Powell County Fiscal Court Regular Called Meeting Date: February 11th, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Powell County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

33 Commerce Drive Stanton, Kentucky 40380

AGENDA

1.	Call Meeting to Order				
11.	Pledge of Allegiance				
III.	Roll Call				
IV.	Public Comments-				
V.	Clerk's Report (January 14, 2025)				
VI.	Bills Submitted for Payment				
VII.	Approval of Treasurer's Financial Statement				
VIII.	Approval of Treasurer's Transfers				
IX.	Approval 2 nd Reading of Budget Amendment #3				
Х.	Old Business				
XI.	Department Head Updates				
XII.	District Updates				

Items to be Discussed:

- Brandon Farmer Discussion Regarding Big Foot Festival in May
- David Estepp Foothills
- Motion to approve Appointment to the Powell County Library Board of
- Motion to approve 2025 Incentive Payment for Magistrate Dennis Combs
- Motion to approve 2025 Incentive Payment for Magistrate Mike Lockard
- Motion to approve 2025 Incentive Payment for Magistrate Chad Patton
- Search & Rescue
- Closed Session KRS 61.810 (C) (F)

XIV. Motion to Adjourn

New Business

XIII.

XV. Next Meeting March 11th, 2025

Powell County Fiscal Court Regular Called Meeting Date: February 11th, 2025 Time; 6:00 p.m.

Location: Powell County Emergency Operations Center
33 Commerce Drive
Stanton, Kentucky 40380

Presiding: Eddie Barnes, County Judge Executive

Present: Fiscal Court Clerk/Treasurer Connie Crabtree, Deputy Judge Executive Dale Allen, Magistrate J.L. Bowen, Magistrate Dennis Combs, Magistrate Mike Lockard, Magistrate Chad Patton, Magistrate Brain McKinney, Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden, E911 Director Larry Hall, Assistant E9111 Director/Mapping Officer Justin Rice, CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock, Ambulance Director Daniel Williams, Assistant Ambulance Director Arlene Rogers, Road Laborer Steven Haddix, Road Laborer Michael Whitehurst, Road Laborer Billy Hood, Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy, County Attorney Robert King, Tony Tipton (Hollerwood), Brian Billings (Hollerwood), Middle Fork Fire Chief Robbie Campbell, Larry Patterson, Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton and Brandon Farmer (Powell Patriot)

Judge Executive Eddie Barnes called the meeting to order:
Judge Executive Eddie Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance
Deputy Judge Executive Dale Allen offered the prayer.
Roll Call for the following members: A Quorum was established

Judge Executive Eddie Barnes – Present
Magistrate Dennis Combs- Present
Magistrate J.L. Bowen – Present
Magistrate Mike Lockard – Present
Magistrate – Brian McKinney – Present
Magistrate Chad Patton - Present

Public Comments:

(Approval of fire departments to get generators)

Robbie Campbell was present at the meeting speaking on behalf of Middlefork Fire and Rescue. He addressed the court and inquired about the unused generators at the Emergency Operations Center. He told members of the court the station would benefit from the generator to help keep the heat flowing in the event of a winter storm and power outage. Middlefork and Clay City Fire Departments are both designated warming centers for the public.

CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock explained the equipment could be reassigned to the stations but there would be costs associated with the setup.

A motion was made by Magistrate Mike Lockard and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of each fire department getting a generator assigned to them. Motion passed unanimously.



Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus's (SCBA's)

Robbie Campbell with the Middlefork Fire Departments discussed the SCBA's the fire department's uses.

The ones they have now need hydro testing . When they are getting tested you must have some to replace them. Most of them are at the end of the life span which is 15 years.

Judge Barnes said he has spoken with CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock about the re-hydro and inspection. Judge Barnes suggested getting all three fire departments together and letting someone come in and do the maintenance and inspection of all the SCBA's. This would save on travel costs doing them all at one time.

Judge Barnes said most likely the cylinders will have to be taken somewhere like Landmark Sprinklers to be hydrotested.

CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock suggested putting all of them in a trailer and taking them to be tested. They could spend the night in a motel and come back the next day. Robbie said he wasn't sure how long it would take them to do this. Judge Barnes said he would call them and ask how long it would take and get a price quote. Robbie told him he thought this would be a great idea. Members of the court agreed for the fire departments to get the inspections needed for the tanks and the SCBA's.

Tony Tipton – Will discuss in closed session

Minutes of January 14th, 2025, Regular Meeting:

A motion was made by Magistrate Brian McKinney and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of approving the minutes for the January 14, 2025, meeting. Motion passed unanimously

Bills Submitted for Payment:

Pay Request #4 Codell Construction EMS Project)

All bills were submitted to members of the court for payment approval.

The Treasurer also presented an invoice submitted by Derickson Graphics, LLC in the amount of \$756.00 and Pay Estimate #4 submitted from Codell Construction regarding the EMS project in the amount of \$179,763.17.

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving all bills submitted for payment including additional invoice from Derickson Graphics and Codell Construction (Pay Estimate #4).

Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Transfers: Cash, Budget and Interfund Transfers:

The Treasurer presented all transfers to members of the court for approval.

Interfund Transfers:

Transfer from General Fund to Ambulance - \$23,000.00 Transfer from General Fund to Dispatch - \$ 28,000.00

Transfer from General Fund to Jail - \$75,000.00

Budget Transfer Journal:

81-9200-999 Transfer from Alcohol Beverage Control – \$2,000.00

81-5050-573 Transfer to Alcohol Beverage Telephone – \$2,000.00

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of approving all Cash, Budget and Interfund Transfers Motion passed unanimously

Financials 1/1/25 – 1/31/25: Financial Statement and Cash Balance Statement Summary:

The Treasurer presented the 1/1/25 - 1/31/25 Financial Statement and Cash Balance Statement for court approval.

A motion was made by Magistrate Mike Lockard and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton with all members present voting in favor to approve the 1/1/25 – 1/31/25 Financial Statement and Cash Balance Statement.

Motion passed unanimously

2nd Reading of Budget Amendment #3:

Budget Amendment #3 was approved by State Local Finance Officer on January 24th, 2025 A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving the 2nd Reading of Budget Amendment #3 totaling \$1,428,081.00

Motion passed unanimously

Old Business:

New front doors at the courthouse are now installed. Judge Barnes said he was going to contact AOC to see if they would help with the cost.

Department Head Updates:

Assistant E911 Director/Mapping Officer Justin Rice let members of the court know they are making progress with the new software and have gotten new roads mapped in.

Magistrate Brian McKinney asked Justin if they could use the software for fire hydrates. Justin told him they already had fire hydrants in the CAD. If we could get a county wide grant it would help get the hydrants on their level. They are different color labels for the different pressures they put out.

E911 Director Larry Hall:

Larry made members of the court aware of the calls that came into the dispatch center for the month of January 2025.

Sheriff's office - 398

Stanton Polce Department - 222



Clay City Fire Department – 92
Middle Fork Fire Department – 73
Stanton Fire Department – 65
Clay City Fire Department – 87
Powell County EMS – 270
Search & Rescue – 1

There is a possibility we can now get Link NCIC. We can discuss it for our next budget cycle because it does come with a fee.

Larry said he heard City of Clay City may contribute to the dispatch center.

Larry along with Judge Barnes plans on attending the Stanton City Council meeting on Thursday. They requested to see some paperwork.

Larry asks members of the court for approval to move three employees from a part-time position to a full-time position. Phillip Frazier did their polygraphs yesterday which is no cost to the county. Larry said all dispatch employees are now complaint.

(Katelyn Hinds from a part-time position to a full-time position)

A motion was made by Magistrate Brain McKinney and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of moving Katelyn Hinds from a part-time position to a full-time position as she completes all the phases. She will be signed up for the academy and will go by the one-year contract.

Motion passes unanimously.

(Miranda Little from a part-time position to a full-time position)

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of moving Miranda Little from a part-time position to a full-time position. Miranda will go by the one-year contract.

Motion passed unanimously

(Michelle Caskey from a part-time position to a full-time position.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and second by Magistrate Brian McKinney, with all members present voting in favor of moving Michelle Caskey from a part-time position to a full-time position Michelle will go by the one-year contract.

Motion passed unanimously

Magistrate Brian McKinney asks Larry if he has heard anything about a regional dispatch center. Larry said at this time it's holding its own.

Justin has talked to AT&T about the phone system we have already paid for. They are saying the system should be completed sometime in June. It is done in phases and there should be a shipment coming out this coming week.

(Discussion of Powell County School Systems Law Enforcement/Dispatch Center)

E911 Larry Hall told members of the court he had spoken with Superintendent Sarah Wasson regarding the newly approved Powell County School District Law Enforcement and their utilization of Powell County Dispatch and 911. Larry told Sarah they were ready to support them in any way.

54:

If there is an agreement Larry will bring it before members of the court and let County Attorney Robert King look over it.

CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock:

CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock advised members of the court that the generator at the Black Creek Station has been repaired and now is working. The siren system was tested this afternoon and all the systems checked out except the one at the road department. Ricky Wason will be checking on it to see what the problem is.

The first week of March is weather week. Kevin gave each member a handout showing some information on what and when to expect during severe weather. He will be talking to the schools about getting this information out to kids. This handout talks about severe weather, thunderstorms and sirens. There are plans to have a statewide drill. Kevin will get with dispatch to plan a good day and time. Magistrate Mike Lockard asks if we have done a monthly test on the sirens. Kevin told him Ricky does a daily test on them. They have not been tested in January but will be in February and starting In March they will be tested monthly. Ricky Wasson is working with ZELLO, a mobile communications platform that can be used in the event of failed radio communications. Most of the police officers have this. It works great and is something we could have used twenty years ago. If you are in the mountains and the resident has Wi-Fi, you could contact dispatch. Between cell service and radios, you could have service in a lot more places in the county.

CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock: (Grant for Assistance from the US Forestry Service: Community Wildfire Defense Grant CWPP)

CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock is asking for court approval to be able to submit a Community Wildfire Defense grant with assistance from the US Forest Service. This grant will fund resources, at 100 % (no cost share), needed to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP is a collaborative plan to reduce the risk of wildfires in a community

- Involving local, state and federal partners
- Prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction
- Recommends actions to reduce the risk of structure ignition
- Can Help communities access funds for wildlife risk reduction activities
- Can help communities improve their resilience to wildfires

Once we have a CWPP in place, we can seek funding through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program (CWDG) to address the concerned identification in the CWPP.

10% non-federal match for proposals to develop or update a Community Wildfire Protection Plan 25% non-federal match for proposals to implement projects described within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Once we get this grant, we will work with the fire departments and first responders to figure out how to reduce the overall fuel load for wildfires.

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen, with all members present voting in favor of giving CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock the authority to move forward with submitting a Community Wildfire Defense Grant with assistance from the US Forest Service.

Motion passed unanimously.



CSEPP Director Kevin Babcock spoke with the Jackson weather service. They are anticipating another 1.25 inches of rain overnight. This cycle is through February 13 but does not include what is supposed to happen on Saturday.

Ambulance Director Daniel Williams:

Ambulance Director Daniel Williams let members of the court know they responded to 270 for the month of January and have already done 102 for this February.

Daniel has been trying to recruit more people to work for the EMS. He along with other employees have been posting online to make people aware.

Shawn Hacker has applied for an EMT position. He is currently working in Estill County. Daniel feels he will be a good fit for our EMS service.

Assistant Arlene Rogers let members of the court know she got the first pip payment today. Magistrate Mike Lockard asks if the run reports were being submitted.

Daniel said they are still having some issues with it. This is our main source of revenue for our EMS service. He is on to the employees every day for them to complete their reports. Judge Barnes said there is so much talking we need to do; we need to start giving writeups. He will be the first one to say that some of the employees think they have us because we are short-staffed, but they are going to do their jobs.

Magistrate Chad Patton asked about the new ambulance we are supposed to be receiving. Judge Barnes is going to call about it tomorrow and let them know if we don't receive it soon, we are going to find someone else to purchase through.

Ambulance Director Daniel Williams has asked for court approval to hire Shawn Hacker as an EMT for the Powell County Ambulance Service.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of hiring Shawn Hacker as full-time EMT for the Powell County Ambulance Service contingent, he passes his background check.

Motion passed unanimously

Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton:

Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton let members of the court know the state inmate population is back up to where it was three years ago. We now have 95 SAP inmates and five more are supposed to be coming.

He received a phone call a couple of weeks ago from the Madison County Jail inspector asking if we could hold some state inmates. Neal said we ended up getting 22 inmates.

This will be an additional \$24,000.00 per month.

We now have a total of 238 inmates.

50 - inmates from Powell County

2 - inmates from Menifee County

1 – inmate from Wolfe County

1 - inmates from Clark County

Neal let members of the court know the pits behind the kitchen filled up which caused the toilets and showers not to go down. They had to call a crew out of Irvine to come and pump it dry but eventually filled it up again.

They rented an Algar to clean out the drains. This caused an unexpected cost for the jail. Magistrate Brain McKinney asked if the SAP Program was fully staffed. He told him they have 4 SAP counselors plus David Howard. They recently hired Theressa Tipton which is doing a great job. Neal also let members of the court know the new generator is down. Cummins is going to see if they can remotely diagnose it.

Andrew McIntosh has been hired through Kellwell as the kitchen manager.

They had a female inmate to overdose. They had to administer Narcan to revive her. They suspected the drugs came in a suitcase that was brought into the jail.

They are still wanting to get a body scanner for the jail which is around \$215,000.00. We do know the opioid money cannot purchase this scanner. They are talking to the senators to see if they can help in any way.

Magistrate Brian McKinney asked if there would be a grant available for this purchase. Neal told him no there is no they have already checked on this.

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden:

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden let members of the court know they have taken off 273 tons of cardboard this year, which is up 65 tons from last year. He said give or take we are \$133,000.00 to the good from collection of transfer station monies and recycling.

Magistrate J.L. Bowen ask him how the recycling program was going. Tim told him we did have around 145 customers but are down to 120 now.

Magistrate Chad Patton asks how his composing was going.

Tim told him he had gotten three dead animals locally which were prepaid by Soil Conservation. They will pay for 30 dead animals at \$25.00 per animal.

Tim told members of the court he would like them to approve for himself along with Rick and Woody to attend a composting class so they can get their composting licenses. The cost of the one-day class and one-day exam would be \$150.00 per person. They need to be registered by February 19th, 2025. The class will be held on March 4th and 5th, 2025. This will be for a five-year contract. After completion of the class, they would be good for five years.

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor for Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden, Ricky Townsend and Woody Allen to attend the composting class on March 4th and 5th, 2025. This motion also approves paying for all expenses associated with this class.

Motion passed unanimously

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden let members of the court know he would be starting on the grants for the upcoming year.

Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy: (Approval of \$2.50 increase for full-time non-salaried road employees)

Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy let members of the court know it is now pothole season. They will be taking responsibility for the damage on paved surfaces.

They have been dealing with stopped up culverts recently. They also know gravel roads are in rough shape and will be addressing them as soon as weather permits.



There have been some calls coming in regarding Star Gap Road. They have their grader staged at Middlefork Fire Department. They are just waiting for the weather to break to start repairs. Patrick said he would like to thank the road crew for doing a great job. They went through their routes this morning with no issues. Patrick has been looking over the road budget. He would like to increase salaries. He is asking for a \$2.50 an hour increase across the board except for himself and Daniel which are salary.

Magistrate Brain McKinney asks Patrick if he would rather have these increase verses an additional employee. Patrick told him yes because to his knowledge the road department has never had more than seven employees. They have 183 road miles for seven employees. There is a line in the budget for a part-time employee so if he does see the need, they would still have the funding available for this hire.

Magistrate Dennis Combs asks him if they plan on doing their own mechanical work. Patrick said they already have been doing this.

Magistrate Chad Patton ask how many road employees are on probation. Patrick told him there are two, but both will come off probation in the next couple of months.

Magistrate Brain McKinney asks him what the starting pay would be with this increase. If the court approves this increase it would be \$14.50 per hour for non CDL's and \$15.00 per hour for CDL's. Magistrate Brain McKinney said he knows the employees deserve the increase, but paramedics are making \$15.00 and EMT's are making \$13.00 per hour, and they have education ahead of them. He just feels it's unfair.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton with all members present voting in favor to increase all full-time non-salaried employees at the Powell County Road Department by \$2.50 per hour. This will be a total of five employees. These increases shall be effective next pay period.

Motion passes unanimously

District Updates:

Magistrate Chad Patton – Ask about blacktopping. Judge Barnes said he had spoken with Rueben. Rueben told him Hinkle should be starting the plant up around mid-March/April, so hopefully they can begin blacktopping.

Magistrate J.L. Bowen - Wants to thank the road crew for a great job they are doing.

Magistrate Brian McKinney – Mountain Telephone will be turning on internet for South Fork. North Bend has been delayed at this time and Beech Fork has been delayed due to AT&T poles but has since been resolved.

Crystal Broadband grant will be for Hardwick's Creek, Furnace Mountain, Frames Branch and Little Hardwick's Creek.

Magistrate Mike Lockard - Nothing

Magistrate Dennis Combs – Wants to thank the road department for doing a great job. He had got complaints on Stokely Loop Road regarding garbage. Judge Barnes said he had spoken with EPA about cleaning it up. They are saying it's fine but it's not because it's going into our waterways.

Judge Barnes said he would try to contact the Army Corp of Engineers or the Division of Water to see if they can help.

There is also a garbage issue on 1st Ave in Clay City which is within city limits and right before Bowen Elementary.

Judge Barnes said he is going to give the people responsible for the one before Bowen Elementary a chance to clean it up and if not, they will be charged.

Judge Barnes – Road department has been working on gravel roads. They put eight loads of gravel on Gritters Ridge to hold it over until the weather conditions get better.

The residents want the county to redo Tilman Hill, which means we would have to go onto forestry service property and grade off another road. The estimate for this repair would be around \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00. One of the residents called the governor's office saying the county does not want to do any repairs.

Judge Barnes said first, we would have to get permission from the forestry service before we could do anything. It is not feasibility for the county to do any repairs due to funding.

We have 30 miles of gravel roads needing repairs because of the weather. It is not due to a lack of maintenance, it's due to the weather. People need to be patient.

Judge Barnes attended the County Judge Association meeting last week. He spoke with the Governor. He expressed interest in sending organizations here in Kentucky.

Judge Barnes also met with Brandon Smith. Brandon is interested in helping Powell County. Highway 213 Project is in the works. The money has been allocated for this project.

Judge Barnes mentioned the log jams here in the county. He asked the state to help with funding for the removals, but it was said there was no funding for this. The USDA has awarded the county around \$95,000.00 to help with removals but we still have not received any funds.

Brandon Farmer: Big Foot Festival: May 31st, 2025 Stanton City Park:

Brandon Farmer was present at the meeting to speak about the Big Foot Festival scheduled for May 31st, 2025 with a VIP dinner the night before which is sold out. The festival will be held at Stanton City Park and expect around 20,000.00 people to attend.

There will be around 100 vendors along with several food trucks. Admission to the festival is free. Brandon asks members of the court if they could utilize county resources such as police, ambulance and fire to help with this event.

Judge Barnes said they cannot speak on behalf of the sheriff's office, but he had no problem with our EMS being there to offer services if needed.

Judge Barnes told him to talk to our three fire departments and the sheriff's office to see if they would be willing to offer their services.

Powell County Public Library Board of Trustee Appointment:

The term filled by Kacey Davidson of the Powell County Public Library Board of Trustee will expire on April 26, 2025. The following names were submitted for consideration in filling the vacancy for a new 4-year term.

Brandy Kirby and Mariam Todd



A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of appointing Brandy Kirk to the Powell County Public Library Board of Trustees for a new 4 – year term.

Motion passed unanimously

2025 Incentive Payment for Magistrate Dennis Combs:

Dennis Combs completed his annual incentive for the calendar year 2025 and is due for a total of \$5,302.12.

A motion was made by Magistrate Mike Lockard and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving payment to Dennis Combs for the completion of his annual incentive for calendar year 2025 in the total amount of \$5,302.12 Motion passed unanimously

2025 Incentive Payment for Magistrate Mike Lockard:

Mike Lockard completed his annual incentive for the calendar year 2025 and is due for a total of \$5,302.12.

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton with all members present voting in favor of approving payment to Mike Lockard for the completion of his annual incentive for calendar year 2025 in the total amount of \$5,302.12 Motion passed unanimously

2025 Incentive Payment for Magistrate Chad Patton:

Chad Patton completed his annual incentive for the calendar year 2025 and is due for a total of \$5,302.12.

A motion was made by Magistrate Mike Lockard and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving payment to Chad Patton for the completion of his annual incentive for calendar year 2025 in the total amount of \$5,302.12.

Motion passed unanimously

Search and Rescue:

Magistrate Brian McKinney let members of the court know Search and Rescue got approved for a \$18,000.00 grant to purchase a new drone and 16 harnesses. This will be a matching grant. This grant will pay 80 percent, we would be responsible for the remaining 20 percent.

They are asking for court approval to cover the 20 percent which will be around \$3,800.00.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor approving to cover the 20 percent match of the grant to purchase a drome and 16 harnesses.

Motion passed unanimously

Closed Session: KRS 61.810 (C) (F)

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney to go into closed session. KRS 61.810 C&F

Motion passes unanimously

Court Resumes at 9:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Mike Lockard with all members present voting in favor of resuming the meeting.

Motion passes unanimously

Judge Barnes let it be known No Action was taken in a closed session.

Discussion of Arlene Rogers and Connie Crabtree vacation hours:

A motion was made by Magistrate Brian McKinney and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of correcting any vacation hours lost for Arlene Rogers . Motion passed unanimously

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton with all members present voting in favor of correcting any vacation hours lost for Connie Crabtree. Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Mike Lockard with all members present voting in favor of adjourning .

Motion passed unanimously

Eddie Barnes, County Judge Executive

J.L. Bowen, Magistrate

Dennis Combs, Magistrate

Mike Lockard, magistrate

Brian McKinney, Magistrate

Chad Patton, Magistrate