

FINANCE
September 16th, 2026

Call to order	The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Finance Chairman Gary Koch. Committee members Gerry Krachey, Wayne Jerrett, and Greg Russell were present. Bruce Strnad was absent. Also present were Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman; Deanne Lutz, Treasurer; Holly Tanner, Clerk of Court; Nicole Asleson, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court; Laura Johll, Child Support Administrator; Angie Martin, 911 Coordinator; Jacob Schneider, ADRC; Eric Frydenlund, Driftless Wisconsin; Bob Moses, Chamber of Commerce; Nikki Dudley, Driftless Development; Becky Hackett and Tina Wiedenbeck, Driftless Development; and Roberta Fisher, County Clerk.
Verify posting	The Finance Chairman verified that the meeting notice was properly posted at the Courthouse, Administration Building and on the county website.
Approval of Minutes	Motion by Krachey, second by Jerrett to approve the minutes from the August 19th Finance Committee meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.
Approval of Bills and Proposals	The Clerk presented the bills and invoices for approval. Motion by Krachey, second by Jerrett, to approve the invoices for payment today. The motion carried unanimously.
DDI 2027 Contribution	Nikki Dudley, Becky Hackett, and Tina Wiedenbeck stood and introduced themselves to the committee today. Crawford County provides the largest share of Driftless Development, Inc.'s funding base, alongside city, private and business investments. Thanks to that base, led by the County's support, DDI was able to bring in \$8.68 in grant dollars for every \$1 raised. There were a total of 9 grants, awards, and resources that were administered by DDI in 2026. Economic development now spans a wide range of priorities, from business retention and workforce to housing, childcare, infrastructure, tourism and community development. No single rural organization can effectively deliver all of these functions alone. Real progress in a rural county depends on a strong network of partners. DDI's role is to understand what Crawford County needs, bring the right partner and resources together, and keep opportunities moving forward. Dudley is requesting the county invest \$80,000 for 2027. Even with the \$80,000 investment, DDI must still generate more than \$40,000 annually through private and business support, municipal partners and allowable administrative revenue.

The Finance Chairman thanked Nikki for her presentation and informed her that this request will be considered when preparing the 2027 Budget and addressed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

Nikki is also asking for a letter of support from the county to go along with a Reinvest Crawford Small Business Development Grant application.

**Chamber of
Commerce 2027
Contribution**

Bob Moses attended the meeting today to request a financial contribution of \$13,500 for 2027 to the PdC Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Council. This is the same amount of contribution as last year.

Previously, Moses attended a Finance Committee meeting and a County Board meeting to propose a collaborative effort with Crawford County to explore sustainable funding solutions and establish a structure that supports consistent, countywide tourism efforts. His request for this project is \$15,000 for 2027.

**Driftless
Wisconsin
2027 Request**

Eric Frydenlund of Driftless Wisconsin thanked the county for their 2026 contribution, and shared some success stories in tourism promotion for Crawford County in the last few years.

Frydenlund is requesting a \$7,000 contribution for 2027. This will be to fund the match requirement for the Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grant application. JEM Grants have been highly successful, with the last one in 2023 garnering a 411% return on investment.

**2027 Budget
Progress**

All department budgets have been submitted. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue released the shared revenue for 2027. Crawford County's shared revenue increased approximately \$31,000. This revenue is the second largest source of funding for the county.

Health insurance increased cost to the county for 2027 is well over \$500,000. An employee survey will be sent out to all employees to help decide whether the county should continue offering the local deductible health plan with ETF or switch to the high-deductible plan, which would bring that increase down to around \$100,000. If the employees choose to stay with the local deductible health plan, the county contribution will need to be lowered to 70% from 80% this year.

**County Treasurer
Report**

Updated monthly Sales & Use and Wheel Tax reports were distributed for review. Sales & Use Tax was down about 10% from same time last year. Wheel Tax was down about 1.9%.

Deanne Lutz, County Treasurer, also distributed the Phase 3 capital borrowing report through September 10th. The interest earned on the Phase 3 borrowing through August is \$57,109.56

Lutz informed the committee that three properties have been foreclosed, all located in Gays Mills. An online auction through Kramer's Auction will begin on October 6th and close on October 27th. Bidding will start at the assessed values.

Next meeting October 7th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. joint with Personnel.

Adjournment **Motion by Russell; second by Jerrett to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.**

Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk