

**FINANCE**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**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, Bruce Strnad, and Wayne Jerrett were present. Greg Russell was absent. Also present were Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman; Nate Bremmer, Jailer; John McRae and Greg Callin, Kraemer Brothers; Nikki Dudley and Pete Flesch, Driftless Development; and Roberta Fisher, County Clerk. Carol Wirth, WPFP, LLC attended via Zoom.

**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 Krachey, second by Jerrett to approve the minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

**Approval of Bills and Proposals**

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

**Phase III Financing Jail Project**

Carol Wirth, WPFP, LLC, appeared via Zoom to give the Finance Committee the Phase III Finance presentation.

**Phase III Borrowing:** \$4 million. Funds are expected to be delivered to the County by March 19<sup>th</sup> and will cover final project costs.

Wirth explained the Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes. This resolution needs to go before full county board for approval and directs WPFP, LLC to prepare the Official Statement and Official Notice of Sale.

2026 borrowing may be issued with the designation of “bank qualified” if the County does not borrow more than \$10 million of tax-exempt debt in 2026. This includes local bank note borrowings and any potential highway shop financing. The “bank qualified” designation could result in lower interest costs (0.10%-0.15%). However, if the County has the need to borrow beyond \$10 million in 2026, the County can: 1. issue all debt as “non-bank qualified”; or 2. issue “bank qualified” debt up to \$10 million and “taxable” debt for amounts beyond \$10 million in 2026; or 3. issue phased financing for additional projects in 2027 and 2027 to not exceed \$10 million.

The County Board Chairman will call for a Special County Board on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to adopt the Final Award Resolution.

No further action was taken on this item today.

### **Jail Project Update**

Greg Callin and John McRae from Kraemer Brothers updated the Finance committee regarding the project budget history and financial status report that summarizes the evolution of the Crawford County Justice Center project budget from initial authorization through bid day, reconciliation, and final alignment with the approved Total Project Cost.

As of January 2026, there are open proposals that have been identified as uses of remaining contingency. With consideration toward remaining construction to finish the project, they are projecting additional proposals to finish the project. Kraemer Brothers is suggesting allocating \$150,000 of approved total project costs to the construction budget from the unallocated soft cost budget to keep the project within the County's approved total project cost of \$35 million.

There will be another scheduled walk through the Justice Center immediately following the February 17<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting.

No action was taken on this item today.

### **Driftless Development Update**

Pete Flesch, representing Driftless Development Board of Directors stood to introduce Nikki Dudley as the new Executive Director of DDI, Inc.

Nikki Dudley distributed information from Wisconsin Economic Development regarding a grant opportunity to support local efforts to attract and incentivize households to relocate from outside of Wisconsin to a municipality in Wisconsin.

To move forward, the program must secure a 20% local match through cash or in-kind support. Dudley is requesting a letter of support from the County signed by the County Board Chairman, no financial obligation.

**Motion by Krachey, second by Strnad to support the Crawford County Talent Attraction Program and submit a letter of support to WED. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

### **Approval of Invoices and Proposals**

The Clerk presented several invoices for approval today.

- Monthly Peterson Invoice \$ 2,820.00
- WCM Liability/Auto Ins \$71,466.00

• Crime Insurance Policy	\$ 5,663.00
• Chamber of Commerce	\$ 6,000.00
• WCA Membership Fee	\$ 4,356.00
• ClearGov Budget	\$ 26,100.00
• Maximus CAP	\$ 4,725.00
• Rescue Squad Donations	\$ 11,125.00
• Kraemer's Payment App #16	\$ 1,441,479.65
• Klein McCarthy	\$ 27,013.11
• IMEG	\$ 2,000.00
• ProGuard	\$ 2,674.32
• WASP Barcode	\$ 9,566.00
• Archaeology Study	\$24,619.12

**Motion by Krachey; second by Jerrett to approve payment of the above invoices. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.**

**County Treasurer Report** The updated Sales & Use and Wheel Tax revenue was distributed to the committee members for review today.

Sales & Use Tax in December decreased by .9% from last year. Wheel Tax information for December was not available at this time.

The capital projects new jail & emergency government phase 2 fund balance was \$4,227,407.49 as of November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2025 Q4 Financial Report** The clerk distributed the 2025 4<sup>th</sup> quarter financial report for review today/

**Next meeting** February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to set the County Board agenda.

**Adjournment** **Motion by Strnad; second by Krachey to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.**

**Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk**