

I am thankful to God for all the things he has given me & helped me to do. I also would like to thank my family & the good employees that helped me. I was able to turn over the farming operation to my sons & devote my time to trying to make Scott County a better place to live, work & raise a family. That was my goal & below are some of the things that were accomplished while I was serving as Presiding Commissioner.

People would ask me and were curious about what the county commission does. The county commission is responsible for the financial condition of the county and the upkeep of the county's buildings. The county commission works with the office holders to put in place their budgets for the upcoming year and to work with the office holders for any request that they may have. The county commission must approve the bills for their office.

The county commission is also responsible for the maintenance on county roads and bridges in the county. They hire the employees & oversee the maintenance and improvements of these roads and bridges.

I cannot say enough good things about my fellow commissioners: Dewaine Shaffer, Walter Bizzell, Jamie Burger & Dennis Ziegenhorn for helping me do my job as Presiding Commissioner. I would like to especially thank Jamie Burger, who was the 2nd District County Commissioner at the time for volunteering to do the big task of overseeing the 1.3 million dollar renovation of the courthouse. I also want to thank the good county office holders & all of the county employees for their help during the 8 years that I served as Presiding Commissioner.

Below is a list of items that we were able to accomplish in addition to the normal business of the county:

We were able to get a ½ cent sales tax passed to build a new 120 bed jail for 5 million dollars. This sales tax had failed twice before.

We built a new jail & it was set up to be paid off in 8 years.

We spent 1.3 million dollars on updating & repairing the courthouse to make it fully disability compliant.

We installed an elevator in the courthouse with a grant to pay for it.

We installed a new heat & cooling system in the courthouse.

We removed the asbestos in the courthouse.

We remodeled & upgraded the courtrooms & the rest of the courthouse.

We repaired two rooms that had been damaged by fire & could not be used.

We had all of the electrical wiring rewired & added additional wiring in the courthouse.

We shredded a lot of old papers that the county was not required to keep.

We tuckpointed all the brickwork on the courthouse.

We made major roof repairs.

We formed a circuit court drainage district on the east side of the county controlled by the property owners & not the county court.

We restored the Veterans Memorial Fountain with all donated money & had the names of the people of Scott County that were killed in wars on a gold plaque & a dedication service was held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11th, 2006.

We established the prosecuting attorney position to be a full time position instead of part time.

We received a grant to hire the first county developer.

We helped get dirt to strengthen the levee on the Mississippi River near Commerce.

We dug out the St. John's Ditch thru the Mini-Farms Subdivision and thru Sikeston.

We were able to get the DNR to clean up the pile of 500,000 old tires on a lot east of Benton.

We were able to get Scott City a new interchange put on top of the list of roads that need to be built in Southeast Missouri. And earlier we were able to get Congress to earmark some money for the building of the outer road near Scott City.

We worked with the UP & BN railroads to get better water drainage in Rockview.

We started quarterly meetings with a meal with the mayors and school superintendents in the county with a sponsor paying the food bill.

We were able to get an agreement between Miner, Sikeston, and the Riverside Regional Library.

We started having a Christmas Dinner for the county employees and the county commission paid for it.

We paid off \$400,000 to New Madrid County that was owed to them because some sales tax money for them had been sent to Scott County in error in previous years.

We were able to pass a \$25 million dollar bond issue to provide public water to the people of the county & formed the Scott County Public Water District No. 4 Board.

We started a drug court with a drug commission in Scott County.

We refused to pay \$10,000 for an air conditioner unit that was not bid properly for the old jail that was about to be torn down.

We purchased new air conditioning equipment for the county highway department & were able to employ fewer employees at the department.

We bought the equipment & started the hot mix of asphalt to black top the county roads instead of doing the roads with cold mix blacktop.

We built 9 new bridges from 60 to 90 feet long & replaced 5 old bridges & installed big pipes over ditches that had not drained very much water in the past. All the bridges in the county are rated good & only a couple have a weight limit sign.

The county's financial statement had increased by almost \$1 million dollars in the funds held savings account during this time.

The Scott County Courthouse was restored to being one of the most beautiful & most spacious courthouses in the State of Missouri.

I hope that I was able to make Scott County a better place to live, work and raise a family. I would like to encourage my grandchildren & great grandchildren to be the best person that they can be. I hope that you will always stay close to God as you live your life & make it to Heaven.