

# GOVERNMENT

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 5, 2026)  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of )  
LINDA E. BAXTER, Deceased. ) Case No. OT-2026-PR-000001

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition was filed in this Court by Matthew Baxter, as one of the heirs of Linda E. Baxter, deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of interest in the following described real property:

Lots Nine (9) and Ten (10), Block Eighteen (18), Original Town of Culver, Ottawa County, Kansas.

and all other property, real and personal, or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of her death; and, you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. of said day, in said court, in the City of Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, Kansas, 307 N Concord., at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Matthew Baxter, Petitioner

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## Commissioner's Desk



By Duane Morris  
Ottawa County Commissioner  
District #3

Please remember this is NOT an official documentation of the minutes, it is meant to be an informative synopsis of County Commissioner activities from my perspective. If you want more information on a subject I mention here I encourage you to read the full minutes of the meetings or watch the video of the meetings online at the Ottawa County Website <https://ks1497.cichosting.com/main/>

Our February 9th meeting began with Dr. Curtis Stevens, USD 239 Superintendent, sharing some ideas about the Blue Store. Part of his desire is to be able to involve students in local community projects to give them memories and hopefully a desire to return home to (or remain in) Ottawa County for their career. I can't relay his ideas in whole, but his desire is to have several entities involved in the Blue Store renovation

and use. It would sure be good to have that facility utilized once again!

Sheriff Russ Thornton discussed a vehicle lease contract for the commissioners to look over. This could be an alternative to ownership and having more control over costs for his department.

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, reported that his Road and Bridge crew is glad to have the latest winter storm in the history books. The guys are cleaning equipment and replenishing supplies "just in case" another winter storm gets us. Personally I think we're going to have at least one more in February or March, but I hope I'm wrong! I think Puxatawny Phil is way off base in his prediction of 6 more weeks of winter! This week I have seen numerous flocks of geese honking their way north. I've always thought that was a sure sign of spring!

Department heads were present for an update with no surprises. Shelby Walker, Register of Deeds shared two new programs that originate in her office: Property Fraud Alert and Notary Fraud Alert. Details are on their website at [propertyfraudalert.com](http://propertyfraudalert.com). This website will monitor real estate transactions and alert you if your name is found on a transaction. Notary Fraud Alert works on the same principle, except it covers notarized transactions so a no-

tary public can monitor their own activity and be alerted with scam attempts. Scammers and their schemes are getting harder to detect and it is important to catch fraud as early as possible.

The commissioners adjourned the regular meeting at 10:09 to reconvene as the Ottawa County Board of Health with Sara Hodges. We discussed grants she had received and grant opportunities for the year 2026 as well as a 5 year strategic plan. We also elected new membership and officers for 2026. The board of health adjourned at 10:30 and we reconvened as board of county commissioners.

It was brought up that the Golden Wheel has had no cook for 3 weeks and meals are not being served. It seems as though Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging is stone walling our needs. Sara and the Golden Wheel board officers are working hard to get this resolved.

Tammi Cox, County Clerk and Election Officer, brought up a HAVA grant she has applied for. (Help America Vote Act.) It will be used to upgrade items in her office related to the upcoming elections and ongoing election security.

There will be no meeting and the courthouse will be closed on February 16th in observance of President's Day.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

## VFW Auxiliary

By Lucia Doud

The February 2, 2026, meeting of the Minneapolis VFW Auxiliary to Post 3201 was called to order by President Corinne Schur with nine members present. Opening ceremonies were performed. There were no new applications for membership or communications. Handed out minutes were reviewed and a missing line, Beach, CA. For Veteran and Family Support Corky reminded us we had funeral dinners for Doris Davis and Delilah Smith., was noted. Also, should be Flag Company and the next meeting date should be Feb 2, not 3. Corrections were made.

Treasurer Dana Beauchamp gave her report and told us the amount of donations we had received for the Doris Davis memorial. Historian Sharie Ragland asked if the members who usually attend meetings wanted thank you cards sent for memorial donations. Consensus was that we didn't. Two bills were presented. One from Dana Beauchamp for the January Lions Club lunch and one from Corky Schur for greeting cards for the historian to use. President Schur told us she had received a call from District President Ebersol reminding her that reports need to be in by March 31, and he had not received any from our auxiliary in several months. Corky told him she had recently sent one in.

Membership chairman Dana Beauchamp reported we still had 90 paid members.

Americanism Chairman Paula Baccus reported that January treats were taken to four Veterans at MHRC. She also told us one auxiliary member was receiving rehab services. Paula reminded us of 11 historical dates in February. As quilt chairman, Paula said January's quilting day was canceled because of weather and the next one will be February 21 at the VFW hall. She also reported that Mrs. Connelly picked up a couple of quilt pillow cases

for people in the Tescott area and also said that Bill was proud of his quilt and showing it off.

Historian Sharie Ragland reported she had sent eight birthday cards to members and 29 thank you cards for the Davis memorial.

Legislative Chairman Lucia Doud reported that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one identification for a service member who has been missing and unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Youth Chairman Corky Schur reminded us about the grade school carnival and where to bring donations and when. As Hospital Chairman Corky read the poem "What Veteran's Voices Gave Me" by Daniel Paicopulos of San Diego, CA.

For Veteran and Family Support Corky said she had turned in a report on the funeral dinners with the num-

ber of people served, cost and the number of funerals.

For Scholarship, Corky said she had received no Endowment applications which were due Jan. 26.

Trustee Roberta Stenfors presented the trustees fourth quarter audit report.

President Schur asked if the members would rather start our meetings earlier during the colder months of December, January, February, and March. It was decided to try it for the March meeting.

Dana Beauchamp told us the February Lions Club lunch will be chicken fried chicken, crock pot corn, mashed potatoes, rolls and cake.

Trustee Roberta Stenfors reported the bills were approved and can be paid.

Closing ceremonies were performed and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next meeting will be March 2 starting at 5:30 pm.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 12, 2026)

Ottawa County Treasurer's  
Quarterly Report  
for the Quarter Ending  
January 31, 2026

County General	\$3,586,328.68
County Bond & Interest	\$29,866.25
County Capital Outlay Reserve Fund	\$948,941.09
RWR Incentive Program	\$30,000.00
Special Highway Improvement Reserve	\$540,840.86
Road & Bridge	\$2,305,239.42
Special County Machinery	\$689,535.74
Special Bridge	\$1,288,446.88
Solid Waste	\$407,693.01
FEMA	\$11,797.77
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$35,073.07
Vehicle	\$8,997.11
Hospital Debt Service	\$236,158.19
Election Capital Outlay	\$18,000.32
Election	\$50,801.80
Hospice	\$21,399.49
Building Fund	\$405,337.23
Drug and Alcohol	\$23,062.67
Noxious Weed Capital Outlay	\$126,815.79
Noxious Weed	\$243,498.00
Special Drug Enforcement	\$19.81
Special Parks & Recreation	\$12,551.24
Aging	\$373,531.15
Bennington Twp Road	\$57,857.56
Buckeye Twp Road	\$21,480.53
Center Twp Road	\$120,023.77
Chapman Twp Road	\$21,117.55
Concord Twp Road	\$73,822.30
Culver Twp Road	\$71,187.49
Durham Twp Road	\$34,509.09
Fountain Twp Road	\$42,293.09
Garfield Twp Road	\$27,668.74
Grant Twp Road	\$47,275.77
Henry Twp Road	\$44,648.78
Logan Twp Road	\$45,802.70
Morton Twp Road	\$25,057.96
Ottawa Twp Road	\$58,912.74
Richland Twp Road	\$21,107.93
Sheridan Twp Road	\$48,473.97
Sherman Twp Road	\$51,503.10
Stanton Twp Road	\$23,953.59
PS Radio Maint/Upgrades	\$69,437.58
Diversion	\$26,610.85
Museum Expansion	\$104,547.42
Historical	\$98,188.14
Historical Endowment	\$15,524.98
County Health	\$226,548.86
Appraiser	\$200,316.78
Reappraisal Car Fund	\$365.71
Reappraisal Equip Reserve	\$347.71
Technology Fund/Clerk	\$14,588.47
Technology fund/Treasurer	\$14,537.93
Technology Fund/Reg of Deeds	\$72,273.41
Employee Benefits	\$2,498,293.80
F.D. O&L #1	\$27,633.58
F.D. #2	\$300,947.33
F.D. #3	\$20,767.40
F.D. O&L#1 Capital Outlay	\$7,742.49
F.D. #2 Capital Outlay	\$120,000.00
F.D. #3 Capital Outlay	\$59,144.00
Jail Commissary	\$41,525.95
Law Enforcement Center Capital Outlay	\$420,192.62
Jail Bond Cost of Issuance	\$90.60
Law Enforcement Center	\$26,742.02
Insufficient Funds	(\$553.57)
Payroll Clearing	\$5,953.97
Attorney Training	\$9,402.86
Mount Liberty Cemetery #2	\$2,538.92
Greenville Cemetery #3	\$39,064.59
Franklin Cemetery #10	\$52,632.48
Fairview Cemetery #11, Sherman T	\$1,746.77
Hall Cemetery #12	\$37,412.99
Bennington Twp General	\$26,406.03
Buckeye Twp General	\$74,178.37
Center Twp General	\$1,884.75
Concord Twp General	\$20,742.64
Durham Twp General	\$3,645.75
Garfield Twp General	\$870.89
Henry Twp General	\$1,175.40
Logan Twp General	\$8,607.13
Richland Twp General	\$620.48
Sheridan Twp General	\$168.61
Sherman Twp General	\$16,270.37
Stanton Twp General	\$780.29
Current Tax	\$242,391.22
Incomplete Payment Holding Act	\$13,259.36
Redemption	\$23,965.88
Vehicle Tax	\$26,858.96
Commercial Truck Tax	\$2,156.23
Vehicle Sales Tax	\$18,102.90
Driver's License	\$273.50
Game	\$0.35
Insurance Claim Account	\$674,577.99
Transient Guest Tax	\$131.71
	\$17,902,267.68

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer  
Tammi Cox, County Clerk

### STRANGE, BUT TRUE...

Astronauts on Mars won't just make plans based on temperature, but will also need to consider tau, the level of particulate matter in the atmosphere. High tau levels will block sunlight to solar-powered rovers.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on January 29, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of:  
CHRIS E. CARLSON, deceased Case No. OT-26 PR 03

**NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Will Carlson praying for Letters of Administration, you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 3, 2026 at

10:00 o'clock a.m. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, State of Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due

course upon the Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Will Carlson  
Will Carlson, Petitioner

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

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