

FINANCE
October 22nd, 2025

Call to order	The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Finance Chairman Gary Koch. Committee members Gerry Krachey, Wayne Jerrett, and Greg Russell were present. Bruce Strnad was absent. Also present were Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman; Kyle Kozelka, Hwy Commissioner; Bob Moses, Tourism Council; Andrew Nussbaum, WI Dept of Tourism; and Roberta Fisher, County Clerk.
Verify posting	The Finance Chairman verified that the meeting notice was properly posted at the Courthouse, Administration Building and on the county website.
Approval of Minutes	Motion by Russell, second by Jerrett to approve the minutes from the October 8th Finance Committee meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.
Approval of Bills and Proposals	The Clerk presented invoices for approval today. • Bernie Buchner- \$11,880.96 • Wisconsin Public Financial Professionals - \$625.00 • Johnson Block Audit - \$8,171.30 • Payment App #13 Kraemer Brothers - \$2,666,183.09 Also presented for approval today was the Worker's Compensation premium quote for 2026 for \$103,026. Motion by Krachey, second by Jerrett to approve payment of the above invoices and the Bernie Buchner invoice will be paid from the Contingency Fund. Also approved the proposal for Worker's Comp for 2026. The motion carried unanimously.
Accounting Asst/Trans Coordinator Wage Scale	The job title and description for the Accounting Assistant/Transportation Coordinator was updated and approved at the last Personnel Committee meeting. With these approved updates, the position now includes additional duties and responsibilities since the original 2020 job description. The title has been changed to Accounting Specialist/Transportation Coordinator. ADRC Director Nicole Baumeister is requesting to move the position from General Wage Class 3 to Class 2, which results in a \$1.77/hour increase. This adjustment has already been included in the 2026 ADRC budget with no additional levy request.

Because the wage increase was to take effect immediately, Baumeister felt it was necessary to seek Finance Committee approval for the remainder of this year. The additional cost for 2025 is approximately \$400.

Krachey moved; Jerrett second to approve the recommendation from Personnel Committee to change the job title and duties and reclass this position from General Class 3 to Class 2 effective immediately. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Marketing & Tourism Plan

The PdC Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Council would like to explore creating a partnership to strengthen Crawford County Tourism. This proposal strictly at this point is the beginning of a conversation to see if the county would be interested in moving forward.

Bob Moses from the Chamber of Commerce presented a proposal to the Finance Committee today to merge Crawford County Tourism under the Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Council umbrella. Separate budgets would be maintained for both the county and the city. His proposal includes a three-year agreement beginning in 2027 and the creation of a part-time County Tourism Coordinator position.

Moses would like to launch the partnership in 2027. The cost of this new position would be an additional expense, separate from the county's current financial support to the Chamber for the Welcome Center.

Andrew Nussbaum from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism spoke to the committee today to provide additional context on the collaboration effort. He explained that several promotional grants and opportunities have required stronger countywide participation, which has been limited compared to neighboring counties like Vernon and Richland. Nussbaum noted that additional resources would allow Crawford County to be more actively involved in these opportunities.

Gary Koch advised Moses to take this concept and present it to the full county board. The first county board meeting in 2026 will be in February.

Final Presentation of 2026 Budget & County Promotional

There are two drafts of the 2026 budget being presented today. Both drafts include \$2.5 million in borrowings and transfers to stay within the levy limit. The county's share of health insurance premiums has been reduced to 80%, with employees now contributing 20%. The levy limit increased by about \$109,000, and modest increases were seen in shared revenue, land conservation, and circuit court state aid.

Sales tax revenue in Crawford County has grown significantly in the last year, allowing a \$310,000 increase in sales tax revenue budget, which

remains slightly below projections. The budget includes funding for four new jailers, while eliminating a therapist position, an emergency management position, and an HR position. Some carryover funds are also being used to avoid levying for new money that wasn't spent. As a result of this budget, the mil rate will decrease.

One draft of the budget includes a 5% wage increase for the sheriff's union and 2% for all other employees, while the other draft proposes 5% for the sheriff's union and 3% for all other employees. To support the 3% increase for non-union employees, the Highway Department contributed an additional \$100,000 from their fund balance.

Koch also informed the committee today that certain areas may need review in 2026 to better prepare for the 2027 budget. He suggested considering shorter workweeks, phasing out longevity pay, and exploring high deductible or alternative health plan options.

Motion by Krachey; second by Cornford to adopt the 2026 Budget with 5% for sheriff's union and 3% for all other employees and recommend to full county board at the Budget Public Hearing on November 12th. The motion carried, with all members voting aye and Koch voting nay.

Motion by Koch, second by Krachey, to approve the terms and conditions of a \$140,000 Capital Improvement Loan from Peoples State Bank at a 3.85% interest rate, with a \$100 document fee and a 5-year term, and to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Capital Improvement Loan of \$140,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Koch, second by Cornford, to approve the terms and conditions of a \$1,100,000 "Long-Term" Borrowing for Highway Equipment from Peoples State Bank at a 3.95% interest rate, with a \$100 document fee, and a 1-day turnaround, and to adopt the Resolution Authorizing "Long-Term" Borrowing of \$1,100,000. The motion carried unanimously.

**County Treas
Report**

The County Sales & Use and Wheel Tax reports were distributed to the Finance Committee for review today. Also distributed was the Phase II borrowing update for the jail project.

Next meeting

November 19th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Russell; second by Jerrett to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk