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Rockdale County Commission Moves Forward with New Judicial & Administrative Complex

Sept. 19, 2023 (CONYERS) – Tonight at its work session, the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners showed signs of momentum for the new judicial and administrative complex – the largest capital investment project in the history of Rockdale County. Launching the long-awaited project reaffirms the Commission’s stated focus on planning large-scale infrastructure improvements to transform the county.

“The new complex is more than a solution to our aging judicial and administrative facilities, it’s the beginning of the realization of our vision for Rockdale County,” said Chairman Oz Nesbitt, Sr. “It will feature transformative improvements that will modernize our facilities and increase public safety, connectivity, and access and will serve as an example of how we can reimagine Rockdale.”

The judicial and administrative complex has been the subject of planning conversations since the early 90s, and with a funding plan in place, the County can finally build it. The BOC previously approved Jericho Design Group as the architect along with Comprehensive Program Services as the program management company. The construction partner – the last high-level piece to the development team – was presented at the work session and is up for a vote by the Commission at its next meeting on Sept. 26.

“We’re confident we’ve assembled the right team, and now we’re ready to grow the team and ensure opportunities for local and minority participation,” said Sue Sanders, Chief Operating Officer for Rockdale County. Sanders was appointed as Special Project Manager for the complex by Chairman Nesbitt in 2017.

Highlights of the new judicial and administrative complex and surrounding improvements include:

- Expanded and modernized space for the courts and other county services;
- Additional and upgraded parking and improved accessibility;
- Increased safety and security;
- A public plaza and other outdoor common areas for events and entertainment; and
- A more pedestrian-friendly area.

“We are extremely excited to get this project off the ground,” added Chief Sanders. “So much time, thought, and planning has already gone into it by a number of people. It is great to finally see all the work come to fruition.”

In 2022, Jericho Design Group led the development of the Master Plan Recommendation Report in collaboration with the Judicial and Administrative Task Force. To put together the report, Jericho reviewed studies of comparable facilities, updated needs assessments from all County departments and Court offices, and designed layout options with cost estimates for consideration by the task force. Jericho presented the final recommendations to the BOC in January of this year, which included preserving the original courthouse on Main St.

The project is now in the beginning stages of design. Bringing the construction team on board at this early stage in the process ensures the project not only stays on schedule, but also stays within the established budget without cost overruns. This team of experts will allow for efficient coordination between all parties so that the project moves forward as expeditiously as possible, according to Chief Sanders.

The Master Plan Recommendation Report and more information is available at ReimagineRockdale.com.

More about the design team

Jericho Design Group’s expertise includes a focus on municipal and local government clients, having completed many projects with services ranging from master planning to interior and architectural design for many complex, high profile public facilities. During the past 30 years, Doug Shaw, the design team leader, has completed many courthouse and administration projects including new construction, additions/expansions, and renovations throughout Georgia. Jericho’s partner for the administration building is NELSON, a firm that empowers local communities through innovative and functional design. Its Civic, Community, Justice and Education practice creates environments and experiences that foster development and growth through comprehensive planning that exceeds the aesthetic, functional, and financial objectives of its clients.

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