

LYON COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
April 10, 2025

The Board of Lyon County Commissioners met in Action Session at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers with the following people in attendance:

Ken Duft, Chairman
Doug Peck, Commissioner
Dan Williams, County Controller
Vici Smith, Public Relations Manager

Chris Bartel, Vice Chairman
Molly Priest, County Counselor
Amie Jones, County Clerk

Others attending the meeting:

Bradley St.Bonnett, resident
Jarom Smith, resident
Amanda Davis, Gazette
Jeff Cope, Lyon County Sheriff
Roxy Van Gundy, LCECC

Amy Welch, Noxious Weed Director
Sam Seeley, Planning & Zoning
Tagan Trahoon, KVOE
John Koelsch, Lyon County Undersheriff
David Lamb, KCAMP

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Motion: To Approve the Agenda as written. Duft/Bartel 3-0

Motion: To Approve the Minutes of the 4-3-2025 meeting as written. Duft/Bartel 3-0

Motion: To Approve Warrants Payable for 4-11-2025 in the amount of \$454,050.99.
Bartel/Duft 3-0

Motion: To Approve Payroll Payable for 4-11-2025 in the amount of \$380,402.76.
Duft/Bartel 3-0

Motion: To Approve Payroll Withholdings Payable for 4-11-2025 in the amount of \$280,894.67.
Duft/Bartel 3-0

Appointments: No appointments.

Personnel & Payroll changes: Commissioners reviewed the personnel and payroll changes for this week.

Permits: We had one moving permit for Bin There Trucking to move steel beams from Lamont, KS to Scott City, KS.

Amy Welch, Noxious Weed, presented Commissioners with approving the 2025 weed spray chemical bid from Van Diest Supply Company for a total of \$270,393.20 to be paid from Noxious Weed chemical account 026-00-8330. Ms. Welch explained to Commissioners this was the low bid, and will be for the entire year. Commissioners discussed splitting up the purchase and to purchase 2,4-D from MFA to save money.

Motion: To Approve 5940 gallons of 2,4-D from MFA in the amount of \$80,190.00 to be paid from account 026-00-8330 Noxious Weed account. Bartel/Duft 3-0

Note: This chemical buy is for the entire year.

Motion: To Approve the weed spray of the other 5 chemicals from Van Diest Supply Company for use and sale for a total of \$178,382.60 to be paid from account 026-00-8330.

Note: This chemical buy is for the entire year. Peck/Bartel 3-0

Sam Seeley, Planning & Zoning, presented Commissioners with approving out-of-state travel for himself to attend the (ASFPM) Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from May 19-22, 2025. Mr. Seeley explained that this conference was taken into consideration when planning his budget last year.

Motion: To Approve out-of-state travel for Samuel Seeley to attend the (ASFPM) Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from May 19-22, 2025.

Note: This is a budgeted item.

Duft/Bartel 3-0

Molly Priest, Lyon County Counselor, presented Commissioners with an access easement request for Randall Ikerd on property off of Road P in the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 19 South, Range 12 East.

Motion: To Approve access easement for Randall Ikerd Trust on property off of Road P in the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 19 South, Range 12 East to grant easement to the well. Duft/Bartel 3-0

Reports:

Commissioner Duft:

- Reminded others about the gravel ride taking place in Americus Saturday
- Will attend FHTC tour after meeting
- There will be a biscuit and gravy feed at the Masonic Lodge in Americus on Saturday

Commissioner Bartel:

- Lots of Discussion with residents
- Will attend FHTC tour after meeting

Commissioner Peck:

- Attended NLC Fish Fry on Saturday
- Attended the RDA meeting this morning
- Will attend FHTC tour after meeting

Clerk Jones:

- Tiffany Pike has completed year 1 of the Sanborn program. After completion of year 3, she will have her Academy certification.
- Thanked Commissioners for their support allowing offices to attend trainings and workshops.

Counselor Priest:

- Attended meeting RDA this morning, and gave information about it

Controller Williams:

- No report

Public Comment:

Bradley St. Bonnett spoke to Commissioners about people using the area by the Rocky Ford bridge as an animal dump site. He also spoke to Commissioners about the RDA by-laws changes. Jarom Smith, resident, spoke to Commissioners about the denial for Danielle Cottman event center and hope they reconsider if it comes back up. He also spoke to urge to deny the purchase of the property of Kretsinger and asked why the County needs a new place when they already have one. He also asked questions on how and why we sell chemical to farmers. He also thanked Commissioners on being able to speak back during public comment.

Break until 10:15 am

Dan Williams, Lyon County Controller, Jeff Cope, Lyon County Sheriff, John Koelsch, Lyon County Undersheriff all assisted in presenting to Commissioners approving the purchase of Kretsinger property on West South Ave for a total cost of \$206,070.00 to be paid from account 044-00-9001. Controller Williams explained some of the uses for the property, such as a shooting range for law enforcement, and how this is an opportunity to move 911 dispatch onto that property as well. He stated that the County has been looking for ways to move 911 out of the auditorium for about 10 plus years now. He stated that the current location of 911 does not provide enough room for them as a department or to be able to provide any on-the-job training either. Controller Williams stated that a Federal grant from Senator Moran's office was applied for and received to help pay for a targeting system for law enforcement training purposes. He stated the ground option south of Road and Bridge was an option for location before being estimated that around \$1 million dollars would be in dirt work alone to get started. Controller Williams informed Commissioners that with the grant money provided that the range needed to be in use by May of 2026 or the grant defaults and the money would need to be paid back to the Federal Government. Controller Williams spoke to being able to house two emergency vehicles that are

currently being housed in the bus barn. Sheriff Cope explained how buses have to be moved to get the emergency vehicles from the bus barn, then they have to go to another location to stock them with the correct supplies, all of which takes valuable time. This option would allow the Sheriff's office to house these vehicles, ready to use, along with 24/7 security on them, with dispatch being in the same location. Sheriff Cope informed Commissioners that 2 sides already have high security fences in place. He also advised they would have the ability to have trainings all in one place and had received letters of support from surrounding counties to encourage and support this. He spoke to the fact that dispatch needs more room, and the Police Chief wants his space back. Sheriff Cope informed Commissioners that a check from an anonymous donor has already been received to go towards this project and possibly more to come. He also informed Commissioner that he has been in contact with Emporia Police Department and Emporia State Law Enforcement and both are willing to support this and possibly contribute to help in making the range. Sheriff Cope also stated that both Law Enforcement entities would be able to use it, being a joint effort on all parts. Sheriff Cope stated to Commissioners that when the Sheriff's office has asked to use the range on the Kansas Turnpike, they have been denied use of it. Sheriff Cope stated that the engineering firm has not requested payment yet and has been easy to work with to come up with a design to incorporate both the range and for 911.

Roxy Van Gundy, LCECC, spoke regarding the fact that 911 is out of room, the lack of space for training, and the long hours in the confined space is hard on the employees, especially during stressful circumstances.

Commissioners were reminded that the current location of dispatch was only supposed to be temporary, and that move took place 11 years ago. The current location was never designed to house dispatch and is not up to current day standards for this purpose. Commissioners discussed many major factors with this purchase.

Commissioner Bartel stated 8 points with the purchase of the land. First, the fund paying for the land is from Covid funds, not property tax. Second, that no property tax money will be used to pay for any part of the project. That there will be NO property tax affect! Third, that they found the ground first, which met several criteria then looked to see who the landowner was. Finding ground has not been easy and several Commissioner and land agents have been looking for a while. Fourth, that we will have to pay back the grant if the shooting range target system is not in place by May of 2026, causing this to become something we need to decide on now. Fifth, this is a much-needed step for the 911 center as a step in the right direction for them. Sixth, that this step will benefit so many departments and entities, including 911, the Sheriff's Office, Emporia Police Department, and Emporia State University Police Department. That EPD and ESU police have both stated they would like to collaborate with the County for possible financial support along with use of the range. Seventh, sales tax revenue for the county from outside organizations coming into Lyon County for trainings will only increase. Eighth, "The value of the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" on this project. Collaboration with the City, ESU and 911 all working together can only be better for all of us.

Commissioners stressed again that the money used for this project will be from grants, contributions, and Covid Funds. No ad valorem (property tax) dollars will be used for the entire project! Commissioners, Sheriff Cope and Controller Williams all discussed what and how it would work if the range had public access. They all discussed the FBI/NRA restrictions and insurance liability that would have to be a part of range if the public was allowed.

Motion: To Approve the purchase of Kretsinger property on West South Ave for a total cost of \$206,070.00 to be paid from account 044-00-9001. Peck/Bartel 3-0

Note: Payment comes from Covid Funds and no ad valorem (property) tax to be used for entire project. The realtor that brought the land to the County, stated its value is 1.5 times more than what we paid for it. The check will be made out to Lyon County Title.

Controller Williams and Counselor Priest also discuss the current lease on Kretsinger property with Commissioners. The current lease holder has crops in as of now. Commissioners discussed that a formal letter will need to be written to the leaseholder stating when current crop is harvested the lease is over. Counselor Priest will work on putting together the letter for Commissioner's approval. A certified letter will be sent once a closing date is set. Commissioners spoke on the lease with the ground south of Road and Bridge. Pending the new land, and dirt situation works out, a possibility of returning the lease to the previous leaseholders.

David Lamb, KCAMP, presented Commissioners with an overview of KCAMP services. Mr. Lamb went over the Risk Management programs KCAMP offers and the number of times the county used the services.

Motion: To Adjourn. Duft/Bartel 3-0

There being no further business before the Board, the next Action Session will take place on April 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Attest:

Affirm:

Amie Jones
Lyon County Master Clerk

Ken Duft, Chairman
Lyon County Commission