



Wilson County, Texas Past, Present, Future 1860 - 2013





Wilson County Courthouse

In October 2011 all offices in the original Wilson County Courthouse, including the County Judge, County Attorney, District Clerk and Elections were relocated to the vacant school property at 1103 4th Street, Floresville, Texas. The County Clerk's Office, Treasurer's Office and Texas AgriLife Extension Office remain in the Courthouse annex that was added on years later. Commissioner's Court formed a Courthouse Committee and they interviewed companies to determine what was wrong. Thorne+Graves Architects PLLC was chosen. Tests were done and it was determined that the Courthouse foundation was unstable. On May 29, 2012, it was voted unanimously to approve the final purchase from FISH of Tract One – Approximately 3.760 acres being Lot 6, Section 12, Floresville Sections and Tract Two – Approximately 1.01 acres of land. The purchase of this property has given the County room for expansion that has been needed for years.

8,946 sq. ft.

The Wilson County Courthouse Exterior Phase I & IA projected cost estimate is \$1,774,650 and consists of foundation, structural and building envelope repair of existing structure. The Wilson County Courthouse interior renovation projected cost estimate is \$915,057, which includes \$100,000 for office furniture and equipment, and consists of interior finish-out and system upgrades while maintaining the integrity and fabric of the courthouse.

The Wilson County Courthouse is expected to house the following offices:

- County Judge's Office
- County Attorney's Office
- Treasurer's Office
- Auditor's Office
- Commissioner's Court
- County Court

Similar project cost estimates:

Texas Courthouse Foundation Repair: \$2,000,000 - \$9,000,000

Texas Courthouse Renovation: \$750,000 average

(Estimate information reported: www.reedconstructiondata.com)



Wilson County District Criminal Justice Center

Until the day the Courthouse offices were relocated, the 218th & 81st Judicial Courts held District Court in the Courtroom located upstairs in the Courthouse; County Court was held at the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom and Commissioners Court was held in the Commissioners Courtroom inside the Courthouse. Since the move, the District Courts (including 218th & 81st Judicial Courts, Child Protective Services Courts, Attorney General Courts), County Court and Justice of the Peace Court all share the use of the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom. Along with the previous listed courts, all Jury selections and trials are currently held in the Courtroom also. The new center would provide adequate offices with necessary security and a state of the art secured courtroom with a sally port in order to transfer inmates securely from the Sheriff's Office. This courtroom would be capable of hosting all of the District Courts dockets and settings in a secured environment.

22,333 sq. ft.

The Wilson County District Criminal Justice Center projected cost estimate is \$3,956,308 and consists of new construction and major renovation to the existing structure located along 3rd Street, Floresville, Texas.

The District Criminal Justice Center would provide the following:

- District Courtroom
- District Clerk's Office
- 81st Judicial District Attorney's Office
- Adult Probation

Similar project cost estimate:

New Justice Center Construction cost: \$40,000,000 +

Texas Justice Centers: \$5,972,900 - \$12,299,000/\$199.10 - \$243.00 cost per sq. ft. average

(Estimate information reported: www.reedconstructiondata.com)



Sam Fore Wilson County Public Library

Currently the library facility is 5000 sq. ft. The proposed new library will be approximately 14,735 sq. ft. The expansion of space will provide more study space for library patrons to bring their own electronic devices. It will also provide for the library to keep our state accreditation by allowing more shelf space in order to meet the bare minimum requirements of one item to checkout per person. As the County grows, so will the one to one ratio minimum. Loss of this accreditation will jeopardize application for federal grants. With more items available for checkout, our state stand rating from just barely meeting the basic public requirement will rise to a rating of enhanced or even comprehensive.

14,735 sq. ft.

The Sam Fore Wilson County Public Library projected cost estimate is \$1,965,655 and consists of renovation to the existing structure located at 1103 4th Street, Floresville, Texas.

New spaces created with the expansion will include:

- A Children's Program Room. Currently we borrow the American Legion Hall when we expect large groups to attend library functions. In addition to creation of the program room, this should bring down the noise level of the main library.
- A computer lab that will be outside the library's gate in order to be open longer hours. Creation of the computer lab will also increase the number of personal computer available to the public, thus reducing the wait time.
- Teen area – this new area will have books and a study area just for our teen population
- Individual study rooms

Similar project cost estimates:

Texas Library Renovation: \$3,205,600 - \$3,528,200 average

(Estimate information reported: www.reedconstructiondata.com)



Wilson County Clerk's Office

The Wilson County Clerk's Office is currently operating in less than 1100 sq. ft. of office space. This office has been in need of additional space for many years. Once the proposed Library project is complete, the County Clerk's office will occupy the old library building located at 1 Library Lane, Floresville, Texas.

5,000 sq. ft.

The cost for the County Clerk's Office to move into this building will be minimal.

Between the growth of the county and the oil and gas production, the current space is not enough. Many times there is no standing space in the office. There is no room for expansion of the official public records in the current space. The proposed move will give the office the space it requires for years to come.

**The US Census Bureau reported the following recorded populations for Wilson County, Texas:
Year 2000 = 32,408; Year 2010 = 42,910; Population increase of ~32% over the ten year period.**

Once these projects are complete, the Adult Probation office located at 1144 C Street, Floresville, Texas (next to the Jailhouse Museum) will become a facility for the Historical Society Archives. The District Attorney's Office located at 1327 3rd Street, Floresville, Texas could be leased or sold.

Wilson County Tax Rates

1998 – 0.41	2003 – 0.4288	2008 – 0.4645
1999 – 0.4303	2004 – 0.4204	2009 – 0.4325
2000 – 0.4333	2005 – 0.4159	2010 – 0.4452
2001 – 0.4372	2006 – 0.4159	2011 – 0.4533
2002 – 0.4267	2007 – 0.4193	2012 – 0.4533

As of September 25, 2013, the 2013 tax rate is 0.4364

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Wilson County last year was \$142,818. Based on last year's tax rate of \$.4533 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$647.33.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Wilson County this year is \$145,800. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$.4150 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$605.07.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$.4364 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$636.27.

The County's I&S rate for the Jail Bond, which is now paid off, was 1.35 cents per \$100. Based on preliminary estimates from July 2013, for the 8.5 million, our I&S bond payment would go from 1.35 cents per \$100 to 2.42 cents per \$100, which is a 1.07 cent per \$100 increase.

The proposed Bond would be for 20 years.