

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Firefighters Recognized

In a regular meeting of the Ellis County Commissioners' Court, the court voted unanimously to issue a proclamation recognizing the selfless efforts and spirit of community exhibited by the Red Oak Fire and Rescue and Ferris Fire Departments during the wildfires in Jack County on April 9-11, 2009. Ellis County firefighters from Red Oak and Ferris responded to the need for assistance in Jack County. These firefighters demonstrated the utmost professionalism and commitment to fighting the fires through dangerous circumstances, rugged, unfamiliar terrain, and extreme exhaustion. The dry and windy conditions contributed to the largest wildfires in the county's history which would have consumed more than 61,000 acres without the assistance of other fire departments.

Recognized for their service to fellow Texans in a time of need are: Chief Eric Thompson, Deputy Chief Tim Birdwell, Captain Jorge Guerrero, Captain Larry Johnson, Lt. A. Jakubik, Driver/Engineer Andrew Trojacek, Firefighter/EMT Gabriel Guerrero, Firefighter/EMT Jarred Ussery of Red Oak Fire and Rescue and chief Eddie Duran, Captain Lance Wilkinson, Captain Pete Kenley, Firefighter Kirk Markgraf, Firefighter Justin Smotek of Ferris Fire Department.

Red Oak Chief Eric Thompson said "It is an experience I will never forget. I hope we never need it here, but it is nice to know that there are people out there that will help in time of need. "

Commissioners voted to begin charging inmates a fee for medical services at the jail at the rate of \$5.00 to see the nurse, doctor or dentist, \$3.00 for any prescription and \$1.00 for any over the counter medication. Fees will be deducted from their commissary fund. No inmate will be denied medical services that are requested.

In other business, Commissioners:

- Approved an amendment to the tax abatement for Austin Bridge and Road of 45% for 7 years reflecting an improvement value of \$5,000,001 or greater
- Approved an insurance policy for the RANS S-6 fixed wing aircraft not to exceed \$3600 for \$1,000,000 coverage.
- Awarded the 2009-2010 contract for Limestone Flexbase delivery to Lonestar for precincts 1,2 and precinct 3 in Italy and to Tim Shipman for precinct 3 in Maypearl and precinct 4
- Took no action on the contract for Limestone Flexbase pick up
- Awarded the bid for Sheriff's Department uniforms to Weapons Academy

- Took no action on a road repair agreement with Wilbro Construction Pipeline.
- Selected three members and three alternates of the Elected Official Salary Grievance committee for FY 2009 to be announced upon their acceptance
- Took no action on a proposal to conduct a comprehensive in-house assessment of all Ellis county roads
- Declared outdated law books from the Law Library as surplus and authorized disposal at auction