



Judge Executive’s Report

By George Sparks

August 2025 County Judge Executive Monthly Report

August seemed to come and go in the blink of an eye due to how busy we have been at the office. Between meetings, conferences, and continued work on various projects, we have had a productive month.

Progress continues to be made at the Black Oak Recreational Park. Basketball goals have been installed at the ball court. A new shelter house is being put up and crumb rubber picnic tables and benches are being set up. There is still a lot of work to be done, but thanks to our teamwork and our many generous contributors, great progress is being made.

Broadband expansion is happening in several parts of Lewis County. The Kentucky Better Internet project is making some much needed progress in our area. Phase two is pole permits to install fiber on utility poles. Spectrum is hopeful that they will acquire all needed permits by November of this year. Once completed, this project will create great opportunities for the Lewis County residents who would like to look for remote jobs.

I toured Central Elementary School in Vanceburg with representatives from Meadowview Regional Medical Center and Kentucky Career Center/ TENCO in order to our plan for a Health Fair/ Career Fair on October 9th. We are partnering with Primary Plus, Meadowview Regional Medical Center, TENCO Workforce Development, Local 248, and numerous businesses throughout the region. There will be low cost laboratory screenings, free health screenings, and job search assistance available for attendees. Feel free to call the office or check our Facebook page for more details.

I attended and participated in the TENCO quarterly partner meeting. Brittany Layne, Director of Career Center Operations, opened and led the meeting. Michael Uptegraff gave a presentation on navigating reentry, employment services, and SB 90. I shared information about our upcoming Health/Career Fair on October 9th.

Next on my agenda was attending the BTADD Executive Board meeting. After the meeting was called to order, we approved past meeting minutes and the Executive Director’s time and travel sheets. We discussed a staff accountant position. The annual meeting will be on 9/22/2025 at Blue Licks State Park.

I was able to attend the Lewis County Public Health Taxing District/ Public Health Board meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joe Bentley, followed by prayer. The past meeting minutes and financial reports were presented and approved. The tax rate was discussed and will remain the same. Public Health Director Anita Bertram gave the board an update on all programs.

I presided over the August Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was called to order

followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The court approved the past meeting minutes. An inter-local tourism agreement between Lewis County and Greenup County was approved. The agreement is for one year and can be renewed if both parties want to continue and agree on the terms. The 2025-26 bids on black-top projects were opened. The Litter Abatement Program Grant Funding Agreement was approved. Ryan Plank’s appointment to the Extension District Board was approved and will expire 12/31/2028. The Ambulance Service District Board’s re-appointment of Danny Palmer, Leigh Ann Ruggles, and Brenda Cunningham were all approved with terms expiring on 8/11/2027. Terry LeMaster was reappointed to the Vanceburg–Lewis County Industrial Authority Board. His term is set to expire 8/31/2029. Amanda Kennard was approved as a full time 911 dispatcher, and Carys Earlywine was approved as a part time 911 dispatcher. Chris Gardner was approved to transition from part time to full time as a Deputy Jailer Transport Officer. We discussed inflatables at the Black Oak Recreational Park. The discussion concerning Concord Trinity Road was tabled. The Garrison Boat Ramp was discussed and the court gave approval for me to share our interest in the property with the Army Corps. All departments presented a monthly report and all were approved by the court.

I attended a Zoom meeting with BTADD and the City of Vanceburg to discuss tourism/recreation priority projects in the city and county. UK Landscape and Design Professor Tracy Miller attended the meeting as well.

Next, I headed to Louisville to attend the Governor’s Local Issues Conference along with Treasurer Penny Lee and Finance Officer Morgan Cooper. After attending the opening session there were several breakout sessions. Some I attended were: Workforce Re-Entry, Public Service Commission, Ky. Housing Corporation, Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreational Authority, Economic Development, Appalachian Regional Commission, Charter Communications/ Spectrum, and Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. I am proud of BTADD for winning the Spirit of Kentucky Award presented by Rocky Adkins, Governor’s Office Senior Advisor. This award was given for a water and sewer project that was completed in Bracken County. Magistrate Craig Miller spoke on behalf of Judge Tina Teegarden. Congrats, BTADD!

I attended the Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts meeting in Louisville. Judge Matt Wireman called the meeting to order. Guest speaker Representative Jason Petrie gave a presentation and answered several questions. The past meeting minutes and financial reports were approved. The FY25 audit report was

approved. Executive Director Casey Ellis gave the board an update and the meeting was adjourned.

Next up was the quarterly Extension District Board meeting. Our newest board member, Ryan Plank, was sworn in and welcomed to the board. Chairperson Mike Setters called the meeting to order. The past meeting minutes were read and approved. The financial report was presented and approved. The tax rate was decided to stay the same with no increase. The EDB Treasurer submitted a letter of resignation, which the board accepted. The EDB staff will be handling the financial responsibilities going forward. The board approved an increase in the credit card limit. The meeting was then adjourned.

I was honored to be able to attend Clara Kamer’s 90th birthday celebration at the Black Oak Fire Department Community Center. I presented her with a proclamation and proclaimed Monday August 18, 2025, Clara Kamer Day in Lewis County. Clara is a retired educator and has been a community servant her entire life. Clara has made a great impact, not only on her family, but the entire community by serving and helping others.

I went to Maysville to attend the BTADD monthly Board of Directors meeting. The meeting was called to order followed by roll call, prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance. The past board meeting minutes, executive minutes, and finance committee minutes were approved. The board voted for the regionalism award. The aging budgets were presented and approved. The Title 6 policy statement was approved. The financial report was approved. Guests included Craig Shockley with Congressman Andy Barr’s office, Angie Cain with the Dept. of Local Government, Brian Storz with the Division of Water, and Tyler McHugh with Maysville-Mason County Industrial Development. Staff reports were all presented and approved. Executive Director Kevin Cornette gave the board an update before

the meeting was adjourned.

I attended the monthly Trinity Fish and Game Club meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer and a meal. President Marty Wright called the business meeting to order. Secretary Marie Applegate read the past meeting minutes and gave a financial report. Both were approved. Some building maintenance was approved for President Marty Wright to get done. I answered a few questions related to the county and fiscal court. The meeting was then adjourned.

Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown and I met with the Lewis County Local Emergency Planning Committee/ Disaster and Emergency Services for the quarterly meeting. We discussed plans for a tabletop exercise to be held on 11/20/25 at 5:30 p.m. at the extension office. This exercise will involve a severe weather outbreak involving a tornado touchdown. The purpose of the exercise is to have all the needed agencies come together and work through the scenarios presented by Director Brown. Planning, training, and exercises help us be better prepared should a disaster occur.

I attended the TENCO Workforce Development annual meeting at the Rowan County Board of Education. It was a great meeting with many presenters and success stories. One of the business forums we held here in Lewis County was highlighted. We partnered with BTADD, TENCO Workforce, MSU Small Business Development Center, Local 248 Pipefitters and HVAC, LC Extension Office and several others. Over 30 businesses were represented. There was a time for idea-sharing and networking with other businesses. Before adjourning, I was asked by outgoing Chairman Michael Thoroughman to swear in new officers. Congratulations to Amanda Clark who will be serving as the new Chairperson. Workforce Director Denise Dials, who is retiring after many years of awesome work, came up and shared some words of encourage-

ment before the meeting adjourned.

I attended the Comprehensive Inc. Monthly Board of Directors meeting. Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. After roll call, past meeting minutes were approved. Ms. Jordan gave a DBHDID report. The financial report was given by Ms. Hicks. Ms. Williams, the new interim CEO, gave a report. Committee reports were given and approved by the board. In old business, the Bylaws Amendment was discussed. In new business, two resolutions were presented. The next meeting will be 9/22/25.

Next up was the Licking Valley Community Action monthly Board of Directors meeting. The meeting was called to order, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The past meeting minutes and financial reports were approved. Program reports were presented by Executive Director Kenneth Walters. Other business was agency year to date budget approval, finance manual approval, vendor debarment status, program funding status, board meeting at county senior centers, and executive session. The director’s time and travel sheets were presented and approved. A short executive session was held before the meeting was adjourned.

Toward the end of the month, I presided over a special Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Johnny Bivens, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was as follows: A) Acknowledge receipts of 2025 taxing district rates. B) Set Lewis County tax rates. C) Resolution #25-13 Rural Secondary Flex Program/ Agreement. D) In-

voices. The meeting was then adjourned. Our next regular Fiscal Court meeting will be 9/8/2025.

I wanted to give a special thanks to the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to speak at their annual dinner. I shared our county vision and mission statements, and I discussed the reasons why I am confident that Lewis County has a very bright future. I shared some of the accomplishments we have made over the past three years. I made sure to highlight the importance of teamwork because I firmly believe that if we continue to work together, we will make even more great progress moving forward.

I was able to attend the Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) Conference in Corbin. Governor Andy Beshear, Congressman Hal Rogers, KY Cabinet for Economic Development’s Jeff Noel, Senate President Robert Stivers, and several others gave speeches. There were panel discussions on topics such as nuclear innovation in Eastern KY., nuclear opportunity, readying the region for AI, and the next chapter for Eastern KY.

To round out the month, I attended the BTADD Regional Transportation Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order by Maysville City Manager Matt Wallingford. The past meeting minutes were approved. District offices 6 and 9 gave updates on the roads that they decided to boost. In Lewis County, it was KY 57 between AA and Fleming County to provide better horizontal and vertical alignment, wider shoulders, and extended clear zones. This project is still in the early stages with many uncertainties. Other routes such as KY 59 are still at the top of the list.

NOTICE

The Lewis County Board of Education is soliciting architectural services for upcoming projects. Interested firms shall submit a one-page "Letter of Interest" to the Lewis County Board of Education, Attention: Woody Underwood at woody.underwood@lewis.kyschools.com by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2025.

Public Notice 37c

Water System Operator

Company:	Electric Plant Board	Location:	Vanceburg, KY 41179
Status:	Full Time, Employee	Job Category:	Utility
Industry:	Water System Operator	Relevant Work Experience:	0 to 5+ Years
Career Level:	Experienced		

WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR

We are currently seeking a highly motivated Water Treatment and Distribution System operator.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

- Pay Compensation Based on Qualifications and Experience.
- Health Insurance Coverage.
- Full Vacation, Holiday and Sick Days.

QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE:

- After two years successful candidate must obtain licenses applicable to the requirements of the Electric Plant Boards requirements in water treatment and distribution (Training Paid For).
- Must react appropriately in emergency situations.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, demanding, productive team-oriented environment.
- Good communication and customer skills (must be professional and courteous).
- Communicate in a direct and respectful manner with internal employees.
- Must pass a drug test and agree to a background and credit check. Random drug tests performed periodically.
- Organized, self-motivated, with ability to work independently.
- Demonstrate the highest ethical and professional standards.
- Ability to multi-task and adjust to changing priorities.
- Must have experience in a fast paced environment.
- Be a team player with a positive “can-do” attitude.
- Must be honest and dependable.
- Technical and detail oriented.
- Work well under pressure.
- High school diploma or GED required.
- Must have valid Kentucky Driver’s License. Commercial Driver’s License preferred. If no CDL, must obtain within a reasonable amount of time.
- Must be willing to be on call 24/7/365 and willing to work scheduled weekends.
- Must be willing to work with new technologies such as SCADA, GIS and other PC-based software.

RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Perform regularly scheduled distribution system operation and maintenance activities.
- Maintain accurate operation and maintenance records.
- Read, test and repair meters.
- Repair all water and gas distribution systems as needed.
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Water and Gas Department Manager.

TO APPLY:

To respond to this opportunity, please mail or drop off all resumes to the following address:

**ELECTRIC PLANT BOARD
PO BOX 489
VANCEBURG, KY 41179**

Applications must be received by our office no later than Tuesday, September 30, 2025 by 5:00 p.m.
(Standard Work Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Notice Of Appointment

Administration has been granted by the Lewis District Court upon the Estate of Toliver B. Applegate, whose address was 14831 KY 57, Tollesboro, KY 41189, and Debra Kay Doyle, whose address is 5012 Raymond Rd., Mayslick, KY 41055, was appointed Executrix on September 9, 2025.

All creditors having claims against said estate are notified to present them to said Debra Kay Doyle, at the address shown verified according to law, not later than six months after the last publication of this notice. Any person owing said estate should make payment to said Debra Kay Doyle.

**Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District
Courts**

Notice Of Appointment

Administration has been granted by the Lewis District Court upon the Estate of Dora Lucille Thomas, whose address was 11685 KY 57, Tollesboro, KY 41189, and Hinton Lee Thomas, whose address is 1196 Craycraft Rd., Tollesboro, KY 41189, was appointed Executor on September 9, 2025.

All creditors having claims against said estate are notified to present them to said Hinton Lee Thomas, at the address shown verified according to law, not later than six months after the last publication of this notice. Any person owing said estate should make payment to said Hinton Lee Thomas.

**Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District
Courts**