

■ RESCIND

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I make the wrong decision. I feel like I made a wrong decision that day.”

Edwards explained that she didn’t think it could be voted on if not on the agenda, or if it needed to be discussed under other business. Miller argued back that it wasn’t a specially-called meeting and it was in Robert’s Rules, referring to a book he had in front of him.

Judge Wilson asked for a second to Miller’s motion to rescind the vote, and one was made by Crain and approved. It was stated that the minutes of the January 22 meeting were correct. The minutes were then approved with motions by Hawkins and Bragg.

Next was a discussion about changing the fiscal court’s meeting time due to the judge changing County Attorney Howard’s time at family court on the next Thursday’s meeting. After a short discussion, the time of 9:30 a.m. was agreed upon for the February 26th meeting.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the annual contribution of \$2,500 to the TJ Community Foundation. The foundation significantly helps seniors with medical care, medication, hearing aids, and other medical needs. The motion for the donation was made by Bragg, seconded by Crain, and approved.

It became necessary to purchase a vehicle for the coroner. The one being bought is less than \$30,000, so no bids are necessary; however, the court

must vote to allow Judge Wilson to sign the loan note at Edmonton State Bank. The motion to allow the signature was made by Crain, seconded by Bragg, and then approved.

The court voted to enter into a closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(b) for property acquisition or sale at 9:14 a.m. and returned at 9:38 a.m. Judge Wilson stated, “No action was taken.”

Financials
The January 2026 financial statement was approved following a motion by Bragg and a second by Crain.

The budget transfers were approved with motions from Miller and Hawkins.

An interfund transfer of \$50,000 to the road fund was explained by Edwards as half of the amount due back to the fund after it was borrowed for the ambulance purchase. The other \$50,000 will be repaid before the June deadline.

The claims were then reviewed, with Miller asking about the \$2,188.06 paid to Barren County Glass. Edwards replied that it was for Tommy Garrett’s window. “We didn’t have to get approval for it, but it will be reimbursed once they do their audit, and then I send those expenses.”

The claims were approved after a motion by Bragg and a second by Miller.

Other Business
As requested, Miller spoke up with his motion to rescind his approval vote

concerning the \$13,000 to Bowling Park for the July 4th fireworks.

Edwards again tried to explain that nothing could be added to vote on after the agenda had been adopted, but Miller replied, “I think you can vote in other business, or else. Why would you have another business?”

“You can discuss things in other business, but if it’s not on the agenda, you can’t have an actual vote,” said Edwards.

“Well, I tried to do it. I’m fairly, I mean, I’m going to vote this. I mean, that’s why it’s, I may be wrong, but, but I wish to get a vote,” continued Miller. No vote was held.

Bragg discussed his thoughts concerning the recent historic winter storm, saying that the county should buy a sidearm and a couple of trucks for the road department using interest money earned from the money received from the sale of the nursing home. Judge Wilson replied that he already had a list of equipment needed by the road department on his desk.

Although not fiscal court-related, the Herald-News reporter asked Bragg about the status of the stage in the courthouse yard. His reply was, “We will have a stage ready by Summerfest.”

With no other items, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, at the special time of 9:30 a.m.

■ REPORT

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marketing firm Red7e.

The report details \$7,438,490 in out-of-state travel, including nearly \$930,000 by the Kentucky Department of Education and \$183,575.87 by Kentucky State Police while providing security for Gov. Andy Beshear and staff. Expenses included international flights, resort lodging, and conference travel.

In-state travel totaled \$23,278,869, much of it tied to education-related conferences and seminars.

Agencies also reported \$16,693,103.32 in spending on trainings, conferences, food, and trade shows. The report cites Derby-related payments totaling \$338,452.10 by the Tourism Cabinet and Governor’s Office, six-figure annual conference costs by the Department of Public Advocacy and a \$34,392 banquet by the Department for Medicaid Services.

Beyond travel and events, the report lists \$69.8 million in “temporary manpower services,” nearly \$8 million by the Division of Driver Licensing, \$51.8 million in services categorized as “not otherwise classified,” \$118.4 million in “other” expenses and \$3.98 million for travel by non-state employees.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services’ Office of the Secretary and Office of Medical Cannabis paid a single vendor \$339,365.90 for services that included video production and consulting, editing, branding graphics, introductory materials, and digital formatting. The contract also covered development and implementation of a social media strategy representing the cabinet and its agencies, as well as management of digital communications channels. The auditor’s report states it appears the competitive bidding process was not used to obtain the services.

Beshear responded to this finding, noting that false information was given under oath. “They spent \$93,000 to create training and educational videos for the public. The videos

were for prospective medical cannabis licenses. They were for law enforcement about what’s legal and what’s not. They were for patients, providers, and for local government officials.”

He also denied the claim that the bidding didn’t go through a competitive process.

The report also highlights more than \$34.3 million in IT-related services at CHFS despite the cabinet having internal IT resources, and raises concerns about billing practices tied to certain contracted services within the Department for Community Based Services.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services paid \$249,950 for a campaign that included messaging encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations. The Kentucky Historical Society paid \$83,500 for digital media and professional services.

CHFS offices also paid a vendor \$339,365.90 for video production, branding and social media strategy services. The auditor’s report states that it appears the competitive bidding process was not used to obtain those services.

The Council on Postsecondary Education paid \$300,000 to promote the value of postsecondary education. CHFS’s Department for Aging and Independent Living spent \$198,000 on a media campaign for the Senior Meals Program, despite previously citing a

program shortfall, and \$17,275 on promotional items. The Department for Community Based Services spent \$45,635.20 on promotional products.

Beshear said the \$198,000 for the Department of Aging and Independent Living was the membership fee paid to be included in a federally required public education program.

The auditor’s findings summarize extensive spending across multiple categories and call attention to procurement practices, oversight and internal controls within state government.

Ball told members of the Kentucky House Appropriations and Revenue Committee this week that some executive branch agencies are spending taxpayer dollars excessively, citing examples of travel, conference and event expenses.

“It is clear that some executive branch agencies are spending tax dollars extravagantly and this needs to stop,” Ball said in her presentation. “Public servants should be safeguarding money as if it was coming from their own pockets, rather than doling it out on extravagant travel and other unnecessary expenses.”

The Auditor’s Office reviewed executive branch spending data in the state’s eMARS accounting system, focusing on categories it identified as prone to wasteful or excessive spending, including out-of-state travel and advertising.

■ IDOL

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presented to a full-time educator of the Metcalfe County School System.

The first Educator of the Year Award went to Mrs. Becky Nunnally in 2002. Several people asked if they could nominate a retired educator.

Due to this interest, in 2008, a new award was created for retired educators. The first recipient of the Metcalfe County Educator Idol Award was Mr. Cortez Butler.

Each year, the Metcalfe County Educator of the Year and Educator Idol of the Year, and their families, are invited to the Annual

Senior Celebrity Banquet, where they are honored with a gift and a plaque.

This has become an especially important part of the Senior Celebrity Banquet.

A wall in the Chamber Board of Directors room has been selected to display photos of those educators who have been honored with this prestigious award.

The present Board of Directors of the Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce is honored to continue these awards.

Please take the time to

nominate an educator (either present or retired) who has had an influence on your life, or the life of your child.

There are dedicated teachers in our school system who are deserving of this recognition. The Deadline for nominations is March 16, 2026.

Nomination forms may be copied from Facebook, e-mail, or picked up at the Chamber of Commerce office located at 109 East Stockton Street on the Public Square in Edmonton.

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