

Lewis County officials present monthly reports

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County officials presented their monthly reports during the February meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court.

Sheriff Johnny Bivens filed his department activities from January 13, 2025 through February 10, 2025.

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| • Citations | 15 |
| • Subpoenas Served | 6 |
| • Domestic Related Calls | 12 |
| • Civil Summons Served | 24 |
| • Arrests | 15 |
| • Cases Open For Investigation | 10 |
| • Accident Investigations | 12 |
| • Criminal Summons | 8 |
| • Prisoners Transp. to Secure Facility | 164 miles |
| • Juveniles Transported | 0 miles |
| • DVOs and EPOs | 6 |
| • Court Security Hours | 673 |
| • Prescription Deliveries | 3 |
| • Auto Inspections | 63 |
| • Funeral Escorts | 7 |
| • Concealed Carry Permits | 12 |
| • Miscellaneous | 30 |
| • Taxes Collected: | |
| Property | \$241,806.14 |
| Franchise | \$0 |
| Total | \$241,806.14 |
| Stolen property recovered: | |
| SO-25-010 Glock 27 40 ca. | \$700.00 |

911 Coordinator Pam Jordan submitted a monthly report for the Lewis County E-911 Dispatch Center.

The center received the following calls for service in January:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| • Sheriff | 432 |
| • Vanceburg PD | 174 |
| • EMS | 146 |
| • Coroner | 8 |

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| • Air Evac | 4 |
| • Lewis County FD | 39 |
| • Garrison FD | 27 |
| • Vanceburg FD | 44 |
| • Black Oak FD | 31 |
| • Firebrick FD | 7 |
| • Lewis County 2 FD | 7 |
| • Tollesboro FD | 35 |
| • Camp Dix FD | 2 |
| • EMA | 20 |
| Total Calls | 976 |
| 911 Wrecker Log January: | |
| Mullin's | 2 |
| McCann's | 1 |
| W KY 8 | 3 |
| Ginn's | 3 |
| G&H | 5 |
| Thayer's | 1 |
| Clark's | 6 |
| Crawford's | 0 |
| Bradford's | 0 |
| Director of Lewis County Ambulance Service District, Michael Byble, gave his report. | |
| Total Lewis County Dispatched calls for EMS: | 146 |
| Patients who opted to go POV: | 2 |
| Total Lewis County Ambulance Dispatched calls: | 122 |
| Total LCEMS Run Forms: | 130 |
| Transported Patients: | 76 |
| Hospitals: SOMC 54, UK-St. Claire 5, UK-KDMC 0, Meadowview 16, and Fleming County 1. | |
| Average Response Time (all shifts): 15:31, 30% were below 8:00 minutes. | |
| Runs By District: Vanceburg 55, Tollesboro 20, Black Oak 10, Firebrick 1, Lewis County 12, Camp Dix 2, and Garrison 22, and out of county 0. | |
| In January: | |
| • Added extra crew members to shifts to help with snowstorm. | |
| • Started the prep work to get 1112 (Maysville Ambulance) ready for service. | |

Monthly training included:

- ALS protocol training preparing for ALS.
- Lifepak 35 Monitor Training started.

Road Supervisor David Goodwin submitted his road maintenance report for the month.

Goodwin said 470.72 tons of gravel and stone, and 457.05 tons of salt had been hauled by the county.

Roadways Graveled/Repaired: Stevens Ridge, Bowman Springs, Pine Grove, Gerike, Dummitt, and Thurman.

Bus Turns Repaired: Buck Lick Br., Crooked Creek Rd., Greenbriar Hollow, Bradford Ln., and Fingerboard Rd.

Roadways Mowed/Brush/Trees: Toller, Buck Lick, Beechy, and Ribolt-Epworth.

Solid Waste Coordinator Roger Lewis gave his report:

- Performed all regular Coordinator duties.
- Sent out letters, received several phone calls and completed several site visits concerning complaints and nuisances.
- Still taking in recycled material.
- Sent out 5033 Forms to our haulers for their annual report.
- We are still picking up cardboard from most of businesses in Vanceburg and in the county.
- I have been working on my Annual Report to have submitted by March 1st.
- Avery and Randy picked up some trash along the AA Highway.

Animal Control Officer reported six animals picked up; 30 dropped off; nine owner

surrenders; 31 rescued; one reclaimed (\$40.00); seven adopted (\$120.00); zero quarantined; \$20.00 donation; and 89 calls received. 14 dogs remained at the shelter at the end of the month.

Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown gave his report.

The Lewis County Alert System continued to gain followers. It was activated 20 times in January to notify residents of snow emergencies, power interruptions, weather advisories, a state of emergency, and closings. The alert system allows notifications to our residents through text, email, voice (telephone), Twitter, and the Smart 911 App. Targeted alerts can notify small groups (specific county offices/groups/employees). Lewis County Alerts has more than 5,100 subscribers.

- Worked with Vanceburg Fire on the smoke alarm partnership with Red Cross to provide units to area residents. Will continue working with all departments making this program available countywide.
- Pursuing grant for locator/tracker devices for residents who may wander (Alzheimer's/dementia).
- Applied for a grant for AEDs.
- Completed necessary paperwork with KYEM as required.
- Participated in continuing education for EMA.
- Participated in continuing training for Red Cross Volunteer position.
- Planning CERT/preparedness trainings for local school/student groups.
- Participated in county-

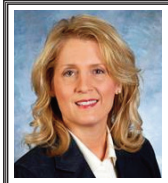
wide test of outdoor sirens. (1/2/25)

- Preparing for hardware (CAD computers) refresh in the amount of \$32,527.67 for 911 Dispatch Center. Participated in two admin meetings with Geoconex with plans for implementation. (Project has been delayed by Geoconex as a result of supply chain failure.)
- Working with Kinetic/Windstream on project to switch PSAP from copper to fiber connection. (Fiber and term panel have been installed, switchover was delayed due to storms.) Working through possible issues with system router.
- Prepared for possible warming center activation.
- Placed EOC on Standby Status during Winter Storm.
- Attended Area 7 Directors Meeting in Morehead.
- Maintaining EM office hours Mon.-Fri.
- Responded to home fire in Black Oak. Red Cross assistance approved. (1/23/25)
- Responded to home fire on Carrington Avenue. Red Cross assistance approved. (1/17/25)
- Responded to home fire on Fairlane Drive. Red Cross assistance approved. (1/4/25)
- Responded to structure collapse on Fairlane Drive. (1/29/25)
- Working with Tollesboro Fire to improve communication link between Dispatch and Tollesboro Fire's radio repeater and outdoor warning siren. (Siren tech also involved in project.)
- Responded to home fire on Halbert Avenue. (1/7/25)
- Attended online CSEPP training session and discussion on AI images.

- Working with Christian Appalachian Project to restore Operation Sharing Program in the county (was discontinued during COVID).
- Participated in Kentucky Qualification System – PIO certification training. (1/28/25)
- Participated in Broadband Improvement review discussions with providers and local officials to finalize county plan.
- Assisted during Winter Storm in several capacities. (1/5-10/25)
- Promoted Lewis County Alerts in newspaper, radio, and social media outlets to be better prepared for winter storm.
- Attended 911 Board Meeting. (1/22/25)
- Safety meeting with Enbridge pipeline officials, 1862 Adventures, and local officials. (1/16/25)
- Worked with AK and Windstream to restore telephone service multiple times.
- Assisted LCSO with traffic control and scene photography for various incidents.
- Telephone conference with Area Director Jason York to discuss training and reporting practices.
- Multiple telephone conferences concerning weather and damage assessments.

County treasurer Penny Lee reported the total of all county funds for the month of January had a beginning balance of \$3,468,371.26 and an ending balance of \$3,871,260.67. Receipts for the month totaled \$721,924.82 while disbursements totaled \$319,035.41.

The next regular meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court will be at 3:00 p.m. March 10, 2025.



Legislative Update

Senator Robin L. Webb

The fifth week of the legislative session was another busy one in Frankfort, filled with meaningful discussions, important recognitions, and visits from dedicated leaders across the district.

I was especially proud to welcome Cody Plank, CRNA, of Ashland and president of the Kentucky Association of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (KyANA), along with Evan Harris, faculty member at Murray State, and Jarred Carpenter, a University of Louisville student, to the Senate floor. Through Senate Resolution 94, we formally recognized their contributions to the healthcare field, ensuring that their work and advocacy received the attention it deserves. Cody has been a strong presence in Frankfort for years, and I've always known he would emerge as a leader in his profession.

This week also marked Kentucky Cities Day at the Capitol, bringing together local officials from across the district to have their voices heard. I had the pleasure of visiting with Greenup city officials, Ashland Police Chief Todd Kelley, and other local leaders who work tirelessly to serve their communities. It was a special moment to welcome Grayson city officials, including my son and mayor of Grayson, Troy Combs, to the Capitol. Having my daughter, Lindsey, in Frankfort to introduce them before the Senate made the moment even more meaningful. I'm incredibly proud of the work our local officials do to support our communities, and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize them in the halls of our commonwealth's Capitol.

I also had the honor of speaking at the Energizing Eastern Kentucky: A Collaborative Effort for Our Future event, where I discussed the critical intersection of energy and economic development for our region. These are issues close to my heart, and it was encouraging to see so many engaged leaders from the energy sector, area development districts, and local governments—including County Judges Sparks and Hall—working toward a

stronger future for Eastern Kentucky. Ensuring that our energy resources drive economic growth while supporting our workforce and communities remains a top priority, and I appreciated the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation.

In legislative developments, a bill I am sponsoring, Senate Bill (SB) 58, recently advanced through the Senate State and Local Government Committee with bipartisan support. This legislation offers a common-sense solution for families with loved ones who have disabilities, ensuring they can plan for the future without jeopardizing critical benefits like Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income. Too many families worry about what will happen to their children or dependents when they are no longer able to provide direct care. SB 58 allows members of Kentucky's state-administered retirement systems to designate a special needs trust as a beneficiary of their retirement benefits. This simple but significant change will help ensure financial security for some of our most vulnerable citizens while protecting access to essential assistance programs.

Outside of our continued work in committees, the Senate advanced a number of bills off the floor this week as our workload grows heavier and the days grow longer. Bills passing our chamber in the fifth week of the 2025 Session include:

Senate Bill 19 requires a daily one- to two-minute moment of silence in Kentucky public schools for student reflection, prayer, or other quiet activities, with parents informed before implementation. I supported this bill because a moment of reflection can provide clarity and peace at the start of the school day. It passed 30-6.

Senate Bill 60 prohibits government agencies from restricting actions or refusals based on sincerely held religious beliefs, raising the evidentiary standard to clear and convincing evidence. I voted in favor, and it passed 29-7.

Senate Bill 129 helps address the housing shortage in

Jefferson County by allowing local governments to hold blighted, tax-delinquent properties for up to five years to encourage redevelopment. I supported this measure, which passed 34-3.

Senate Bill 100 strengthens regulations on the sale of tobacco, nicotine, and vapor products by requiring retailer licensing, enforcing penalties for sales to those under 21, and supporting youth vaping prevention programs. It passed 33-3.

Senate Bill 71 seeks to shift control over public library board appointments by granting county judge-executives the authority to appoint board members, with fiscal court approval, across most of Kentucky. I opposed this measure because it strips libraries of their independence, opening the door to censorship, funding cuts, and decisions made by individuals with no real understanding of how libraries serve the public. Despite these concerns, it passed 22-11-1.

Senate Bill 4 would regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within Kentucky's state agencies to ensure ethical and transparent practices. It establishes an Artificial Intelligence Governance Committee to develop guidelines for AI use, emphasizing public disclosure, employee training, and data protection. I supported the measure, which passed the 30-3.

A number of bills and resolutions advanced with full bipartisan support during the fifth legislative week, including: SB 25, SB 50, SB 27, SB 121, SB 65, SB 83, SB 178, SJR 28, SJR 55, SB 169, SB 57, SCR 61, SB 174, SB 176, and SB 245.

All the measures granted passage by the Senate will now go to the House to continue their journey through the legislative process. For an in-depth review of the bills passed thus far, I encourage you to visit the Legislative Record at LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV. There, you can also review the progress of other legislation and delve into all the bills filed this session.

Time moves fast in a 30-day session, and with 20 days behind us, we are officially in the home stretch.

The Kentucky Senate has spent the bulk of this session advancing its own legislative priorities, carefully crafting policies, and setting the stage for debates on issues that matter to our constituents. Apart from the state income tax reduction in House Bill 1, much of our chamber's focus has been on Senate-driven legislation.

With just eight legislative days remaining before the veto period, we will soon begin welcoming a wave of House bills for our consideration. This marks a pivotal moment – where two cham-

bers with different approaches and priorities must align, negotiate differences, and determine what ultimately makes it across the finish line.

The next few days will be fast-paced, unpredictable, and critical. Bills that have spent weeks in committee or stall under scrutiny. Some will be amended, refined, or combined. Others will face their final vote. The process is deliberate, sometimes frustrating, but always essential – this is how legislation is shaped into law.

Extended state tax deadlines for those impacted by Feb. 14 Storms

By Kinsey Woodson

Gov. Andy Beshear said Team Kentucky is providing tax relief for individuals and businesses in Kentucky affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding and landslides that began on February 14, 2025.

This extension allows affected taxpayers whose filing deadline is on or after Feb. 14, 2025, until Nov. 3, 2025, to file Kentucky income tax returns and submit tax payments for individual income tax, corporate income tax, pass through entity tax, income tax withholding, limited liability entity tax, quarterly estimated payments and Kentucky payroll payments.

"Folks remember, we're in this together, and we keep trying to find different ways to help out," Gov. Beshear said. "Some will be big, some will be small, but we hope that they all come together and show that the people of this state love you, and that we're trying to do our very best to help."

Gov. Beshear said Kentucky's extensions for state tax deadlines will mirror the Internal Revenue Service's federal extensions related to this disaster for filing income tax returns, including payment of tax due.

Late filing and payment penalties will be waived for those affected taxpayers seeking this relief, as long as such payments are paid on or before Nov. 3, 2025.

Kentucky's tax laws have

no provision for the waiver of interest.

Taxpayers are advised to label the top margin of the tax forms filed under this relief provision in large, red letters with the words "Kentucky Disaster Relief." If filing online, most software will allow for "Disaster" to be entered on the return for

I encourage you to stay engaged in the legislative process – your voice matters. Whether you're advocating for your community, your profession, or an issue close to your heart, your input helps shape the decisions that impact us all. Please reach out to share your thoughts and perspectives. I can be contacted by email at SD18@cm.kylegislature.gov or through the General Assembly Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay by dialing 711.

e-file.

Taxpayers requiring additional information or assistance may contact the Department of Revenue at (502) 564-4581 for individual income tax, or (502) 564-8139 for corporation income, limited liability entity and pass-through entity tax.

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

is available at these retail locations . . .

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Clark's Pump-n-Shop
Collins Country Market
Fas Mart (Tollesboro)
Garrison Dollar General
Garrison Shortstop
Kangaroo Ridge Farms
Oak Ridge Grocery
Osman Pharmacy
Polley's By Pass
Ron's IGA (Tollesboro)
Save-A-Lot
Super Quik (Garrison)
Tollesboro Dollar General
Valero
Vanceburg Dollar General
Vanceburg Mart