

GOVERNMENT

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 23rd meeting began with a presentation by Bree Levine, a senior parent from USD 240, about the importance of the after prom celebration and an explanation of how it works. This event is important to keep our young people in a safe, fun environment during their celebrations. The Ottawa County Museum

Board of Directors is making progress towards their 501c3 status. The commissioners are working with the board to iron out details of the changes. You should visit the museum to see the changes as the board had another work day on the 26th and things are changing! I will repeat again that no artifacts are being thrown away! Duplicate items and items that have no apparent ties to Ottawa County are being evaluated and possibly relocated back to the donor or another museum.

Jeff Ebel gave us an outline of the options for selling the Blue Store. There are different procedures depending on the value of the property. The option on the forefront of the discussion has been put forth by Doctor Curtis Stevens, USD 239 Superintendent. He has presented a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school district and the County to use the facility for school district meetings and student based learning experiences. This would give our downtown businesses greater exposure when other school district personnel come to town for meetings. It would also help involve our youth in a setting other than the school. Hopefully this would create some fond memories for them and increase the chances of graduates returning

"home" after college or other higher education. All plans and options are being considered.

Bridge plans were discussed by Chris Smith, Public Works Director, about replacing a bridge in the extreme northwest part of our county. Final plans are still being worked out with Cloud County.

Chris also brought a renewal of the contract with John Deere for the mower tractors. The arrangement seemed to work out well last year and the cost didn't go up.

Tammi Cox, Ottawa County Clerk, mentioned that KWORX, our provider for workers compensation insurance, had over estimated our premium for 2026 and issued an \$11,322 refund. That's always great news!

I have spent some time this week gathering more information about data centers. I attended Saline County's Planning and Zoning meeting and have contacted other counties. Our planning and zoning needs to be updated to regulate this industry and alternative energy and that is in the works.

The winners of my \$25 Choose Ottawa County gifts cards were Galen Reinhart and Billy Nichols. Thank you for serving Ottawa County.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

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(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 26, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF)
BABY GIRL WILSON, minor female) Case No. OT-2026-AD-000002

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO UNKNOWN FATHER, AND ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Adoption and a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights of Father have been filed in said Court and praying for an order allowing the adoption of Baby Girl Wilson, a minor female. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 14th day of April, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., on said day in the Ottawa County District Court, the Honorable Jennifer L. Oliver, Presiding, said Court, in the City of Minneapolis, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard virtually. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petitions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

NORTON, WASSERMAN, JONES & KELLY, L.L.C.
213 S. Santa Fe
P.O. Box 2388
Salina, KS 67402-2388
(785) 827-3646
Fax: (785) 827-0538
E-mail: ram@nwjklaw.com

By: /s/Robert A. Martin
Robert A. Martin
SC # 16546
Attorneys for Petitioners

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on March 5, 2026)

**Results of the Market Study
Analysis for Ottawa County for
The Assessment Year 2026
January 1, 2026**

**PURSUANT TO L. 1991, CH 2792
(TREND IDENTIFIED) RESIDENTIAL**

"A study of the residential real estate market for older houses, i.e. built before 1945, indicated that there is an overall inflationary trend of 3% from 2025.

"A study of the residential real estate market for newer houses, i.e. built after 1945, indicated that there is an overall inflationary trend of 6% from 2025.

"A study of the commercial real estate market indicated there is an overall inflationary trend of 5% from 2025.

"A study of the real estate market for vacant lots indicated there is a stable market with no overall upward or downward trend.

Increase in the value of residences and businesses occur due to buying pressure in the market regardless of whether change has occurred in the property itself. In addition, the value on a specific property may not follow the general market trend due to location or other factors. Changes in buyer demands as to age, style or condition and corrections to descriptive information about the property itself, or adjustments based on specific sales of comparable properties may affect each property differently.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on March 5, 2026)

Resolution No. 26-05

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF OTTAWA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN RURAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM CALENDAR YEAR 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS,

Section 1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, the Board of County Commissioners expressed its intent to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) student loan repayment program.

Section 2. OTTAWA County has been designated a Rural Opportunity Zone pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,222. As of July 1, 2024, the County population was 5,853 as certified by the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Section 3. OTTAWA County Commissioners hereby obligate OTTAWA County to participate in the ROZ student loan repayment program as provided by K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223 for a period of five years, which shall be irrevocable.

Section 4. OTTAWA County agrees to pay in equal shares with the State of Kansas the outstanding student loan balance of any resident individual for five years if the resident individual meets the terms of qualification provided by the State of Kansas in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 74-50,223, and the appropriate rules and regulations. The number of qualified resident individuals receiving such payments will be subject to the availability of funds.

Section 5. OTTAWA County intends to enter into partnerships with Cities, Employers, and Foundations for the direct sponsorship of Rural Opportunity Zone Applicants. Sponsored Applicants must meet all qualifications of the ROZ program. All sponsorships will be subject to ROZ student loan repayment rules and regulations.

Section 6. The maximum student loan balance for each qualified resident individual to be repaid jointly by OTTAWA County and the State of Kansas shall be \$15,000 over a term of five years.

Section 7. OTTAWA County shall allocate \$0 a year for the purpose of matching payments from the State of Kansas to qualified resident individuals. OTTAWA County shall revise its ROZ budget on an annual basis submitting a new Resolution to the State of Kansas by January 30th each year. OTTAWA County shall submit their obligation in full to the Department of Commerce before the first day of October each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published once in the official county newspaper and shall be in effect from and after its date of publication.

Adopted this 23rd day of February 2026 by the Board of OTTAWA County Commissioners, OTTAWA County, Kansas.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

[Signature]

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
Tammi Cox, County Clerk



(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on March 5, 2026)

City of Minneapolis-Financial Statement
3rd Quarter, 2025

		Beginning balance	Receipts	Checks	Ending Balance
General	01-1010	\$ 421,174.07	\$257,014.11	\$290,535.09	\$ 387,653.09
General-Surplus	01-1530	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Amb Fund	05-1010	\$ 439,968.35	\$ 51,832.74	\$156,185.95	\$ 335,615.14
Mpls Lib	10-1010	\$ (0.01)	\$ 10,191.35	\$ 10,191.35	\$ (0.01)
Recreation	12-1010	\$ (0.00)	\$ 6,242.19	\$ 6,242.19	\$ (0.00)
Special Park/Rec	20-1010	\$ 45,962.93	\$ 1,841.26	\$ -	\$ 47,804.19
Main Trafficway	21-1010	\$ 77,778.16	\$ 13,664.49	\$ 25,058.09	\$ 66,384.56
Capitol Imp	31-1010	\$ 1,594,029.54	\$87,243.33	\$ 948,677.67	\$ 732,595.20
Equip Res	32-1010	\$ 47,953.59	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 8,795.38	\$ 69,158.21
Bond/Spec. Asses	40-1010	\$ 99,407.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,407.19
Revitalization	41-1010	\$ 38,377.36	\$ 2,837.97	\$ 246.95	\$ 40,968.38
Ins Fund Proceeds	45-1010	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Economic Dev	47-1010	\$ 80,383.30	\$ 5,535.40	\$ -	\$ 85,918.70
Waterworks	50-1015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating	50-1010	\$ 22,184.97	\$ 117,665.45	\$34,598.67	\$ 105,251.75
WA surplus	50-1530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric	51-1015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating	51-1010	\$ 1,497,642.09	\$ 731,253.20	\$ 615,814.65	\$ 1,613,080.64
Change fund	51-1012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bond & Int	51-1500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
El Sys Surplus	51-1530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	52-1010	\$ 45,777.77	\$ 38,089.92	\$ 37,738.95	\$ 46,128.74
Refuse	53-1010	\$ 633.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 633.29
Housing	99-1010	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Funds					\$ 3,645,599.07
Electric CD	51-1521				\$ -
Total All Funds					\$ 3,645,599.07
Difference					\$ 0.00
Grand Total					\$ 3,645,599.07

CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES

Cash on hand (change fund)	\$ 2,000.00
Returned Checks	
Cash In Bank	\$ 3,643,599.07
Idle Funds	
Fire Ins Escrow	
Water Project	
Rothsay St Project	
Escrow Deposit	
Electric Fund CD	
Deposit Differential	
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	\$ 3,645,599.07

LIABILITIES & OBLIGATIONS

General Obligation Bonds	\$ 170,000.00
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 370,000.00
General Obligation Watter II	\$ 2,495,000.00
General Obligation 2006	
Electric Revenue Bonds	
Lease Purchase	\$ 321,925.77
GO Bonds Rothsay	
Sewer (state Revolving Loan)	\$ 192,761.77
KPWSLF WTB	
KDOC&H (West Industrial)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & OBLIGATIONS	\$ 3,549,687.54

I, Damon McKinney, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Signature]
Damon McKinney