Bourbon County Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2026, 5:30 PM

Citizens Attendance

Clint Walker, Rachel Walker, Teri Hulsey, Jason Silver, Mike Wunderly, Tim Emerson, Marlon Merida, Michael Hoyt, Mike Hueston, Nick Graham, Amber Page, Joan Page, Jason Gorman, Trey Sharp, Bill Martin, Pam Cowan, Phil Pavey, Pete Owenby, Matt Lawn, Justin Harvit KDWP, James Crux, Clayton Miller, Diane Ballou

Call to Order

The Bourbon County Commission Meeting was called to order on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 5:30 PM in Fort Scott, KS.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

The invocation was led by Commissioner Gregg Motley.

Introductions

Chairman Samuel Tran (District 1), Commissioner David Beerbower (District 2), Commissioner Joe Allen (District 3), Commissioner Gregg Motley (District 4), and Commissioner Mika Milburn-Kee (District 5), County Clerk Susan Walker & Deputy Clerk Michael Hoyt were present.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended with the following modifications: the Old Landfill item was moved to Special Appearances (VII.b); Executive Session (pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(1)) was added between items VII and VIII; item XII (Executive Session – Non-elected Personnel) was removed; and new business items were added for HR Contract (XIV.d) and Purchasing Policy (XIV.e).

> Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Chairman Tran and seconded by Commissioner Beerbower . The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes 08.03.26

> Motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2026 was made by Commissioner Beerbower and seconded by Commissioner Motley. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Approval of Accounts Payable $323,572.46

Motion to approve accounts payable in the amount of $323,572.46 was made by Chairman Tran and seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session – KSA 75-4319(b)(1)

Motion made by Commissioner Tran to convene into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personal matters of individual non-elected personnel. Participants included the five commissioners, Executive Assistant Laura Krom, and Dr. Cohen by phone – to discuss garnishments /child support; convening in the executive session room. Seconded by Commissioner Milburn-Kee. We will return to regular session at 5:53pm in this room. The motion carried unanimously

Motion to return to regular session without action was made by Chairman Tran stating no action taken and seconded by Commissioner Motley. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Appearances

a. Walk-In Hunting – Philip Pavey

Philip Pavey, cemetery President, appeared to raise concerns about the recently approved walk-in hunting program on county-owned property adjacent to Oak Grove Cemetery. Commissioner Milburn-Kee presented a letter from neighboring landowners Richard and Alyssa Cromemeyer, who expressed strong opposition citing ongoing trespassing issues, safety concerns, lack of fencing, and the property's adjacency to their home and land.

Justin Harvit of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks responded, explaining that the program is a one-year agreement and that the hunting activity is expected to be primarily archery-based and scatter shots, concentrated in the southern timbered section. He noted that legal hunting programs typically reduce illegal activity, that he had walked and posted the boundary, and that the incoming Bourbon County game warden would be briefed on the property. The Commission acknowledged the concerns and no action was taken to rescind the prior approval.

b. Old Landfill – Milburn

Commissioner Milburn-Kee raised the county's outstanding obligations related to the closed landfill, specifically the need for groundwater testing (due to be completed in 2020) and the filing of deed restrictions/restrictive covenants as required by KDHE. It was noted these responsibilities should be coordinated through the Public Works department.

Motion to authorize Commissioner Milburn-Kee to draft a proposal directing Public Works to coordinate groundwater testing with KDHE oversight and to update the deed covenants for the closed landfill property was made by Commissioner Beerbower and seconded by Commissioner Milburn-Kee. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comment cards were submitted.

Department Updates

a. County Clerk

County Clerk Susan Walker delivered a detailed report on the recent primary election, noting that all poll workers completed two hours of training and that new incident report procedures were implemented. Four incident reports were filed; three involved either incorrect ballot issuance or poll pad discrepancies. She highlighted that the county's outdated equipment contributed to these issues and allowed human errors and requested updated poll pads for future elections. Accuracy was reported at 99.999%.

APP Full statement

Ms. Walker then raised concerns regarding recurring payroll reconciliation issues over the past eight months, including KPERS variances and unresolved benefit billing discrepancies. She recommended that Baker Tilly handle all general ledger payroll entries going forward.

Ms. Walker then announced her resignation effective August 31, 2026, citing the deteriorating work environment and her decision to accept another position. She addressed Commissioner Tran directly, stating that his conduct toward her had been disrespectful and unprofessional. She noted that her office is in balance with the Treasurer and that Deputy Clerk Michael Hoyt would assume responsibilities for the remainder of the meeting and pending the Republican Party's election of a new clerk at a convention TBD.

b. EMS Director Update – Hulsey

EMS Director Teri Hulsey presented a comparative rate analysis of Bourbon County EMS billing rates against Allen, Anderson, Crawford, and Neosho counties. The commission noted that Anderson and Neosho operate as hospital-based services, accounting for their higher rates.

Chairman Tran requested additional data from Director Hulsey prior to the next meeting, including the Medicare vs. private insurance billing breakdown, monthly collection amounts, the percentage collected by billing company Omni, and man-hours associated with transfers.

c. KCJIS Compliance – Sheriff

Sheriff William Martin reported that 12 sheriff's department computers must be updated to Windows 11 to comply with Kansas CJIS requirements, with a compliance deadline approaching in early 2027. Two bids were obtained: Stronghold at $14,465.52 and Advantage Computer of Iola at $14,544. The Sheriff requested authorization to use jail inmate revenue funds to make the purchase.

> Motion to authorize the Sheriff to use jail inmate revenue funds to purchase the necessary computers was made by Milburn-Kee and seconded by Allen. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Sheriff – KHP Truck Route

The KHP trooper scheduled to present was unable to attend. This item was deferred to the next regular meeting.

Budget Discussion – Matt Lawn

Budget Consultant Matt Lawn reported that the budget process is approximately 96–97% complete. He presented a proposed schedule for finalizing the budget prior to the mandatory public hearing publication deadline of September 4, 2026, with the hearing scheduled for September 14. The following schedule was established: a regular meeting on August 17 with full budget presentation; a work session on August 19 (or 20 if necessary); a regular meeting on August 24 targeting final agreement; and a fallback on August 31 if needed.

Discussion also addressed a proposed additional EMS paramedic position. Lawn estimated an additional benefit cost of approximately $9,600 for the remainder of FY2026 and $33,500 annually. A decision on the position was deferred pending a full breakdown of the employee benefits fund. Chairman Tran expressed concern about EMS year-end deficits and requested detailed billing and overtime data from Director Hulsey before the next meeting.

Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel – Motley

Removed from the agenda during approval.

Old Business

a. Old Landfill – Milburn

Addressed under Special Appearances (VIII.b).

b. Report on S&P Conference Call Including Ben Hart – Motley

Commissioner Motley reported on a conference call held with S&P Global Ratings. He noted that the last formal rating review was in 2019, when reserves represented approximately 63% of expenses. The current review was triggered by low DARF reserves and a less-than-clean audit. Commissioner Motley and financial advisor Ben Hart addressed S&P's concerns, clarifying that the audit issue was procedural rather than financial. S&P indicated a preference for counties to maintain hard-dollar reserve targets and a long-term capital replacement plan. A rating decision is expected within approximately one and a half weeks. Commissioner Motley expressed concern that a downgrade is possible.

Chairman Tran noted the county lacks life cycle plans, preventive maintenance plans, and purchasing plans for equipment across departments, and emphasized the need to address these deficiencies.

c. Letter of Resignation

The Commission acknowledged the resignation of the County Appraiser. Commissioner Milburn-Kee was requested to contact Linn County and Allen County to explore interim or shared appraiser arrangements.

d. Policy/Procedures Set Work Session – Beerbower

Commissioner Beerbower distributed a draft resolution establishing a framework for adopting and updating county policies and procedures. Discussion was tabled until September following completion of the budget process.

e. Landfill Backhoe – Tran

Chairman Tran raised concerns about the previously approved purchase of a new Caterpillar backhoe for the Transfer Station at approximately $179,000, questioning whether a certified pre-owned unit could satisfy operational needs at a substantially lower cost. Transfer Station Supervisor Diana Ballou confirmed she needs reliable equipment but indicated she simply needs something functional.

Commissioner Beerbower moved to authorize the chairman to sign the contract for the new backhoe, citing the professional recommendations of staff and the operational advantages of a single versatile machine. The motion died for lack of a second.

> Motion to recall the prior approval of the new Caterpillar backhoe purchase was made by Chairman Tran and seconded Milburn-Kee. The motion carried 4–1, with Commissioner Beerbower opposed.

The Commission requested Public Works Director Kenny Allen to independently seek and present alternative backhoe options, with Chairman Tran indicating that a certified pre-owned Caterpillar in the $120,000 range would be an appropriate target.

New Business

a. Court Space – Beerbower

Commissioner Beerbower presented a formal statement outlining concern that the upcoming elevator replacement project—expected to take 30 or more days beginning in October—will render the courthouse inaccessible for disabled individuals and create security challenges for prisoner transport. He noted that two potential relocation sites were toured by commissioners and court representatives the prior week.

> Motion to schedule a work session this week with court personnel and relevant stakeholders to discuss requirements, logistics, costs, and operational needs for temporarily relocating court operations during the elevator replacement was made by Commissioner Beerbower and seconded by Commissioner Motley. The motion carried unanimously.

The work session was scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

b. Building Maintenance Supervision Discussion

Commissioner Beerbower motioned to establishing a full-time Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor position reporting directly to the Board of County Commissioners, to replace the current arrangement in which maintenance oversight falls under the executive assistant. The proposal included internal posting, a 90-day introductory period at entry-level pay, and a subsequent pay adjustment to a supervisory rate upon satisfactory performance. Motion seconded by Motley.

After extensive discussion regarding pay, reporting structure, the existing part-time employee, and the circumstances under which the current supervisory arrangement was established, Commissioner Beerbower withdrew the motion. The item may be resubmitted in a revised form.

c. Commission & Board Assignment – J. Allen

Commissioner Allen raised the question of which commissioners are attending their assigned boards and what information is being reported back to the full commission. Commissioners and citizens assigned confirmed their respective assignments and attendance. No formal action was taken.

d. HR Contract

Chairman Tran summarized a contract amendment with Dr. Cohen for HR consulting services, extending the agreement for 12 months (August 11, 2026 – August 10, 2027) at $4,343 per month ($51,600 annually), covering ongoing HR leadership, policy manual updates, performance appraisal administration, and whistleblower hotline operations.

> Motion to authorize the chairman to sign the HR consulting contract with Dr. Cohen was made by Chairman Tran and seconded by Milburn-Kee. The motion failed, with all voting not, and the item was deferred to the next regular meeting.

e. Purchasing Policy

Commissioner Allen distributed information regarding a resolution requirement for lease purchases exceeding $100,000 and that span more than one fiscal year, as confirmed by the county's financial advisor. The item was provided for informational review and will be brought back at a future meeting as necessary.

XV. Future Agenda Topics

Items deferred to the next regular meeting (August 17, 2026) include: the KHP Truck Route presentation (Sheriff), the HR contract, EMS overtime analysis, old landfill water testing and deed covenant proposal, and the full budget presentation by Matt Lawn. A work session with court personnel is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12 at 5:30 PM. A budget work session is tentatively scheduled for August 19.

XVI. Commission Comments

Commissioner Allen thanked attendees for staying. Commissioner Milburn-Kee apologized to Chairman Tran for speaking out of turn.

> Motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Tran and seconded by Allen at 9:35pm. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

________________________________, COMMISSIONER

________________________________, COMMISSIONER

________________________________, COMMISSIONER

________________________________, COMMISSIONER

________________________________, COMMISSIONER

____

Susan E. Walker, County Clerk   Date Approved

Opening – Acknowledging the Journey

For 24 years, I have had the honor — and the burden — of serving this community. It has been a journey of victories and valleys, of moments that tested my resolve and moments that renewed my hope.

Today, I stand before you with a heavy heart but a clear conscience, to announce that I will be stepping down from my position as County Clerk, effective 08/31/26. This decision has not been made lightly. It comes after deep reflection, prayer, and an unwavering commitment to act in the best interest of the county I have been honored to serve.

Grounding in Faith and Service

From the very beginning, my compass has been my faith. **1 Peter 4:10** states "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace" I have tried to live up to God's guidance— imperfectly at times — and I have had the solemn responsibility of serving this community. The path has been marked by both achievement and adversity, by moments of unity and moments of division.

Public service, for me, has never been about titles or power. It has been about stewardship — caring for what God has entrusted me to do - helping the people he has placed in my path.

Addressing the Controversy with Grace

I know this past year has been difficult. There has been disagreement, disappointment, and even anger. I will not ignore that reality.

But I also believe that God's plans are bigger for me. Leadership requires the discernment to know when one's continued presence advances the mission — and when stepping aside will better serve the people. I believe this is such a moment.

Reflecting on 24 Years of Service

Over these two and a half decades, I have been blessed to work alongside dedicated employees, citizens, visionary leaders, and many volunteers. Together – and I emphasize that word - , we have:

- Led a **visioning process** that transformed our dreams into the **Riverfront Park** — a place where families gather, memories are made, and our community comes alive.
- As a community we set **world records** that put our town on the map and reminded us of the joy of coming together.

- Recognized the need for a **new aquatic center**, giving our children and families a safe, modern place to swim, play, and grow.
- Understood the importance of passing a **school bond referendum for USD 234**, investing in the future of our students and teachers.
- Invested and secured a **new facility for City Hall**, ensuring our local government can serve the public more effectively for years to come.

In 2021, I was hired to address the **financial deficiencies** that had plagued Bourbon County for years — deficiencies that had led to repeated failed audits. This also led to many uncomfortable conversations, poor financial controls and political figures refusing to cooperate due to pride. However, through diligence **those deficiencies have been corrected**. Our audits had been clean since 2022. However, in 2025 a violation occurred when the commission failed to pass an amended budget.

A Candid Word About the Future

As a citizen, I must speak candid: the future of Bourbon County rests in the hands of the current commission. If better fiscal decisions are not made — if discipline and foresight are not applied — this county will face serious trouble in the near future. This is a statement I have stated for the past 2-3 years. Many decisions have been made from vindictiveness, and the citizens will be the ones to ultimately pay for those decisions.

Chairman, I'm addressing you directly because your behavior toward me has crossed every reasonable line. You ignore me, you speak to me with open disrespect, and you make sexist comments that demean my position and my work. On top of that, you make underhanded public statements designed to make people think I'm doing something criminal when I am not. I have left my office in order, in balance with the Treasurer and it is unfortunate I must state this because of the attempts for past and current elected officials who tried to "set me up" for a crime. One I did not commit – instead it reflects incompetent leadership and a misunderstanding of how processes work.

This is unacceptable. It's harmful. And it violates the basic standards of professionalism and integrity that your position requires. I've served this community for 2 decades, and I will not sit quietly while you attempt to undermine my reputation and my work...so, I will be taking a deep dive tonight to talk about my feelings and reveal the truth.

Accountability goes both ways and I am not ashamed for standing up for the employees, uncovering questionable transactions, exposing incompetent elected officials, and addressing plain hate.

Misinformed citizens and two of you on this commission wanted to break me and ruin my reputation – My response is - thank you for freeing me.

These past few years the political climate has taken a toll not only on me but also my staff. They will also be transferring out of the clerk's office to another elected officials office at the end of this week.

My decision to step down was decided a month ago when I took another job and that is to mark a definitive boundary to protect my personal well-being and prioritize God and my family over public office.

My staff and I stayed to see the election through, and I thank them for continuing to stick it out despite all the public scrutiny. When the public attacks me for errors or mistakes they are also attacking the workers at the election and my staff.

Blaming elected officials from behind a keyboard is easy. Doing nothing for the community and then complaining about its problems doesn't help anyone. If someone isn't willing to show up, volunteer, or contribute in any way, then they're choosing to be part of the problem, not the solution.

And to those keyboard warriors—I challenge you to volunteer at the next general election in November. Step up and be part of the work, not just the noise.

No public office is worth the destruction of one's peace and well-being.

Closing – A Prayer for the Leadership and the Future

My prayer for the employees of Bourbon County is that leadership will recognize the dedicated, hardworking people they have — and show them the gratitude, respect, and support they so richly deserve.

I pray for the people who quietly step up and serve this community, even when it's tough. Many stay silent because they've seen the abuse and criticism that one can face. But your strength matters. Your courage matters. And your work is what keeps this community moving forward.

I pray you don't lose heart. I pray you keep showing up. Because it's the ones who continue to serve—despite the noise—who make this community better.

I want to thank the employees and citizens who have supported my family, me, and my staff through this rough journey – I will miss you and the career I deeply treasured.

Deputy Clerk, Michael Hoyt, will finish the meeting tonight and will fill the office until the republican party appoints a new County Clerk.

Bourbon County Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Aug 17, 2026, 5:30 PM

Citizens Attendance: Anne Dare, Bonnie Smith, Beverly Simpson, Clayton Watson, Clint Walker, Rachel Walker, Jean Tucker, Don Tucker, Jason Silvers, Josh Jones, Marlon Merida, Phil Pavey, Nick Graham, Teri Hulsey.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Samuel Tran, District 1 Commissioner.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Prayer

The invocation was led by Commissioner Gregg Motley.

IV. Introductions

Chair Tran introduced the members of the commission. Present were:

Present: Chair Samuel Tran (District 1), Commissioner David Beerbower (District 2), Commissioner Joe Allen (District 3), Commissioner Gregg Motley (District 4), Commissioner Mika Milburn (District 5), and County Counselor Bob Johnson, Deputy County Clerk Michael Hoyt.

V. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add a Public Works Director update (Item XI.d) and a Deputy Clerk update (Item XI.e) under Department Updates.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Chair Tran and seconded by Motley . The motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

VI. Approval of Minutes 08.10.26

Commissioner Tran requested that the full text of a resignation statement be included in the minutes rather than an excerpt, noting that minutes are frequently referenced by the public. The approval of minutes was tabled pending a final corrected version.

Motion to table approval of the August 10 minutes was made by Chair Tran and seconded by Commissioner Milburn. The motion carried 4-1. Beerbower voting no.

VII. Approval of Accounts Payable 08.14.26 $129,800.18

Commissioner Milburn raised a question regarding an invoice from MSB Law for $3,485.21 described as a "review, analysis of contracts, and opinion letter," noting that no opinion letter had been produced. County Counselor Johnson explained that the review was stopped before completion and no formal opinion could be issued. Commissioner Motley indicated he would not vote against approval but noted his concerns.

Motion to approve Accounts Payable for August 14, 2026, in the amount of $129,800.18 was made by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Chair Tran. The motion carried 4-1, Milburn voting no.

VIII. July Financials

The July financials were presented with no substantive discussion.

Motion to approve the July Financials was made by Commissioner Motley and seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Public Comments

Two public comment cards were submitted.

Michael Hoyt reported on a Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging board meeting, noting that the region received $1.7 million in funding to clear a wait list of over 300 individuals seeking meal delivery services. SEK-AAA region received the highest allocation in Kansas across the nine-county service area.

Mr. Jones, a constituent of District 3, addressed the commission to express concern about the conduct of recent meetings and called upon Chair Tran to step down from the chairmanship. He also asked Commissioner Allen to consider making a motion to replace the chair if Chair Tran declined to do so voluntarily.

X. Budget Discussion – Matt Lawn

Budget Consultant Matt Lawn presented preliminary fund balance projections for the 2027 budget cycle across all operating funds, including the General Fund, Sheriff's Fund, Appraiser's Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Election Fund, Landfill, Noxious Weed, Road and Bridge, Road and Bridge Sales Tax, and Ambulance Fund.

Key discussion points included:

- All funds currently show projected deficits under a flat mill levy scenario, which is typical at this stage of the budget process. Lawn indicated these deficits are expected to narrow as decisions are finalized.
- The Employee Benefit Fund is the most significant area of concern, with a projected increase of approximately $244,000 driven by an estimated 18–20% health insurance premium increase from Blue Cross. Lawn requested a copy of the current Blue Cross billing to refine his projections.
- The current county contribution structure is a defined contribution of $1,700/month per employee for employee-plus plans and $925/month for employee-only coverage.
- Commissioner Beerbower raised the possibility of holding mill levy revenues at revenue neutral (R&R) and directing any incremental mill valuation increase toward the Employee Benefit Fund to help absorb the insurance cost increase. Lawn agreed to model this, and other mill levy scenarios for presentation at the next meeting.
- Lawn noted that the Landfill, as a fee-funded operation, does not currently carry its own employee benefit costs—those are subsidized by the mill levy—and suggested this should be analyzed for a potential fee adjustment.
- The Ambulance Fund was described as performing better than projected. Year-to-date collections are tracking ahead of the prior year, and Lawn expressed confidence in the $900,000 revenue estimate for 2026, with a similar figure anticipated for 2027.
- The commission agreed to cancel the tentative Wednesday budget work session and consolidate all budget discussion into the next Monday regular meeting, with the full board present.

XI. Department Updates

a. EMS Update – Hulsey

EMS Director Teri Hulsey reported that year-to-date receipts are $59,865.22 ahead of the same period last year, attributing to the restoration of hospital transfer services made possible by the return of a local emergency room.

Director Hulsey presented three scheduling scenarios developed in response to the commission's prior request, including 24/48, 48/96, and a hybrid model retaining part-time staff. She noted that a 24/48 or 48/96 fixed schedule would eliminate the role of part-time personnel except for vacation and sick coverage. The current hybrid model, while generating overtime, retains scheduling flexibility. She requested authorization to hire a sixth full-time paramedic with over 30 years of experience, noting that doing so would reduce overtime costs under any scheduling model.

Motion to authorize the hire of an additional full-time paramedic was made by Commissioner Motley and seconded by Allen. The motion carried 4-1 Tran voting no.

b. TUSA – Sheriff

Sheriff Martin introduced Dean Hart of TUSA Consulting, who presented findings from a comprehensive needs assessment of Bourbon County's public safety radio infrastructure. Key findings included:

- The current DMR (Motorola Turbo) system lacks preventative maintenance, adequate site grounding, generator backup, and remote monitoring capability. One site was found to be completely off-air during the site visit, unbeknownst to anyone.
- Coverage in the western portion of the county is significantly deficient for portable radio use.
- Four conceptual solutions were presented, ranging from a 3-site conventional system to a full P25 trunked system sharing the state core. The recommended solution (Solution 3) is a county-owned, 5-site P25 simulcast trunked system with dedicated microwave connectivity in a ring configuration.
- Estimated infrastructure cost for the recommended solution is approximately $14.5 million, with an additional $2.5 million for subscriber radios (portables and mobiles) and approximately $6.3 million in maintenance over a 20-year period. Tower and shelter infrastructure is expected to have a 50-year lifespan; technology, 15–20 years.
- Payment would be structured across a 2–3 year build-out with milestone-based contract payments.
- Sheriff Martin emphasized that the city of Fort Scott would be expected to share costs, particularly on the subscriber and maintenance side. TUSA would prepare the RFP and provide project management services in a subsequent phase.

No action was taken. The commission requested additional cost modeling, including a phased payment schedule and a proposal for TUSA's project management fees.

c. KHP Truck Route – Sheriff

Sheriff Martin introduced Trooper Boyles of the Kansas Highway Patrol to address complaints from residents on Birch Street regarding heavy truck traffic using county roads to bypass construction-related closures on K-7 Highway. Trooper Boyles noted that if KDOT signage is properly posted, vehicles failing to follow detour instructions are in violation of state law, and KHP can conduct special enforcement in coordination with the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Allen noted that the affected intersection has since been closed as construction progressed toward Farlington, reducing the volume of diverted traffic. The commission discussed the possibility of posting "No Through Trucks" signage and reducing speed limits on the affected road, but agreed that additional traffic count data should be gathered first before taking formal action.

No action was taken.

d. Public Works Director Update

Public Works Director Kenny Allen presented five quotes for a backhoe from Foley Equipment (CAT dealer). Options ranged from used units with varying hours to a new machine. Key considerations discussed included:

- A new machine qualifies for a Sourcewell governmental pre-bid discount of approximately $45,000, bringing the effective price to approximately $173,000–$179,000 with a comprehensive 60-month/5,000-hour bumper-to-bumper warranty including travel coverage.
- Used units, while lower in listed price, do not qualify for the Sourcewell discount, may not be eligible for extended warranty, and would incur additional travel charges for service calls.
- Director Allen expressed a preference for the new unit due to long-term warranty and maintenance benefits.
- The commission agreed to review the quotes and take action at the next meeting.

e. Deputy Clerk Update

Deputy Clerk Michael Hoyt briefed the commission on several urgent operational needs arising from staff turnover in the Clerk's office:

- A general election ballot must be certified by the Secretary of State by September 14. Clear Ballot, the county's established vendor, has been contacted and can accommodate the county's schedule at a cost of approximately $8,400. The commission directed Hoyt to confirm with Budget Consultant Lawn whether this expense is covered in the current election budget.
- An Accounts Payable clerk's position is currently vacant and needs to be filled promptly.

- Training and state certification on the ELVIS voter registration system and CIC financial system, among other immediate items need to be addressed.
- Chair Tran noted that the county is in an uncertain position regarding the Clerk's office leadership and asked Hoyt to contact the Secretary of State's office regarding any available relief from upcoming election deadlines given the extenuating circumstances.

XII. Old Business

a. Allocation of Space

Tabled.

b. Policy & Procedure Discussion – Beerbower

Tabled to September.

c. HR Contract Discussion

The commission discussed the status of the lapsed HR consulting contract, which has been continuing on a month-to-month basis. The current contractor has begun two active projects at the commission's direction: a salary study and a compilation of position descriptions. Commissioners Allen and Beerbower indicated they had been contacted by a local individual interested in offering HR services and requested an opportunity for that person to make a presentation. The commission agreed to place the item on the first meeting agenda following Labor Day, allowing both the prospective local provider and the existing contractor to be considered. The current HR contractor will continue working and billing during this interim period.

d. Speed Limit Discussion – Sheriff

Addressed under Item XI.c. No separate action taken.

XIII. New Business

a. Vice Chairman Resignation

Commissioner Beerbower formally resigned his position as Vice Chairman of the Bourbon County Commission. In his statement, he cited a belief that leadership positions should rotate to strengthen institutions and encourage broader participation. He called upon Chair Tran to voluntarily step down from the chairmanship and allow the commission to elect new leadership, framing the request as an affirmation of the principle of leadership renewal rather than a criticism of service. Full statement by Beerbower is attached.

Chair Tran acknowledged the statement, agreed with its underlying principles, and declined to step down, stating he had made a commitment to serve and had approximately four months remaining in his term. He characterized the current period as a "growing pain" and expressed a commitment to finish his term to individuals inside and outside the County.

Commissioner Motley moved to vacate the chairmanship and hold an election for both chair and vice chair, with the Deputy Clerk presiding over the election and seconded by Allen. The motion carried 3-2. Tran and Milburn voting no.

Election of Chair: Commissioner Allen nominated Commissioner Gregg Motley for Chair.

Motion to elect Commissioner Gregg Motley as Chair was made by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Beerbower. The motion carried 3-2. Tran and Milburn voted no.

Election of Vice Chair: Commissioner Motley nominated Commissioner Joe Allen for Vice Chair.

Motion to elect Commissioner Joe Allen as Vice Chair was made by Commissioner Motley and seconded by Commissioner Beerbower. The motion carried 3-2. Tran and Milburn voted no.

Commissioner Tran congratulated the newly elected officers and expressed no hard feelings toward any member of the commission.

b. Election Results – Resolution

Following the election of new leadership, the commission adopted Resolution 27-26 certifying the results of the primary election canvass conducted earlier in the day.

Motion to approve Resolution 27-26 was made by Commissioner Chairman Motley and seconded by Commissioner Vice-Chairman Allen. The motion carried. Commissioner Beerbower abstained, citing a desire to review the document. The Resolution passed with 4 Yes and 1 abstention.

c. SEKRPC Update – Motley

Tabled.

d. Appraiser Candidates – Beerbower

Tabled to the next available meeting.

XIV. Future Agenda Topics

The remainder of the agenda was tabled to the next available meeting.

XV. Commission Comments – no comments

XVI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Motley and seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.

ATTEST:

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

______________________________, CHAIRMAN MOTLEY

______________________________, VICE CHAIRMAN ALLEN

______________________________, COMMISSIONER BEERBOWER

______________________________, COMMISSIONER MILBURN-KEE

______________________________, COMMISSIONER TRAN

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Michael Hoyt, Deputy County Clerk

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Date Approved