Barton County Community College

Study Session

November 16, 2026

College Ground – The College owns a couple of pieces of ground near the campus. All this ground was secured for water rights and/or water distribution lines to supply the campus with potable water.

1. "Anschutz" ground – 5 acres, landlocked, secured for water rights and for water distribution piping. This ground is "farmable", but is landlocked without access to the ground. We contract to have this ground farmed (with the adjacent ground), and the college receives 1/3 of the crop revenue for the 5 acres.

2. "Mullin" ground – Approximately 120 acres of irrigated land, secured for water rights and future water distribution. There are two water rights on this ground and one shallow irrigation well on the ground. We contract to have the ground farmed. The College rents the ground for a fixed annual price, and our rent is within the average USDA NASS (National Agriculture Statistic Service) for irrigated farm ground (cash rent) in Barton County. We previously used a farm manager to develop our contract with the two farmers that farmed the ground. The College has since sold all above ground equipment to the current farmer. For the irrigated ground, the College is responsible for providing a functioning well (everything below ground) and the farmer now owns and maintains the engine, meter, and pivot system (everything above ground). The farmer also pays for the natural gas to run the pivot system.

The College monitors the water usage for the irrigation system and can and has limited the amount of water that can be used for irrigation. This limit depends on the weather, the amount of water rights, allocations, and the need to transfer water allocation to the campus. The irrigation well has issues with high nitrates and high salinity in which reduce crop yields, impair soil structure, and cause osmotic stress that prevents plant roots from absorbing water.

3. Campus ground – Approximately 40 acres of "farmable" ground on the South side of the Campus. This is also used for irrigation/discharge of wastewater under a special permit by KDHE. Our farmer farms this ground, and the College receives 1/3 of the crop revenue for this ground. Prior to eliminating horses at Camp Aldrich, we received 1/3 of the crop and the farmer hauled and delivered the bales to Camp Aldrich for us. This ground is low, has a waterway running through it, and has had areas excavated to use the soil for development of the Soccer, baseball, and softball fields. This leaves portions of the 40 acres under water at various times of the year. This ground also has our communication tower for Camp Aldrich on it (guidewires) as well as fixed sprinklers for the wastewater system.

4. Ag Center ground – Total of 11 acres. A portion of this ground is parking lot/building, and a portion has a communication tower on it. The remaining ground is for our Ag Department training. No crops are grown on the ground at this time.

5. "Hannigan" ground – 2 acres, water well for campus supply, water rights, and water distribution piping. This ground and the water rights were secured for another potable water supply for the campus. We do not own any farmable ground with this property.

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Questions?