

County Commission Minutes

September 14, 2026 — 9 a.m.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Commission Room of the Sumner County Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Jim Newell, Commissioner Steve Warner and Commissioner John Cooney. Also present was County Clerk Debra A. Norris.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes of August 31 and September 1.

Maintenance Director Jimmy Thornton provided project updates, including progress on the window replacement project at the Santa Fe Building. The improvements are already showing significant results.

Dave Hickman of Health Insurance Cooperative Agency discussed the County's current health insurance policy. Script Sourcing has saved the County \$157,388 and presented a rebate check for \$4,551.66. Additional discussion included future claims, available Medicare supplemental plans and confirmation that there will be no increase in dental or vision plan costs.

County Advisor Jack Potucek and County Counselor Doug Pfalzgraf each provided general updates to the Commission.

The Commission reviewed bids for title research on tax sale properties. Two bids were received: Kansas Secured Title at \$125 per parcel and Security First Title at \$70 per parcel. After discussion, the Commission accepted the bid from Security First Title. Counselor Pfalzgraf will notify the companies of the decision.

The Commission reviewed and unanimously approved mid-month payables totaling \$1,098,827.70.

There being no further business, the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

September 15, 2026 — 9 a.m.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at the Raymond Frye Complex. Those present were Chairman Jim Newell, Commissioner Steve Warner and Commissioner John Cooney. Also present were County Clerk Debra A. Norris and Deputy County Clerk Diana Aufdengarten.

Road and Bridge Director Kendal Smith presented a maintenance document from Kay County, Oklahoma,

regarding a bridge located across the state line. Kay County recently replaced the bridge. In prior years, both Sumner County and Kay County maintained the bridge; Kay County will now assume sole responsibility.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Commission held a public hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) and the 2027 budget for special districts and the County, with Financial Advisor Scot Loyd. Also present were Deputy County Clerk Diana Aufdengarten, Treasurer Jennifer Helpingstine, Road and Bridge Director Kendal Smith, Planning and Zoning Director Barry Fleming, Noxious Weed Director Robin Ralls, Appraiser Tyler White and several taxpayers.

Following presentations from Fire Districts No. 9 and 12 and Sumner County, along with public comments concerning tax increases, the Commission unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

- Resolution No. 2026-18 — Fire District No. 9, levying a property tax rate increase exceeding the RNR by 3.067 mills.
- Resolution No. 2026-19 — Fire District No. 12, levying a property tax rate increase exceeding the RNR by 4.676 mills.
- Resolution No. 2026-20 — Sumner County, levying a property tax rate increase exceeding the RNR of 44.492 mills.

The completed 2027 budget document was submitted to the Commission for review and discussion. Commissioners discussed increases in property valuations and how those increases affect taxes on real property. Other budget increases include a 4% increase in health insurance costs and a 3% wage increase for employees.

Following public comment, the Commissioners unanimously adopted the 2027 County and special districts budgets as presented.

There being no further business, the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

September 21, 2026 — 9 a.m.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Commission Room of the Sumner County Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Jim Newell, Commissioner Steve Warner and

Commissioner John Cooney. Also present were Deputy County Clerk Diana Aufdengarten and Steve Richey.

Maintenance Director Jimmy Thornton met with the Commission regarding a concern about the carpet at the Raymond Frye Complex needing replacement. After discussion, the Commission determined there is not currently funding in the budget for the project. Thornton will obtain an estimate to provide an idea of the cost when replacement becomes necessary.

Thornton also provided an update on the Santa Fe Building window replacement project. The first phase, involving approximately 22 windows on the south side of the building, has been completed and is being finalized. The east side would likely be the next group of windows to be replaced if the project continues. Thornton also provided updates on other departmental matters, including the status of a gas meter for Emergency Management and air conditioning repairs for Sumner County Economic Development.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes of September 14 and September 15.

County Treasurer Jennifer Helpingstine presented several invoices for review and signatures.

County Advisor Jack Potucek provided the Commission with general updates.

At 10:45 a.m., the Commission recessed to view construction progress on the new 911 Building. The Commission reconvened in regular session at 10:54 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

There being no further business, the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

September 22, 2026 — 9 a.m.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Commission Room of the Sumner County Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Jim Newell and Commissioner John Cooney. Commissioner Steve Warner was absent. Also present was County Clerk Debra A. Norris.

Captain Rodger Church presented three vehicle titles for signature. Church advised that two of the vehicles were destroyed in the flood and the third was involved in an accident. After discussion, Chairman Newell was authorized to sign the titles.

Maintenance Director Jimmy Thornton provided departmental updates, including additional discussion about moving forward with the Santa Fe Building window replacement project.

The Commission reviewed and signed the final draft of the 2027 budget, which was formally approved on September 15. After discussion, the Commission unanimously authorized Chairman Newell to sign the document.

The Commission reviewed and unanimously approved payables totaling \$21,896.32.

Jesse Ingall of KEY Construction provided an update on the E911 Call Center project. Ingall advised that the project is moving forward on schedule, with completion expected in mid-December.

County Advisor Jack Potucek and County Counselor Doug Pfalzgraf each provided general updates to the Commission.

There being no further business, the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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