

The Costs Of Corruption In Burnet County

I object to the fact that the five of you have so irresponsibly borrowed and frivolously spent the taxpayer's money over the last eight years.

I object to the fact that Burnet County is over **\$30 Million Dollars** In Debt.

I object to the fact that Burnet County now spends **\$9.6 million dollars** more than the County takes in in revenue.

I object to the fact that less than three months ago, you voted to borrow **\$5 Million Dollars** on a "short term bond", with **\$1 million** of that money to be spent on a new Electronic Election Rigging Equipment with back doors built into the software.

I object to the fact that you allowed over **\$99,000 dollars** to be spent on "Employee Appreciation" luncheons, dinners, big parties with prizes and entertainment over the last seven years, with an average **\$13,635 taxpayer dollars** spent each year.

I object to the fact that in 2023, you spent **\$38,000 dollars** with an outside consulting firm for a wage survey so that you could justify the large pay increases that you voted in for yourselves in 2024.

I object to the fact that in September of 2023 after Mr. Oakley returned from his State Judicial Ethics Board suspension, the Commissioners decided to pay him for his six months of lost salary. Not only paying Mr. Oakley for time that he did nothing for the taxpayers of Burnet County, but in effect paying him for the bad behavior that created his suspension.

I object to the fact that the Commissioners had an order drawn up to pay Mr. Oakley for over **\$132,000 Dollars** in legal fees for his bad behavior.

I object to the fact that in September of 2023, the Court decided to pay **\$21,200 dollars** to Baker Tilly for a “Forensic Audit”, that turned into an investigation, that turned into a report, that turned into a very expensive small stack of paper.

All of the documented information listed above displays a clear lack of concern and a lack of responsibility by the Commissioners Court in how they handle the taxpayer's money.

These five individuals have certainly proven that they are incapable of behaving as fiscally responsible adults and cannot be trusted with the taxpayer's money.

I don't know how any of you can look at yourselves in the mirror or go to sleep at night.

Mr. Oakley you are an embarrassment to the people of Burnet County and you should resign immediately.

The lies, corruption, and cover ups are all out in the open. This will not work out well for any of you.

Information was recently revealed showing the costs from 10/26/2017 until 11/26/2024 for the Burnet County Taxpayer funded "Employee Appreciation" slush fund.

The seven year total equals \$99,121.00 dollars.

Almost a \$100,000 Dollars For Taxpayer Funded Parties ?

The average costs of "Employee Appreciation' Parties is \$13,635 taxpayer dollars per year that included catered food, prizes, entertainment, and facilities rentals over the seven years.

And this all adds up to the very clear picture of irresponsible behavior by those that have been elected to represent the taxpayers and voters in Burnet County.

HOW DARE THE FIVE THAT SIT ON THE COURT put this on the taxpayers back.

The Taxpayers are at the TOP of the Organizational Chart.

And keep in mind that the taxpayers don't have a say in how much is spent, what their money is spent on, or who spends it. All these "employees" work for the taxpayers.

Up till now, this seems to have been a secret: slush fund ?

Burnet County is over ***\$30 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEBT.***

This has occurred under Mr. Oakley's tenure as the Courts presiding officer.

The debt service has increased by 136% from ***\$5.6 Million*** in FY 2023 to ***\$7.6 Million*** in FY 2024.

Deficit spending has grown from ***\$6.9 Million*** in FY 23 to ***\$9.6 Million*** in FY 24. An increase in ***\$2.7 Million*** in one year.

That is \$9.6 Million more in money owed than what the County takes in.

You can't run your household budget like that. You won't run a business budget like that, at least not for long.

And Mr. Oakley has the audacity to tell the Daily Trib he is a fiscal conservative ? Mr. Oakley lies to himself, to the news people, and to the voters.

In 2023 ***\$38,000 dollars*** of taxpayers money was paid to Evergreen consulting group for a wage survey so the Commissioners and Mr. Oakley could justify the raises they voted in for themselves this year.

- ***County Attorney Eddie Arredondo 2025 increase of \$6,968 to \$121,566.00/yr***
- ***James Oakley 2025 increase of \$6,496 to \$113,337.00/yr***
- ***Four Commissioners - 2025 increase \$8,729 to \$98,984.00/yr***

Plus the outrageous pay increases that were given to several County employees. Doug Ferguson and Shirley Bullard both received 25% percent increases from their previous year's salary, while Herb "European Condo" Darling received a 19% increase from his previous year's salary.

These salaries do not include their County supplied vehicles, gas cards, insurance, etc.

Just two months ago, the Commissioners Court voted to borrow another ***\$5 Million dollars*** on a short term bond.

The Commissioners Court will spend \$1 million of that on electronic voting equipment that Doug Ferguson admitted has back doors built into the software.

\$1Million for Hart Intercivics Election Rigging Equipment.

This is a Clown Show and all the Clowns get FAILING Grades.

They all should take a 50 Percent pay cut !

At that point they would still be overpaid for the minimum hours of work they actually put in each week.

In March 2023, after James Oakley was indicted for a felony charge as well as multiple misdemeanors, he was suspended by the State Judicial Ethics board. The charges were quashed and when he returned in September 2023, the Commissioners pay him his salary for the months that he was suspended.

Paid for his bad behavior while doing NOTHING for the County. The commissioners also had an order signed and ready that would have paid him for the legal fees he had incurred. That amount was **\$132,000** plus. The legal expenses payment was only shelved after a few angry citizens made enough noise in objection to this action.

The initial charges have since been remanded back to the District Court by the Third Court Of Appeals.

Mr. Oakley is again in legal trouble.

What an embarrassment Mr. Oakley is for Burnet County.

Mr. Oakley's legal troubles are of his own making. His continuous skirting the edge of the laws and government codes are the cause of Mr. Oakley's troubles. He abuses his authority on a regular basis. He shows no concern for actions.

If any of the four commissioners had a spine, they would demand the Oakley recuse himself from any further actions on the court until his legal problems have been resolved.

In September 2023, the Commissioners court under the direction of Mr. Oakley, voted to pay **\$21,207.00** for the Baker Tilly report fiasco. This was purely a retaliatory attack against the Burnet County Sheriffs Department by Mr. Oakley.

Again Mr. Oakley lied when said he was "Unfairly Targeted".

Mr. Oakley lies to himself and lies to the people of Burnet County. Mr. Oakley seems to have a serious problem being able to tell the difference between truth and fiction. He fits the definition of a pathological liar.

Information gathered through Public Information Requests, showed that Oakley was involved in trying to get Baker Tilly to alter their report to show some sort of criminal intent when the only criminal action being carried out was by Mr. Oakley.

This \$21,207.00 was a complete waste of taxpayers money.
HOW DARE YOU FRIVOUSLY SPEND THE TAXPAYERS MONEY.

The real joke was that Damon, Billy, and Joe Don voted yes on the "Fake Audit" and they didn't even know what the issues were, what the proposal contained or how much it would cost. Three of the Four RUBBER STAMPS approved without knowing anything. While the fourth RUBBER STAMP, Jim Luther was neck deep in the entire scandal along with his wife, Sara Luther.

All of the information listed above displays a clear lack of concern and a lack of responsibility by the Commissioners Court in how they handle the taxpayers money.

In a time where inflation erodes the buying power of the dollar for "We The People", the elected County officials double down on reducing transparency and wasting taxpayer money.

Sounds more like the work of Hoodlums, Gangsters, and Grifters than elected Civil Servants.

HOW DARE YOU DESPICABLE and CORRUPT CON ARTISTS waste the Taxpayers money without the slightest concern.

Oakley is the kingpin of corruption, but all four Commissioners are either involved by malfeasance or misfeasance. Rather than acting like men who were elected in their individual precincts, the four Commissioners follow Oakley's directions without question.

How many other con games, cash under the table, money laundering, or corruption scams are being carried out by the five hoodlums on the Burnet County Commissioners Court every month ?

Is it hubris ?

Some sort of shared narcissistic fantasy land ?

Do the five of them even care about the appearance of what they are doing ?

Or maybe the five of them never waste any time worrying about doing the right thing.

A complete lack of integrity for sure.

The Commissioners Court members are certainly TONE DEAF !

Do they not see that the people are paying attention ?

All of their lying and corruption is on PUBLIC DISPLAY.

All five of them are obviously SHAMELESS.

How can they stand to look at themselves in the mirror ?

How do they sleep at night ?

The taxpayers and voters of Burnet County are OUTRAGED !

The natives are restless and VERY ANGRY with all of them.

The five of them are not respected.

The five of them cannot be trusted.

The five of them have proven that they are incapable of behaving as fiscally responsible adults.

This is not going to work out well for any of them.

And James Oakley should resign immediately.