
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2026

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Carla Grund, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner Duane Morris, Third District

1. Call To Order

Commissioner Mortimer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Grund led the group in opening prayer followed by Commissioner Mortimer with the flag salute.

2. Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Mortimer stated he is sending the other two Commissioners a text message about cloud seeding. The Commission discussed cloud seeding and Commissioner Grund will reach out to legislators for more information. Commissioner Grund also discussed the Weed Department report that she didn't sign last week and asked if Chris Smith, Public Works Director, would be available today.

3. HR Update

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, gave an HR Update. She suggested partnering with another Emergency Manager to help with the hiring process. She stated they have received over 30 applications and would like to have the Emergency Manager from Dickinson County and Keith Coleman; Facilities Director/Deputy Emergency Manager review the applications to provide recommendations to the Commission. Cox also requested the Emergency Manager and/or Coleman participate in the interview process. It was the consensus of the Commission to make the recommendation provided by Cox. Coleman stated that he is currently working with the Kansas Department of Emergency Management to help complete some reporting and other tasks.

4. Budget Discussion

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed the 2027 budget. She asked the Commission about adding any appropriations; she stated the Commission had discussed possibly including the Service Corps and Golden Wheel Senior Center. Commissioner Grund stated we already give money to the Senior Center through the Department of Aging. Commissioner Mortimer stated he is worried about the Service Corps. Commissioner Morris gave an update on where the Service Corps is on insurance. Commissioner Grund discussed scrutinizing appropriations this year. Commissioner Mortimer discussed the legislation regarding property tax.

Cox also asked about the museum budget for 2027. It was the consensus of Commission to have the museum as an appropriation. The Commission discussed having a five-year lease with the museum for a dollar a year. Commissioner Morris discussed what to do with the building and building maintenance. He stated we need to put everything in writing. Cox requested that there is only one point of contact with Scot Loyd, so all budget changes are known across the board. It was the consensus of the Commission to have Cox be the one point of contact.

5. Noxious Weed Update

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, answered questions about the Noxious Weed Report. Commissioner Grund went over changes she saw in the report with Smith. Smith will review the report and come back next week. Commissioner Morris asked about the Tescott river cleanout. Smith stated that it is within the city; he stated they can file a mitigation plan with FEMA. Commissioner Morris stated the Tescott Fire Department has an extra pumper truck and wanted to keep it within the County for a backup. Commissioner Grund stated Bennington Fire may be looking for a pumper truck. Commissioner Grund asked about Federal multi-county bridge funding grant. Smith will follow up with Kirkham-Michael.

6. KCAMP Achievement Award Presentation

Patrick Smith, Risk Manager with KCAMP, presented Ottawa County with the Risk Management Achievement Award. This awards members for completing a set number of risk management criteria. This helps reduce the risk of property damage and loss. He presented the Commission with a check for \$4,259.25.

7. Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation

Tanya Paul, DVACK, presented the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation. She stated April 7th was Wear Red Day and April 29th is Wear Denim Day. She stated they have cup sleeves they have delivered to coffee shops around the counties and they have given ribbon magnets to local law enforcement. She stated there is a fun run being planned May 30th in Salina. Paul discussed the Prison Rape Elimination Act program that provides advocates for anyone who needs one including prior victimization. April is recognized nationwide as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, dedicated to increasing public awareness about sexual violence, supporting survivors, and promoting prevention efforts. Sexual assault is a serious and widespread issue affecting individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and identities, often occurring alongside domestic violence and other forms of abuse. In Kansas, 977 incidents of sexual assault were reported in 2024, with one rape every 8 hours, 57 minutes, and 58 seconds, and law enforcement making one arrest for rape approximately every 2 days, 19 hours, 23 minutes, and 31 seconds. DVACK provides advocacy and support services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence throughout the region. From January through December 2025, DVACK served 132 survivors of domestic violence across 19 counties who also experienced sexual violence in their relationships including but not limited to 96 survivors from Saline County, and 4 survivors from out of state, with 55 survivors receiving safe shelter services. DVACK also supported 89 survivors whose primary victimization was sexual assault across 12 counties, including but not limited to, 63 survivors from Saline County, and 2 survivors from out of state, with 21 survivors provided safe shelter. These numbers do not just serve as a statistic but represent individuals whose lives have been impacted by violence, and who show resilience, strength, and courage in their healing journeys. Communities play a

vital role in preventing sexual violence by fostering education, awareness, and a culture of respect, while ensuring survivors have access to trauma-informed care and support. DVACK is requesting that Ottawa County proclaim April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and that all residents are encouraged to support survivors, promote prevention efforts, and work collectively to end sexual violence in the community.

MOTION – To approve the proclamation to declare Sexual Assault Awareness Month for April in Ottawa County

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

8. Approval of Accounts Payable and Commission Minutes

MOTION – To approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$113,213.05

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the minutes for April 6th as revised

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

9. Clerk Comments

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, reminded the Commission about the meeting with the hospital next week.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Mortimer stated he received a call from the Minneapolis Mayor regarding the recycling center. He stated the recycling center is struggling. Currently, the recycling center receives funding based on the tipping fee. Commissioner Mortimer also reviewed some of the struggles with shipping material and finding someone to take the material. He stated he knows a lot of recycling centers from all over are struggling. Commissioner Grund stated we spent almost \$29,000.00 on recycling in 2025, noting there are two recycling centers (Minneapolis and Bennington). The budget for 2026 is \$25,000.00 and the solid waste committee discussed not increasing the solid waste special assessment. Commissioner Morris discussed the pumper truck in Tescott. He stated they have an extra truck they would like to keep in the county and have it on standby, but housing is the issue. The truck has to be in a heated space, so it doesn't freeze up. Commissioner Grund stated she will reach out to Bennington Fire Department and see if they are interested in the truck. Commissioner Grund stated her biggest takeaway from the regional Commission meeting last week was that everyone is struggling with funding EMS, noting we are in the middle regarding EMS funding. She stated she went and spoke with

Minneapolis High School seniors in Mr. Hosler's class and suggested having a government day next year for all high school students to come and meet the county elected officials. Commissioner Grund stated she attended the Ottawa County Agency on Aging meeting and through Accessible Home Healthcare they offer Rock Steady Boxing in Salina for someone with Parkinsons Disease. She stated they also provide paid respite care for someone caring for someone with Alzheimer's Disease and that Melissa Scragg from the KSU Extension Office discussed the Matter of Balance class and how successful it was. Commissioner Grund stated she did reach out to the six fire districts for 2027 budgets and sent them spreadsheets of their 2025 actuals and 2026 budget. She also discussed an article regarding data centers from the NACO newsletter.

11. Adjournment

MOTION - To adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

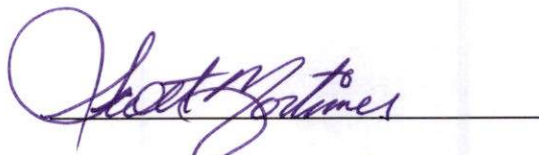
MOTION BY- Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY - Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

ADOPTED this 20 day of April 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS



Scott Mortimer, Chairman



Carla Grund, Member



Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk

