

CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
November 12th, 2025

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met in annual Budget session at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Wednesday, November 12th, 2025.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present. Harrison Heilman was present via Zoom. The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Cornford announced to the county board members to please turn in their per diem sheets for 2025 by the December County Board meeting.

The meeting was verified as being properly posted.

Motion by Munson, second by Steiner to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION & HEARING

County Board Supervisor and Finance Chairman Gary Koch gave the 2026 Budget presentation to the county board.

Koch thanked the County Clerk and her staff for their support during the 2026 budget process, noting their work on several reports that helped keep the budget within the levy limit. He also thanked the department heads for submitting timely and reasonable budgets. Finally, he expressed appreciation to Tom Cornford, County Board Chair, and the Finance Committee for their support and confidence through the process.

A budget packet was provided to each County Board member, and Koch reviewed the documents while presenting a slideshow on the main screen.

The proposed budget reflects Crawford County's ongoing commitment to its employees. Most of the new spending is employee-driven. The Personnel Committee negotiated a 5% wage and benefits increase with the Sheriff's Union for 2026. While the goal was to raise wages for all staff at the same level, the budget only allows for a 3% increase for the remaining employees.

The second priority was to allocate funding for four new jailer positions, as required by the Department of Corrections for safe operation of the new jail. To make this possible, funding for a Human Resources position, an Emergency Management position, and a therapist position in Health and Human Services had to be removed. Overall, salaries and benefits will rise by about \$1,064,367 from 2025 to 2026.

The County's share of health insurance will drop from 88% to 80%, while keeping employee costs reasonable. Retirement contribution rates will increase from 6.95% to 7.2% for general and elected employees, and decrease from 15.01% to 14.8% for protective employees.

Debt service will increase from \$3,889,491 to \$4,562,613. However, applying \$961,745 in premium and interest from the past two bond issues reduces the net new debt service by \$288,623 compared to last year.

The budget includes \$140,000 in borrowing for two new Sheriff's squad cars and \$1,100,000 for Highway equipment. It also uses \$551,574 from the General Fund and includes transfers of \$600,000 from Highway, \$100,000 from ADRC, and \$100,000 from TIF funds. Koch emphasized that relying on borrowing and transfers to cover budget gaps is not sustainable. In 2023, total borrowing and transfers were \$1,457,664; for 2026, the proposed total rises to \$2,591,574.

Projected County Sales & Use Tax revenue for 2026 is \$2,381,000, which conservatively remains below the State's estimate. The allowable levy for 2026 is \$11,752,267. With this budget, the county mil rate will decrease from 6.19 to 5.36.

Chairman Cornford stated that the County Board will now take up the matter of the 2026 Budget and asked for a motion to have the Clerk read the Budget in summaries only.

Motion by Munson, second by Gilberts to allow the Clerk to read the Budget in summaries only. The motion carried, and the Clerk read the budget in summaries only.

Chairman Cornford asked for any questions regarding the Budget. With no further questions, he closed the Budget Hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING “LONG-TERM” BORROWING OF \$1,100,000.00

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Supervisors has determined that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to approve “long-term” borrowing of **\$1,100,000.00** for the purpose of road repairs and necessary capital purchases for the Highway Department; **and**,

WHEREAS, on October 22nd, 2025, the Finance Committee approved and accepted the terms proposed by Peoples State Bank to provide a one (1) year Loan of **\$1,100,000.00** together with interest at the rate of 3.95% per annum and a maturity date to be on or before December 31, 2026. It is understood that there will be no prepayment penalty on the principal and that there will be \$100.00 in documentation fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors does hereby direct and authorize the County Board Chairman, County Clerk and County Treasurer to execute any and all documents necessary to procure the **\$1,100,000.00** Loan from Peoples State Bank according to the proposed terms.

Dated this 22nd day of October 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Gary Koch, Chairman
Gerald Krachey
Bruce Strnad

Greg Russell
Wayne Jerrett

Passed and approved this 12th day of November 2025.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Kuhn, second by Koch to adopt the Resolution Authorizing “Long-Term” Borrowing of \$1,100,000. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Chairman Cornford stated that the County will now consider the Resolution Authorizing Capital Improvement Loan of \$140,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LOAN OF \$140,000.00

WHEREAS, the Crawford County Board of Supervisors has determined that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to approve a Capital Improvement Loan of **\$140,000.00** for Law Enforcement Squad Cars in 2026; **and**,

WHEREAS, on October 22nd, 2025, the Finance Committee approved and accepted the terms proposed by Peoples State Bank to provide a five (5) year Loan of **\$140,000.00** together with interest at the rate of 3.85% per annum and a maturity date to be on or before December 31, 2031. It is understood that there will be no prepayment penalty on the principal and that there will be \$100.00 in documentation fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors does hereby direct and authorize the County Board Chairman, County Clerk and County Treasurer to

execute any and all documents necessary to procure the **\$140,000.00** Capital Improvement Loan from Peoples State Bank according to the proposed terms.

Dated this 22nd day of October 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

**Gary Koch, Chairman
Gerald Krachey
Bruce Strnad**

**Greg Russell
Wayne Jerrett**

Passed and approved this 12th day of November 2025

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Krachey, second by Strnad to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Capital Improvement Loan of \$140,000. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-2025

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Supervisors of Crawford County now in open session this 12th day of November 2025, that the 2026 Budget be adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk be and hereby is instructed and ordered to assess the same against the taxable property of Crawford County, both real and personal, pursuant to the action and recommendation of the County Board and the Wisconsin Statutes.

Submitted this 22nd day of October 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

**Gary Koch, Chairman
Wayne Jerrett
Bruce Strnad**

**Gerry Krachey
Greg Russell**

Passed and approved this 12th day of November 2025.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Koch, second by Anderson approve that the 2026 Budget be adopted. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

PLEASE INSERT LAST PAGE OF BUDGET HERE

Chairman Cornford asked for a motion to allow the Clerk to read the following Ordinance in title only.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Munson to allow the Clerk to read the Ordinance Amending, Repealing and Recreating Sections 2.01(6)(i) and 4.45(1)(b) of the Crawford County Ordinances Relating to Meal Reimbursement in title only. Motion carried with no negative votes cast, and the Clerk read the following in title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 261-2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, REPEALING AND RECREATING SECTIONS 2.01(6)(i) AND 4.45(1)(b) OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY ORDINANCES RELATING TO MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

Section I: That Crawford County Ordinance Section 2.01(6)(i) is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

“2.01 RULES OF PROCEDURE.

(6) RULE 6: GENERAL PROCEDURES

(i) PER DIEM, MILEAGE AND MEALS. Supervisors shall receive \$50 per County Board meeting or any assigned committee thereof. Supervisors shall receive \$75 for meetings which exceed 4 hours in length. If supervisors attend 2 or more committee meetings in one day, they shall be entitled to \$75 compensation for that day. If supervisors attend a meeting that is greater than 6 hours, they shall be entitled to \$100 compensation for that day. Supervisors specifically asked to attend a meeting of a committee to which they are not assigned are also eligible for per diem. Mileage reimbursement for employees and County Board Supervisors for in-County and out-of- County meetings shall be set at the same rate as the Internal Revenue Service for mileage reimbursement for the driver only.

Maximum meal reimbursement for both in-County and out-of-County shall be: Breakfast - \$15.00; Lunch - \$20.00 and Dinner - \$30.00. The maximum daily meal allowance is \$65.00 total, including any tip. Any meal included in registration costs will be considered against the daily allowance for meal reimbursement. Receipts must be turned in for all meal expenses both daily and overnight. A maximum amount allowed for tips is 15%. No reimbursement is allowed for alcoholic beverages.

The term and reference herein to "supervisors" and the reimbursements specified above also include effective as of January 1, 2021, the County Board Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson whether acting as ex-officio members or assigned members at any such committee or when representing the County as reasonably necessary at any function."

Section II: That Crawford County Ordinance Section 4.45(1)(b) is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

“4.45 TRAVEL AND EXPENSE ALLOWANCE.

(1) Employees who, in the course of their duties, are required to travel to conduct business for the County shall receive allowances and be reimbursed for expenses as follows:

(b) Meals. Maximum meal reimbursement for both in-County and out-of-County shall be: Breakfast - \$15; Lunch - \$20 and Dinner - \$30. The maximum daily meal allowance is \$65 total, including any tip. Any meal included in registration costs will be considered against the daily allowance for meal reimbursement. Receipts must be turned in for all meal expenses both daily and overnight. A maximum amount allowed for tips is 15%. No reimbursement is allowed for alcoholic beverages.”

Dated this 29th day of October 2025.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Brad Steiner, Chairman	Mark Gilberts
Wayne Jerrett	Carl Orr
Owen DuCharme	

RULES & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Dated this 12th day of November 2025.

Gerry Krachey, Chairman	Gari Lorenz
Bruce Strnad	

Passed and approved this 12th day of November 2025.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Published this day of November 2025.
Effective this day of November 2025.

Motion by Krachey, second by Orr to approve the Ordinance Amending, Repealing, and Recreating Sections 2.01(6)(i) and 4.45(1)(b) of the Crawford County Ordinances Relating to Meal Reimbursement. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Chairman Cornford asked for any reports of standing committees.

Health & Human Services Dept—Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director informed the County Board members that this year, 2025, will be a difficult year financially for his department.

Highway—Carl Orr, Highway Committee Chairman, reported that the Highway Department has lost a patrolman to the Village of Ferryville, creating a vacancy in that position.

Personnel—Brad Steiner, Personnel Chairman, reported that the Sheriff's Department lost a jailer to the City of Fennimore and is once again looking to fill four jailer positions.

Land Conservation—Gary Koch, LC Chair, reports that Land Conservation has been very busy with industrial farm siting and public hearings. The department is also wrapping up the Land and Water 10-year plan, which will come to the County Board in December and is needed for state funding. Koch added they're on the cusp of creating a full County Comprehensive plan.

Fair/Extension—Mary Kuhn, Fair Chairperson, wanted to thank all of the county board members and employees that volunteered at the Crawford County Fair this year.

CJCC—The Justice Program has been running very well with the new Justice Coordinator.

Under Communications to the Board, Nate Bremmer, Jail Project Transition Coordinator, reported that the Jail Project is moving along nicely. Mitch Gilbertson has recently left Kraemer Brothers to take a different position, and the new Project Manager is Eric Koch, assisted by John McRae.

Motion by Krachey, second by Munson to approve a 3% wage increase for all non-union county employees effective January 1st, 2026. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Motion by Koch, second by Kuhn to approve a decrease in the county portion of health insurance premiums to 80% effective January 1st, 2026. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion by Flansburgh, second by Gilberts to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
(ss)
COUNTY OF CRAWFORD

I, Roberta A. Fisher, Clerk of County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors at the Annual Budget Session on November 12, 2026.

Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk