easement
- Arenas Valley-ROW and Easement

KEY EVENT DATES:

- 5/21/2025 Mimbres Senior Center ICIP input.
- 5/22/2025 Approved Resolution approved for Ridge Road, Arenas Valley, & Little Walnut
- ICIP meetings

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

POC: Joseph Holguin

Public Works - Facilities Maintenance

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- Admin building Front portico resurfacing
- Shower epoxy project GCDC
- Corre Camino Bus stops Concrete Forming
- Assembly of Cliff park picnic tables
- Detention center painting continues
- Bleacher assembly (Fair ground show arena)

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Conference Center Hallway Facelift
- Admin Building employee designated outdoor space.
- Detention Center training mock cell door installation
- Admin Building Signage
- Detention Center laundry remodel/replace
- 6 count Corre Camino Bus stop(Concrete poured and Structures assembled)

Notable Accomplishments:

- Courthouse sweep and striping
- Gila Senior Center entire grounds trimming and chipping
- Chips delivered and utilized by RISE program
- Mimbres Senior Center concrete slab/Tree wells
- Septic locate Cliff Park/Fairgrounds
- Security door install / Silver Street complex DOH

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

Gila Senior Center trimming and chipping/Chips to GCDC.



Courthouse Sweep and striping



Mimbres Senior Center



Public Works- County Fleet Maintenance

MAY COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- 14 oil changes and inspections.
- 1 air conditioner recharge.
- 2 blades had the cutting edges replaced.
- 7 units had tires repaired.
- 1 wheel alignment.
- 1 set of shocks.
- 2 complete brake jobs.
- 1 window regulator
- Many other miscellaneous repairs

PROJECTS:

KEY EVENT DATES or NOTES:

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUIDANCE/DECISION:

ROAD DEPARTMENT

CURRENT and FINISHED PROJECTS:

- Due to limited manpower, equipment operators have been prioritizing the maintenance of county roads according to Safety and complaints. Currently, they are assisting with ongoing projects that require completion.
- Truck drivers are delivering materials and water to current projects and supporting operators with the necessary materials to address county road complaints.
- Laborers are actively engaged in trimming trees, performing patch work, and assisting with ongoing projects across the county as needed.
- The Jonie McDonald Low Water Crossing project is progressing well. Road construction has been completed on approaches, and 300 feet of concrete has been placed on both lanes and the turn down walls on both sides have been placed as well, completing placing concrete for the crossing. We will place rock on the down stream side of the crossing and then open the road for traffic.
- Continuing to prep for shoulder work and patching for our upcoming chip seal projects.

Key event dates:

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Continuing to move forward with our SP and CAP projects over the next few months.
- Addressing complaints and resolving issues promptly to ensure road safety and maintenance.
- We remind the community of a few things:
 1. Be patient and vigilant regarding road maintenance and routine blading.
 2. The lack of moisture in the area has impacted our ability to properly maintain all county roads.
 3. The road department is currently short-staffed due to staff changes and onboarding processes.
 4. We have hired new equipment operators and laborers. We are assessing their abilities to maximize productivity.

REQUEST SUPPORT/GUANCE/DECISION:



**Jonnie
McDonald**

Jonnie McDonald Crossing



Capped & repaired Franks Road



- Preparing Morales Road for chip seal

