

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, September 29th, 2026

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting of September 29th, 2026, was called to order by **Commissioner Dan Vogler**, at 10:00 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting Room. Commissioner Sainato participated by telephone. Commissioner Kennedy was absent. A quorum was present. **Office Manager Colleen Daughtry** called the roll. Those in attendance were **County Administrator Joseph Venasco, Donald Andrews, Sheriff Vince Martwinski, and Howard Simmons**. It was stated for the record that the meeting is being taped. Those wishing to speak shall be given five minutes. If they need more time, they are to see the Chief Clerk at another time, and he will arrange for them to meet with the Commissioners. Those speaking are to state for the record their names, addresses and the nature of their business.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

The Sheriff reported the passing of the Sheriff's Office's first K-9 officer Baki following a four-month battle with cancer. The eight-year-old explosives detection dog served with Deputy John Baldelli and assisted with major events throughout the region. A memorial service will be announced. The Commissioners expressed condolences to Deputy Baldelli and the Sheriff's Office and noted that the courthouse flag was lowered to half-staff in tribute.

The Commissioners also thanked the Sheriff's Office for providing traffic control during the William Humphrey Memorial Bridge dedication in Scott Township on Saturday September 26th.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present. No public comments were received.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties:

RESOLUTION R-2026- 248

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, Joshua Keller placed a bid of \$500.00 on a trailer located on Heritage Circle, Parcel ID No. 29-901922; and

WHEREAS, Pulaski Township approved the above-referenced bid on September 14, 2026, and the Wilmington Area School Board approved the bid on September 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above-referenced bid; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Joshua Keller in the amount of \$500.00 for the Repository trailer located on Heritage Circle, Parcel ID No. 29-901922, Pulaski Township.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve resolution R-2026-248. Motion carried 2-0.

Advertise for bids/proposals: None

Receipt for bids/proposals: None

Warrant Registers:

1. September 21st, 2026

2. September 22nd, 2026

3. September 23rd, 2026

4. September 24th, 2026

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve and file said warrant register(s). Motion carried 2-0.

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. September 22nd, 2026

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve said minutes. Motion carried 2-0.

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Accepted correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services announcing the relocation of the Lawrence County Assistance Office from Cascade Galleria to Shenango Commons Plaza, 2656 Ellwood Road, Suite 103, Shenango Township, effective September 28, 2026

Commissioner Sainato moved to accept the correspondence, seconded by Commissioner Vogler. Motion carried 2-0.

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports: DV, CS

Commissioner Vogler recognized the recent tributes to the late William Humphrey, including the New Castle Community Y's Salute to Courage dinner and the dedication of the William Humphrey Memorial Bridge on Stoughton Road in Scott Township. Commissioner Sainato commended the dedication ceremony and noted the significance of Mr. Humphrey's sons unveiling the plaque.

Commissioner Sainato also recognized the Ellwood City car show, Oktoberfest at Cascade Park, and Westminster College's Celebrity Series concert featuring Three Dog Night. He discussed the positive economic impact of community events. Both Commissioners encouraged residents to consult Visit Lawrence County's events calendar.

Commissioner Sainato moved to change **October 6, 2026, Commissioners' meeting to 8:30 a.m.** to allow attendance at the Ellwood City Fire Department's Safe Haven Baby Box blessing ceremony. Commissioner Vogler seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Staff were directed to advertise the time change and notify relevant officials and department heads.

RESOLUTION R-2026- 249

At the Public Safety Director's request, the resolution was tabled until October 6, 2026. Commissioner Sainato moved to table the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Vogler. The motion was declared carried 2-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-250

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County corrections captains have requested to return to eight-hour shifts and regular 40-hour workweeks; and
WHEREAS, the proposed employment agreement provides for overtime to be earned after 40 hours of work per week; and
WHEREAS, jail management and all corrections captains have agreed to the proposed change; and
WHEREAS, Deputy Warden Howard Simmons presented the agreement and recommended its approval; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Board approves the employment agreement returning corrections captains to eight-hour shifts and regular 40-hour workweeks, with overtime earned after 40 hours of work per week.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 2-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-251

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Children and Youth Services recommends renewal of its contract with Bethesda Children's Home for residential placement services; and
WHEREAS, Bethesda Children's Home will remain available as a backup residential placement provider; and
WHEREAS, rates have increased approximately 4% to 6.5%, depending on the program, and remain below approved reimbursement maximums; and
WHEREAS, the discontinuation of Bethesda Children's Home's foster care services for Lawrence County is not expected to affect County operations; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Board approves renewal of the Children and Youth Services contract with Bethesda Children's Home for residential placement services at the rates set forth in the agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 2-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-252

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Children and Youth Services recommends entering into a new contract with the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh for in-home and prevention services; and
WHEREAS, these services are intended to prevent out-of-home placement and repeat involvement with the child welfare system, including services for infants and mothers; and
WHEREAS, evidence-based programs may qualify for increased reimbursement, thereby reducing the County's share of service costs; and
WHEREAS, service rates are approximately \$100.00 per day, as set forth in the agreement; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Board approves the Children and Youth Services contract with the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh for in-home and prevention services at the rates set forth in the agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to approve said Resolution.
Motion carried 2-0.

TRANSFER (ADMINISTRATIVE)

- a. MH/DS from contingency to consulting services for \$12,500.00.
- b. MH/DS from contingency to maintenance and repair for \$10,000.00.
- c. Domestic Relations from contingency to uniforms for \$400.00.
- d. Jail from materials and supplies to vehicle maintenance for \$600.00.
- e. Jail from administrative staff salaries to overtime for \$25,000.00.
- f. Jail from part-time to overtime for \$2,500.00.
- g. Jail from materials and supplies to overtime for \$10,000.00.
- h. Public Safety from office operations to computer-aided dispatch for \$2,000.00.
- i. District Judge Nicholson from subscriptions to postage for \$2,000.00.
- j. Juvenile Probation from office equipment to equipment lease and rental for \$597.00.
- k. Juvenile Probation from probation officer salaries to equipment lease and rental for \$153.00.
- l. Juvenile Probation from probation officer salaries to postage for \$65.00.
- m. Juvenile Probation from probation officer salaries to maintenance and repair for \$100.00.
- n. Juvenile Probation from probation officer salaries to association dues for \$50.00.
- o. Juvenile Probation from probation officer salaries to uniforms for \$1,000.00.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler, to approve said administrative transfers. Motion carried 2-0

ORDINANCES

- A. Discussion: None
- B. On the Table: RESOLUTION – 2026-249

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety has entered into a professional service agreement with Quality Enhanced Management Systems, Inc., 530 Mace Street, Suite 1, Greensburg, PA 15601, hereinafter referred to as "QEMS" to provide a one (1) year Agreement to Lawrence County;

WHEREAS, QEMS will provide a Quality Assurance, Resource Management Software Program and General Maintenance to maintain, report and evaluate the performance of Lawrence County's 911 systems, see attached Exhibit "A";

WHEREAS, QEMS will provide a license for up to fifteen (15) workstations that includes the Quality Assurance and Resource Management modules running on the native workstation application for their product titled "Quality Administration for Emergency Services", (QAES), in conjunction with the End User License Agreement, (EULA), for Lawrence County Department of Public Safety;

WHEREAS, QAES is a relational database management solution that will operate on COUNTY's 9-1-1 Center administrative networked system, such system to be provided by the COUNTY;

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Department of Public Safety will provide and assure a Remote Desktop Connection is available to QEMS (at no cost to QEMS) to the designated server(s) that have the QAES Database installed; and

WHEREAS, the term of this agreement is for a one (1) year period beginning January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. The total consideration payable to QEMS for the lease of the software program and all related professional services set forth in Exhibit "A" shall not exceed \$28,500.00 for 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that authorization is given to execute on behalf of the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety, all documents related to the Quality Enhanced Management Systems, Inc. agreement to provide the following:

- a. QEMS will provide a Quality Assurance, Resource Management Software Program and General Maintenance to maintain, report and evaluate the performance of Lawrence County's 911 systems;
- b. QEMS will provide a license for up to fifteen (15) workstations that includes the Quality Assurance and Resource Management modules running on the native workstation application for their product titled "Quality Administration for Emergency Services", (QAES), in conjunction with the End User License Agreement, (EULA), for Lawrence County Department of Public Safety;
- c. QAES is a relational database management solution that will operate on COUNTY's 9-1-1 Center administrative networked system, such system to be provided by the COUNTY;
- d. Lawrence County Department of Public Safety will provide and assure a Remote Desktop Connection is available to QEMS (at no cost to QEMS) to the designated server(s) that have the QAES Database installed; and
- e. The term of this agreement is for a one (1) year period beginning January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. The total consideration payable to QEMS for the lease of the software program and all related professional services set forth in Exhibit "A" shall not exceed \$28,500.00 for the first year.

C. For Introduction: None

D. For Final Action: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. The Commissioners stated that October 21, 2026, Prison Board meeting is canceled.
- 2. The Planning Commission will meet October 14, 2026, at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 1413 George Washington Road.
- 3. The Commissioners announced October 6, 2026, Commissioners' meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Vogler to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, September 29th, 2026 @ 10:34 AM. Motion carried 2-0.