

The Crawford County Council met in a Regular Session on April 8, 2025, at 6pm. Council members present were Riddle, Smith, Breeding, Mason, Stevens, and Scott. Member absent was Stroud. Also present were Auditor Marples, Chief Deputy Auditor Phelps, and Attorney Reger was present via phone.

Moment of Silence for Crawford County employees Dale Roll and Rhonda Crecelius.

**Minutes** – 1/14/2025. Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Stevens, Mason abstained. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

3/11/2025. Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Smith. Stevens abstained. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

**Additionals –**

County Mower paid out of capital projects \$11500. Coroner paid out of County General Coroner \$1500. Surveyor PERF paid out of County General Surveyor \$4671.09. County General Professional Services paid out of County General Professional Services \$50,000. County General Treasurer paid out of County General Treasurer Office Supplies \$5000. Clerk Shredding, etc. paid out of Harrison County riverboat fund 4914 \$11,085. 13. Assessor Equipment, bills, and dues paid out of office supplies county assessor office supplies, repair and maintenance, and dues \$2155.37. Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Scott. Stevens abstained. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

**Transfers –**

County general petit jury to County general noncontract PD - \$2800. Motion to approve made by Mason, seconded by Scott, Stevens abstained. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

**Tim Farris bill** – Breeding brought up bill. Auditor Marples says she's got them working on it and should have an answer by the next meeting. Breeding asked Farris if he can wait another 30 days and he agreed. Motion to table made by Breeding, seconded by Smith. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

**Auditor Marples** - Reassessment was in the negative and needed to pay employee and bill. Spoke with Jaque and did an advance draw. Drew \$20,000 out and when June settlement comes, he will get \$20,000 less.

**Nathan Held with Indiana Region 15** – Update. Grants over 6 million dollars. Multiple projects discussed. Administers the Revolving loan fund. Thanks to Scott for serving on the board. Safe room funded through FEMA for the Crawford County Highschool. Going out to bid in next two months. Reports the year the grants are funded. Marengo wastewater project still going on since 2022. EPA brownfield assessment grant got out underground storage tank at old courthouse. Grace House recovery project had funding go away and hope that it comes back. Here to help and support in anyway they can. If they have projects or needs let them know and they will help. Being for Others grant went to a foundation and focuses on health and wellness and opens up categories for improvements for programs that might help health and wellness. Three rounds left. Set aside \$650,000 this year.

**Judge Mills Bills** – March 8, 2021, addressed to Sabrina Bell 2021. Mental evaluation 4 hours x \$300 = \$1200. County General to line-item evaluations 232. Motion to approve additional out of county general to his line item made by Breeding, seconded by Scott. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

**Library Board Appointment** – Angela Crecelius letter requesting appointment Margo Poppy Elrod. Completing term of Eugene Mattingly from June 30, 2024, to June 20, 2028. Mattingly is resigning due to health issues. Motion to approve made by Scott, seconded by Mason. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

**EMA Director Aaron Bye** – Requesting additional transfer from tower 4910 cash balance to repair and maintenance of \$25,000 to replace batteries. Motion to approve made by Scott, seconded by Mason. Motion approved with a vote 6-0.

**Assessor Mike Carlisle** – State ordinance for Form 11's to mail by 4/30/2025. Bill postage was \$6100 not including mailing not asking for more money yet. Last year spent \$12027.56 and would like to request the ARPA to replace that to cover bills that are unforeseeable expenses. Discussion about how to spend with the advance withdraw. Reversal was done with parks. Riddle thinks this would be a good thing and said if there is something with EMS. Motion to approve made by Smith, seconded by Scott. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

**Reversal of EMS Director Salary** – Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Stevens. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

**Reimburse Salary's for 2024** – Motion to approve made by Breeding, seconded by Scott. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

**EMS Director Roles and Responsibilities** – Read through, and Attorney said they don't need any action to be taken. Thanked the Commissioner's

**Parks Manager Jadin Wolf** – misunderstanding with budget and found that it wasn't funded. Requested 99,000. Off to the side Riddle wrote 103,000. Auditor Marples said it may have been what was in the line items, but the cash account was the problem. As of January, they were \$42861.13. They did not spend \$99,000 for the year. Currently, after the reversal they have \$17,204.11. Payroll must've come out of there. Helps to know what the plan will be for the rest of the year. \$10,000 insurance payment, her salary, and approximately \$20,000 in utilities during the summer. Riddle would like a budget of what she thinks it will be for the rest of the year without any additional items. Auditor Marples will consult with Jacque to verify her numbers are correct. Discussion about monthly spending.

Water heater quote. Working on getting an updated one for the air unit. Breeding asked council their opinion on paying for this out of capital projects. Discussion about the multiple issues that the units are having.

**Commissioner Dan Crecelius** – Leaking in the roof at the Archives. Has someone looking into it and has already notified the adjuster. Tommy the maintenance man looked into cleaning the gutters and that helped the Courthouse roof. He's got some consultants looking at the courthouse roof. He will also have the maintenance man look into the ac unit.

Jadin Wolf continued with more of a breakdown of her plans for the parks. They also had a bit of storm damage. Will get a new quote for ac unit and bring to the next meeting.

**Dubois REMC** – Walking paths. Check is in the treasurer vault. Email Attorney Reger terms of grant. Motion to approve pending legal approval to create the fund and line item made by Scott, seconded by Mason. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0.

Discussion about grants versus donations. Discussion about how spending works. Riddle asked attorney if there is a way to spend money without using her own money. Auditor Marples discussed how vendors are paid with county checks. Auditor Marples also detailed that per a text communication with Jacque Clements that Parks was appropriated \$99,103 but doesn't have the revenue to cover it being the problem. Council thought she would have enough revenue from the \$80,000 from the school. Jacque looks at the end of 2023 into 2024. Needs April to December budget for the future to see what she will need to last until the end of the year.

**Economic Development Director Jesse Belcher** – Meetings will have to be live streamed. 2 years ago, received a grant from ROI. They got money to do digital literacy and increase digital access. ROI agreed to use the remainder of the money on equipment to use for the live meetings. Conference room camera and extended microphones, and laptops. Annual meeting doors open at 6, dinner at 630, at Patoka winery. Needs to know by Thursday for right amount of food. Shawn Scott mentioned the site for Crawford County should be up in May. Jesse mentioned the come to Crawford site also being available. Discussion about achieving purposes.

**Amended Salary Ordinance** – Increase for EMS Director, Basic, Advanced EMTs and Sheriff Department. Paramedic pay would stay the same. Auditor Marples stated that it was one salary ordinance of all of the changes they told her to make. Breeding not good with Highway Department because they don't have enough money to pay for fuel. Riddle asked that change was on, it was, and Breeding stated "we never voted on that, they just worked it in." Commissioner Dale stated that they asked for the fuel in the budget and that is why they are running low now. Breeding stated it's because they don't have the revenue to do it. Discussion about the MVH fund and how it was spent in the past. Discussion about departments paying the highway department quarterly. Attorney advised that they could cross out portions of the salary ordinance they don't agree with and have everyone initial. Motion made by Breeding to adopt the amended salary ordinance all of the public safety people approved and cross out two raises for the highway department and additional employee they are adding on the drivers because they need to get their money straightened out. Bender questioned how they could "begrudge an employee who has worked for the county over 20 years a dollar an hour to his pay, while giving other departments an astronomical raise because your financial consultant is the one who messed up the budget and caused them to get in this position where the 1176 fund is negative". Breeding believes should be addressed at the budget hearing. Stevens questioned if he could vote on this. Attorney advised that he can legally vote on this. Stevens mentioned that he remembers the 6<sup>th</sup> truck driver being on the budget and doesn't know where it got left off at. Commissioner Dale mentioned that it was on there in 2023 and 2024. The council wanted to cut a driver and the Dale refused but the money was put in for 6 drivers. Breeding doesn't oppose anything they are asking for. He opposes that they don't have the money to fund it. Commissioner Dale said the 6 drivers has always been there and it was budgeted for that amount we just need to show on the salary ordinance it's there. Breeding then brought up that he heard they may not be able to pay back the loan for \$500,000 loan they overspent last year. Commissioner Dale said he doesn't know who he's been talking to but he doesn't think that's right. Confusion about the amount of the loan. Auditor Marples said the interlocal loan is for \$480,000. Scott stated that there was no discussion put out before the motion was put out. There was a lot of money and a lot of changes. He thinks they need to take time to review it and talk about different positions because there is major confusion on the amount of money. Breeding disagrees on the public safety stuff. Riddle understands where Scott is coming from but there was a motion, and he needs to see if there is a second. If there isn't the motion will not progress forward.

Motion stands by Breeding to approve the amended salary ordinance minus the highway department truck drivers and additional employee. Breeding urged that it only takes 5 votes and to not let the people down because they are the heart of the county. Riddle called last call for a second. Second motion made by Stevens. Mason stated that he was okay with the EMS department but thinks we need to back off of the changes to the Sheriffs department not because he doesn't think they need a raise but just wants to review it more. He stated that the council approved the pension thing that they wanted. They talked about a raise at budget meetings, and no one mentioned anything about it then. These are significant raises. Sheriff Howell urged the council to look back at previous correspondence and see that he never asked for a raise. He just put this information in there to say that this is something that will need to be addressed in the future. Mason stated that he would be more on board to vote for it at a budget meeting. He brought up for numbers being down. His fear is that they are going to have mass openings and then the council will have to figure out something. Breeding stated that the merit board came to him and asked him to look into it. He called Jacque and she said the money is there and they need to do something with it. He called Howell and asked him to submit something. He mentioned that Howell didn't push for this. He believes this is what they developed the Local Income Tax for. Breeding says they need to take care of these guys now so that come budget time we can take care of others who need raises. Riddle called for a vote on the motion of approving the amended salary ordinance striking the 2 truck drivers and additional employee of Highways department that was started by Breeding, seconded by Stevens, Scott opposed. Motion approved with a vote of 5-1.

**Commissioner Dale** – It was approved last year for the budget of 6 drivers but there was a mistake in the Auditor's office on the Salary Ordinance. The numbers still didn't get changed. Stevens stated that he looked back at 2022 and saw 6 truck drivers. Breeding asked if there was money in the budget for that and he stated yes. The number should have been changed 2 years ago. Attorney advised that if the money is in the budget, they are just changing the number. It was advertised on this salary ordinance because they struck it out. The Amended salary ordinance was advertised as it was written. Breeding is meeting with Jacque and will show him something on the 1176 fund. She says the highway department is in trouble, but Dale says this is something different. The position was there and funded for the last two years. It should never have been changed. Breeding is stuck on the funding of 1176. Dale is open for discussion about the other employee later just wants the 6<sup>th</sup> truck driver added back to the salary ordinance. Motion to approve made by Mason, seconded by Smith, Breeding abstained. Motion approved with a vote of 5-0-1.

**Assessor Mike Carlisle** – had a question. Safety ordinance was to relieve some of the general fund for salaries so that Crawford County doesn't keep losing people. Stevens stated that safety tax wasn't started for a whole year yet but said yes this can be addressed this at the budget meeting.

Shop foreman was tabled until the next meeting.

Being no further discussion is to come before the council, Mason made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Breeding. Motion approved with a vote of 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.

AYE

John Reid  
Linda Smith  
Wendy Breeding  
Troy Mason  
Mark E. Johnson  
Shane Scer  
Wendy Marples

NAY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

Wendy Marples, Crawford County Auditor