

# Community Corrections meets benchmark, 9-1-1 advisory board reinstated

CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING – MARCH 3, 2026

**BY PHILIP STEVENS**  
HOMETOWN GIRARD

►► The Crawford County Commission met Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Chairman Bruce Blair called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners approved the minutes of the previous meeting without changes and signed motions from the Feb. 27 session.

The primary item of new business was a presentation from 11th Judicial District Court Administrator Mack Young, who reviewed the Community Corrections Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Plan, which takes effect July 1. Young reported that Community Corrections achieved a 77.6 percent success rate for fiscal year 2025, exceeding the Kansas Department of Corrections' statutory requirement of 75 percent. He noted the rate increased from approximately 71 percent in fiscal year 2024 and said the district continues to see improvement as operations stabilize following disruptions since 2020.

Young told commissioners that 201 total discharges were recorded during the fiscal year, with 156 classified as successful. He explained that under the Department of Corrections' definitions, an unsuccessful discharge occurs when an individual is sent to the Department of Corrections for incarceration. Some cases that proceed through revocation but are resolved through plea agreements or dismissal are not categorized as unsuccessful. Deaths and transfers to other

jurisdictions are tracked separately.

Across the 11th Judicial District, 524 individuals are currently under Community Corrections supervision. Young said approximately 60 percent are in Crawford County, 24 percent in Labette County and 16 percent in Cherokee County, reflecting population distribution across the district. He also addressed staffing challenges, noting that two employees left during fiscal year 2026. Because it takes approximately two years to fully train a new Community Corrections officer, retention remains an ongoing concern.

The district's Recovery Court, also referred to as Drug Court, currently serves 25 participants. Although grant language anticipates an increase of up to 40 participants, Young said staffing limitations and space constraints within the Judicial Center prevent expansion at this time. He indicated that while additional Department of Corrections funding for staffing has been anticipated, the district lacks adequate space to house additional personnel and program participants.

Young reviewed ongoing programming, including cognitive behavioral interventions such as Decision Points and Moral Recognition Therapy. He also discussed grant-funded initiatives with the Crime and Justice Institute and Community Solutions Incorporated, which focused on improving fidelity in risk and needs assessments. One of those projects is concluding, though a staff member has been trained to continue internal instruction.

The proposed fiscal year 2027 Community Corrections budget totals \$1,157,113. Of that amount,

\$932,953 is allocated through the Adult Intensive Supervision Program grant. DUI funds increased to \$75,254, and Behavioral Health funds total \$148,905. Young said the Behavioral Health grant allows clients to access mental health services without extended waiting periods by ensuring dedicated provider availability.

Commissioners approved the fiscal year 2027 Comprehensive Plan as presented and authorized the chairman to sign the required documents.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker informed commissioners that the Southeast Kansas spring meeting will be held April 16 in Eureka, with RSVPs due by March 9. Lusker also reminded the board that the Frontenac city sales tax election was being conducted March 3 at the Frontenac Senior Citizens Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Commissioners scheduled the canvass of that election for March 10 at 10 a.m., to be followed by the regular commission meeting.

Under old business, County Counselor Jim Emerson requested that the commission formally reestablish the county's 9-1-1 Advisory Board. Emerson said the board previously met regularly but became inactive since the COVID-19 period. He said reconvening the advisory group would allow agencies to coordinate more effectively on 9-1-1 communications, particularly since two Public Safety Answering Points now operate within Crawford County. Commissioners approved the motion to reestablish the board. Emerson indicated the goal is to meet following Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings, with the next LEPP meeting

scheduled for March 12 at Mercy Hospital.

Commissioner Carl Wood raised a follow-up regarding the previously approved extended warranty purchase for the county's 6110N tractor. Commissioners confirmed the prior approval and authorized issuance of a check to Heritage Tractor.

During the meeting, commissioners entered several executive sessions. A 20-minute executive session was held under the non-elected personnel exception to discuss Explore Crawford County with the three commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Sarah Grunyon. A subsequent 15-minute executive session was also held under the non-elected personnel exception regarding Explore Crawford County with the three commissioners and Emerson. Commissioners then entered a 10-minute executive session under attorney-client privilege regarding the comprehensive plan. Later in the meeting, a 15-minute executive session was held under the non-elected personnel exception concerning LEPP. No action was taken following any of the executive sessions.

Commissioners reviewed upcoming meetings and hearings, including a March 5 Planning and Zoning public hearing at the Girard Civic Center, the March 6 opening of culvert and mowing bids, a March 6 public hearing to vacate a road in Martin Kane's Second Addition in Arma, a March 6 discussion with John Kopiak of Shasta Power regarding a solar project and a March 10 presentation from Zoning Administrator May Smith concerning a subdivision. With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

## Police arrest in stalking case

**PRESS RELEASE**

►► On February 26, 2026, at approximately 11:04 a.m., the Parsons Police Department responded to a report of harassment and violation of court-ordered conditions involving Anthony Hon.

Earlier that morning, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Hon, who had recently been released from the Labette County Jail, began contacting a female victim by phone and text message. The victim reported that Hon stated he was out of jail and intended to come to her residence. The victim had applied for Protection from Abuse (PFA) Order the previous day and expressed fear for her safety based

on prior threats and continued harassment.

Officers coordinated with Court Services and confirmed that one of Hon's probation conditions prohibited contact with the victim. Despite this condition, Hon continued to send harassing and threatening messages.

Protective surveillance was established in the area of the victim's residence while officers actively searched for Hon. At approximately 12:29 p.m., officers developed information regarding his location. After an area search, Hon was located at approximately 2:08 p.m. in the 1500 block of Clark Avenue.

Anthony Hon was taken into custody without

incident and transported to the Labette County Jail on charges related to violation of probation conditions and unlawful contact.

The Parsons Police Department acted swiftly to ensure the victim's safety and prevent further escalation.

Chief Robert Spinks stated, "Domestic violence and intimidation will not be tolerated in our community. Court orders and probation conditions are in place to protect victims and prevent further harm. When those orders are violated, we will act immediately and decisively. The safety of victims is our highest priority, and we will continue to hold offenders accountable."

The Parsons Police Department encourages anyone experiencing domestic violence, harassment, or threats to contact law enforcement immediately. Victims are not alone, and resources are available.

This continues to be an on-going investigation, and citizens are encouraged to "See It, Hear It, Report It." All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. If anyone has any further information on this incident or any other criminal activity, please contact the Parsons Police Department at 421-7060 or call the Tip Line at 421-7057 or email at tips@parsonspdk.com.

Events through March 13



128 W. Prairie Avenue • Girard, KS 66743 • (620) 724-4317

**Building Strong Readers Ages 0-5** - Join us for Building Strong Readers - our story time program - at Girard Public Library on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00 am or Thursday, March 12th at 10:00 am! Have some spring fun with stories and a craft!

**Building Strong Readers Ages 5-11** - Have some fun with stories, crafts, and games on **Wednesday, March 11th at 2:30 pm!**

**Science for Kids** - Join Crawford County Conservation District for an activity at Girard Public Library on **Tuesday, March 10th at 3:30 pm!** Mindy Goble, with the Crawford County Conservation District, will be present to lead the activity. Learn about Native Flowers and take home seeds to plants!

**Teen Time Grades 6th-12th** - Enjoy an evening at Girard Public Library for Teen Time on **Monday, March 9th at 5:30 pm!** This program is for those is Grades 6th-12th.

**Community Bingo Night** - Join us at Girard Public Library for an evening of Bingo on **Monday, March 9th from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm!** Every person will receive 1 Bingo card to play - additional cards will be available. Concessions will also be available. Have fun and win prizes! Books, movies, and more!

**Friends of Girard Public Library** - The next meeting of the Friends of GPL will be held on **Monday, March 9th at 3:00 pm.** Reach out to Girard Public Library to find out how to become involved.

**Spice Vault** - Girard Public Library is excited to offer the Spice of the Month for March! **This month's spice is Smoked Paprika and the recipe is for Hungarian Paprika Chicken.** Each month, we will have a feature spice, complete with a recipe for you! Stop by the library to pick up the feature spice and the recipe. The recipe has been compiled by Heather Horton, owner of TOAST, located in Pittsburg. This is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to try some different spices and recipes! The spice will be available at the main circulation desk upstairs. Thank you to Heather Horton and TOAST Restaurant for including our library in this program!

**Rotation Books arrive at Girard Public Library on Friday, March 13th!** - Rotation books are provided through SEKLS for checkout in addition to our own materials. We receive rotation books 8 times throughout the year - approximately 340-350 book per delivery.

**Library Hours**

- Monday: 9:30 am - 7:00 pm
- Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
- Friday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Sunday: Closed

**New Items at Girard Public Library**

The following items are just part of the new items that have been added to our shelves recently. Stop by the library to find out what else we have added.

**Adult Fiction**

- *The Lost Girl in Paris* by Jina Bacarr
- *The Heir of Whitestone* by Catherine Coulter
- *Jigsaw* by Jonathan Kellerman (Alex Delaware #41)
- *The Touch* by Colleen McCullough
- *Pendergast: The Beginning* by Douglas Preston (Pendergast #23)
- *Stolen in Death* by J. D. Robb
- *Trust No One* by James Rollins

**Children's Picture Books**

- *The Favorite Hat* by Ariel Bernstein
- *The Cow That Laid an Egg* by Andy Cutbill
- *Love from the Crayons* by Drew Daywalt
- *Ariel Takes the Reins* by Brittany Mazique
- *Chicka Chicka I Love You* by Bill Martin
- *Minecraft: Search for Snowy Wolf* by Nada Dutka

**Young Adult Fiction**

- *Dr. Zeus* by James Patterson

**Young Adult Science Fiction**

- *Sibylline* by Melissa De la Cruz

**Magazines**

- *Car and Driver March/April 2026*
- *Good Housekeeping March/April 2026*
- *Magnolia Journal Spring 2026*
- *Prevention April 2026*
- *Southern Living March 2026*

## WATER STREET APARTMENTS

**1 BEDROOM APTS. ~ ELDERLY ~ DISABLED**

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