

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and County Clerk present. Commission Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance Commissioner McGaughey provided prayer. Ulysses News reporter Josephine Jellison was in attendance.

Commissioner McGaughey nominated John Martin to be chairman of the commission for 2026. Commissioner Figgins seconded the nomination, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to set commissioner meeting dates and times in 2026 to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, starting at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to designate Grant County Bank, Dream First Bank, and Bank of Ulysses as the official depositories. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to designate the Ulysses News as the official newspaper. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to give the County Treasurer authority to invest County funds in the best interest of Grant County. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to appoint the Clerk as Chief Purchasing Agent, Federal & State Withholding Tax Agent, Social Security Agent, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Agent and Insurance Agent for the County, Public Information Officer, Freedom of Information Officer, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Human Resources Coordinator. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to appoint Shaun Minks as Public Works Supervisor. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to appoint Ty Shoemaker as Noxious Weed Director. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to appoint Marilea Honstead as Civic Center Building and Grounds Manager. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to appoint Denise James as Health Department Administrator. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to appoint Dr. Douglas Johnson as County Health Officer. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to appoint Jeff Baier to the dual position of EMS Director and Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to appoint Chris Meile as Assistant EMS Director. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to appoint Dr. Douglas Johnson as Medical Director for EMS. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to appoint John Crosby as Fire Chief. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to appoint Nancy Borthwick as Senior Center Director. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to appoint David Manzano as Building Maintenance Supervisor. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to set mileage at 72 cents per mile, the IRS suggested rate is 72.5 cents per mile, when using personal vehicles for county business as of January 20, 2026. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to approve administrative heads for approving claims against the various funds of the County, item 19 listed and a-o listed of the organizational agenda. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

- a. James Biddle for Sheriff's Department, and Juvenile Justice funds;
- b. Jeff Baier for Ambulance, Ambulance Equipment funds;
- c. John Crosby for Fire and Fire Equipment funds;
- d. Shaun Minks for Road & Bridge, Special Highway Improvement, Road Machinery, Noxious Weed, and Noxious Weed Equipment funds;
- e. Cindy Wellbrock for Appraiser fund;
- f. Julie Widder for Register of Deeds, and R.O.D. Technology fund;
- g. Terri Trotman for Treasurer, Treasurer Technology, Motor Vehicle fund;
- h. Kelly Premer-Chavez for Attorney, Prosecutor Training, and Diversion fund;
- i. Denise James for Health Department fund;
- j. Marilea Honstead for Park Maintenance fund;
- k. Chairman of Fair Board for Fair fund;
- l. Nancy Borthwick for Senior Center fund;
- m. David Manzano for Building Maintenance fund;
- n. Chairman of Airport Board for Airport fund;
- o. Anita Lane for all Other funds.

The Commissioners have tabled to appoint members to the Board of Aging until the next scheduled meeting, February 3, 2026.

The County Commissioners discussed how the county currently charges for prairie dog extermination and whether the existing fee structure is appropriate. It was noted that the county charges for the prairie dog bait (product) and has also been charging for labor of \$25.00 per hour and equipment time of \$25.00 per hour used to apply the bait. The cost of the bait varies, generally ranging from \$60 to \$72 per bucket, we currently charge \$85 per bucket. Commissioner Martin questioned whether it is appropriate to charge for labor and equipment. Comparisons were

made to neighboring counties, some of which charge hourly labor and equipment fees, while others charge higher rates for bait. Commissioner Martin commented he feels like the taxpayers are already paying for the labor through taxes. Commissioner Martin expressed concern that charging labor and equipment could discourage landowners from addressing prairie dog problems, which can negatively impact neighboring properties and the community. It was also noted that prairie dog control is part of the noxious weed department's job responsibilities, like other weed control efforts that are funded through taxes. Commissioner Figgins raised the concern of fairness to landowners who previously paid labor and equipment charges already this year. Commissioner Martin acknowledged that while past charges cannot be changed, the county can correct the policy moving forward.

Commissioner Martin motioned to adjust the prairie dog baiting to only reflect the cost material and not charge for labor or equipment charges but provide those services. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Clerk of the District Court, Reid Borchetta, appeared requested approval to purchase a new microfilm machine. Clerk of the District Court, Reid Borchetta, explained that the existing microfilm equipment is outdated and will not connect to a recently purchased printer. The previous printer, which had been in service since 2012, has failed and is no longer usable. There is no available upgrade or repair that would allow the current microfilm machine to function with modern equipment. Clerk of District Court, Reid Borchetta, provided three quotes from Imaging Office Systems, Inc in the amount of \$21,379.00 for a ScanPro i9500, \$10,164.00 for a ScanPro 3500 and \$8,064.00 ScanPro 2500. Reid stated that this request is not for additional funding, but for authorization to use funds already available within her approved budget.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to approve the purchase of a ScanPro 2500 microfilm machine for the Clerk of the District Court from Imaging Office Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$8,064.00, to be paid from the Office Equipment District Court budget line, with an ongoing annual maintenance agreement of \$695.00. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Building Maintenance Supervisor, David Manzano, visited with the Commissioners about the north wall in the Register of Deeds office David thinks the moisture coming through is due to the settling of the building and damaged concrete around the building. David reported that he has reached out to a couple of foundation specialists to come and do an estimate. He will get back with them as soon as he has the estimates.

Building Maintenance Supervisor, David Manzano, inquired about the quote Health Department Administrator, Denise James, submitted to the Commissioners about replacing a fence at the Health Department. The quote is from Ulysses Building Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$404.10 for the supplies to replace the fence. David Manzano will do the labor.

Commissioner Martin motioned to accept the quote from Ulysses Building Supply, Inc for the fence materials not to exceed \$404.10 to be paid from County Building. Commissioner McGaughey seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Building Maintenance Supervisor, David Manzano, previously visited with the City Administrator, Luke Grimes, about having the city assist him with repairing a slap on concrete at the Grant County Extension Office. Luke stated if the County provided the materials, he would be ok for the city to assist David out with this project.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to purchase the materials to fix the concrete at the Extension Office not to exceed \$600.00. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Senior Center Director, Nancy Borthwick, presented a quote from Ulysses Building Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$4,080.00 for 102 LED Linear Retrofit, 36W,5K, with lens lights to be installed by the Building Maintenance Supervisor and herself.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to accept the quote from Ulysses Building Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$4,080.00 for 102 LED light kits. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

At 10:00 a.m. a public hearing was held for the Grant County Solid Waste Management Plan. Shaun Minks and Sarah Nagel presented the updates for the 5-year plan. Commissioner Martin motioned to accept the 5-year Solid Waste Management Plan. Commissioner McGaughey second the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Commissioner Martin motioned to adopt Resolution 26-01, a Resolution to revise the Grant County Solid Waste Management Plan and Appendix G, the list of members on the Solid Waste Committee. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Grant County Chamber of Commerce Director, Robin Leonard, requested the use of the Fire Station for upcoming Legislative Coffee. The Commissioners were all in favor of them using the Fire Station.

Civic Center Manager, Mari Honstead, presented the Commissioners three quotes for the installation of lights in the Civic Center parking lot and the Tractor Pull area from Dave's Electric in the amount of \$41,500.00, Goossen Electric in the amount of \$23,400.00 for the parking lot area and Goossen Electric in the amount of \$11,500.00 for the Tractor Pull Area. Mari applied and has been accepted to receive two Grants from CoBank Sharing in the amount of \$5,000.00 and HUGS in the amount of \$5,000.00 through Pioneer Electric to be applied to the cost of the lights.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to accept the two quotes from Goossen Electric, a total of \$34,900.00 to be paid from County Building \$24,900.00 and the remaining \$10,000.00 from the Grants. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner McGaughey motioned to adopt Resolution 26-02, a Resolution authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program for calendar year 2026, with no monetary commitment from Grant County. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the 2026 Noxious Weed Management Plan as presented. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

County Clerk, Anita Lane, requested to close the Courthouse to the public on December 31, 2026, to run the end of year process. After a brief discussion, the commissioners granted that the Treasurer, County Clerk and Register of Deeds offices can close for business at noon. The Courthouse doors will remain open due to the District Court and Appraisal offices.

County Clerk, Anita Lane, requested an executive session for 5 minutes to discuss an employee. Commissioner Figgins motioned to recess into Executive Session for 5 minutes with Anita Lane under the justification of personnel matter of a non-elected personnel member. After 5 minutes the meeting continued in open session with no action taken.

Commissioner Figgins motioned to accept the minutes, from January 6, 2026, meeting and the claims against various funds, voucher number ending with 177292 totaling \$967, 035.14 which includes CDW, LLC approved for no more than \$6,044.70, dated January 20, 2026, and payroll totals \$172,616.57 dated January 8, 2026. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Martin moved to adjourn at 11:29 a.m. to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Figgins seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

  
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Anita Lane, County Clerk

  
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John Martin, Chairman

