

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2026, **THIRD** MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS. **Friday, January 9, 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 (26-012) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **January 06, 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	3	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the January 02, 2026 minutes
Motion 26	4	To approve the nomination of Commissioner Bruce Blair to serve as Chairman of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners for a one-year term commencing immediately
Motion 26	5	To approve the nomination of Commissioner Carl Wood to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners for a

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

		one-year term commencing immediately
Motion 26	6	To name Exchange State Bank of Girard, GNBank, Commerce Bank and Equity Bank as the official working banks for the business of the taxpayers of Crawford County for a period of one year commencing immediately
Motion 26	7	To name The Morning Sun as the official newspaper publication of Crawford County for a period of one year commencing immediately
Motion 26	8	To approve the December 2025 Clerk's Report as presented
Motion 26	9	To recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual job performance 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 Maintenance Director Robert Gorentz attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:31 AM. The Motion passed 3-0
Motion 26	10	To approve the contract between Capitol Strategies, LLC and Crawford County authorizing the Chairman to sign
Motion 26	11	To recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding early retirement contract which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, present. The open meeting will resume at 12:16 P.M. 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: Mr. Wally Wilson with Ryan Insurance addressed the Commissioners. He stated they held the rate increase to 8% overall as previously advised. Mr. Wilson also stated auto itself has increased 25%. He explained the loss ratio is 100.7% on auto. Commissioner Moody asked where they typically like to see auto at and Mr. Wilson stated 60-65% is typically breakeven. Commissioner Wood asked if this includes all of the auto for the county and Mr. Wilson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked how around 6 vehicles out of 150 could cause such an increase and Mr. Wilson explained there was more losses than just in law enforcement. Mr. Wilson stated he did not bring the loss list with him today. Mr. Emerson stated he just went through it not long ago. Mr. Wilson stated there has been over \$140,000 in losses. Commissioner Wood stated he does not understand because he knows about the law enforcement losses as well as the one for the appraiser's office but that he does not know how many other losses they had and Mr. Wilson stated it does not take much anymore to get to the total loss of \$140,000. He also explained it is probably closer to \$150,000 just on auto. Commissioner Wood asked if this includes any equipment and Mr. Wilson explained it is only for vehicles. Mr.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Wilson stated if they included worker's compensation the total loss for the county would be over 100%. Mr. Wilson stated one thing they are going to have to do this year is have all departments work with travelers on implementing a harassment policy and they need the cooperation. Commissioner Moody asked if he could explain what this entails and Mr. Wilson explained. Commissioner Blair asked how many people can do this in a day and Mr. Wilson explained employees can do it individually. Commissioner Wood asked if it was online and Mr. Wilson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if it was for harassment and Mr. Wilson confirmed. Commissioner Wood asked if we had any cases of harassment and Mr. Wilson stated they have not but that it is a requirement of travelers insurance. Commissioner Wood asked if there is a timeline that it needs done by and Mr. Wilson stated he would like to see it done by April or so. Mr. Wilson stated if they can get this done it will help with EMC and the county with KCAMP. Mr. Wilson discussed property and stated values were increased 1.85% for inflation and explained that is low and better than they have seen in the past year. He stated premium increased by 3.3% and he explained that it is a tiny rate increase, and also explained wind and hail deductibles remain high followed by explanation of this coverage. Commissioner Moody asked how did we get to this point with wind and hail deductible and Mr. Wilson explained Kansas is the eighth riskiest state. Mr. Emerson asked if EMC even looked at covering the county and Mr. Wilson explained. Commissioner Wood asked the deductible on radio towers and storm sirens and Mr. Wilson explained. Mr. Wilson discussed general liability and explained it has decreased. He stated there is a \$10,000 deductible on general liability. Commissioner Moody asked about coverage of general liability and Mr. Wilson explained. Mr. Wilson discussed abuse coverage and explained they want the volunteer firefighters to have complete background checks including federal background checks. Commissioner Moody asked if this is something new and Mr. Wilson explained. Commissioner Wood asked why certain departments are not required this and Mr. Wilson explained those departments are not in contact with the elderly population and children. Mr. Wilson stated his goal is to get away from travelers as quickly as he can and get to EMC. Mr. Wilson stated there has not been a claim from the Sheriff's Department since September. Commissioner Blair asked about protocols and Mr. Wilson explained. Mr. Wilson mentioned the only change in deductibles here is that Sheriff's deductibles are \$10,000. Mr. Wilson stated he can save them \$1300 by taking uninsured motorists down from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000 but does not recommend. Commissioner Wood asked about freightliner/dump truck and Mr. Wilson explained. Commissioner Wood asked about coverage on the Commissioners and Mr. Wilson explained. Commissioner Wood asked if he ever checked to see what it would cost to increase this and Mr. Wilson explained. Mr. Wilson mentioned he can get active shooter and violent claim coverage if the Commissioners want it but that he is not sure given the size of the council chamber that they need much more. Commissioner Moody confirmed if this is workplace violence and Mr. Wilson explained and stated this coverage is not very expensive. Commissioner Moody asked Mr. Wilson to check in to this and let them know. Mr. Wilson stated he just feels bad suggesting that they spend more money. Mr. Wilson stated law enforcement liability increased \$2600 for obvious reasons but that it is still within the 8% and that the deductible remained at \$15,000. Mr. Emerson stated he believed it was \$10,000 last year and Mr. Wilson confirmed it was \$15,000 last year. Mr. Wilson discussed umbrella insurance and gave some details regarding this. Mr. Wilson discussed KWORCC premium and that when they told travelers they were way too high they lowered due to losing the bid. Commissioner Moody stated it is too bad that it takes them losing on a bid

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

to be willing to lower. Commissioner Moody discussed the underinsured motorists and Mr. Wilson explained that is what they discussed earlier regarding saving \$1300. Mr. Wilson stated he values the county's business but that if they find something better like KWORCC he is going to agree to that as well. Commissioner Wood asked what the premium last year was and Mr. Wilson answered. Commissioner Blair asked about loss control and Mr. Wilson answered when they have answers they will come to inform the Commissioners. Mr. Blake Barto thanked the Commissioners for their business as well.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented a 2026 Cereal Malt Beverage License for Mary E Gebhardt "Gebhardt's Chicken Dinners" for consumption on the premises. She stated all officials were notified and there were no objections.

On motion (26-013) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to make it known that the matter of issuing a license to the applicant(s) listed below was discussed and considered by the Board, and there being no objection filed as provided by law and the Board knowing of no reason why a license should not be issued, the board hereby issues a license to "sell at retail", cereal malt beverages in broken case lots from the place of business as shown in the application as designated and described on the application as herein before set out, and that the County Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the proper license which shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Clerk of Crawford County, Kansas.

APPLICANT: Mary E Gebhardt "Gebhardt's Chicken Dinners"

PREMISES: 124 N 260th St, Mulberry, KS 66756

(For consumption on the premises)

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Two: Ms. Lusker presented the breakout for the Intellectual Disabilities Fund levy. She explained it is getting to be time to cut checks for this. Ms. Lusker stated she has all of service provides broken out by what was suggested in the work session of the group of entities. Commissioner Blair asked if historically everyone who has received funds from this was included and Ms. Lusker stated she believes SKIL was not included this year due to change in case management. Commissioner Blair asked if the entities were all part of or aware of this and Ms. Lusker confirmed. Mr. Emerson explained quite some time ago Class LTD received all of the funding, then they began going by the CDDO, and then they wanted for it to be fair for everyone and that he believes this is a good thing for all companies involved. Commissioner Blair asked if the amount available is the same as last year and Ms. Lusker confirmed.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

On motion (25-014) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to approve the disbursement of the Intellectual Disabilities Fund for 2026 as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Item Three: Mr. Emerson stated he wants to announce that Wednesday, January 28th is local government day put on by KAC and the League of Municipalities. He explained there is no fee for the event but that they encourage registration so they can plan for the amount of people attending. Mr. Emerson requested the Commissioners to let him know if they would like to attend.

Item Four: Mr. Emerson mentioned Commissioner Blair asked him to look in to the Regional Planning Commission. He stated Commissioner Blair is currently on the commission and that he visited with the director yesterday. Mr. Emerson stated they need to, if the board so chooses to, reappoint Commissioner Blair to serve on this board.

On motion (25-015) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to reappoint Commissioner Bruce Blair to the Regional Planning Commission as the county's representation.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Wood, and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

Mr. Emerson explained there is a larger group of 5 individuals and one can be chosen as an alternate for Commissioner Blair when he is not available for the meetings. He stated those individuals are allowed to attend the annual meeting and allowed to vote on whatever items are available. Mr. Emerson discussed the individuals previously on that list. Commissioner Blair stated he would recommend County Grant Writer Gus Brunetti and Mr. Emerson agreed as well as they will need to select three other people. Commissioner Blair suggested they should identify the people they would like to select before making a motion. Commissioner Moody stated he will find out if anyone from Frontenac is interested.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: IT Director Brandon Spaur requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (26-016) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual job performance regarding IT Department 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 IT

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Director Brandon Spaur attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume at 11:19 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 11:04 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:19 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Five: Commissioner Wood asked Mr. Emerson if he ever got in contact with Mr. Joshua Albin and had a conversation about where he is at with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Emerson stated he sent him an email earlier this week and has not heard back yet. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to discuss with him via telephone but that he would like to talk to him and ask him questions. Commissioner Wood stated there are a few things he has heard that he does not really care for. Mr. Emerson stated he will attempt to get him by zoom or phone call to talk to the Commissioners during a meeting.

Item Six: Commissioner Wood discussed tubes and that District 3 keeps good track of where they are and how they were used. He stated he wants to discuss inventory before they order any. Commissioner Moody asked if they will be bidding these out and Commissioner Wood stated he thinks that they should. Ms. Lusker clarified if they are discussing culverts and Commissioner Wood confirmed. Commissioner Blair and Commissioner Moody stated they have probably used a lot of them. Commissioner Wood stated he would just like to know inventory. Commissioner Blair stated he knows they are expensive but that he does not believe they have had to replace any of these types of culverts again. Commissioner Wood stated he is also going to ask what they are going to do about dust control. He stated they discussed going out for bid with the company they used last year and he wonders if they should just turn it over to the company and give them a list of the people that they sprayed for. Commissioner Moody asked if they will only provide a list of who the county has sprayed for and Mr. Emerson explained the company would handle the public sale part of it and the county would just provide who they have sprayed for. Commissioner Wood stated they could prepare the roads before the dust control but then allow the company to take over. Commissioner Blair asked if they are still going to bid it then and Commissioner Wood stated they can. Commissioner Moody stated he is fine with this but if they are going to prepare the roads and get them ready that needs to be considered in what they are charging individuals for the dust control. Commissioner Blair stated he knows Cherokee County was looking in to dust control as well. Commissioner Wood stated these are just two items he is going to look in to at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item One: Commissioner Blair stated he knows the property tax is a hot topic right now. He stated when it comes time he is going to run numbers more but that it is what he

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

anticipated. Commissioner Blair stated to provide the cuts that are being requested is heavily going to get into employees and/or employee benefits. He also discussed that cutting back on road and bridge supplies comes at a cost as well and that cost is road conditions. Commissioner Blair stated he is going to finalize some of these numbers before presenting them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Item Two: Commissioner Moody requested an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (26-017) of Commissioner Moody and second of Commissioner Blair to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 10 minutes to discuss alternative energy which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, present. The open meeting will resume at 11:39 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:29 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:39AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

On motion (26-018) of Commissioner Blair and second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and to go into a closed executive session for 15 minutes to discuss legal advice regarding property acquisition which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), with the County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson, present. The open meeting will resume at 11:55 A.M. The motion passed 3-0.

Yeas: Commissioners Wood, Blair, and Moody

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:40 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:47 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Four: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

On motion (26-019) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss individual employee compensation 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 12:18 PM. 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 11:48 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:17 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Five: Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (26-020) of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open meeting and go into a closed executive session for 30 minutes to discuss individual employee compensation 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 12:48 PM. 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 12:18 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:37 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Item Seven: Ms. Lusker stated Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan has requested a work session for Friday January 16th at 9:45 AM to discuss ARPA and a work session for Friday January 23rd at 9:45 AM to discuss ARPA. The Commissioners agreed to the work sessions.

UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

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

Item Two: January 13, 2026- 9:00 AM Work Session to discuss Explore Crawford County.

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Item Three: January 16, 2026- 9:45 AM Work Session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA.

Item Four: January 23, 2026- 9:45 AM Work Session with Director of Fiscal Services Randi Ryan to discuss ARPA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: January 28, 2026- Kansas Association of Counties Local Government Day. All three Commissioners may be in attendance.

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 [January 9, 2026](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:39 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.

Lisa Lusker
County Clerk

◇

This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Taken RJA 1/12/2026 12:05 PM/amended BKW 1/12/26 1:19 PM