

LaRue County finds potential use for opioid funds

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

The LaRue County Fiscal Court may have found a way to spend some of its opioid funding.

Distributed to state and local governments across the nation by companies accused of some type of responsibility regarding the massive public health and societal costs caused by the prescription opioid epidemic, Kentucky has secured more than \$1 billion to date, to be paid over the course of an 18-year period. These funds are to be split evenly between local governments and the Commonwealth. As of Fiscal Year 2025, which ended June 30, 2025, LaRue County has received \$225,700 and the City of Hodgenville \$10,600. The agencies are expected to receive an additional \$241,000 and \$11,100, respectively, through 2038.

Despite having hundreds of thousands of dollars, interpretations of Kentucky's laws surrounding the use of opioid funding have resulted in county legislative bodies afraid to utilize the money. To date, LaRue County has only found two uses for its money: a \$21,000 donation to



Silverleaf Sexual Trauma Recovery Services in 2023 and \$10,000 in Aug. 2024 to fund medically assisted treatments for the treatment of substance use disorder at the LaRue County Detention Center – which can cost up to \$400 per month, per applicable inmate and is required by law to be made accessible.

A third use was proposed at the fiscal court's Tuesday, Sept. 22 meeting: to fund the purchase of an electronic narcotics tracking system for LaRue County EMS. According to EMS Director Mike Cottrell, federal law requires EMS to have electronic tracking for its narcotics – LaRue County, however, does not.

“We’ve been doing it manually ... [so] we’re sort of sliding by right now, but I

constantly get an email about the electronic tracking,” he said.

The electronic tracking system will consist one of large safe that’s kept at EMS headquarters and five small lock boxes that are kept inside each ambulance. When the department receives narcotics, they will automatically be given an RFID tag and placed in the safe. The medication is moved to an ambulance lock box when needed, and its movement is tracked constantly until it is empty. This setup will cost an initial \$19,683 for the safe, lock boxes and RFID tags, plus an additional \$500 per year for IT expense and additional tags.

“We’ve been behind on it because of the price, but we found out that we could use

opioid money for it,” Cottrell said, noting that Washington and Nelson counties had both utilized their funding for the same system.

The court unanimously approved a motion to move forward with the purchase of the electronic narcotics tracking system with a contingency that they receive official approval from the Kentucky Association of Counties before doing so.

The court also approved the following agenda items:

- Awarded the road fund operating loan bid to Magnolia Bank. The line of credit will have an interest rate of 4.75% for a loan up to \$199,999.99, available for use for 12 months. LaRue County Judge Executive Blake Durrett said the loan will be utilized to allow the road department to work

more efficiently and cost effectively by not having to wait for reimbursements before beginning new projects.

- A contract between the county and Telecast Communications LLC to allow the company's internet equipment on the EMS tower. In lieu of payments, Telecast provides internet service at no charge to the courthouse, annex, jail, dispatch, road department, EMS and Pearman Forest Interpretive Center.

- A resolution adopting and approving the execution of a Rural Secondary Program Agreement between the fiscal court and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Known as FY27 Grant Pool Funds, the program allows the county to apply for up to \$100,000 to support eligible road improvement and construction projects, with the condition of a \$100,000 local match; County Road Aid funds cannot be used to finance the match. Durrett said he believes the grant pool is one-time funds and he would hate to leave free money on the table.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS LaRue County Road

Supervisor David Wood informed the court that the construction of bridge approaches for the bridges on Hall Gaddie Road in Bufalo and Hawkins Road in Hodgenville have been completed and they are now open for traffic. He also reported several loads of tree-trimmings, pothole repairs on Whitlock Spur and R. Skaggs Road, the installation of an “end of county maintenance” and “no outlet” signs on Mathers Lane and floor repairs at the LaRue County Senior Citizens Center.

Magistrates thanked Wood for his and the department's continued dedication, stating that they had received calls praising recent work. Magistrates also requested various road-works, primarily tree-trimmings and dead tree removal.

Cottrell reported 216 EMS runs in August. Total billable transports in Sept. were 158 with total charges equaling \$347,571.80 and total deposits equaling \$87,362.23.

The next meeting of the LaRue County Fiscal Court will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the LaRue County Fiscal Court.

LARUE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

JUDGE CHARLES C. SIMMS III
Sept. 21
Jason Gabriel Brangers, DOB 1977. Expungement hearing. Expungement granted. Order signed. (2014)
Kenneth Burba, DOB 1954. Diversion completion. Defendant has completed pretrial diversion. Felony dismissed. (2020)
Bonny Burgess, DOB 1982. Probation violation (for felony offense). First call conducted. Hearing Oct. 5. (2025)
Christopher Culver, DOB 1976. Probation violation (for felony offense). First call conducted. Hearing Oct. 5. (2026)
James Manning, DOB 1993.

Violation of supervision. First call conducted. Hearing Oct. 5. (2025)
Bryan Scott Rigdon, DOB 1972. Convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Defendant previously stipulated to violation of supervision and did not show for sentencing on Aug. 17. Final sentencing conducted. Judgment and order of probation signed. Review Oct. 5. (2025)
James Michael Rust, DOB 1978. First-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (second or more offense; more than or equal to two grams of methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia – buy/possess and first-degree persistent felony offender. Motion to

reduce bond denied until court receives KCPC evaluation. (2026)
Summer J. Smith, DOB 1990. Diversion completion. Defendant has completed pretrial diversion. Felony dismissed. (2024)
JUDGE JOE BALLARD
Sept. 21
Gregory Barth, DOB 1998. Motion for jail time credit. Motion taken under submission. (2025)
Deondrick Davis, DOB 1980. First-degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), seven counts of first-degree wanton endangerment – police officer (one count for each officer involved in the pursuit), possession of marijuana,

operating motor vehicle with operator's license revoked/suspended/cancelled/denied, speeding 26 mph or over limit, reckless driving, disregarding official traffic control device and disregarding stop sign. Arraignment conducted. Bond to remain the same based on nature of the charges. Defendant is moderate, moderate. (2026)
Jennifer R. Duvall, DOB 1984. Probation violation (for felony offense). Agreement reached. Defendant to be assessed for treatment and follow recommendations. (2023)
River J. Gibson, DOB 2000. Violation of supervision. First call conducted. Second call Oct. 19. Bond modified to

\$5,000 – 10%. (2022)
Marlon R. Jackson Sr., DOB 1972. Pro se motion from defendant requesting appeal bond. Motion taken under submission. (2023)
Terry Logsdon, DOB 1983. First-degree possession of a controlled substance (second offense; methamphetamine) and drug paraphernalia – buy/possess. Failure to appear. Declare a fugitive. Place in NCIC. (2026)
Michael Jake Owens, DOB 1984. Third-degree burglary, first-degree criminal mischief, theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others valued more than \$1,000 but less than \$10,000 and third-degree attempted burglary. Arraignment conducted. Bond

to remain the same at the present time. (2026)
Canyon Rains, DOB 1996. Revocation hearing. Agreement reached. Defendant to complete 90-day treatment. Review financials on Dec. 7. (2025)
Russell Seward, DOB 1965. Probation violation (for felony offense). First call conducted. Second call hearing Oct. 5. Probation and Parole to assess defendant. (2025)
Note: The above information includes a listing of cases heard by the LaRue County Circuit Court, which meets on the first and third Monday of each month. Individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



Recycle-Fest 26

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Saturday, October 17th • 8am-Noon
All city and county residents welcome

BRING ANY METAL ITEMS
Such as: Scrap metal, tin, aluminum, copper, old appliances; stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, dishwashers, microwaves, car parts, fencing, etc. (Phelps will extract FREON on site)

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Such as: Monitors, CPUs, surge suppressors, battery back up units, fax machines, cell phones, toner & laser cartridges and other paraphernalia.

BRING ANY VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT, OR OTHER RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

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