

Madison County EMS Introduces Blood Program That Aims to Save Lives

On Monday, April 28, the Madison County Board of Commissioners (BOC) received an update from Madison County emergency medical services (EMS) Director Bobby Smith and Paramedic Jen Carter regarding a new program for blood products such as plasma.

The team has been actively developing the initiative for about three years now. It enables paramedics to provide blood products to trauma patients before reaching the hospital. An unnamed local citizen donated \$14,000 to offset costs and make the project possible.

“One of the gentlemen that we gave it to did not require any blood products at the hospital, which is huge,” Smith explained. “He improved and was able to go home the next day.”



EMS Director Bobby Smith and Paramedic Jen Carter brief the Madison County Board of Commissioners on Monday about a new blood product initiative, emphasizing its potential to save lives by delivering plasma to trauma patients before reaching the hospital. (Photo/Bailey Middleton)

The decision to use blood products in Madison County EMS vehicles puts them at one of six in the state of Georgia and into the 1% of use across the United States.

Discussions continued on implications of [House Bill 92](#), which affects property assessment processes and estimated rollbacks in incorporated and unincorporated areas.

The “rollback” is the rate that will bring in the same amount of tax revenue as last year’s rate on existing properties. Incorporated areas are under the direct governance of a city or town. Unincorporated areas are under the jurisdiction of the county.

Chairman of the Board, Todd Higdon, acknowledged a learning curve that will come from this bill as it was introduced in an effort to correct statements from [House Bill 581](#). The county has options to opt-in or out of the proceeding bills due to the new nature of them.

“They [The BOC] had opted out of the HB 581, which was restructured in a way where property taxes are handled by the county,” said Mark Staley of Carlton City Council in Madison County. “When they opted out, why would they be required to do an estimated tax to present to the state? He [Higdon] says the state mandates it.”

The Board voted 6-0 to pass House Bill 92 into Madison County legislation, opting the county back into its proceedings.

Commissioners tabled a proposal to introduce a technology fee for probate court cases. The proposed fee, which could range from \$5 to 28, would fund technology upgrades like virtual hearings and scanning software. In the next Madison County BOC meeting, the board will vote on two different propositions with the magistrate court in attendance with paperwork that fully clarify the components of the fee and its established time frame.



Probate Judge Cody Cross addresses the Madison County Board of Commissioners on Monday, explaining a proposed technology fee that would support virtual hearings and digital upgrades in probate court. (Photo/Bailey Middleton)

Additionally, the Georgia Department of Transportation said that they are hoping to finish work and open the new Highway 29 bridge at the Hudson River by the end of August.

The BOC voted 6-0 to approve a beer and wine license for Omni Colbert LLC. Discussed was the UGA Extension Office's quarterly report by Travis Tankersley. Christopher Beck withdrew his request to conditionally use a 286-foot telecommunications tower.

Why I Wrote the Story

Reporting this story helped me build confidence in translating government language and technical updates into clear, engaging information for the public. I learned how to take detailed, often complex discussions, like those of House Bill 92, and make them digestible to a broader audience. As someone interested in a future career in public relations, this experience showed me the importance of clarity, accuracy, and accountability in public-facing communication. It also sharpened my skills in working under deadlines and capturing meaningful quotes that humanize policy decisions.