

# Fiscal Court approves tornado cleanup oversight, several new hires



PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

Pictured at the podium is Laurel County Judge-Executive David Westerfield. From left, the magistrates include John Crawford, Danny Smith, Bobby Overbay, Jeff Book, Billy Oakley, and Richard Bales.

By Madison Nantz  
Staff Writer

At its regular meeting Thursday morning, the Laurel County Fiscal

Court approved several items related to tornado recovery and county operations for the upcoming fiscal year.

Judge-Executive David Westerfield received approval to bring in DRC Emergency Services to oversee remaining tornado

debris cleanup through local subcontractors. He was also authorized to hire a company to handle FEMA documentation related to the cleanup, as well as a monitoring company to meet FEMA requirements for debris removal tracking.

As for personnel matters, multiple new hires were approved. Jordan Dalrymple, who will serve as retirement clerk, will enter her role on June 16. Dalrymple will earn \$21 per hour for the position.

Following the retirement of two road department employees, the department saw two new hires — William Antrim and Billy Goforth. Antrim will earn \$15 per hour, whereas Goforth will make \$14 an hour due to not having his

CDL (commercial driver's license).

Further, six temporary employees will be hired to haul debris, each earning \$30 an hour.

In new business, the court approved bids for materials to be used during the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

During the county treasurer's report, several transfers and approvals were made, including:

- Approval of May claims with no discussion.
- An intra-fund transfer, also approved without discussion.

- The adoption of standing orders for the 2025–2026 fiscal year.
- The closure of the county's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) account after funds were fully allo-

cated and spent.

The cash transfer report included \$500,000 from the occupational tax fund to the road fund, \$299,848.67 from the ARPA fund to general fund, and \$800,000 from the occupational tax fund to general fund.

Judge Westerfield closed Thursday's meeting by thanking those involved with tornado relief efforts.

"I just appreciate everybody in the county for pulling together and trying to help these people," Westerfield stated.

The Laurel County Fiscal Court regularly meets at 8:45 a.m. on the second Monday and 9:30 a.m. on the final Thursday of each month. The fiscal court's next meeting will take place Monday, June 9.

# County tourist commission discusses finances

By Madison Nantz  
Staff Writer

In a special-called meeting last Tuesday afternoon, the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission approved its 2025-2026 budget proposal.

According to Executive Director Kim Collier, there was a total revenue of \$750,900. Collier said last year's expenses for advertising and promotion were \$540,628 due to an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant. This year however, the expenses sit at \$260,686.

"We're kind of getting back to normal after having an influx of money we didn't have," Collier

stated. "The next page is operations, tourism office, banquet hall, and personnel for a total of all expenses at \$677,644. Then the revenue is \$750,900."

Additionally approved was a pay raise for Angeliqe Hatmaker, the commission's secretary. Treasurer Randy Singh said commissioners had previously discussed the raise. With no new discussion, Commissioner Tom Handy made the motion to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Mackey Williams.

Commissioners went on to approve the 2024-2025 budget amendments. The motion was made by Commissioner Scott Smith and seconded by Williams after

commissioners reviewed the checking account register through March, Collier sharing the account balance was \$58,761.81.

Finally, the commission approved the payment of an invoice to Bolton's for extracting water after a sprinkler system pipe erupted due to frozen water, which caused flooding. The motion to do so came from Smith, seconded by Handy.

The London-Laurel County Tourist Commission convenes for regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at Heritage Hills, located at 472 Falls Street in London. The commission's next regular meeting will be held June 10 at 12 noon.



PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

The commission convened to discuss financial matters.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**CASA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** — CASA of Knox and Laurel Counties is seeking individuals to be volunteer advocates for children in the foster care system of Knox and Laurel counties. In order to be a volunteer advocate, you will need to complete a 30-hour online guided learning training curriculum, pass three background checks and be sworn in by the family court judge. Please contact the CASA office at 606-389-5968 for more information.

**MOMS GROUP OF LONDON** — On the second Wednesday of every month the Moms Group of London gets together at Corinth Baptist Church to encourage and uplift one another from 9 to 11 a.m. Breakfast, fellowship, crafts and child care are provided.

**NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUPS** — A 12-step program for family and friends of addicts. Addiction is a family disease. It affects the relationships of those close to the addict: parents, spouses, siblings, children, longtime friends, and employers. If someone's addiction is affecting you, first you must help yourself. Nar-Anon is a 12-step support group for families and friends of

addicts. There are no dues or fees to join. Just come to a meeting. You will hear others, who are going through similar problems, talk about how they cope and find recovery. The meetings are at Trinity Chapel, 242 Levi Jackson Mill Road, London, every other Friday evening at 7 p.m. You may message Kate Hoskins-Wilder, Betty Black-Phillips, or Trinity Chapel on Facebook if you have any questions or concerns. Also to message for exact dates of the meetings.

**AL-ANON** — Call 888-425-2666 for more information. Meetings held at the following churches:

- First United Methodist Church, 301 W. Fifth St., AA and Al-Anon every Monday and Thursday at 8 p.m. in London.
- St. John's Episcopal Church, every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Corbin.
- Corbin Presbyterian Church, ever Friday at 12 noon in Corbin.

**KENTUCKY WOMEN'S CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM** — Federally funded public health program providing free or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to eligible women in Kentucky. Services like mammo-

grams and Pap tests are offered through local health departments and participating clinics around the state. To find the provider nearest you call toll free (844) 249-0708.

**LAUREL COMMUNITY LIONS AND LEXINGTON LIONS CLUBS** — Free diabetes screening for groups in the Laurel County area. Trained personnel conduct a lifestyle survey and a blood test is done to determine your A1C level, which is a predictor of Diabetes.

Please call to schedule your group of 15 or more. Businesses, government, first responders, churches, veterans, and other groups are welcome to call for your free diabetes screening. Contact Doris Callebs (606-312-8844).

**DAV CHAPTER 66** — 2 certified and trained service officers (1 state, 1 chapter) to assist all veterans and/or their dependents with VA claims.

For dates and times or more information, call chapter at 606-877-1308 or Bob Ellison at 606-862-0032. Leave your name, number and a short message.

**VETERANS COFFEE MUSTER** — Starting at 10 a.m., 85 Industry Drive, London Ky 40744. This is a free event for Veterans and their families in Laurel County and surrounding counties. Hosted by your Laurel County Military Suicide Prevention Coalition, as a way to show our appreciation for you. We also want to provide resources on site, if you should need assistance or have questions. This is a reoccurring muster, happening on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please join us for coffee, doughnuts, and camaraderie. We look forward to meeting you!

VFW — Monthly post  
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13A

**CORRECTION**  
An article in last week's edition incorrectly listed FEMA maximum payments for serious needs and housing. The correct figures are \$770 and \$43,600, respectively.

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