

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2026, TWENTIETH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. Tuesday, March 10, 2026 Immediately following the Board of County Canvassers

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to Kansas Statutes.

Annotated Chapter 19, Article 2, Section 18 in due and regular session with open doors.

Commissioner Bruce Blair served as the presiding officer.

Commissioner Carl Wood was in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Blair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA

**On motion (26-117)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **March 06, 2026** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.**

### SIGNING OF MOTIONS

The County Clerk presented the following motions for Commissioners' signatures:

Motion 26	109	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the March 03, 2026 minutes, and Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers
Motion 26	110	To open the Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas
Motion 26	111	To close the Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas
Motion 26	112	To adopt Resolution #2026-012, a Resolution closing and vacating South Street, a portion of Kane Street and an alley in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition to the City of Arma, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof

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Motion 26	113	To recess the open meeting for a period of 5 minutes
Motion 26	114	To adopt Resolution #2026-011, a Resolution authorizing a lease purchase transaction between Crawford County and Labette Bank for financing of a generator for the jail
Motion 26	115	To approve the annual review of the Crawford County Solid Waste Plan
Motion 26	116	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss LEPP pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:26 AM. The Motion passed 3-0

**On motion (26-118)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess the open meeting and open the meeting of the Board of County Canvassers.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

The regular session resumed at 10:10 AM.

### UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

#### PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

#### MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

#### MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

**Item One:** Zoning Administrator May Smith addressed the Commissioners. She explained the location of the subdivision she is presenting is along 190th and 580th near Red Fox pits. Ms. Smith stated the owner is wanting to turn this property into 4 lots but lot 3 will never be up for sale because the owners house is on this piece of property. She mentioned the reasoning for doing this is more for estate planning to fit Crawford County regulations and explained this is personally what has to be done to divide their land to give to family members. Ms. Smith reiterated this is being done more as estate planning rather than as a developer. She stated she has talked to rural water and that she was told rural water could be obtained for these lots in about 4 to 6 months if necessary. Ms. Smith mentioned there will be an easement running through lot 4 and explained the reasoning. Commissioner Wood asked if there will be an easement road on the east side and Ms. Smith explained. Commissioner Wood discussed rural water and asked what the future is for Water District #4 tying people on and Ms. Smith explained. Commissioner Wood asked if the property is deeded or a transfer on death filed to one of the children would they have had to do this process and Ms. Smith answered. Ms. Smith mentioned this was passed with the Planning and Zoning Board with an 8 to 0 vote with 1 person being absent. Commissioner Wood asked if they can state no building on the lots and Ms. Smith stated it is written in the resolution. Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson his thoughts and Mr. Emerson stated they would have to get a building permit to build on the

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lots and then Ms. Smith confirmed they would deny it unless there is a plan for water. Commissioner Wood asked about the road and wanting the county to take over the road and Mr. Emerson explained. Commissioner Wood asked if the owners could drill a well if they wanted to and Ms. Smith explained they could but she hears that is a very expensive process. Ms. Smith presented Resolution #2026-010, a Resolution to accept and grant the proposed development to be known as “Whisper Estates” and to accept and grant the amendment of zoning from Agricultural to Rural Residential for the proposed development.

**On motion (26-121)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to adopt Resolution #2026-010, a Resolution to accept and grant the proposed development to be known as “Whisper Estates” and to accept and grant the amendment of zoning from Agricultural to Rural Residential for the proposed development.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

### MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

**Item One:** Crawford County Mental Health Director Heather McCully addressed the Commissioners. She stated she is here for a board appointment recommending Michelle Willis. Ms. McCully gave some background information regarding Ms. Willis and explained why she would be a valuable member.

**On motion (26-122)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the appointment of Michelle Willis to the Crawford County Mental Health Governing Board.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

Ms. McCully mentioned she also has the CCMH annual report. She provided the Commissioners with this report. Ms. McCully reviewed some of the details from the report for the Commissioners. Commissioner Wood asked about the number of autism clients and Ms. McCully explained. Commissioner Blair asked about the age range and Ms. McCully explained. Commissioner Wood asked if they have a director for their autism center and Ms. McCully explained that they do and explained the qualifications these employees must have. Commissioner Wood asked if the autism center is grant funded or paid by insurance and Ms. McCully answered it is paid by insurance but that they did receive some funding for remodeling of the facility. She proceeded to discuss more details of the report. Ms. McCully discussed the services they are legally required to provide to individuals regardless of insurance or ability to pay and stated they provide around \$5,000,000 worth of services each year they do not get paid for so she has to figure out how to generate this money. Commissioner Wood asked where she gets it from

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and Ms. McCully answered they apply for as many grants as possible, create programs that generate revenue such as the autism program, and look at places to cut from. Commissioner Blair stated he appreciates Ms. McCully's time in sharing this information with the Commissioners.

### MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

**Item One:** SEKCAP Community Engagement Coordinator Casey Brown addressed the Commissioners. He provided the Commissioners with a handout with information. Mr. Brown explained they changed some of their information to line up with the county's fiscal year. He mentioned one thing he wants the Commissioners to notice is the utilization of the rides during 2025 for general public routes when one route was suspended. Mr. Brown discussed the funding the county gives for the route that is ran for them and that they still need additional funding after receiving this money. He stated they want to put in a formal request for what they need for the 2026 year to finish those routes as well as 2027. He mentioned they have spoken with City of Girard and they have been having discussion on what they may be able to bring to the table and they also intend on speaking with City of Arma but that the other entities with their own budget do not have a large amount of riders utilizing this service. Mr. Brown discussed City of Pittsburg fully funding one of their routes. Commissioner Wood asked if they have one or two routes in the county ran right now and Mr. Brown answered one route. Commissioner Wood asked if there was previously three routes and Mr. Christiansen stated there were two in the City of Pittsburg and one in the county but that they dropped one of the routes in the City of Pittsburg. Commissioner Wood clarified that City of Pittsburg is only providing funding for the city route and Mr. Brown confirmed. Commissioner Blair asked if they have spoken with City of Frontenac and Mr. Brown stated they have not because they only have 1% of ridership. Commissioner Blair asked if they mentioned they are currently talking with City of Arma and Mr. Brown stated they are actively talking with Girard and working on meeting with Arma. Commissioner Wood asked if they need \$40,000 per route and Mr. Brown confirmed. Mr. Jamie Whitney discussed their concerns. Commissioner Wood asked what has increased costs besides expense, a bus, fuel, and wages because for years they got by really well. Mr. Whitney answered and mentioned a grant has been cut as well as ARPA funds drying up. Commissioner Wood asked about grants and Mr. Whitney answered. Mr. Christiansen mentioned Girard hospital is contributing some but since they have had decline in their behavioral health services they have backed off on funding. Commissioner Wood asked about insurance payment and Mr. Whitney mentioned they are currently waiting on approval as nonemergent transport but that it is not the answer for full funding. Mr. Whitney stated they have been receiving calls from people who do not even utilize the service who want to know what they can do to advocate for the program because they see the value. Commissioner Wood asked if the other counties SEKCAP serves are having the same problems and Mr. Whitney stated it depends on the county and explained. Commissioner Blair stated asked for a recap and Mr. Brown referenced the handout provided. Commissioner Blair asked what the ask for the county was and Mr. Christiansen answered. Commissioner Blair asked if there is a date they would like an answer by and Mr. Christiansen stated the 2027 request they are asking now so it can be brought up in the county's budget process this year, but the 2026 request is for this year until June 2027. Commissioner Wood asked that they need

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\$290,000 to fund the 2027 year and Mr. Christiansen explained. Mr. Christiansen stated they need \$65,099 to finish the 2 general public routes this year. Commissioner Wood asked about the amount of county routes and Mr. Brown and Mr. Christiansen answered. Commissioner Blair asked if they could send them the information after their meeting with the State and Mr. Whitney confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if they move to two public county routes what are they expecting out of the county and Mr. Christiansen stated they would need a total of \$80,000 for a full year's operation.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the February 2026 Clerk's Report. Commissioner Wood asked if this has changed much since he received it and Ms. Lusker stated it had not changed at all.

**On motion (26-123)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the February 2026 Clerk's Report as presented.

**On a Roll Call vote.**

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Ms. Lusker presented the bill for JT Construction for the Clerk's storage building. She mentioned they put the entire amount on the invoice. Commissioner Wood asked if it was the same amount that the bid was and Ms. Lusker confirmed there were no change orders. Commissioner Blair stated he knew maintenance was looking at the building and he is sure if there was a reason to hold off on payment they would have been told and Ms. Lusker confirmed that Maintenance Director Robert Gorentz is who presented the bill. Commissioner Wood asked if there was an inspection or punch list completed and Ms. Lusker stated she is unsure if Mr. Gorentz or Mr. Crozier have completed that and Commissioner Blair stated he knows they have been looking at the electrical and a few other things so he would assume if there was an issue it would be addressed.

**On motion (26-124)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the payment to JT Construction in the amount of \$69,391.83 for the Clerk's storage building.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

Commissioner Wood asked if this was going to come out of the Clerk's building fund and Ms. Lusker answered she believed it was coming out of Operating Reserve but that there was money designated.

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**Item Three:** County Counselor Jim Emerson presented the Health Department SFY2027 Grant Application Signature Page. He mentioned Health Department Director Debra Anthony stated once they receive the amounts they are awarded from KDHE she will attend a meeting and discuss those with the Commission. Mr. Emerson stated this is just the requests they submitted and not a final approval as well as a cheat sheet on the back page to explain the grants. Mr. Emerson briefly identified the grants. He mentioned WIC program is a separate federal program and not through KDHE. Commissioner Wood asked if Childcare Licensing Program is new and Mr. Emerson stated this has been a long time program and briefly explained the program. Commissioner Wood asked if she will give the exact amount and Mr. Emerson stated she will come discuss once she receives information from KDHE. Commissioner Wood stated he is just wondering if any are cut and Mr. Emerson stated he believes if any programs were totally cut they would not be up for grant applications to be submitted.

**On motion (26-125)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the Health Department Grant Application Signature Page and authorizing the Chairman to sign.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson stated quite some time ago a group of homeowners in Prairie View Estates petitioned the county for road improvements in their subdivision and was previously approved by the county but it has taken a while because they were waiting for completion of construction on a couple of the houses. He stated this is the first step in the process and requires a hearing. Mr. Emerson stated he has set this hearing date for Friday, April 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM and that the total cost of improvements amounted to \$53,264.00 spread over 10 lots. Mr. Emerson stated the homeowners will have the opportunity to pay this in full after the hearing or have it assessed on taxes over 5 years.

**On motion (26-126)** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the publication of the Notice of Hearing on proposed assessments for the construction of certain street improvements in Prairie View Estates, Crawford County, Kansas with a hearing set for Friday, April 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Mr. Emerson presented the lease purchase agreement with Labette Bank for the generator at the Sheriff's Department/Jail. He stated the Sheriff's Department approached the Commissioners about this at the end of last year because their generator of 30 years needed replaced and is a critical piece of equipment to keep the Jail and Sheriff's Department running when there are power outages. Mr. Emerson mentioned the total cost was \$96,375.00 with an interest rates of 3.75% for 36 months. He stated the

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monthly payment will be \$2,834.17 beginning April 7, 2026. Commissioner Wood asked why the agreement states 36 rentals and Mr. Emerson stated that is the term they use to describe payments and that it is generally stating 36 payments will be made. Mr. Emerson mentioned he appreciated the banks that bid on this project.

**On motion (26-127)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the lease purchase agreement for the generator at the Sheriff's Department/Jail with Labette Bank for 36 months in the total amount of \$96,375.00.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

### OLD BUSINESS

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson stated he spoke with Mr. Gorentz regarding the two mowing bids. He mentioned Mr. Gorentz is recommending the low bid from S&B Lawncare at the prices quoted. Mr. Emerson stated he spoke with Mr. Crozier regarding this as well and that Noxious Weeds Director Tommy Scales has agreed to be available at the courthouse for mowing situations as well.

**On motion(26-128)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve S&B Lawncare as the low bid for mowing.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-129)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Wood to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss LEPP pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the individual employees. The County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:30 AM. The Motion passed 2-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

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The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:15 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:29 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

**Item One: March 13, 2026- 8:30 AM** Work Session to sign midmonth bills and payroll vouchers.

**Item Two: March 20, 2026- 10:00 AM** Public Hearing on Vacating a Platted Alley located in the Town of Opolis, Crawford County, Kansas.

**Item Three: March 24, 2026-** Opening of dust control bids.

**Item Four: April 14, 2026-** Pittsburg State University President Dr. Thomas Newsom, Executive Vice President for Engagement & Executive Affairs Jim Johnson, Explore Crawford County Marketing & Communications Manager Chris Wilson, and Explore Crawford County Vice Board Chair Renato Pinto discussing PSU Track funding request.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Item One:** Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Wood and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [March 10, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:30 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting: Commissioner Moody

**The motion prevailed.**

**In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed my official seal and submitted these minutes for the approval of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners.**

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**Lisa Lusker**  
County Clerk

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**This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.**

Taken RJA 3/12/2026 2:25 PM/amended BKW 3/12/26 2:45 PM