# Kansas veterans are victims of 'claim sharks'

*Legislature to see competing bills on for-profit consultants*

***Grace Hills***
***Kansas News Service***

When members of the U.S. military finish their service, they often leave with physical and mental disabilities.

They are also guaranteed benefits, including healthcare coverage and other resources, in part to deal with those disabilities through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bridging the gap between the two is a lot of paperwork to prove their conditions and their eligibility.

For-profit veterans benefits consultants help former service members navigate the disability claim system for a fee – as opposed to free organizations that do the same, like the American Legion. In Kansas, the paid consultants operate in a legally gray area.

When lawmakers go back into session in January, veterans can expect two competing bills that may change that.

One would clear the way for for-profit veterans benefits consultants to charge veterans a fee to help file their disability claims. The other would essentially ban the practice.

**After (Veterans Guardian) lobbying efforts in Kansas, a federal judge found that Veterans Guardian's practices violate federal law. The company was recently ordered to pay more than $1 billion in damages to some Veterans who used their service.**

Some veterans have reported being charged up to $20,000 for a service that, per federal law, should likely be free. Opponents to the companies view these fees as predatory, calling the consultants "claim sharks."

Federal law says only accredited services - which are always free, like Veterans Service Organizations and the American Legion - can help file claims. The for-profit consultants are not accredited.

Last Statehouse session, the for-profit consultants sought to pass a bill that promised to put guardrails on the companies, but in actuality would have legitimized their practices on the state level.

One of those same

(See SHARKS on page 19)

## Public Notice

(First published in The Scott County Record on Wed., Nov. 11, 2026; last published Wed., Nov. 25, 2026)3t

**Scott County Mill Levy Rates**

I, Shelly Wiley, Scott County Treasurer, certify that the tax levies per $1,000 as valuation for the 2026 tax year are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| State | 0.00 |
| County | 58.462 |
| City | 62.971 |
| USD No. 466 | 61.908 |
| USD No. 466 - Scott Recreation Commission | 2.354 |
| Fire District | 2.240 |
| Wet Walnut Watershed | 3.245 |
| Isbel Township | 0.600 |
| Lake Township | 0.252 |
| Valley Township | 0.251 |
| West Plains Extension District | 0.00 |

Shelly Wiley
Scott County Treasurer

## Public Notice

(Published in The Scott County Record Wed., Nov. 25, 2026)1t

**SCOTT COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS OCTOBER 2026**

**GENERAL FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | $ 81,484.37 |
| COMMODITIES | 7,317.11 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 78,952.38 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 943.58 |
| OTHER | 0.00 |

**SHERIFF FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | 57,069.29 |
| COMMODITIES | 13,389.67 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 5,945.03 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 762.95 |
| OTHER | 0.00 |

**COUNTY HEALTH FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | 19,023.80 |
| COMMODITIES | 15,069.61 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 2,217.73 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 320.87 |
| OTHER | 0.00 |

**NOXIOUS WEED FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | 4,821.82 |
| COMMODITIES | 11,510.22 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 169.71 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 0.00 |

**ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | 48,476.59 |
| COMMODITIES | 19,542.91 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 6,211.31 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 7,252.00 |
| OTHER | 0.00 |

**FIRE DISTRICT FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | 1,250.00 |
| COMMODITIES | 581.50 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 4,343.97 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | |

**TREASURER'S SPECIAL FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| SALARIES | 3,227.37 |
| COMMODITIES | 0.00 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | 1,846.95 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 0.00 |
| OTHER | 297.17 |

PERRY NOWAK, Chairman
MARIE ALLEN, Scott County Clerk

## Register of Deeds

Erika and Trevor Roberts to Andres Perez, Lot 10, Blk. 4, East Acres Addition.

Tyler and Alaine Heiman to Trevor and Erika Roberts, Lot 1 and north 18 ft. of Lot 4, Blk. 3, Eggleston Addition.

Kent Carmichael to Quality Farm and Ranch Center, south 200 ft. of Lot 1, Blk. 4, Southview First Addition.

Fairleigh Corporation to Skyler and Stephanie James, north 40 ft. of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3, Blk. 1, CA Steele and Sons Addition.

# Boeing informs employees of intent to cut 5% of commerical airplane workforce

Boeing, one of the largest employers in Kansas, plans to lay off 5% of its commercial airline production staff, according to a company email sent to employees.

Stephanie Pope, president and CEO of Boeing's commercial airplane division, said reductions would start in December and include a combination of attrition and involuntary layoffs.

"As shared in our third quarter earnings, we need to reset the pace of our production rate ramps to provide our factories and supply chain partners additional time to achieve stability," Pope said in the email.

"Adjusting our production schedules and reducing aircraft output puts us in an overstaffed position. Unfortunately, that means we need to align our staffing levels to our revised business plan."

Boeing's commercial division employs about 50,000 people, including in Wichita.

Boeing Wichita officials sent a message to local staff saying that employees in Wichita and Tulsa, Okla., were not being considered for layoffs, voluntary separation or early retirement.

Boeing purchased its Wichita facility from Spirit AeroSystems last December. Boeing Wichita is the city's largest employer and among the largest in Kansas, with about 13,000 employees.

"I know how difficult these actions are and the impact they will have on all of us, our families, and our communities," Pope said.

"We will do everything we can to minimize the impact by supporting career transitions through company-sponsored outplacement services, layoff benefits, and Employee Assistance Program support."

During a conference call last month to discuss third-quarter earnings, Boeing executives said the company will fall short of its yearly delivery target for 737 Max jets. The company delayed the next rate increase on the 737 line until mid-2027.

Boeing Co. CEO Kelly Ortberg said the company was taking longer than expected to stabilize production rates of Max jets, and that wing production in Renton, Wash., was holding up output.

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| | | | | 8 | | 3 | | |

answers are on page 22




