

March 4, 2025

Holmes County Board of County Commissioners
107 E Virginia Ave
Bonifay, FL 32425

1. According to a study conducted by the State of Florida three years ago, your airport was generating over \$5 million per year in economic impact to the local economy.
2. According to published FAA figures, we average 78 operations at the airport daily.
3. Your airport is financially and operationally healthy.
 - a. We generate income through the sale of fuel and hangar rentals. Details of our budget and financials are posted, as required by Florida law, on our public website.
 - b. We have an 18-24 month waiting list of companies and people wanting to rent hangar space from us.
 - c. We now have jet aircraft now based on the field with more in the planning stage.
 - d. Our capital projects are funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). These projects have allowed us to add to our runway length, improve our stormwater issues, add new parking and greatly improve our electrical vault.
4. We are in full compliance with all FAA, FDOT, Florida Ethics Commission and other regulatory agencies and have an excellent working relationship with all state and federal agencies.
5. We recently submitted a request to your Budget Committee asking that one-third of our regulatory compliance costs (about \$21,000) be reimbursed by Holmes County, which you have also done in the past. We thank you for your past support in this regard and ask you continue doing so.
6. We have three requests that we ask you to consider:
 - a. Tri-County Airport Road is only paved to the entrance of our parking lot, but our property boundary extends an additional 9/10 of a mile south. We have potential tenants who have expressed interest in bringing high-paying jobs to the airport and in building hangar and office space (one of whom would bring 30 high-paying jobs). However, they are not happy in doing so with a driveway connecting to a dirt road. We therefore urge you to consider paving this relatively short section of road a priority- sooner rather than later.
 - b. Many airports our size have loaner cars that they make available to air crew and their passengers, typically for a 2-3 hour period. We ask that the county make available a "retired" county vehicle, keep it on your insurance and loan it to the airport. We would be happy to share the costs of insurance and maintenance and work out details.
 - c. On April 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM the Holmes, Washington and Jackson County Chambers of Commerce are having their first joint "Business After Hours" event, and it will be hosted at your airport. We would be honored if you would attend, and if you wish, say a few words.

Sincerely,



Ross E. Statham, Board Secretary
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