

FROM: Gerry Schultz, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners of Finney County, Kansas  
311 N. Ninth Street  
Garden City, KS 67846

TO: The Hon. Caryn Tyson, Chairman  
Senate Tax Committee  
[Assessment.taxation@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Assessment.taxation@senate.ks.gov)

March 4, 2025

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB2275**  
**Dedicated ½ cent sales tax for local improvements**

Dear Chairman Tyson:

Thank you Chairman Tyson and Members of the Senate Tax Committee.

I am Gerry Schultz, Chairman of the BOCC of FICO, KS.

HB 2275 is a simple amendment to existing statute authorizing Finney County to seek approval from the voters to authorize a .5 dedicated sales tax for our specific purpose.....to build a new modern jail and remodel the existing Law Enforcement Center.

If approved by this Committee and the bill subsequently becomes law, we intend to ask the voters of Finney County to authorize this sales tax to build a new modern jail meeting the needs of our community for the next 40 years. Our current jail is 43 years old and the design of the building with a third floor jail has brought with it, years of frustration demonstrating the real need for a new jail.

Also, this proposed sales tax will provide funding for the remodel of the building with a repurpose of the current building design. This will result in a modern Law Enforcement Center housing both the sheriff and City Police Departments as well as Emergency Management, Dispatch and other essential emergency services for the local governments.

A great deal of time, investment and effort has gone into the planning of this project, including hiring a specialty architect for a modern jail design, adequate and thorough strategic planning through Justice Planners to determine size and scope of the project, and input from stakeholders and community members resulting in the present request for the authorization and approval of this .5 cent dedicated sales tax.

We have plenty of work to do should you approve our request. We know that sales tax dollars are a vital tool to help reduce the cost of government from property owners. We are mindful of the impact on our community and region but we believe strongly that this sales tax provides us with the best tool to achieve the much need capital investment.

I will stand for questions.



Gerry Schultz, Chairman.

Encl. (1) Color Concept and Further Explanation.



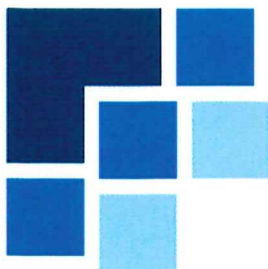
# FINNEY COUNTY SALE TAX QUESTION REQUEST



The Finney County Law Enforcement Center (LEC) houses Finney County Sheriff's Department, Garden City Police Department, Finney County Emergency Management and the Finney County Jail. The Jail, added in 1982 at a project cost of \$5,321,270, was modeled after the previous jail that was located on the top floor of the existing and still operating 1929 Finney County Court House. The new jail was constructed on the upper floor above the Sheriffs and Police Department offices. In 1997 a 120-bed jail expansion project was approved and started to

alleviate overcrowding in the initial 52 bed jail. Currently the average daily population is approximately 120 with an average daily stay of 16 days. The length of stay has grown since the COVID pandemic. Finney County jail also houses inmates from surrounding counties in Southwest Kansas to accommodate their needs. Issues that challenge this facility almost from the beginning have been water and sewage infiltration onto the lower floor work areas. Water effluent from clogged drains created by inmates' flood cells which then makes it way down to the office areas damaging the building and equipment as well as creating an unsafe and unhealthy work environment.

To address these long existing conditions the county created a LEC Committee made up of local stakeholders and representatives from the user groups. Through an RFQ interview process the committee selected a company with successful experience in guiding counties through the process of assessing the facility, identifying repairs, needs and options, determining best use of current facility and projecting space and bed needs and using best practice in design and management of jail facilities. As a result of this year long process it was determined the best use of the current facility was to repurpose it from a 24-hour jail facility to an administrative facility which created much less wear and tear and extended it's useful life following a remodel. Additionally, it was agreed that they would design a freestanding 200 bed jail facility that would not only accommodate the needs of Finney County but also those in Southwest Kansas that utilize the facility from time to time. The new facility would be designed to the newest safety standards for our Law Enforcement Officers and jailers as well as inmates. It will also provide for some level of care and treatment for those with mental health and chemical dependency treatment needs. The planned jail facility will be approximately 57,000 sqft. And sit on approximately 10 acres of land.



**FINNEY COUNTY**  
KANSAS

