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Co. Commissioners Vote to Lower Salary of County Attorney

BY JASON JUMP
Editor

In a move to show the public they are hearing complaints regarding Harper County Attorney Daniel Martin, the Harper County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously, 3-0, Monday morning to cut the county attorney’s salary in half.

The cut will take effect once the 2025 budget amendment has been published in next week’s edition of *The Anthony Republican* and after the budget amendment hearing, which will be set in that legal publication.

Martin met with commissioners during Monday morning’s meeting to

discuss his 2026 budget proposal, which he said would be the same request as 2025.

Board Chairman Brian Waldschmidt, representing District 1, opened the floor for questions.

District 3 Commissioner Darrin Struble said he had several questions. The first was Struble wanted an explanation for a lack of action from Martin on two separate cases – Christian Jeffery Randleman and Corey D. Pierce.

Randleman, a 28-year-old man from Kingman, was arrested and charged with two felony counts of sexual abuse with a five-year-old in 2024. That case was recently dismissed after the

state failed to get to a jury trial within the 180 days from arraignment. Pierce’s case dealt with Martin not appearing in court for two separate appearances on April 11 and April 15.

A stoic Martin admitted the case was dismissed due to the failure to go to trial within the 180-day time frame. He said the defense attorney requested items “that required more time than I initially thought.”

“I’m not buying that,” Struble said. “Whether he’s – we don’t know if he’s innocent or guilty. That’s not serving the person you were supposed to be taking care of. (They didn’t get) any justice at all.

“You’re the one that’s

supposed to be protecting that person and nothing ever happened. It infuriates me. We work here for this community to do what’s right. Regardless if you are an elected official or not, the public depends on us to make the right call for this county.”

Struble questioned what “was going to happen to the next person” if he was in fact guilty of the crimes he was accused of back in 2024.

“I don’t know who this guy is. I don’t really care,” Struble said. “But apparently he’s around here somewhere, so he’s still running around here whether he’s guilty or not. I can’t say he’s guilty because we didn’t go

to trial. I don’t know.

“But there’s going to be lots of suspicion...he’s still running around here, so the next time they (law enforcement) arrest him it could be worse. Maybe somebody’s dead.”

District 2 Commissioner Melinda McCurley questioned whether the county could be held liable if another crime is committed.

“That could have been stopped,” Struble said of a potential crime. “It could have been stopped, Daniel.

“If it’s his (Waldschmidt’s) daughter, her (McCurley’s) daughter or my daughter or anybody else’s daughter and it happens and this guy should have been in jail – I don’t

know man. I’m telling you that’s not good. I’m sorry but that’s not right.”

Waldschmidt said when he visited with law enforcement they said the case was “pretty solid.” He said he trusted their assessment of the case and the reason Randleman was arrested.

“We all have kids in this room, and if that person that this was supposed to be a solid case against messes with one of the kids I know...it’s already gone too far,” Waldschmidt said. “People look at us (the commissioners) as what are you doing to help protect our kids.”

Struble said he had a call

See **COUNTY** / Page 2

Co. Commissioners Pass Policy Regarding Ambulance Drivers

STAFF REPORT

Harper County commissioners voted unanimously, 3-0, Monday morning to pass a new policy that will allow EMS to utilize CPR certified drivers to help staff its ambulances.

District 3 Commissioner Darrin Struble said the board would like to see each EMS station within the county – Anthony, Attica and Harper – have an ambulance staffed each day. He said this policy will help get the county closer to that reality.

Harper County EMS Director Jan Harding said she would still need another one or two full-time or part-time staff members to make that request happen, but she was in agreement with the county’s goal.

Harding told commissioners it was probably more likely all three of the county’s EMS stations could be stationed for 12 hours during the peak activity time each day.

The new policy will allow CPR-certified drivers to operate the EMS ambulances under the following conditions:

- mass casualty events
- call back when original crew is on transfer
- emergent transfers with at least two certified people in the patient compartment
- an all-page event
- assist with staffing on standby
- to assist an additional ambulance during peak call volume hours
- to bring an additional unit to a scene.

Ambulance drivers must also meet the requirements of Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, as well as the Harper County Emergency Medical Services. Drivers will also have to compete a defensive driving course within three months of being hired, as well as a HIPPA training course. Drivers will do a ride along in the front and back of the ambulance to become acquainted with mobile patient care, as well as traffic issues and routes to hospitals and emergency room bays. Training will also be given on how to operate the unit’s lights, sirens and radios, as well as routine maintenance.



CHERI RICKE / The Independent

Machine Pitch: Avengers Win at Home 11-1

The head coach of the Attica Avengers machine pitch baseball teams talks to one of his players standing on third base during Monday night’s game against Kingman at home. The Avengers won 11-1.

Harper County K-State Research and Extension Office Seeks Increase in 2026 Budget

STAFF REPORT

Harper County K-State Research and Extension representatives met with county commissioners on Monday morning seeking a 2.5 percent increase in its operating budget for 2026.

Commissioners asked if Kansas State University

was going to increase its financial contribution to the organization. County Extension Agent Jenni Carr said there is a potential KSU will increase its contribution in 2026, but only by \$300 or \$400.

“That aggravates me,” Chairman Brian Wald-

schmidt said.

Commissioners also asked Carr if her office was “full staffed.” She told commissioners she is trying to fill one position within her office, but is utilizing a paid intern during the summer.

Carr said there is also a huge push for county agents

to encourage local 4-Hers to attend Kansas State University.

The local county agent said the organization will also no longer be known as K-State Research and Extension. As of July 1, the organization will lose research from its name and go by

K-State Extension. She also told the commissioners the group will be moved out of the umbrella of the College of Agriculture at KSU.

“Politics,” District 2 Commissioner Melinda McCurley said.

Carr also sought the approval of having a tent

placed in front of her office during the Harper County Fair for the community feed. She said last year there was an issue with the placement of the tent on Central Street just south of Main Street due to access to local businesses. The commissioners approved of the move.



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