

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Board of Commissioners

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

Mayor Christal E. Watson

*Commissioner At-Large Dist. 1 Melissa Bynum – Commissioner At-Large Dist. 2 Andrew Kump –
Commissioner Dist. 1 Jermaine Howard – Commissioner Dist. 2 Bill Burns –
Commissioner Dist. 3 Christian Ramirez – Commissioner Dist. 4 Evelyn Hill –
Commissioner Dist. 5 Carlos Pacheco – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez –
Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis*

MINUTES

**Thursday, June 4, 2026
5:30 PM – 6:34 PM**

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

- Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Kump
- Commissioner Jermaine Howard
- Commissioner Christian Ramirez
- Commissioner Carlos Pacheco
- Commissioner Bill Burns
- Commissioner Chuck Stites
- Commissioner Andrew Davis
- Commissioner Phil Lopez

Commissioners Absent:

- Commissioner Melissa Bynum
- Commissioner Evelyn Hill
- Mayor CEO Christal E. Watson

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk
- David Johnston, County Administrator
- Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel
- Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director
- Michael Peterson, Deputy Budget Director
- J. Renee Ramirez, HR Director
- Adrian Alemifar, Senior Budget Analyst
- Stasha Ferguson, HR Analyst

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Kump called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. The invocation was led by Commissioner Davis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 3:21)

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: REGIONAL FARE POLICY ADOPTION

Item No. 2 – RESOLUTION: MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS DURING THE 2026 FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WORLD CUP

Item No. 3 – RESOLUTION: HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION GRANT - STAFF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) HOUSING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Item No. 4 – APPOINTMENT: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Item No. 5 – MINUTES

Item No. 6 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Howard.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Burns, Davis, Howard, Ramirez, Pacheco, Stites, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: Hill, Bynum, Watson

Administrator's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – BUDGET: PERSONNEL (Discussion Begins 4:09)

County Administrator David Johnston provided opening remarks. Mr. Johnston introduced Reginald Lindsey to present the workshop.

Key Presentation Topics Covered:

Budget Recap: Review of workforce management in previous budgets, including 2025 revenue neutral rate and 2026 budget adjustments.

Michael Peterson, Deputy Budget Director, presented the current Staffing Levels section:

- Current sworn position counts: Fire (439 budgeted, 450 average paid), Police (331 budgeted, 327 average paid), Sheriff (147 budgeted, 137 average paid)
- 17 SAFER grant positions ending in 2027
- 12 COPS grant positions ending in phases through 2028

Renee Ramirez, Human Resources Director, presented on the Vacancy Analysis section:

- Overall 8% vacancy rate (182.5 open positions, 2,083.75 filled positions as of June 1, 2026)
- Average 95 days to fill positions (down from 150-200 days previously)
- Department-specific vacancy rates provided

Mr. Lindsey presented on the Financial Forecasts section:

- County General Fund scenarios: Revenue neutral, 4% assessed value increase, 5% balanced budget
- City General Fund scenarios: Revenue neutral, 4% assessed value increase, 8.6% balanced budget
- Personnel costs represent 69% of county budget, 78% of city budget

Mr. Lindsey and Mrs. Ramirez presented the Future Considerations section:

- Pay parity review for executive positions
- Compensation study (last conducted in 2015)
- Merit-based performance evaluation system
- Bilingual pay and education recognition

Adrian Alemifar, Senior Budget Analyst, presented on the Community Survey Correlation section: Analysis linking personnel decisions to community survey priorities.

Questions and Discussion:

Commissioner Lopez: Inquired about grant writer positions, specifically mentioning Noah at the Health Department who has grant writing experience.

Commissioner Pacheco: Asked about potential service cuts if revenue neutral budget is adopted. Budget staff confirmed cuts would likely come from hiring freezes and service reductions, as capital is already minimal.

Commissioner Davis:

- Questioned grant application process and sustainability planning for COPS and SAFER grants
- Discussed absorbing grant-funded positions into existing vacancies
- Asked about correlation between community survey results and departments with existing vacancies

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 1:04:25)

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

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Burns, Davis, Howard, Ramirez, Pacheco, Stites, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: Hill, Bynum, Watson

MAYOR PRO TEM KUMP

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:34 P.M.

June 4, 2026

Monica L. Sparks, CMC

Unified Government Clerk

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