

A regular meeting of the Bracken County Fiscal Court was held on May 27, 2026, for the purpose of transacting any business properly presented by the established agenda.

Presiding: Tina K. Teegarden,
Judge Executive

Present: Debbie Mayfield, John Scott, Danny Holleran, Kevin Jarrells, Craig Miller, Heather Brumley, David Kelsch, Sandy Ruf

Let the record reflect that the Court Members receive a copy of any Transfers and Vendor Claims.

Upon Motion of Debbie Mayfield, second by John Scott, that the court approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 13, 2026.

Vote being unanimous

Road Department Update

Road Supervisor Stacey gave an update. They've had a lot of rain issues. They had 4 roads closed for highwater, 3 of them are now open and Jettroad, was still being worked on. They are hoping to get it open today or tomorrow. They've been cleaning culverts. We've had several trees down. They helped the County Clerk's Office deliver and pick up voting machines. They started the two side mowers and both bushhogs continue to run. Tom Enix will start T rail in the middle section of Snag Creek, tomorrow or Friday.

Animal Shelter Expansion Update

Magistrate Miller gave an update. The survey has been completed and turned into the architect for approval.

Property Licking Estates surplus

Tabled

ACO Rabies Vaccinations

Both animal shelter ACO's came before the court to discuss what was brought up at the last meeting, about having preventative rabies vaccines. There was a handout from Primary Plus given out to each court member. There was also a price sheet from primary plus. The total would be \$655.59, without insurance. The problem that they have run into in the last couple of days is if you're running it through insurance and it's for work, they could go back and say this is for work and that could possibly be an insurance fraud claim. Through insurance it was \$35 copay, but you run that risk of being flagged for insurance fraud. Without insurance it would be the \$655.59 per vaccine for a total of \$1,311.00 per person. One at day zero, one at day 7. This is a 2 shot round with a booster in 1 year. The 1-year booster cost is \$655.59. The health department would have 3 shots. With rabies, if you have not been vaccinated and you get bit and wait, it can be fatal. The vaccine lasts for 3 years. Magistrate Brumley stated she spoke with a vet, and he was dumbfounded that this is not normally done for the ACO's anyway. He stated that it is important to be preventative. Magistrate Jarrells asked if the county pays for DOT physicals. Judge Teegarden stated yes. He asked what the difference was, it's needed for their job, the county should pay for it.

Motion for approval for the 2 shots and 1 booster for each ACO for a total of \$3,955.54 once it is checked with insurance made by Craig Miller, second by David Kelsch.

Vote being unanimous

Buffalo Trace Road Commission Bid Awards

There was a packet given to each court member. It had chip n seal, cold mix and salt. The recommendations from Judge Teegarden to the court were highlighted. Chip n seal is for SC Construction and Materials LLC. Cold Mix, Brown County and Salt to Compass Minerals America Inc. The county will be going to all pure salt next year so that price has gone up.

Motion for approval made by John Scott, second by Debbie Mayfield

Vote being unanimous

Chief Kyle Carpenter/DKC Options for Mutual Aid Coverage/RAS Key- DMR System

Chief Carpenter addressed the court. He apologized to Judge Teegarden that she was not here when he spoke at the last meeting, he did not know she was not going to be there. Judge Teegarden wanted to explain that when the emails were coming back and forth that he was requesting information about the radios that she took for granted they knew the radios were not going to work with the system Mason had. She cc'd DKC radio because she thought they just wanted information on our system, and they could state what was required. At the end of the email after Zello came up with if there are other opportunities to revisit configuration and remove access limits that he was willing to be open for discussion for that. Judge Teegarden stated she was trying to find resolve for the issue before she opened discussion on it. Judge Teegarden stated also she was not aware that they were in jeopardy of losing a contract with EMS until she watched the meeting and heard it. Chief Carpenter stated that's why he wanted to come and talk to the Judge and court together. One area of his concern as Chief is the safety of his guys. If they are late responding to a call in Bracken County and can't communicate, then that is not safe for them. This is the whole reason Bracken County changed the system they had before, was the lack of communication ability. This is where discussions need to be had for the community and court to be able to hear so that everyone gets the same information. He came to open ears and let the court know there is this Mutual Aid. He is not going to tell anyone what radio stations they need to use or what they need to do but he did want to come and be able to discuss the issues its causing. Magistrate Jarrells asked if he could explain to the public why he's here and the communication issues that there are, especially since Germantown is in both Bracken and Mason counties. Chief Carpenter stated it is more the EMS side of things, but he is here for the Maysville Fire Department, and they have a mutual aid agreement with the EMS. About 3 Or 4 times a month they are in Bracken County assisting with first responders. This is the Buffalo Trace area, and they are here to help one another. We share one of the worst highways in Kentucky, the AA hwy. Fire departments are the first on these scenes and they need to be able to communicate with EMS and other law enforcement telling them where exactly they are or where they need to transport someone, how many patients are involved and what resources are needed. He wants the residents of Bracken County to be safe and that they receive the best service they can have and his guys to be safe when responding to scenes here. It really is life or death. Magistrate Jarrells asked Mr. Linville, Chief Deputy of the Mason County Sheriffs office how often they are out here in the middle of the night by yourselves. Mr. Linville stated it quite often. They work great with Bracken County, work very well with the Bracken County Sheriffs office and there are times, this weekend for example, there was assistance requested to their office. His deputies let him know they are responding to a knife situation here in Bracken County. This particular situation happened to work out, but it would be nice to be able to communicate with the Bracken County Sheriffs office at these calls. They are on a P25 platform and Bracken is on a DMR platform. Their radios are compatible; they just need to buy software that will hold the DMR. They have multiple channels that they have to go through now, they are just trying to get the live information as quickly and accurately as possible in critical incidents. The fugitive situation a year or so ago that multiple agencies responded to, they had to set up the scene with Bracken, Mason, Bracken, Mason etc. because of this radio issue. It depends on where they are, and cell phone service is not always reliable. This is definitely infrastructure that needs to be done. There is Mutual Aid in Germantown, the closest deputy for them may be someone in Bracken if it comes to a call in Germantown on the Mason side. Chief Carpenter stated their job is to prepare for the worst possible satiation they can think of and how they can prepare for it. He wants to be preventative instead of reactive to these situations. Judge Teegarden asked Deputy Linville if they needed to be working on something for him as well. He stated they are willing to invest in their end in the things needed to better communicate better with Bracken but there are other issues that need to be discussed on the Bracken end before they are willing to do that. Chief Carpenter stated they are already currently upgrading their radios to accommodate this change. What they thought was going to accommodate until they got into the nuts and bolts of the RAS key etc. They're just asking for Bracken to meet halfway. Their new radios are DMR, and they are P25. Magistrate Miller asked Sheriff Boody, across from the state, how much cross-county assistance like this is there? Sheriff Boody stated it happens every day. Magistrate Miller asked more specifically, Mutual Aid and radio compatibility. Sheriff Boody stated Boone, Kenton and Campbell for example are all on the same entire system. They are all able to communicate easily. Those 3 counties put in the infrastructure and paid the money to all be able to communicate safely. They are all P25. Magistrate Miller stated back when they were looking at this, they were 3 to 1 or 5 to 1. The quote for Bracken for P25 was over 1 million at the time. Magistrate Holleran stated, so we know there is a problem, what's the fix? County Attorney Moore had some things she wanted to bring to light for the court. She was asked to look into the implication that something had been done incorrectly, that the proper approvals were not given. She has reached out to various organizations in Frankfort. She finally spoke to

Patrick Compton with the Kentucky Emergency Management. He stated they are not in violation of the KRS. The only time this requires approval is if they were using grant funding to pay for it. Bracken County paid for it out of the general fund therefore they were not required to send this to anyone. Judge Teegarden stated everyone has in their folders a copy of what can be done with the tower. DKC radio was invited to explain more to the court. Kenwood radios are capable of DMR but with Bracken county's system here, it is a Motorola IP site connect system which means when you are talking to everybody, fire, law enforcement, Ems etc. They did not want to have to change their channels from radio to radio across the county. Augusta can be talking to the Sheriff's department in Augusta with no problems, this is done through the Motorola IP site connect, Kenwood radios do not work through Motorola site connect, they have their own proprietary version for that. Those radios will not work with the existing radios seamlessly even if the RAS key is taken off. Chief Carpenter stated they contacted their rep for Kenwood, and they can be on the IP connect they will work on that system. DKC stated there are 2 different formats that they get the information, so they are not compatible. Kenwood does this by key and initiates the search, and Motorola does it by initiating the search. Chief Carpenter stated the Kenwood's they are getting have been on the market for about 1 year. They were told that the IP site connect that is currently being used by Bracken is able to be connected. Initially Kenwood could not but with the newer radios and the updates that have been done it is able to be done now. He stated Tanisha was on that call too so she could confirm what they were told that their radios would do this. DKC stated they will reach back out to their support and verify. Maybe they weren't aware of the update. DKC stated what was done with the system, with the previous analog system there was 95% coverage in the county. When they switched to the digital platform it allowed them to get better coverage to the portable radios. When they went with this system they did leave the legacy analog system in place. It is still currently on the Bluegrass tower. It is used to set off the tornado sirens. Other places that have left this in place have gone back and put a bidirectional patch which will allow everything that is set on digital to go out to the analog system and everything on the analog system to come back. The only limitation is that it is using the analog that was gotten rid of because it does not provide 95% portable coverage in the county. It will work as good as it used to before they switched, which was satisfactory but not ideal. The analog system can be safely turned on. That would work for the fire departments and EMS, but it would not work for law enforcement because there are no law enforcement analog channels. Magistrate Miller asked, that would just be for the one at Bluegrass tower? DKC stated yes, which is centrally located. The only place it no longer works are Foster and Milford. But a mobile radio works but portable not so much. Judge Teegarden stated there is this option, Chief Carpenter is saying it will work on the radios that are ordered for Mason County, the RAS key will need to be removed. He stated there are other options out there other than the RAS key though. DKC stated the reason they chose the RAS key was because it doesn't secure the portable radios it secures the system. Without that key it runs a chance of running into interference. Chief Carpenter stated one thing he will say about the old analog system is, if it's not good enough for you guys, it's not good enough for mine. We just want to all be safe with reliable communication so we can do our jobs effectively and protect the community. Magistrate Miller asked, including what was just said about RAS key, can you explain a little more about what it is and what it does. DKC stated RAS key stands for Restricted Access System, which is just a Motorola proprietary secure system for a secure key to keep the repeaters from receiving any kind of interference from similar systems. Was that in place before the DMR system? No, it's something unique to Motorola systems. Taking the RAS key off is something that can be done, it would take a complete reprogramming of the entire system including all mobile radios, portable radios, tower sites etc. For the fire channel it's ok but if you remove it from the fire channel you must also remove it from the law enforcement channel because Bracken is on a shared system. This opens their system up for interference that could cause communication delays. It's one of those things that can be taken off, but you do lose some integrity of the system. Magistrate Mayfield asked if there was an alternative to the RAS key? DKC stated no. As far as turning on the analog system you're not going to be doing the fire department in Maysville a disservice, you're just turning on the same type of system they are using. The analog system is comparable to what they are using now with the same type of coverage. The analog system coming back on is the most cost effective, easiest solution to turn it on immediately. Long term to actually have this work on the digital network they would need to make sure that software is compatible. It would require a major reprogram of every device in the county to remove that. Magistrate Miller asked Sheriff Boody what his thoughts are on the RAS key? Sheriff Boody stated he doesn't know enough information specifically about what it may or may not do to the system, but he knows that our need to communicate is more important than if he's going to get interference from Louisville twice in 10 years. Example from this weekend, he got dispatched to a stabbing. It was on the Mason/Bracken line in Bracken Co. He asked for assistance from Mason County SO there was some confusion as to whether it was East or West Mary Ingles Hwy because they did not give a specific address. That information got communicated to Mason County as West Mary Ingles so instead of that deputy taking route 8, he took AA because he thought he could make better time from where he was and then they

communicated to him that it was East. It came out to be uneventful, but he cannot communicate with them while they are in route to tell them details. He has to rely on our dispatch to tell their dispatch to tell them. You lose the story in that kind of communication. This happens everyday no but at least once or two a month. Sheriff Boody gave another instance that was a couple years ago when they got the radios, there was an instance in Germantown where someone had fired shots. They had a deputy there, by themselves with this individual. They called him home, he jumped up, threw on clothes and left the house. He forgot his radio because he was in a hurry to get out of there. He did have his phone and yes, he has Zillow, but Verizon service does not work in Germantown so what good does that do him. Mason County responded to assist with that as well but again there was no direct communication. It had to go through both dispatches to them. Magistrate Miller asked DKC how many radios Bracken County has. They stated about 100 mobiles and about 100 portables. Plus, repeaters sites. Magistrate Miller asked, "are we down to two options? One being the proposal to add to the analog which could be immediate possible short-term fix but then we would also be looking at the second option of trying to convert to where it is digitally compatible, reprogramming 100's of radios, repeater sites, hardware and software here in the office and that would be months long process. DKC stated on the repeaters and tunnels they have to have assistance from a Motorola engineer but once that is done and out of the way it is probably something that could be done over the course of the day, but it is going to take the system down probably for about a 24-hour period. All the radio channels have to be addressed manually. If the Ras key is taken out of the radios, then the current radios will not work. So as quickly as they possibly could they would have to touch every radio in the county at one time. Magistrate Mayfield asked for a ballpark estimate. DKC stated he didn't know off the top of his head. It would probably be close to the quote that they have there in front of them. Magistrate Millers' concern is spending \$12,000 to get something done immediately and then having other departments want to do another option and having to spend another \$12,000. By turning on the analog system you are allowing other agencies that aren't necessarily involved in this discussion to turn those counties on to be able to talk back into the system. Counties like Pendleton, who we do talk with sometimes. They just need to find out from Motorola if these other radios are compatible with IP site connect. With this type of system, it chooses the tower you talk through so geographically sometimes it doesn't necessarily connect to the site closest to you, it goes to the one with the best signal so manually switching the channels leads to issues, so they try to avoid doing that. Magistrate Miller asked Judge Teegarden with both party discussions today and with the quote they were given, does she think that they could consider looking at both options at the next meeting. She said yes, that would give them the time to make their calls and come up with a quote to switch the system without the RAS key. Magistrate Jarrell asked why it's such a difference in why they can't communicate with Mason County. DKC stated Mason County fire stayed on an antiquated analog system, basically it's the same type of system that has been there for the last 50 years. It was proposed and put in a P25 system, but they never invested in the infrastructure for them to switch to that. So, it's still a basic analog system. There aren't many of those left in the state, a lot of extremely rural counties have all switched to P25 or DMR. It's rare for anyone to still be operating on analog. And that's what Bracken was on prior to DMR. The signal is a lot better; clarity is a lot better. Sheriff Boody stated there is no question in their general ability to communicate, it is way better than it used to be. Everybody invests in slightly different systems, there are ways to make things interoperability compliant, it's just a matter of looking at the best option for you and investing in it. This patch that is proposed is used a lot to do that. Magistrate Ruf asked how long it would be for Mason County to get their radios Chief Carpenter said they will be in the next month or so. He stated that's why what they are discussing here is an issue because depending on what Bracken does will determine how they program their radios. The only reason they bought the DMR radios is that they could communicate with Bracken and Lewis. They were willing to meet Bracken halfway. Who owns the radios, the Fiscal Court or the Fire departments. Judge Teegarden stated the Fire departments are. Chief Carpenter stated then it could be up to the fire departments, they have people pr their own vendors that could remove the RAS keys. That may be some cost savings to the court. That's a conversation that needs to be had with the fire departments. Magistrate Brumley if you switched back to analog, if Milford and Foster don't have towers would we have to pay for those. DKC stated no, the only tower that would be taking care of all of this would be the Bluegrass and Augusta towers. Foster and Milford had all equipment completely removed. Magistrate Jarrells asked if we could let the fire departments get their own bids. Does the RAS key come off the radios? DKC stated they have their own software, if they want to take it off their selves they can, Judge Teegarden asked if that would affect our system. DKC stated yes, if they don't do it properly it would. Magistrate Ruf asked, since the fire departments own their own radios, if they take the RAS off themselves and do something else, they won't be able to communicate? DKC stated yes, if you don't know the nuts and bolt you could create that issue. Magistrate Jarrells asked if DKC could sit down with the fore department vendors and work together on this? DKC stated yes, they are going to talk to the regional rep to see what their options are. DKC stated, as Bracken County radios are now, they are completely compatible with Mason County radios, the problem is with Mason County not

being able to talk to you all. DKC stated it's going to take some work to correct this system. Magistrate Jarrells asked, if this is going to cost us more money, why wasn't this problem fixed to begin with, for the analog to be turned on? DKC stated specifically, we're lucky it was left in place because originally all that equipment was going to be removed. The only reason that system was left in place was because the vendor that does the sirens, he could of changed the sirens to go off with the digital code which would have given a lot better signal strength but the price was going to be very expensive and secondly he was not impressed with the reliability of how these sirens sent the code digitally so that was a last second thing was to leave the old analog system there so now when dispatch sends the signal to the tornado sirens it sends stops, sends the tornado siren to the analog system and then disconnects and goes back to the digital system. Judge Teegarden stated one of the problems was they have converted some of the new sirens, out of 16 there are 6 or 7 old sirens still that the county is waiting on the funding to upgrade. DKC stated that it is correct as well. The other cheaper way to do this is through the dispatch console but it could be inadvertently turned on and off. What DKC had proposed was a hardware patch that eliminates that. Magistrate Jarrells stated there were 6 new magistrate last time and it was a lot for them to learn. DKC stated the sirens are the reason they went this route. Magistrate Miller stated this is also due to the upgrade Mason County is doing that was not in place 3 or 4 years ago. Chief Carpenter stated as far as analog is concerned, the reason they have stayed with that is because it is good backup, as everyone knows with digital there can be issues, so they have kept analog and gone digital as a backup. It's a simple system to where if something happens on the digital, they can easily switch over to analog. Chief Carpenter stated this is not an issue that looks like it is going to be resolved today. As long as Bracken is looking into this, they are not going to stop responding when Bracken calls for help, they are still here to help protect your residents. They understand this is an issue and needs to be fixed but realize it will not be fixed January 1st. Let's get information and bring it back here and resolve this issue. Penny stated her question to the county this whole time getting new radios etc. has been, how do we talk to someone coming into this county? Mason is in our county way too much for us to not be able to talk to them. DKC stated turning the analog on would enhance their ability for surrounding agencies to be able to talk to Bracken County. Analog radio does not sound as clear as digital though. It would at least add interoperability. Analog system was built for 95% mobile coverage; digital is 95% portable coverage. If you're talking from a vehicle, you would not have a dead spot in the county on analog. Portable on analog will be areas like downtown Milford, Foster or low spots at the fringes of the county where you would have problems. Sheriff Boody asked, so he's wanting Mason to talk through our old analog repeater, they want to talk through DMR because they want to remove the RAS key and program their radios through DMR? That's 2 different things. Sheriff Boody stated talking on those repeaters is not a plausible fix because they don't work anywhere in the county. DKC stated for specifically Mason County, he's going to need to ask some questions to Motorola specifically to get some answers. Sheriff Boody stated when he is standing on the AA at Snag Creek Road trying to talk on a portable radio he can't do it on that repeater; it does not do him any good to be on that repeater unless he is somewhere in town or on a hill. Judge Teegarden stated they are going to look at the option for analog and the option for removing the RAS and 100% compatibility. Deputy Linville stated at the install, they dedicate a day to doing this and let surrounding areas know, hey, we're going to be doing this, we're going to need help on this day, and everyone picks up coverage to help out because at the end of the day that's how you make an effective system. DKC stated they will look into this and what it would cost and what options are best. Judge Tegarden stated the one thing she wants to ask, when the RAS key is taken off the tower sites, nothing works. It will take all radios down at that time. DKC stated the only other thing to do is to get everyone together at the same time, say this day at this time this switch needs to be done, or nothing will work.

Bracken County Budget FY 2026-2027 (2nd Reading/Adoption)

Tabled until June 24th

Add Road Fund Transfers to agenda

Motion for approval made by Heather Brumley, second by John Scott

Vote being unanimous

General Fund Budget Transfers

Motion for approval made by Craig Miller, second by Heather Brumley

Vote being unanimous

Road Fund Transfers

Motion for approval made by David Kelsch, second by Kevin Jarrells

Vote being unanimous

Dispatch 911 Fund Budget Transfer

Motion for approval made by John Scott, second by Sandy Ruf.

Vote being unanimous

General Fund Vendor Claims

Motion for approval made by Heather Brumley, second by Debbie Mayfield
Vote being unanimous

Road Fund Vendor Claims

Motion for approval made by Sandy Ruf, second by David Kelsch
Vote being unanimous

Jail Fund Vendor Claims

Motion for approval made by Debbie Mayfield, second by Danny Holleran
Vote being unanimous

Senior Citizens Fund Vendor Claims

Motion for approval made by John Scott, second by Sandy Ruf
Vote being unanimous

Dispatch 911 Fund Vendor Claims

Motion for approval made by Heather Brumley, second by Craig Miller
Vote being unanimous

Other Business:

Art in the Garden will be held the weekend of June 6th in Augusta. This will be their 25th year.

Motion to adjourn made by Danny Holleran, second by John Scott

S/_____
Jennifer Free, Fiscal Court Clerk

S/_____
Tina K. Teegarden, Co Judge Executive