

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Public Works and Safety Meeting

5th Floor Conference Room

701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Chair

Commissioner Mike Kane – Commissioner Chuck Stites –

Commissioner Bill Burns – Commissioner Phil Lopez –

MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2025

5:01 PM-5:20 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Burroughs (Chair)
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Kane
- Ms. Gonzalez (BPU Board Member)

Committee Members Absent:

- Commissioner Stites (absence memo provided)

Staff Present:

- Maiyee Lor (Deputy Unified Government Clerk)
- Phil Lockman (Director of Community Corrections)
- Casey Meyer (Senior Counsel)
- Chief Dennis Rubin (Fire Chief, Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department)
- Bridgette Cobbins (Assistant County Administrator)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Burroughs called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 2:59)

Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2024, and February 26, 2024, meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 5-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Stites

Committee Agenda:**Item 1: RESOLUTION: ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (Discussion Begins 3:35)**

Chief Dennis Rubin, Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, presented the item.

Key points:

- The grant application is for \$148,812 from FEMA, with a required 10% local match (\$14,881), which would come from the Fire Department's current training budget—no new funds are needed.
- Its main purpose is to continue and expand command-level training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to all fire captains, battalion chiefs, and higher, moving toward full departmental compliance with NIMS.
- The grant would allow the department to transition toward teaching this training in-house, reducing dependence on other departments (such as Bonner Springs and Olathe).
- Currently, without the grant, the training process is slow due to limited funds, reaching only a handful of new members at a time. If awarded, the grant would make the process faster and more comprehensive, aiming to complete it in the next government fiscal year.
- The grant, if approved, would not require reallocations from the general budget, since the matching funds are already earmarked in the Fire Department's training funds.

- Chief Rubin cited recent incidents (like a house fire in Leavenworth) where interdepartmental coordination using the NIMS/ICS is critical, emphasizing the operational importance of this grant.

Commissioner Burns moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carries 5-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Stites

Item 2: RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS GRANT (Discussion Begins 8:50)

Phil Lockman, Director of the Department of Community Corrections, presented the 2026 Adult Community Corrections Grant.

Key points:

- The grant is an annual process and comes from the Kansas Department of Corrections.
- It provides roughly \$1.9 million for the adult side and \$2.5 million for the juvenile side.
- The program is established by Kansas statute and is mandatory for all counties; the money is more of a transfer than a competitive grant.
- About 90% of funds go toward personnel (primarily probation officers and staff). The remainder supports drug testing, treatment services, and cognitive education programs for offenders.
- There is no local funds match required for this grant.
- The grant helps reduce jail overpopulation by supporting supervision and rehabilitation programs. Lockman explained that the percentage of offenders sent to prison has dramatically decreased over the years, thanks in part to this funding.
- The grant also funds the juvenile intake and assessment center which supports the sheriff's operations with juveniles.
- Lockman described how emergency stabilization housing is supported (e.g., Oxford House stays for offenders in transition), but the department does not operate a dedicated residential facility.

Commissioner Lopez moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 5-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Stites

Item 3: RESOLUTION: APPROVAL FISCAL YEAR 2026 JUVENILE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS GRANT (Discussion Begins 18:46)

Discussion heard with Item No. 4.2.

Commissioner Lopez moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by BPU Board Member Gonzalez.

Vote: Motion carries 5-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Stites

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 20:05)

Commissioner Burns moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carries 5-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Stites

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

MLS