

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2026, [ELEVENTH](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Friday, February 06, 2026 at 10:00 AM**

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.

Commissioners Carl Wood and Tom Moody were in attendance.

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

Chairman Moody led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**On motion (26-054)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **February 03, 2026** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, and
2. Authorizing the Chairman to sign the previous week's vouchers.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

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

### **SIGNING OF MOTIONS**

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

Motion 26	45	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the January 30, 2026 minutes
Motion 26	46	To recess the open meeting for a period of 5 minutes
Motion 26	47	To approve the January 2026 Clerk's Report as presented
Motion 26	48	To approve paying the invoice for SEK Regional Planning

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		Commission dues in the amount of \$8,245.80
Motion 26	49	To appointed Commissioner Blair to be the county representative for the SEK Regional Planning Commission and County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti as an alternate representative
Motion 26	50	To adopt Resolution #2026-004, a Resolution establishing an early retirement program for Crawford County employees
Motion 26	51	To approve the county rebate/tax refund in the amount of \$1,473.91 to Merla Morris
Motion 26	52	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss raises 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 11:53 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 26	53	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, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and Zoning Administrator May Smith attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 12:09 PM. The Motion passed 3-0

**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 OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

**MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Item One:** Ms. Leslie Lackamp with Mosaic addressed the Commissioners. She stated she does not have a presentation today but would like to again thank the Commissioners for the county's intellectual disabilities mill funding and that they use it in a variety of ways for these individuals. Ms. Lackamp stated they have a new individual with them today who represents Special Olympics and her name is Erin Fletcher. Mr. Bob Davis with Class LTD addressed the Commissioners and stated he brought a worksheet for the Commissioners to view when they have time that includes a breakdown of how their funds were spent. Ms. Rosie West with New Hope Services addressed the Commissioners and presented a handout as well that included their spending. Mr. Travis McBride with Medicalodges and New Hope Services addressed the Commissioners and he gave a verbal breakdown of some of the ways this mill funding benefited their services. Ms. Erin Fletcher with Special Olympics Kansas addressed the Commissioners and she thanked them for the funding and also read some of their upcoming events that she stated she could email to Ms. Lusker if needed. Commissioner Blair thanked these individuals for all their work they do for the intellectual disability community and that their devotion and love for what they do is wonderful. Commissioner Moody stated he can agree with what Commissioner Blair said and that he had a chance to work with Special Olympics quite some time ago and that it is so rewarding and he appreciates these individuals for what

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they do. Commissioner Wood stated he thinks they do a wonderful job and how inclusive they are with all the different events they have.

**Item Two:** Mr. Daniel Zywietz with SEK Solar addressed the Commissioners. He stated he is here on behalf of Mr. John Copyak with Shasta Power who could not attend the meeting today. Mr. Zywietz presented the Commissioners with a handout and stated he has a couple things he would like to point out about this proposed solar project. He addressed the concerns of Shasta Power being a for profit company that is going to try and get out of paying the county as well as the neighbors of the project and he does not think that is correct and stated he has provided two documents for that. He explained these handouts. Mr. Zywietz stated the next concern was how can the county and neighbors make sure the benefits and promises they were given actually happen and he stated the safest way to do this would be to sign a legally binding document between the project company and the county, and if the other individuals need to be involved they could be written in as well. He explained exactly the type of document they recommend. Mr. Zywietz discussed setbacks and how they have considered a setback of 1,000 feet which would leave them with around 37 neighbors to discuss with. He stated out of the 37 neighbors they have 22 responses. He explained more than 2/3 are in favor as they have received 16 yes responses, 6 no responses, and 13 considering as well as 2 they cannot seem to get a response from. Commissioner Moody stated it seems like they are making contact with the neighbors. Commissioner Blair asked if they have only contacted 22 of the 37 neighbors and Mr. Zywietz explained they have contacted all neighbors except for 2. Commissioner Wood asked about the new location of the project and Mr. Zywietz explained it is now 1,000 feet away from the property line of the previous neighbors of Deer Creek. Commissioner Wood asked if anyone has signed a document yet and Mr. Zywietz explained they currently have 16 signatures. Commissioner Wood asked if those neighbors are within 1,000 feet and Mr. Zywietz confirmed. Mr. Zywietz stated while they are not there 100% yet that Mr. Copyak has really spent time knocking on doors. He mentioned Mr. Copyak will be back next week to discuss and also to hopefully have an answer from the 13 individuals who needed more time. Mr. Zywietz asked if the Commissioners would be okay to try and narrow down some of these issues and get them in writing and County Counselor Jim Emerson stated they will not do that at this time and would like to see how things end up when Mr. Copyak comes back next week. Mr. Zywietz discussed the main arguments of individuals for this project is they do not believe the financial benefits of this project will materialize and what they are proposing is to get it written down in a format that is legally enforceable. Mr. Zywietz stated he does not have a template for that right now but that for now they could possibly draft of a MOU or letter of intent which could later be worked out in to a full contract with the county. Commissioner Moody stated he has heard this same concern but he is still not really sure what is being asked. Mr. Zywietz asked if they would be okay if the come up with a draft and send it to the county and Mr. Emerson stated they can send it to them and Commissioner Moody mentioned they would view it but he cannot say they would sign anything.

**Item Three:** Ms. Jovanna Brackett addressed the Commissioners. She stated she came here to discuss something completely different but that she feels the need to speak on this. She stated she finds it audacious and is trying not to be irritated that the people who are commanding the Commissioners time during most of these meetings lately are only

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paying taxes on hotels, gas, and food as they are not residents of the county. She stated the other individual who is trying to get people to come to his side on the project will not be paying property taxes once the solar project is installed as they have learned this information recently. Ms. Brackett stated her particular response to putting a legal document in place is that in the two years they have dealt with this issue they have learned a lot of information from people who have already signed legal documents to receive funds and are not receiving the money. She mentioned it all depends who has the biggest attorney and that these legal documents are sold repetitively leaving the new owners of the legal documents not accountable for them. Ms. Brackett discussed two solar projects in western Kansas. She discussed problems with the banking industry due to these lease agreements with wind and solar companies. She stated again that she did not come here for this discussion but came to discuss a couple of other things. Ms. Brackett mentioned the first reason she came today was to discuss the trash on Highway 69. She mentioned a transfer station around the Fort Scott area where the trash is dumped there and then the trash gets transferred to Allen County. Ms. Brackett stated she is not okay with them buying the garbage collector machine that they previously discussed to clean the highway trash that a for profit entity is making double to dump their trash. She stated she is not okay with their tax dollars purchasing this equipment and then paying someone to operate it. Commissioner Moody stated they would all agree with what she is saying but that the bottom line is the trash is in their county and although it is on a state highway and is KDOT's problem they do not look at it. He stated they do what they can do and try to get the people involved that need to be and it works for awhile but then they are right back to where they started. She explained she did not expect a perfect answer on this situation but that she just wanted to make them aware of the information she found out yesterday. Commissioner Blair stated as far as transfer trucks if they are the issue then law enforcement is the answer for that problem. Commissioner Blair stated he believes it is probably the landfills in Crawford County contributing to the problem but that he agrees with Commissioner Moody that they get the problem solved for awhile but that is just comes back. Commissioner Blair stated this is also starting to happen on Highway 47 as well. Mr. Emerson stated he believes the landfill contracts with Parsons which could be the reason for increased trash traffic on Highway 47. Commissioner Wood stated he agrees 100% that this is a problem and should be the landfill and KDOT's problem. He mentioned for awhile they had it under control but it has gotten out of hand again and that he does not feel the county should be responsible for it but that the State should handle it. Commissioner Wood stated they are going to reach out to the manager of the landfill as well as other individuals to try and get a solution. Ms. Brackett stated the second thing she came to discuss was trash/tire pickup. She mentioned it has been quite a while since something like this has been done and was hoping that maybe this spring they would do something like this. Ms. Brackett stated she has seen tires in the ditches so she knows it would help the Road and Bridge crews too. Commissioner Blair stated they could have Zoning Administrator May Smith look and see if the state is doing anything like this coming up but that the last two they have done was on their own and came with a substantial cost. Commissioner Wood stated all three districts pick up tires and took them the other day and discussed the cost per tire. He stated it gets expensive quickly. She stated she just wanted to put in a request for them to look in to this.

**Item Four:** Mr. Zywietz addressed the Commissioners. He stated Ms. Brackett mentioned renewable energy equipment is exempt from property taxes and that it is

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correct for the first 10 years of the project only and only applies to the solar equipment not the battery equipment. He explained the batteries will pay property taxes for the lifetime of the project and the solar equipment will pay property taxes after the first 10 years. He stated Shasta Power also offered to pay 40% of the property taxes that will not be collected in the first 10 years as a bonus fund. Mr. Zywietz stated this is why they want to get something in writing for the public to see. Commissioner Blair stated on Tuesday they discussed this information and that a house bill is going through that will possibly make the battery storage exempt as well and asked if Mr. Zywietz is familiar with this. Mr. Zywietz stated he was not familiar with this as he was in Topeka this week and did not see it on the agenda. Commissioner Blair stated it is House Bill 2083 and Mr. Zywietz stated he will look in to this. Mr. Zywietz stated Shasta Power is not looking to take advantage of any additional tax breaks so if they have it in the contract with the county to pay that property tax they would honor that even if that bill passed. Mr. Zywietz stated the project is budgeted with the full property tax for batteries included and Shasta Power is not looking to get out of that.

**Item Five:** Mr. Don Kranker addressed the Commissioners. He stated he read the paper regarding the last Commissioner meeting and the topic of eminent domain that the energy companies have in solar placement. He mentioned he follows this topic and provided the Commissioners with some information. Mr. Kranker stated he just wanted to make everyone aware that in Jackson County NextEra is putting in a solar project and gave a brief overview of a lawsuit involved in this project. Mr. Kranker stated he does not know where they are at with the zoning regulations right now but asked if there will be any public notice or hearings and Mr. Emerson stated yes and he believes there is two public hearings next month. Mr. Emerson stated he does not think they have been settled on yet. Mr. Kranker read more of his provided information.

**Item Six:** Ms. Judy Prince addressed the Commissioners. She stated she wanted to address the issue Ms. Brackett brought up regarding the trash and mentioned she has witnessed three separate occasions of Sunrise Sanitation specifically spewing trash out of the back of their truck. Ms. Prince stated as far as the solar project goes if they write up an agreement of some sort or a proposal she believes that proposal should include a cash bond for any kind of potential damage that could be done to the county as far as contamination, abandoned project, and removal of infrastructure after the project. She stated she would like to know about the assets Mr. Zywietz is discussing that would be located in the county and if they are in form of the solar panels and then those panels get destroyed or cracked over time she feels like the assets are not really as strong as he is suggesting. Commissioner Moody stated he has heard this a couple of times and asked Mr. Zywietz if there is insurance on the equipment and Mr. Zywietz stated they would be fully insured as they have to be. Commissioner Wood stated he wonders what the deductible would be on that insurance. Ms. Prince discussed the moratorium and how as Mr. Zywietz stated there is already 200 plus projects being proposed in the area and that they may flood in if the moratorium is lifted. She stated the moratorium is in place to allow the zoning board time to study this issue and they should not feel pressured from any one company to have that lifted or force them in to quicker action. Ms. Prince mentioned her final issue is the issue Ms. Brackett brought up with the banking with leased properties and mentioned a potential problem with this scenario.

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**Item Seven:** Ms. Brackett addressed the Commissioners again. She stated one thing she failed to mention earlier is that in the research they discussed the bankruptcy of a company and that she appreciates the insurance as well as the lofty letters and words that are put together to sound promising but she knows of a lady who owns land in western Kansas with a large farm with solar installation on both sides of her property and that both of those neighbors received letters of bankruptcy for their solar company. She explained with those letters came another certified letter stating that because they had used that land with the solar installation the Bank of London issued notice the land no longer belonged to the landowners and would be taken by the Bank of London.

**Item Eight:** Mr. Zywietz addressed the Commissioners again. He stated there is obviously concerns with the rights of the landowners and how it works with the farm and debt of the landowners. Mr. Zywietz stated they have several landowners involved in this project who still have rights to do as they wish with their land. He mentioned the concerns he wants to address are with the insurance and toxicity that has been brought up. Mr. Zywietz informed the Commissioners that the project materials they are discussing for the solar project here are primarily steel, solar panels, and copper cable. He mentioned approximately 2/3 of the material weight on site will be steel and is no different than a gas or coal fired power plant although it is fully recyclable and valuable. Mr. Zywietz stated this material will be removed and scrapped at the end of the project because they are valuable. He mentioned the same is true for the cabling and wiring because of the current copper prices. Mr. Zywietz stated even if the project were to go bankrupt the materials are of value and could be sold for scrap and the site cleaned up. He explained there is hardly any concrete on site and is only for transformer pads. Mr. Zywietz discussed the solar panels and their material as well as the batteries.

**Item Nine:** Ms. Brackett addressed the Commissioners again. She stated she just googled the chemicals in a solar panel and listed the chemicals. She discussed the issues these chemicals can cause for individuals. Ms. Brackett stated this information is pretty easy to find on the internet.

**Item Ten:** Mr. Zywietz addressed the Commissioners again. He stated that was a lot of chemical compounds listed and would like to break them down. He explained the chemicals to the Commissioners and the structure of the solar panels. Mr. Zywietz stated the one concern that was true was the use of lead and explained how it is used but mentioned it has very small amounts.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented the copies of the Special Alcohol, Parks and Recreation, Elderly, and Historical funds. She stated these are funds that were discussed in the work session this morning. Ms. Lusker explained the Commissioners had divided up the funds the way they wish to see them disbursed and if they are content with that then they just need a motion to accept the amounts and sign the forms. Commissioner Moody stated this was discussed in the work session and that they went through all of the numbers and he believes they are all in agreement. Commissioner Blair stated he would like to add that every year the ask is more and that they cut it down to what they can

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budget and he hopes the funds are appreciated. Commissioner Wood stated the only question he has is if all the corrections were made to these forms and Ms. Lusker confirmed that they were.

**On motion (26-055)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to approve the Special Alcohol, Parks and Recreation, Elderly, and Historical funding as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** County Counselor Jim Emerson stated he has a couple of bills for HHW to present. He mentioned they are working with the SEK Recycling Center to finish up the HHW program and explained they have another meeting on Wednesday. He stated their goal is to go through the facility again and get the rest taken care of this last time. Mr. Emerson explained there are items in there now that they can take care of on their own. Commissioner Wood asked who gave them authority to spend this kind of money. Mr. Emerson stated this money has to be spent as the State is aware of how much money is in this account and that they have to send proof to the State of the money being spent. Mr. Emerson stated these are environmental items that they have to have documentation of taking care of. Commissioner Wood asked if they will provide instructions on how to take care of the rest of the waste and Mr. Emerson confirmed. Commissioner Moody stated they have no choice. Mr. Emerson stated he is not a fan of it but this is the only way to get to the end. Mr. Emerson stated he has an invoice for Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. for \$11,577.14 and Call2Recycle for \$2,549.99. Mr. Emerson stated they have budget for this and Commissioner Blair explained this is several years' worth of accumulation too.

**On motion (26-056)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve payment to Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. in the amount of \$11,577.14 and Call2Recycle in the amount of \$2,549.99.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Three:** Mr. Emerson stated he would like to discuss mowing. He presented the Commissioners with a Notice to Bidders for mowing. Mr. Emerson explained the changes made to this notice. Commissioner Blair asked if they have ever looked at what the annual cost of mowing is. Commissioner Wood stated he could get that information but he believes it is between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Commissioner Blair stated he thought it was more expensive than that. Mr. Emerson discussed the care for leaves being expensive. Commissioner Wood stated he will get this information. Mr. Emerson asked if the Commissioners would like for him to hold on sending out this notice and the Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Wood stated one thing he would like to see is that

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they could add a specific amount of mowings per year. Mr. Emerson stated they have one day a week or as determined by county but that he can add in a number if that is what they would like. Commissioner Wood asked what they are going to do with mulching and Mr. Emerson stated he put that mulching is a separate bid and that the real problem is they just need someone to oversee it and that can be addressed in a separate bid.

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with a Notice of Intent to Vacate. He explained this one is different than normal. Mr. Emerson explained this is in Martin Kane's 2nd addition to Arma. He stated a gentleman came in and stated there is a street that cannot be seen on the map but can be seen on the plat as well as an alley. Mr. Emerson stated he spoke with GIS Director Kyle Nelson and this was something that was missed in the reappraisal system and these roads are not shown on the county map. Commissioner Wood asked which lots they are discussing and Mr. Emerson explained.

**On motion (26-057)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent to Vacate a Road located in Martin Kane's 2nd Addition to the City of Arma, Kansas with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Mr. Emerson presented the Commissioners with an agreement for Federal-Aid Construction Engineering Inspection Services. He explained this is the last thing that needs signed for the HRRR project on 200th street. Mr. Emerson stated this is the agreement between Crawford County, Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. and Kansas Department of Transportation. Mr. Emerson Kaw Valley Engineering was selected by KDOT to do inspection. Mr. Emerson asked Road and Bridge Coordinator Alyssa Edwards if the county has already turned in their portion of the money and Ms. Edwards confirmed and explained it came out of last years funds. Mr. Emerson stated he believes this was overlooked by KDOT which is why they are receiving this agreement right now. Commissioner Wood asked when the project is going to be started and Ms. Edwards stated she is not sure of the exact date but that she knows it is coming up soon. Commissioner Wood asked if there is a timeline in which this project has to be completed and Ms. Edwards stated it is through KDOT and not on the county. Mr. Emerson stated he believed it was 150 days but is not for certain. Commissioner Wood asked what the county has to pay and Mr. Emerson and Ms. Edwards explained. Commissioner Blair asked if Mr. Emerson is comfortable with the agreement and Mr. Emerson confirmed.

**On motion (26-058)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the agreement for Federal-Aid Construction Engineering Inspection Services as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Blair , Moody, and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

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**The motion prevailed.**

### MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

**Item One:** Ms. Edwards presented the Commissioners with the rock bid recommendations from Triad Environmental Services. She listed the individuals who presented bids to the county. She explained the recommendations from Triad. Mr. Emerson stated he was gone that day and asked if the prices were about the same and Ms. Edwards answered.

**On motion (26-059)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the 2026 Rock bids as recommended by Dennis Meier, Triad Environmental Services.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** EMS Director Randy Sandberg requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-060)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss EMS 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, County Counselor Jim Emerson, and EMS Director Randy Sandberg attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:51 AM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:36 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:50 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Six:** Commissioner Moody stated he was asked for a letter of support from Miners Hall Museum. He mentioned they are trying to get a grant for security cameras and he informed them they would have Mr. Emerson put together a letter of support.

### OLD BUSINESS

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**Item One:** Mr. Emerson stated Mr. Toby Coon with KDHE who has been assisting Zoning Administrator May Smith with the Highway 160 and 260th nuisance property would like to come visit with the Commissioners on February 24th at 9:00 AM. He mentioned they have done an inspection and his process is in motion but he would like to discuss with them.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Emerson has looked in to the SANE exams. Mr. Emerson stated he has found a lot of information regarding this and that the Health Department may have to educate on this but that he believes it may be who is requesting the exam, where someone goes to have the exam whether that be the hospital or CHC, and who law enforcement calls for the procedure at the time. Mr. Emerson stated if the Health Department completes the exam he was told the county is not charged. Commissioner Blair asked for clarification on SANE exams and Mr. Emerson stated it is a type of sexual assault exam and that they are required by Kansas law to pay for these exams but that the Health Department stated they are a little better staffed for this procedure and can complete these without charging the county. Mr. Emerson stated he believes it is a matter of letting people know this because there is no control over when these exams need to take place as it could be the middle of the night which makes it hard to funnel everybody to the Health Department. Mr. Emerson explained the goal is to get more of the procedures done at the Health Department. Commissioner Wood stated he believes they need to have a work session with Health Department Director Debra Anthony on this topic and he will try to pull the bill he is discussing.

**Item Three:** Commissioner Wood stated another thing that is bothering him is how much the county is spending on cell phones. He mentioned he would like to pull the departments with the larger cell phone bills and see if they cannot get them cheaper with all the money they spend with the company. Mr. Emerson mentioned he believes Communications Director Tim Mikrut handles a lot of this and if they have time they can revisit this on Tuesday.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

**Item Two:** Commissioner Blair requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (26-061)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss raises 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 12:12 PM. The Motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

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The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:57 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:07 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

### OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

**Item Four:** Mr. Emerson stated they have not finalized raises for 2026. He mentioned it has been budgeted for everyone to have 3% cost of living raise and he believes after reviewing the numbers they will save some money by missing one of the months if they make it effective January 21st. Mr. Emerson stated he believes the discussion was a 3% cost of living raise with a cap of \$1.00 and a similar program was ran 2 or 3 years ago. He explained the cap saves money as well. Commissioner Blair stated he is all for this and as a Commissioner will not take his cost of living raise. Commissioner Wood agreed he is going to do the same and Commissioner Moody agreed he will not be taking his as well. Commissioner Blair stated there are a couple of individuals who have different circumstances but that if there are questions he will be happy to answer them.

**On motion (26-062)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve a cost-of-living increase for county employees at a rate of 3% with a maximum raise of \$1.00 per hour.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Five:** Commissioner Wood discussed the previous discussion of the budget situation and what they would do this year. He mentioned Mr. Emerson stated they did not need a motion for this but that if what they agreed on is binding for them without voting on it. He mentioned City of Pittsburg voted on their agreement. Commissioner Moody stated they are not City of Pittsburg and Commissioner Wood stated he had a few people ask him and he told them his word is what he is going to do and the Commissioners agreed. Mr. Emerson stated a motion made in January is not binding in August either and he would rather not do that. Mr. Emerson stated every Commissioner has stated their piece in what they intend to do and that it was very clear. Commissioner Blair stated he believes when they talk to Department Heads and Elected Officials next week they can emphasize the plan to cut back. Commissioner Wood asked if they have an idea of carry over yet and Ms. Lusker stated they will not know until the year is closed out.

### UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FUTURE BUSINESS:

**Item One: February 10, 2026- 8:30 AM** Work Session with department heads and elected officials.

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

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**Item Three: February 24, 2026- 9:00 AM** Work Session with Zoning Administrator May Smith and Mr. Toby Coon with KDHE regarding nuisance property.

**Item Four: March 6, 2026- 10:00 AM** Public Hearing to Vacate a road located in Martin Kane's 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition in the City of Arma, Kansas.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

#### **Item One:** Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [February 06, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:13 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**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 2/09/2026 3:00 PM](#)