



# Magistrate Court

## 2026 Operating and 5-Year CIP Budget Presentation

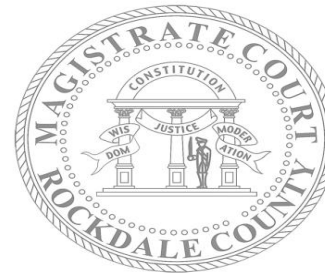
### **FY26 – Budget Requests**

**Presenter: CHIEF MAGISTRATE JUDGE PHINIA ATEN**  
**Date: August 7, 2025**

# Mission

## Department Statement - MISSION

As the judicial forum where justice starts in criminal felony and misdemeanor cases, and judgment is rendered in a diverse array of civil disputes, the mission of the Rockdale County Magistrate Court is to protect the rights and liberties of all, uphold and interpret the law, resolve legal matters according to law, fairly and impartially, and promote public trust and confidence in the judiciary through meaningful and sustained community engagement. equal access to justice and best practices in judicial services.



# Opportunities & Challenges

## SUCSESSES

- Our E-Warrant System continues to enhance our criminal justice case flow and promote greater public safety and in 2025, the Magistrate Court expanded its usage to include a pilot project for electronic issuance of search warrants with a team of RSCO investigators.
- For a second consecutive year, the Court made a record number of mental health assessment referrals for early screening, diversion and treatment of offenders with moderate to severe mental health needs impacting victims, public safety and adjudication.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 4422 felony and misdemeanor warrants issued.
- Over 80 percent Ordinance Case Clearance Rate achieved; 293 of 361 ordinance cases closed.
- Chief Magistrate Judge Phinia Aten was awarded as Magistrate Judge of the Year by GABCO.
- Magistrate Court Clerk of Court Patricia Carreker was awarded Administrative Professional of the Year by the Atlanta Bar Association Judicial Section.

## CHALLENGES

- The Court will continue to explore opportunities to maximize court sessions and trial adjudications within the context of the temporary situs of the Clay Building.

# FY26 Goals & Initiatives

## Department's Reimagine Rockdale Strategic Plan

### Access

- +2 Percent increase in Ordinance Filings
- +15 Percent Increase in Civil Filings
- +5 Percent Increase in Arrest Warrants
- +10 Percent Increase in Committal/Preliminary Hearings

### Equity

- The Court continues to maximize opportunities for learning, experience and reward in the workplace. For example, the Court identified and supported two employees' participation the County's bilingual incentive program in 2025.

### Innovation

- The Court's pilot project initiating electronic issuance of search warrants with a team of RCSO investigators.

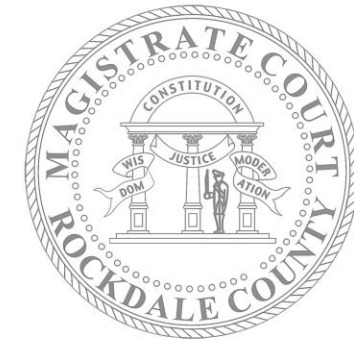
# Operating Budget Summary

\*Report Provided by Finance

|                                     | Budget<br>FY 2025    | Proposed<br>FY 2026 | Change           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Total Operating Expenses            | \$142, 551           | \$142, 551          | \$0              |
| Total Personnel Services & Benefits | \$917, 358           | \$1, 053,720        | \$136,362        |
| <b>Total Est. Budget impact</b>     | <b>\$1, 059, 909</b> | <b>\$1, 196,271</b> | <b>\$136,362</b> |



# Thank You



The Magistrate Court of Rockdale County proudly hosts

**FREE EVENT**

## LET'S GET MARRIED

Valentine's Day 2025 Wedding Ceremonies  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2025**  
by Appointment Only  
<https://calendy.com/rockdalemagistratecourt/wedding-ceremonies>

WANT TO MARRY ON THE MOST ROMANTIC DAY OF THE YEAR?  
HAVE A MARRIAGE LICENSE ISSUED BY PROBATE COURT?  
HAVE A VALID GOVERNMENT-ISSUED ID?

Scan the QR Code  
or visit the above  
link to schedule

For More Information, Contact Us  
at (770) 278-7800

**Chief Magistrate Judge**  
Hon. Phinia Aten

with Special Guest  
**Chief State Court Judge**  
Hon. V.T. McRae