

The Crawford County Council met in Regular Session on March 11, 2025, at 6pm. Members present were Smith, Scott, Breeding, Mason, Riddle, and Stroud. Member absent was Stevens. Also present was Auditor Marples, Chief Deputy Auditor Phelps, and Attorney Reger.

Minutes – 12/10/2024 Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Smith. Scott and Mason abstained due to not being present. Motion approved with a vote of 4-0-2.

12/30/2024 - Holding until next meeting due to needed Stevens. Menke was on the council at the time. Scott was not on the council. Smith was absent.

01/03/2025 – 4th paragraph change Menke to Attorney Reger. Motion to approve upon change made by Scott, seconded by Stroud, Smith abstained due to not being present. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

Parks Manager Jadin Wolf – provided copy of monthly budget report. Negative \$13,026.74. Bill asked previously about a certain amount deposited in 2023. 19K from the budget was deposited and both depleted. She had some Rental and Donations deposited. \$19050 deposited today. Auditor Marples updated budget, and it takes it off of cash account and takes it down to -\$1300. It wasn't funded. Cash account doesn't support the money she needs to run her fund. More revenue will help. Donations will go into donation line but will reflect in cash account. Needs Expense line in donation line. Breeding asked about \$80,000 to park last year. They spent this. There was no budget hearing in 2023. They have 4 electric bills that are approximately \$1000 a month and more in the summer. Needs revenue coming in. Auditor Marples spoke with the state board of accounts and said that since we claimed the ARPA as Revenue Replacement, we could use it for payroll. They would reverse \$24,000 salary; it would put it back into her fund and pay out of ARPA. The council agrees this is something we should try on verses losing it. Motion to approve contingent upon approval by the state board of accounts made by Breeding, seconded by Scott. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Would like the expense line to be named fairground fundraiser expense line created.

Commissioner Crecelius – mower quotes. Discussion about who bought the previous mower. Bobcat has 5 hours on it. Full factory warranty \$11,500 3-year warranty. Jared said they would take our mower on trade but can't quote how much they will give. Riddle will text and tell him to hold it. Asked if they would deliver and they said yes because maintenance truck is currently down. Motion to approve contingent upon trade in value and will take out of 4929 capital projects up to \$11,500 by Stroud, seconded by Breeding. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

EMA director Aaron Bye – EMA advisory board and LEPC appointment. Scott volunteered.

Reimbursement plan to get our FEMA funds back. Plan needs renewal. started \$24304 but will have a 25% match for \$8128.60. Council will get invites to meetings. The more people who attend the more they will pay towards his salary.

\$25,000 for part time deputy director. Breeding says too tight to try that because they have so many needs. Big items coming up. Scott recognized EMA and all of the grants they have been bringing in. Breeding asked if there is excess money in public safety if they can apply towards that. Breeding will speak with Jacque Clements. Scott asked if Economic development had additional funds for that.

Commissioner Dale did not want to comment on it and didn't want to commit to anything. They got 4 new sirens grant over \$100,000.

Coroner Allison Howell – Auditor Marples informed that Commissioners requested for her to come back to the next meeting due to questions. Vehicle Maintenance currently is \$500. The van has a few issues, aged. Windows don't roll down, ticking sound in front. Has \$100 check holding truck currently. Riddle says the council is not obligated to provide her with a vehicle but doesn't want to leave her without anything. Riddle would like to know if the county highway had a older vehicle to give her and then buy them a new vehicle. Motion to approve an additional for \$1500 from County General to Coroner Vehicle Maintenance made by Breeding, seconded by Mason. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Cooler – another county could help us out. Scott spoke with Chris and thought they were less than \$5,000. She said they are anywhere between \$8,000 to \$9,000. Where would it be put. It doesn't need to be manned, but it needs electrical, stand by generator. Maybe FEMA has a grant just in case of a major catastrophe.

Chief Deputy Surveyor Josh Richard – PERF was not budgeted correctly because they only took Whitney's income not the Chief Deputy. From County General to the PERF line Will need to do an additional \$4671.09. Motion to approve made by Scott, seconded by Breeding. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Clerk Lisa Holzbog – ES&S software system \$5475. absentee ballots, election day ballots \$3235.92. to put into 1215. Shredding \$2110. Motion to pay out of 4918 to election fund 1215 for a total of \$11085.13 made by Breeding, seconded by Stroud. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Additional –

Crawford County Bridge Fund \$45,000

Health Department Grant to office supplies \$300924. Transfer from office supplies to unappropriated due to reimbursement.

Coroner Camera and Laptop \$1500.

Motion to approve by Scott, seconded by Smith, Breeding will abstain. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

Transfers –

Assessor office supplies to assessor membership dues \$150

Surveyor office supplies to surveyor bond \$101

Prosecutor office supplies to prosecutor attorney \$203

Recorder office supplies to Recorder membership dues \$2.07

Motion to approve by Breeding, seconded by Mason. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

President Chad Riddle – Issues with EMS. Since January 1, 2025, Council, commissioners, and director have gotten together on different occasions to come up with a solution. All contributed to fixing the

problem. Can't do anything about overtime. Called one in from Orange County over the weekend due to both being out. First step to creating a solution. EMT basic and part time positions are a struggle to fill. Breeding spoke with Jacque Clements and has a proposal to raise EMT to \$15.50 Advanced to \$17. Director \$70200 to be paid out of EMS LIT. There will be an amendment to Director job description to ride the ambulance. Advertise, vote, and then take effect immediately. Salary Ordinance amendment next month. Director Tim Farris would like to do it out of 1151 instead of doing an additional. Will still need to advertise salary ordinance. Stroud would like to Recognize Farris for his efforts if this works. Farris will put on his time sheet when he rides the truck for payroll. IF something was to happen to Farris, the salary and everything would have to be redone by the commissioners. Scott would like to see the contract before agreeing to the raise. Motion to approve by Breeding, seconded by Stroud, Scott voted in the negative. Motion approved with a vote of 5-1.

Sheriff Jeff Howell – PayScale increase Breeding looked at it and spoke with Jacque Clements can be paid out of Public Safety and so can Retirement, but this was already paid out of there. Still having issue hiring deputies. Will need to advertise before this takes effect. East Crawford short a SRO but Sheriff Howell has been filling in. All will be paid out of Public Safety Tax and the money is there to pay for it according to Breeding. Stroud has an issue with Coroner not having a vehicle to pick up bodies. Asked about shared vehicles. Asked if Sheriff's department could look to find a vehicle. He has searched for a vehicle for her due to previous conversation. Scott recommends Put plea in with the coroner's association to see about a vehicle. Coroner Howell has put in for a grant as well. Riddle asked EMA director if he had an additional vehicle, and he did not have one. The coroner needs separation from the body. Motion to accept option A pay metrics along with \$2000 to the captain and the Lieutenant to be paid out of Public Safety Tax, needs advertising, and then a second vote made by Breeding, seconded by Stroud. Scott would like to see other options and not just make a choice within a few minutes. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Pitney Bowes agreement – machine parts are obsolete. Increase of \$200 a month. \$349.58 monthly, \$1048.74 quarterly. May need more postage and will have to come back.

Professional Service – everything comes out of 1000-068 needs an additional \$35,000 was budgeted AME Group is approximately \$7000a month. Charge after hours. \$2000 for Cleaning comes out of there. \$189,000 through the end of the year. The council only put \$35,000 in so we could come back and tell them when we need it. \$50,000 addition from county general to 1000-068. Motion to approve by Breeding, seconded by Smith. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Treasurer Jennifer Davis – Asking for additional for a new computer due to freezing up. Forms are obsolete and will be \$560 that may last 6 months. Harris Financials are holding them up and want to charge \$1600 for 8-hour training. Cashbook is not calculated correctly. Reuben made her a new one and it was \$1150. AME quote was not sent for the computer. Motion to approve \$5000 out of County general to go to Treasurer made by Breeding, seconded by Scott. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Mike Cox – Bridge on Bogard wants to know where the bridge is or where the money is at. Previously there was \$61856.30 for a fence but no bridge was put in. The bridge was cancelled. There is low water crossing. Cost 10K to fix. Pulled out a lot of people from the creek. Even pulled police vehicles. Believe it's a safety hazard and people will die. Riddle will investigate it.

Auditor and Treasurer – problems not closed for the year. Major issues with support and have gotten worse. Calls 2-3 days later to help with support. 13 counties left in Indiana, 5 are changing. Only 2 really like them. Hand-writing receipts daily. Spending a lot of money on supplies. Would like to switch to XSoft for \$452,000. Would not pay until live and fully running. Take over for 3 departments. 90,400 over the next 5 years. The maintenance would be once live \$85,978. Auditor Marples mentioned \$160,000. Breeding asked if they could use the Money Market Interest. Treasurer Davis said it may be possible. Will check with State board of accounts. Maintenance will not happen until it's fully live. Stroud asked if we could see about a breach of contract since they have not been able to help us out. Attorney Reger mentioned it would be on the commissioner to investigate if it was a breach of contract. Will give contract to the attorney to review. Xsoft would be working with Harris until we were ready to go live. Total for current systems was approximately \$796,91.82. Harris is \$17422.82 a year. Manatron was \$46330. Aumentum \$15939. There may be one more that wasn't included. That was for all three offices. Tabled until next meeting.

Community Foundation and Boys and Girls Club – Childcare was imperative. Grant was received for early childcare and education. Provided strategic care plan. Discussed need for childcare in Crawford. Economic Impact analysis and received a million-dollar grant to update facility. Would like to do microsites across the county. They also accept vouchers.


Assessor Mike Carlisle - \$21000 additional for maintenance. Fees for vendors \$21,055.37 out of County General. Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Scott. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.


Highway Department Chance Bender – fixing salary ordinance return shop foreman and assistant to original pay. And change truck driver from 5 to 6. Talk to Jacque to see if it was budgeted. It should have been restored last year. Change salary ordinance and advertise to be approved next month.

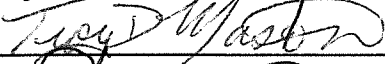
Being no further information being brought before the council, motion to adjourn was made by Breeding, seconded by Smith. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0. Adjourn at 8:07pm

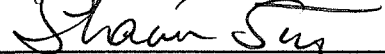
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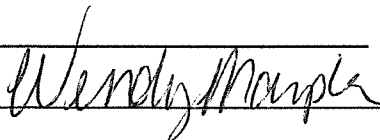








ATTEST



Wendy Marples, Crawford County Auditor