

Ohio County Fiscal Court
February 10, 2026 5:00 PM
Ohio County Community Center
Hartford, KY

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

David Johnston
Dale Beavin
Larry Morphew
Michael McKenney
Jason Bullock
Bo Bennett

I. Call to Order Judge Executive David Johnston
I.A. Prayer and Pledge to American Flag

II. American Heart Month Proclamation

Discussion:

Guests from Ohio County Healthcare, CeCe Robinson, Dr. Joshua Skibba, and Shellie Shouse, joined the fiscal court members for a proclamation signing for American Heart Month.

III. Approve January 27, 2026 Minutes

Motion Passed: Approve January 27, 2026 Minutes passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Bo Bennett.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

IV. Bills, Claims, Payments and Transfers

Motion Passed: Bills, Claims, Payments and Transfers stand approved as presented passed with a motion by Jason Bullock and a second by Dale Beavin.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

V. Amendment to Annual Compensation Fiscal Year 2026 Jailer's Salary

Discussion: Kasady Stevens, Payroll Administrator stated, the Jailers wages were incorrect on the Annual Compensation for July 1st, 2025. The wages showed the Fiscal year 2025 wages of \$1567.79 and should have been changed to \$1613.26 for Fiscal Year 2026. It was correct on the Wage scale, but was missed on the compensation.

Motion Passed: Motion to amend the Annual Compensation for July 1, 2025, due to jailer's amount being incorrect, correcting it to 1613.26 passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Larry Morphew.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

VI. Clerk's January 2026 Financial Report

Motion Passed: Acknowledged having received the Clerk's January 2026 Financial Report passed with a motion by Jason Bullock and a second by Michael McKenney.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

VII. Ohio County Clerk - Bess Ralph

Discussion: Ohio County Clerk, Bess Ralph, spoke to the court about a computer upgrade for the recording department. She stated that it had been five years since the last upgrade and it was time for the clerk's office to receive an upgrade and that she had received the quote. She stated the total cost was \$63,582, with a proposed clerk payment of \$33,582 leaving a balance of \$30,000 and she was asking the court for their help. Also, the current monthly service fee would need to increase by \$227 per month which would need to be included in the next budget.

Motion Passed: Motion to table until the next court meeting, and determine where the funds will come from passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Bo Bennett.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

VIII. Clerk 2026 Budget

Motion Passed: Acknowledge having received the Clerk's 2026 Budget passed with a motion by Bo Bennett and a second by Dale Beavin.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

IX. Clerk's 2026 Annual Order Setting Salaries

Motion Passed: Approved the 2026 Clerk Annual Order Setting Deputy Salaries at \$498,144.00 passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Dale Beavin.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

X. Sheriff 2026 Budget

Motion Passed: Acknowledge having received the Sheriff's 2026 Budget passed with a motion by Dale Beavin and a second by Michael McKenney.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphey	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

XI. Sheriff's 2026 Annual Order Setting Salaries

Motion Passed: Approved the 2026 Sheriff Annual Order Setting Deputy Salaries at \$1,950,831.00 passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Dale Beavin.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphey	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

XII. 7. Closed Session Under KRS 61.810 Chapter 1 Section C & F

Motion Passed: Approved to enter into closed session under KRS 61.810 Chapter 1 Section C & F passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Bo Bennett.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphey	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

XII.A. Return From Closed Session

Motion Passed: Approved having returned from Closed Session passed with a motion by Michael McKenney and a second by Bo Bennett.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphey	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

XIII. Personnel

Motion Passed: Motion to hire Adam Daugherty as Seasonal Golf Course Manager, Level 1 at \$20.27 per hour passed with a motion by David Johnston.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphey	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

XIV. Committee Reports

Discussion: Justin Keown stated that a Landfill Committee meeting had been requested by one of the landfill operators, no date had been given yet.

XIV.A. Salaries Committee

Discussion: The Salary Committee, to set salaries for elected officials for the next term met and Judge Johnston presented the salary proposals for the County Attorney, Coroner, Jailer and Magistrates.

Motion Passed: Approved the presented salaries for Elected Officials recommended from the Salary Committee (see attached) passed with a motion by David Johnston and a second by Michael McKenney.

6 Yeas - 0 Nays.

David Johnston	Yes
Dale Beavin	Yes
Larry Morphew	Yes
Michael McKenney	Yes
Jason Bullock	Yes
Bo Bennett	Yes

XV. Magistrate's Comments and Requests

XV.A. District 1 - Magistrate Michael McKenney

Discussion: Gave a shout out to the road department for the great work during a difficult snow, ice and cold event.

XV.B. District 2 - Magistrate Jason Bullock

XV.C. District 3 - Magistrate Bo Bennett

XV.D. District 4 - Magistrate Dale Beavin

Discussion: Dale Beavin stated that North Park was needing help with the last \$1000 needed for their fireworks show this year, asked if anyone would like to help from their discretionary funds. The following agreed to do \$200 each; Judge David Johnston, Jason Bullock, Bo Bennett, Michael McKenney and Dale Beavin. There was a question by Michael McKinney about the Community Contributions fund, which had been used for the community dumpsters and that he would like that fund to be looked at for the next budget.

XV.E. District 5 - Magistrate Larry Morphew

XVI. Citizen's Comments

Discussion: A gentleman, Mr. Hamilton, addressed the court concerning a cemetery road that had been blocked by coal mines and him wanting the gate to be taken down.

Representatives of the Mission Center spoke, requesting that the court recognize them as an official clothing bank for the county. The judge asked them to give the paperwork to County Attorney, Justin Keown for review.

Jody Flener, Ohio County Tourism Director, spoke briefly about an upcoming fundraiser for the Bill Monroe Museum

XVII. Adjournment

Judge Executive

Ohio County Fiscal Court Clerk



Ohio County
Fiscal Court Meeting
REGULAR
Judge Executive - David Johnston

Michael McKenney Magistrate District 1	Jason Bullock Magistrate District 2	Bo Bennett Magistrate District 3	Dale Beavin Magistrate District 4	Larry Morpew Magistrate District 5	Justin Keown County Attorney
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Ohio County Fiscal Court Meeting
February 10, 2026 5:00 pm

1. Call to Order Prayer and Pledge
2. American Heart Month Proclamation
3. Approve January 27, 2026 Minutes
4. Bills, Claims, Payments and Transfers
5. Amendment to Annual Compensation Fiscal Year 2026 – Jailer’s Salary
6. Clerk’s January 2026 Financial Report
7. Ohio County Clerk – Bess Ralph
8. Clerk’s 2026 Budget
9. Clerk’s 2026 Annual Order Setting Salaries
10. Sheriff’s 2026 Budget
11. Sheriff’s 2026 Annual Order Setting Salaries
12. Closed Session Under KRS 61.810 Chapter 1 Section C & F

Return From Closed Session
13. Personnel
14. Committee Reports
15. Magistrates Comments and Requests
16. County Officials Comments and Requests
17. Citizens Comments
18. Adjournment

For Court 2/10/2026

The Jailers wages were incorrect on the Annual Compensation for July 1st, 2025. The wages showed the Fiscal year 2025 wages of \$1567.79 and should have been changed to \$1613.26 for Fiscal Year 2026. It was correct on the Wage scale but was missed on the compensation. We need to amend this to show the correct wages of \$1613.26.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	Comp or Payout	JAIL, updated 11/4/25	CPI 2.9%	YOS	Pay 7.1.25	OT
Burden	Terry		Jail Deputy	\$19.19		\$19.19	\$28.79
Capps	Shane		Jail Deputy	\$19.19		\$19.19	\$28.79
Culbertson	Deanna		Jail Deputy	\$19.19	\$1.25	\$20.44	\$30.66
Farmer	Ceeley		Jail Deputy	\$18.62			
Harper	Seth		Jail Deputy	\$18.62			
Hudson	Dylan		Jail Deputy	\$18.62			
Jenkins	Lisa		Jail Deputy	\$19.19		\$19.19	\$28.79
Landrum	Jagger		Jail Deputy	\$18.62			
Morton	David		Jail Sergeant	\$19.70		\$19.70	\$29.55
Norman	Donald		Jail Deputy	\$19.19		\$19.19	\$28.79
Rearden	Donald		Jail Deputy	\$19.19		\$19.19	\$28.79
Schroader	Ronakia		Jail Chief Deputy	\$24.89	\$0.50	\$25.39	\$38.09
Schultz	Bridget		Jail Deputy	\$15.54		\$15.54	\$23.31
Slack	Janie		Jail Nurse	\$49.47		\$49.47	\$74.21
Spurlock	Landon			\$1,567.79		\$1,613.26	
Stout	Caitlin		Jail Deputy	\$19.19	\$0.25	\$19.44	\$29.16
Vincent	Courtney		Jail Nurse	\$74.21		\$74.21	\$111.32

OHIO COUNTY JAIL

November 1st, 2025

	L1	L2	5 Years +	10 Years +	15 Years +	20 Years +
Jail Cook	\$14.99	\$15.54	L2 Pay +.25/hr.	L2 Pay +.50/hr.	L2 Pay +.75/hr.	L2 Pay +1.00/hr.
Deputy FT/PT/LTPT	\$18.62	\$19.19	L2 Pay +.25/hr.	L2 Pay +.50/hr.	L2 Pay +.75/hr.	L2 Pay +1.00/hr.
Sergent	x	\$19.70	L2 Pay +.25/hr.	L2 Pay +.50/hr.	L2 Pay +.75/hr.	L2 Pay +1.00/hr.
Chief Deputy	x	\$24.89	L2 Pay +.25/hr.	L2 Pay +.50/hr.	L2 Pay +.75/hr.	L2 Pay +1.00/hr.
Jailer	x	\$1,613.26				

Retired Re-Hire	If a previously retired employee is re-hired into the same job description they will receive the pay grade they retired at.
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Effective 07/01/2024: Any request to add a new job category or make adjustment to the wage scale can only be discussed at budget time and shall not be made effective until July 1 of any given Fiscal Year unless agreed upon by the Fiscal Court by motion and majority vote.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Jailer Landon Spurlock

OHIO COUNTY
FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
CURRENT

Print Date: 2/3/2026 3:27 pm
Page 1 of 3

Receipt Start: 1/1/2026 Receipts End: 1/31/2026 Period: 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026 using expense date for Accounts 26G - 26G

REVENUES	
FROM STATE & COUNTY:	
Registration of Voters	
Prepare Tax Bills	
Board of Supervisors, Appeals	
Grants Library & Archives	
Voter Personnel Reimbursement	
Salary, Clerk of Fiscal Court	
County Reimbursement	
Election Commissioner	
HB537 SPECIAL REVENUE	
FEES FROM TAXES & LICENSES:	
Motor Vehicle Licenses	\$44,253.46
Child Victim Fund	
Motor Vehicle Usage Taxes	\$150,950.62
Motor Vehicle Notary Fees	\$4.00
Motor Vehicle Lien Release Fees	\$1,334.00
Motor Vehicle Property Tax - Motax	\$118,248.49
Delinquent Taxes	\$3,867.00
Hunting & Fishing Licenses	
Marriage Licenses	\$150.00
Miscellaneous Licenses	
County Stickers	\$12,633.09
Deed Transfer Taxes	\$7,866.50
RECORDING FEES:	
Deeds & Power Of Attorney	\$3,591.00
Real Estate Mortgages/Fixture Filing	\$3,468.00
Chattel Mortgages	\$4,192.00
Wills & Estates	\$395.00
Releases	\$1,685.00
Liens	\$239.00
Leases	\$83.00
Election Filing	\$500.00
Storage Fees	\$2,600.00
Affordable Housing Trust	\$1,518.00
Miscellaneous Recordings	\$905.00
Postage & Copy Work	\$465.03
Miscellaneous	
Refunds & Overpayments	\$256.75
TOTAL SALES	\$359,204.94
MISCELLANEOUS BANK TRANSACTIONS	
Transfer of Funds (earned prev yr)	
Cash Drawer Transactions	
NSF Checks Less Redeposits	(\$77.91)
Interest Received on Bank Account	\$2.48
Misc Income/Refunds/Bank Cr Memos	
Accounts Receivable Credit Memos	\$316.36
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS BANK TRANSACTIONS	\$240.93
Outstanding Accounts Receivables	(\$414.36)
TOTAL REVENUES GENERATED	\$359,031.51

OHIO COUNTY
FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
CURRENT

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EXPENDITURES	
MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT	
Motor Vehicle Licenses	\$30,445.96
Motor Vehicle Usage Tax	\$146,422.09
Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax	\$113,518.57
MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT TOTALS	\$290,386.62
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY TAXES	
Deed Transfer Taxes	\$7,473.17
Delinquent Taxes	\$3,507.01
TOTAL REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY TAXES	\$10,980.18
COUNTY STICKERS	
Legal Process Taxes	\$12,127.77
Misc Licenses/Commissions	\$1,382.77
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	
Storage Fees to Fiscal Court	\$2,600.00
SALARIES	
Salary, Clerk	
Salary, Deputies	
TOTAL SALARIES	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	
Health/Life & Unemployment Insurance	
Employer Match/Soc Sec & Retirement	
Clerk's Expenses	
Clerk's Insurance & Bonds	
Clerk's Dues & Convention Expenses	
Postage	
Operating Expenses & Office Supplies	
Election Reimbursements	
Microfilming & Indexing Records	
Misc Equipment & Maintenance Agmts	
General Repairs & Maintenance	
Candidate Filing Fee	
Refunds	\$266.78
NSF Check Charges	
Grant Library & Archives	
Uncollectible Accounts Receivable	
Outstanding Accounts Receivable	
Clerk's Final Settlement	
BANK CHARGES	
TRANSFER(S) OF FUNDS	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK TRANSACTIONS	
SUBTOTAL BANK ACTIVITY	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$317,744.12

OHIO COUNTY
FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT
CURRENT

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TOTAL REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$41,287.39
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I certify that this statement, to the best of my knowledge, is true and correct.

SIGNED: Bess J. Ralph
OHIO COUNTY

DATE: 2/5/26



Bess T. Ralph

Ohio County Clerk

301 S. Main, Suite 201 • Hartford, Kentucky 42347
Phone (270) 298-4422 • 298-4423 • Fax (270) 298-4425

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Judge Johnston and Fiscal Court,

As five years have passed since our last upgrade, it is time for my office to receive a computer upgrade in the recording department from Software Management, Inc. I have received the quote and have attached an outline of it hereto. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bess T Ralph
Ohio County Clerk

MONTHLY SERVICE

CURRENT MONTHLY RATE: \$2,421.00
ADDITIONAL SERVICE RATE: \$227.00

NEW MONTHLY SERVICE RATE: \$2,648.00

CLERK "SUPPORT/
MAINTENANCE" BUDGET WOULD
NEED TO BE INCREASED THIS
AMOUNT PER MONTH

UPGRADE

TOTAL COST FOR UPGRADE: \$63,582.00
PROPOSED CLERK PAYMENT: \$33,582.00

REMAINING BALANCE DUE:
(PROPOSED COURT PAYMENT) \$30,000.00

PAID OUT OF DOC
STORAGE FEE ACCOUNT

ABLE TO BE PAID AS A LUMP SUM OR IN ANNUAL
PAYMENTS OF \$15,000.00
(ONE PAYMENT ANNUALLY FOR TWO YEARS)

2026
ANNUAL ORDER SETTING MAXIMUM AMOUNT
FOR DEPUTIES AND ASSISTANTS

Pursuant to KRS 64.530(3), "...The fiscal court shall fix annually the maximum amount, including fringe benefits, which the officer may expend for deputies and assistants...".

The fiscal court of Ohio County in compliance with state law hereby sets the maximum amount which the Ohio County Clerk of OHIO County may expend from fees during calendar year 2026 at **\$498,144** for deputies, assistants and other employees. The maximum amount as set includes all amounts paid from fees for:

- ✓ **Full time salaries and wages**
 - ✓ **Overtime wages**
 - ✓ **Part time salaries and wages**
 - ✓ **Vacation and sick leave**
 - ✓ **Health insurance**
 - ✓ **Insurance other than health**
 - ✓ **Employer match SS/Retirement**
- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Wages | \$321,182 |
| F.I.C.A | \$ 24,570 |
| Retirement | \$ 60,992 |
| Health | \$ 91,400 |

Motion made by Michael McKenney second by Dale Beavin

Vote:

MCKENNEY	<u>Y</u>
BULLOCK	<u>Y</u>
BENNETT	<u>Y</u>
JOHNSTON	<u>Y</u>
BEAVINS	<u>Y</u>
MORPHEW	<u>Y</u>

Signed Sonji Davis Fiscal Court Clerk

Date 2-10-26

2026
ANNUAL ORDER SETTING MAXIMUM AMOUNT
FOR DEPUTIES AND ASSISTANTS

Pursuant to KRS 64.530(3), "...The fiscal court shall fix annually the maximum amount, including fringe benefits, which the officer may expend for deputies and assistants...".

The fiscal court of Ohio County in compliance with state law hereby sets the maximum amount which the Ohio County SHERIFF of OHIO County may expend from fees during calendar year 2026 at **\$1,950,831** for deputies, assistants and other employees. The maximum amount as set includes all amounts paid from fees for:

- ✓ Full time salaries and wages
 - ✓ Overtime wages
 - ✓ Part time salaries and wages
 - ✓ Vacation and sick leave
 - ✓ Health insurance
 - ✓ Insurance other than health
 - ✓ Employer match SS/Retirement
- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| Wages | \$1,253,208 |
| KLEFT | \$ 67,040 |
| F.I.C.A | \$ 103,257 |
| Retirement | \$ 251,326 |
| Health | \$ 276,000 |

Motion made by Michael McKenney, second by Dale Beavin

Vote:

MCKENNEY	<u>Y</u>
BULLOCK	<u>Y</u>
BENNETT	<u>Y</u>
JOHNSTON	<u>Y</u>
BEAVIN	<u>Y</u>
MORPHEW	<u>Y</u>

Signed Sonja Datta Fiscal Court Clerk

Date 2-10-26

	Current Salary	Recommended Salary
County Attorney	\$14,400	\$18,400
Coroner	\$16,848	\$20,000
Jailer	\$83,928	\$90,000
Magistrates	\$1,349	No Change

To take effect January 1st, 2027

CPI of 2.7% July 1st, 2026