JOINT FINANCE/PERSONNEL
October 7th, 2026

Call to order

The Special Joint Finance/Personnel Committee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Finance Chairman Gary Koch. Finance Committee members Gerry Krachey, Bruce Strnad, Wayne Jerrett, and Greg Russell were present. Personnel Committee members Brad Steiner, Carl Orr, Derek Flansburgh, Mark Gilberts, and Brian Reynolds were present. Also present were Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman; Linda Munson, County Board Supervisor; Nicole Asleson, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court; Laura Johll, Child Support Administrator; Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director; Linda Redman, Register in Probate; Andrew Burdick, DA; Dale Klemme, CDA, Inc.; 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 September 16th Finance Committee meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Approval of Bills and Proposals

The Clerk presented the following bills and invoices for approval and payment.

- Kraemer Brothers, Payment App #23 $1,028,663.77
- Uline (jail soft costs) $10,621.40
- Amazon (jail soft costs) $354.48
- American Floor Mats (jail soft costs) $3,758.51
- Access Security (jail soft costs) $7,716.00

Motion by Krachey, second by Jerrett, to approve the invoices for payment today. The motion carried unanimously.

Kraemer Bros. Wrap Up Update

There was some miscommunication, and Greg Callin of Kramer Brothers was not available for today's meeting. He will be presenting at the full county board meeting on October 20th, 2026

NEIT Broadband Contribution

Dale Klemme is here today to ask for confirmation of the $100,000 in funds that was allocated to NEIT to extend broadband services across the river from Iowa into Wisconsin. NEIT was awarded the BEAD grant and are beginning the design and engineer work this fall and begin construction in early 2027.

Motion by Krachey; second by Cornford to distribute the funds as needed upon receipt of invoice to the County Clerk. The funds will be distributed from the TIF account and the remaining from the contingency fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Driftless Art Fest Contribution

Dale Klemme is also here on behalf of the Driftless Area Art Festival. They are asking the county to consider a $9,000 contribution for the 2027 festival.

The Chairman informed Klemme that the county has allocated some funds for the 2027 budget towards promoting Crawford County, and his request will be considered when finalizing the budget in the next two weeks.

765 Transmission Line Project Legal Advisory Services

The Chair distributed an agreement between Vernon County and Progressive Law Group, LLC for advisory and potential representation services related to the proposed construction of 765kV high-voltage transmission line projects.

Koch requested a motion from the committee to approve participating with Vernon County—and possibly Richland County—in contracting for these services, as a demonstration of the county's support for residents affected by the transmission line projects. The cost for these advisory services from Progressive Law Group, LLC is $5,000 and funds are available in the budget for outside counsel services.

Motion by Jerrett, second by Krachey to approve Crawford County to enter into the contract with Progressive Law Group, LLC for advisory and representation services relating to the high-voltage transmission line project. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

RN Staff Nurse Transition to Full-Time

Currently, there is a part-time RN Staff Nurse position in Health and Human Services Department. This position works 30 per week and is WRS-eligible, allowing the employee to receive county benefits, though at a higher cost because the position does not meet the 35-hour threshold for full-time status.

Dan McWilliams, HHSD Director, is requesting that this position be converted to full-time at 37.5 hours per week, which would make it eligible for full-time benefits. He notes that the Health Department is currently struggling to meet baseline public health requirements, and increasing the position's hours would provide an additional 7.5 hours per week of needed staff capacity. This change would increase the cost of the position by approximately $44,000, assuming that the employe elects the family health insurance coverage.

Dan also updated the job description to reflect the proposed increase in hours. He is seeking approval of the revised job description, as well as approval to convert the position to full-time effective Monday, October 12th.

Motion by Orr; second by Cornford to approve the updated job description and converting the position to full-time status of 37.5 hours per week to begin on Monday, October 12th. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Justice Programs Coordinator

Brad Steiner, Personnel Chairman, requested this item on the agenda. The CJCC committee voted to update the Justice Programs Coordinator to a department

Reclass

head position and report solely to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. A separate discussion will be had regarding compensation.

The Clerk had not received any further information regarding this request. The committees recommended adding this item to the next Personnel Committee meeting to approve an updated job description and discuss wage increase if necessary. Susan Hilger, Justice Programs Coordinator, was not available for today's meeting. No further action taken on this item today.

Victim Witness Coordinator Reclass

Andrew Burdick, District Attorney, attended the meeting today to request that the Victim Witness Coordinator position be reclassed and wage adjusted to reflect the additional responsibilities that he feels this employee has taken on.

Burdick explained that this position has effectively taken on the responsibilities of an office manager, including training new staff, supervising data entry, and assisting with drafting complaints and petitions, discovery reviews, and witness lists—all of which align with paralegal-level work. While his office employs a paralegal, she is still developing in the role. Burdick noted that although he has attempted to delegate tasks to her, the Victim Witness Coordinator ultimately ends up overseeing the results.

The committee instructed Burdick to create an amended job description for the Victim Witness Coordinator that supports the requested reclassification and wage increase, and to present it to the Personnel Committee for consideration. If the updated job description is approved, a joint meeting with the Finance Committee should then be held to consider the reclassification and wage increase. No action was taken on this item today.

2027 Budget Progress Update

The budget is progressing as expected. One of the primary concerns this year is the rising cost of health care. Currently, the county offers single and family coverage through ETF under the Local Deductible Plan, with the county contributing 80% of the premium and employees paying the remaining 20%.

Employees were surveyed regarding two options: switching to a high-deductible plan at a significantly lower cost or remaining on the Local Deductible Plan with the county contribution reduced to 70%. The survey results indicated a preference to remain on the LDHP under the 70/30 cost-share model.

The committee is being asked today to approve this recommendation and authorize the change to a 70% county share and 30% employee share.

Motion by Koch; second by Orr to approve reducing the cost-share of the Local Health Deductible plan monthly premiums to 70/30 for 2027. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

October County Board Agenda

Greg Callin of Kraemer Brothers will give a "wrap up" presentation to the full county board regarding the new Justice Center.

Nikki Dudley will be presenting her annual report for Driftless Development, Inc.

Motion by Krachey; second by Strnad to approve and recommend to full county board the Resolution Approving Budget Appropriation for the County Aid Bridge Construction for 2027. The motion carried unanimously.

There will be three Resolutions.

- Resolution Approving Budget Appropriation for the County Aid Bridge Construction
- Resolution Requesting the State to Provide GPR Funding to Cover the Full Non-Federal Share of MA, CSP and Crisis Intervention Services
- Resolution Regarding the 2027-2031 Crawford County Land Conservation Dept.-Wisconsin DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership

Report of the General Claims Committee.

Gary will update the board on the budget progress and ask for motions to obtain bids for borrowing in the 2027 Budget.

Next meeting October 21st, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment **Motion by Russell; second by Jerrett to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.**

Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk