



**SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
AGENDA**

DATE-----May 18, 2026

PLACE-----Saline County Courthouse, Courtroom #3

6:00 P.M.-----Call meeting to Order

Public Comment:

Comments by the public will be allowed for items on the agenda and will take place individually for each item as the quorum court works through the agenda to allow individuals an opportunity to provide input prior to the court's final decision.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CLERK: Call the Roll

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS/PROCLAMATIONS

OLD BUSINESS

Exhibit A: **THIRD READING:** Ordinance amending the Salary Administration Policy Ordinance No. 2015-41 to establish a procedure for approving bilingual interpretation compensation

Exhibit B: **SECOND READING:** Ordinance to submit to the electors of Saline County the question of whether to adjust the millage currently collected for the maintenance and operation of the public library system

NEW BUSINESS

Exhibit C: **Ordinance appropriating funds received from the State Board of Election Commissioners' Office for supplemental stipend to election workers for the year 2026**

ADD-ON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
MINUTES
April 20, 2026**

The Saline County Quorum Court met on Tuesday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Courtroom #3 at the Saline County Courthouse. County Judge Matt Brumley called the meeting to order. Justice of the Peace Jim Whitley gave the invocation and Justice of the Peace CJ Engel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with 12 members present.

Motion by Carlton Billingsley and seconded by Rick Bellinger to approve the Minutes from the March 16, 2026 Quorum Court Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

REPORTS/PROCLAMATIONS

The Bryant High School boys basketball team and coach were recognized for winning the 6A state championship and Coach of the Year. Justices Carlton Billingsley and Wilson Hatcher praised the team for being ranked #1 in the state for 2 years in a row in the largest classification in Arkansas.

Dennis Cavanaugh, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service gave a storm warning presentation regarding best practices for keeping the public informed and notified about weather alerts. He shared facts about the Code Red System, weather radios, and sirens.

Old Business:

Exhibit A: Second Reading: Motion by Rick Bellinger and seconded by Karen Crowson to suspend the rules and read by title only. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Ordinance amending the Salary Administration Policy Ordinance No. 2015-41 to establish a procedure for approving bilingual interpretation compensation.

New Business:

Exhibit B: Citizen Tom Hanson spoke in favor of adopting a county flag. Jim Whitley said he voted in favor of the flag in committee but after listening to those who elected him he is no longer in support of it. CJ Engel said he also received negative feedback from citizens and does not support it but respects the time and effort put into the project. Motion by Keith Kellum, second by Wilson Hatcher to approve resolution adopting a county flag. Resolution 2026-1 failed by voice vote.

Exhibit C: First Reading: Motion by Josh Curtis and seconded by Carlton Billingsley to suspend the rules and read by title only. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Citizens Lisa Bergen, Lela Chism, George Ferguson, Rachel Glenn, Debra Fuller, Gretchen Boettcher, Tom Hanson, and Cliff Hicks all spoke in opposition of the ordinance. Justices Keith Kellum and Karen Crowson were in favor of letting voters decide. Josh Curtis said he is anticipating to suspend the rules and have the final reading at the next meeting in May.

Exhibit D: Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only made by Rick Bellinger and seconded by Carlton Billingsley. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Motion to approve

Exhibit D, Ordinance amending the 2026 Saline County budget for various purposes, made by Josh Curtis, second by CJ Engel. Roll call vote; motion passes unanimously. Ordinance 2026-3

Exhibit E: Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only made by Rick Bellinger, second by Karen Crowson. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Jamie Clemmer, Vice Chairman of the Arkansas Veteran's Commission, thanked Judge Brumley and the Quorum Court for all of the support for Veterans and a special thanks for the March 30th recognition of Vietnam Veterans. Motion to approve Exhibit E, Emergency ordinance to establish a special revenue fund to be called "The Salute to Veterans Fund", made by Rick Bellinger, second by Josh Curtis. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously. Ordinance 2026-4.

Exhibit F: Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only made by Carlton Billingsley, second by Clint Chism. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Motion to approve Exhibit F, Ordinance to amend the 2026 Saline County Budget to appropriate JAG Grant Funds, made by Carlton Billingsley, second by Pat Bisbee. Roll call vote. Motion Passed unanimously. Ordinance 2026-5.

Exhibit G: First Reading. Motion to suspend the rules and move to final reading made by Rick Bellinger, second by Keith Kellum. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only made by Rick Bellinger, second by CJ Engel. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Motion to approve Exhibit G, ordinance authorizing the Sheriff's Department to transfer an unused department vehicle to Monroe County, made by Josh Curtis, second by Rick Bellinger. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously. Ordinance 2026-6.

Action Items: Motion to suspend the rules and include action items made by Pat Bisbee, second by Josh Curtis. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Motion to approve both action items by Josh Curtis, second by Jim Whitley. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jim Whitley announced that he has been working with County Attorney Kolton Jones to make revisions to the previously failed animal control ordinance. He stated that He believes there is a need for a strengthened animal control ordinance and plans to bring the amended ordinance before the committee in May. Judge Brumley said he plans to form a committee for the sole purpose of animal control and asked for anyone interested in serving to contact him within the week.

Rick Bellinger thanked CJ Engel, Jim Whitley, and Josh Curtis for participating in Keep Saline Clean. More announcements will be made in the coming months for the next Keep Saline Clean which is planned for September.

CJ Engel reminded the table that unopposed candidates have a Statement of Financial Interest report due on May 20th and that filing is now done with the Secretary Of State's Office through an online portal.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Josh Curtis, second by CJ Engel. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-___

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALINE COUNTY SALARY ADMINISTRATION POLICY ORDINANCE NO. 2015-041 TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BILINGUAL INTERPRETATION COMPENSATION."

WHEREAS, Saline County recognizes the value of retaining and compensating employees with the ability to fluently speak and interpret second languages to better serve the community; and

WHEREAS, Saline County recognizes the need to establish a procedure to review requests for bilingual interpretation compensation for employees and to establish an objective and fair testing program to ensure fluency of the second language spoken.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

Article 1. The Saline County Salary Administration Policy shall be amended to include the following policy regarding bilingual interpretation compensation:

**POLICY
BILINGUAL INTERPRETATION COMPENSATION**

PURPOSE

To recognize and compensate employees who possess the ability to fluently communicate languages other than English, eligible employees may receive additional compensation of one dollar (\$1.00) per hour above their base hourly rate of pay or salary. To qualify for bilingual interpretation compensation, the second language spoken by the employee must be deemed by the Elected Official to be a language that is beneficial for the employee's department and directly related to the employee's job duties.

Elected Officials may make requests in writing to the HR Committee for consideration of bilingual interpretation compensation. The request should be made at least one (1) week prior to the following Quorum Court Meeting. Requests for bilingual interpretation compensation will be considered by the HR Committee on a case-by-case basis.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

1. The second language spoken is deemed by the Elected Official to be necessary for smooth operation of County business.
2. Perceived need for interpretative services in the employee's department; and
3. Proficiency in the second language.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Finance/HR office shall certify employees' bilingual proficiency and eligibility through oral proficiency or reading proficiency testing, dependent upon the position and needs of the office.

2. Saline County will use an organization such as Language Testing International as a testing facility to assess proficiency levels. The Finance/HR Department is authorized to select the proficiency exam.
3. The Finance/HR Department shall be responsible for administering the language proficiency exam. Proficiency shall be established by achieving a passing score on the exam.
4. The bilingual pay may be discontinued if the employee transfers to a position that does not require the use of a second language or if Saline County determines the position no longer necessitates the bilingual skill.

QUORUM COURT APPROVAL REQUIRED

Requests for additional pay for bilingual interpretation compensation must first be considered by the HR Committee. If approved by the HR Committee, the request will then be presented for consideration as an ordinance before the Finance Committee. If approved by the Finance Committee, the ordinance will then be presented to the Quorum Court for a final decision. Bilingual Interpretation Compensation must be approved by the Quorum Court.

Article 2. The Bilingual Interpretation Compensation policy adopted herein shall be incorporated into the Saline County Salary Administration Policy, and the titles, sections, and paragraphs may be numbered or renumbered as necessary to ensure uniformity with the existing formatting of the Saline County Salary Administration Policy.

Article 3. Severability – Should any word, phrase, or section of this Ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the force and validity of the remaining portion of sections of this Ordinance.

DATE: March 16, 2026

APPROVED: _____
MATT BRUMLEY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: _____
DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

SPONSOR: HR Committee

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF SALINE COUNTY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO ADJUST THE MILLAGE CURRENTLY COLLECTED FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM ONE AND SEVEN TENTH (1.7) MILLS TO ONE AND ONE TENTH (1.1) MILLS."

WHEREAS, the current millage for maintenance and operation of the public library in Saline County, Arkansas, is one and seven tenths (1.7) mills, as approved by election in Saline County Ordinance No. 98-37; and

WHEREAS, the population of Saline County, Arkansas, the year the current millage rate was approved in 1998 was 80,449, according to the US Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the latest population estimate data for Saline County, Arkansas, by the US Census Bureau estimates a population of 131,252 for 2024, representing a population growth of 50,803 people in twenty-six years after the passage of the current millage rate; and

WHEREAS, the substantial increase in population correlates with a substantial increase in the amount of tax dollars collected annually for the purpose of maintenance and operation of the library; and

WHEREAS, a reduction from one and seven tenths (1.7) mills to one and one tenths (1.1) mills would produce sufficient revenue for maintaining and operating the Saline County Public Library System; and

WHEREAS, in effort to continue to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars, it is necessary to collect only what is needed to continue to maintain and operate the public library system and submit to the electors the question of whether an adjustment is necessary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Quorum Court of Saline County, Arkansas that:

Article 1. At the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, there shall be submitted to the electors of Saline County, Arkansas, the question of reducing the existing Library Ad Valorem Tax levied from the existing one and seven tenths (1.7) mills to a new rate of one and one tenths (1.1) mills on the dollar of assessed valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the County of Saline, Arkansas.

Article 2. The question to reduce the millage shall be placed on the ballot and shall be submitted to the electors of Saline County in substantially the following form:

FOR a reduction of the existing library tax rate from one and seven tenths (1.7) mills to a new library tax rate of one and one tenths (1.1) mills levied on real and personal property to be used for maintenance and operation of a public county library system.

AGAINST a reduction of the existing library tax rate from one and seven tenths (1.7) mills to a new library tax rate of one and one tenths (1.1) mills levied on real and personal property to be used for maintenance and operation of a public county library system.

Article 3. The election shall be held and conducted and the vote canvassed and the results declared under the law and in the manner now provided for County elections and only qualified electors of the County shall have the right to vote in the election.

Article 4. The County Clerk of Saline County shall certify a copy of this Ordinance, upon its approval by the Quorum Court, to the Saline County Election Commission in order that the question may be timely put on the ballot for such election.

Article 5. The County Judge, the County Clerk, and the County Election Commission are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to place this question before the electors at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and, if the question is approved by the electors, to cause the reduced Library Tax to be levied and collected in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and to perform all acts of whatever nature necessary to carry out the authority conferred by this Ordinance.

Article 6. Severability. In the event that any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the Ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the Ordinance.

Article 7. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Date: April 20, 2026

Approved: _____
Matt Brumley
Saline County Judge

Attest: _____
Doug Curtis
Saline County Clerk

Sponsor: Josh Curtis, JP Dist. # 7
Keith Kellum, JP Dist. # 4
Rick Bellinger, JP Dist. # 6

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

"AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL STIPEND TO ELECTION WORKERS FOR THE YEAR 2026."

WHEREAS, the County Clerk received a check from the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners ("State Board") for the stipend for the Election Coordinator and Election Registrar to attend training and pass the Preferential Primary Election test required by this designated County individual; and,

WHEREAS, the County compensates the County Clerk Office Manager/Election Coordinator and the County Clerk Probate/Absentee Voter Registrar, for performing such duties; and,

WHEREAS, the County Clerk requests to appropriate these funds received from the State Board to pay an additional stipend/bonus to the County Clerk Office Manager/Election Coordinator and the County Clerk Probate/Absentee Voter Registrar; and,

WHEREAS, the County will be responsible for FICA and APERS employer portion for this stipend/bonus to the County Clerk Office Manager/Election Coordinator and the County Clerk Probate/Absentee Voter Registrar; and,

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee previously met and approved this request.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

Article 1. That Fund 1000 – County General Fund shall be increased by the County Treasurer with additional Anticipated Revenues of \$450.00 for the year 2026.

Line Item	Description	Amount
1000.8719	Reimbursement-Elections	\$450.00

Article 2. That \$ is hereby appropriated in Fund 1000 – County General Fund, Election Worker Pay-Election Commission budget as follows:

Line Item	Description	Amount
1000.0109.1036	Employee Bonus	\$450.00
1000.0109.1006	Social Security Match	\$34.43
1000.0109.1008	Retirement Match	\$68.94

Article 3. It is deemed necessary for the smooth operation of Saline County Government that this ordinance be approved.

DATE: MAY 18, 2026

APPROVED _____
MATT BRUMLEY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: _____
DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

SPONSOR: CJ ENGEL, JP DISTRICT #9