



# Judge Executive’s Report

By George Sparks

## June 2026

To start the month, I attended a Zoom meeting with the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association (KCJEA) to discuss extending the gas tax discount Governor Andy Beshear had put in place on May 11. Even though it sounds like a good idea, it comes at a much greater cost in the future. Although it may provide some short-term savings, the tax discount would ultimately reduce the funding available to maintain our roads and bridges. This will make it tougher for counties that already struggle to maintain their roads. I will continue to receive updates through the KCJEA on what appears to be the best response for us to take.

Next, the June Fiscal Court meeting was held. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. May's minutes were approved. The bids for a new fire alarm system for the Justice Center were opened, and the lowest bid was approved. Resolution No. 2611 CDBG for the Garrison-Quincy Phase 11-AC Line Replacement Project was approved. The LCFC Administrative Code and Personnel Policy were both approved without changes. The second reading of Ordinance No. 26-03, the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan, was approved. The 2025 Sheriff's Tax Settlement was approved. The health insurance plan was presented, and the court voted for the county to cover the increase rather than passing the additional cost on to employees. The Crumb Rubber Tire-Derived Products Grant Agreement was approved. The court approved the hiring of Ryan Wolfe as a seasonal employee at Solid Waste. Karina Jordan and Tim Douglas were both reappointed to another term on the LCEMS Board. The court approved the county road cost allocation, which had already been approved in the budget. County Attorney Ben Harrison presented the viewers' reports on Moore Hollow Road. The court voted not to adopt the road at this time. The closure of Red Brush Hill Road was discussed but not approved due to a lack of a second. The 20 mph speed limit established last month on Briary Creek Road was not discussed be-

cause the individual who requested to speak about it did not attend the meeting. The court considered the 20 mph speed limit to be reasonable and left it unchanged. County Attorney Ben Harrison also gave an update on the Tollesboro Industrial Park covenants. There was no new information at this time. The court discussed charging either a rental fee or a refundable security deposit for the Black Oak Recreation Park shelter house, but decided not to require a deposit at this time. The court also discussed upgrading the park's security cameras. The court approved applying for the upcoming spay-and-neuter grant of up to \$3,000, with a 10 percent county match. All departments presented monthly reports, which were approved. The court approved the county's use of \$10,000 in tourism funds to begin developing entryways into Kinniconick Creek. A special-called meeting was scheduled for June 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. to close out the fiscal year. The claims and transfers were approved before the court adjourned. The next regular meeting will be held on July 13, 2026.

The BTADD Hazard Mitigation monthly meeting was held at the LCEM/911 Center. The meeting was led by Kaleigh Zeigler. We continued discussions on developing the regional hazard mitigation plan. We reviewed past city and county projects and mitigation actions taken, discussed next steps, held an open discussion, and then adjourned.

Larry Foxworthy, KACO Relationship Officer and retired Fleming County Judge/Executive, visited my office. One of our main topics of discussion was Lewis County becoming a Work Ready Community. Larry knows firsthand the complicated process involved, as Fleming County achieved Work Ready status while he served as county judge. I appreciate Larry and KACO's partnership.

KYEM Area 7 Manager Jason York visited LCEM Director Dennis Brown and me. During Jason's visit, we discussed planning, training, exercises, the Emergency Management Work Plan, Extremely Hazardous Chemical Response Plans, the Hazard Mitigation Plan,

and the FEMA Tornado Safe Room Grant Lewis County recently received.

Next was an award briefing with KYEM's Stacy Smith and BTADD's Missy Hardy. LCEM Director Dennis Brown, Lewis County Treasurer Penny Lee, and I met with Stacy and Missy to review the paperwork and procedures for the FEMA Tornado Safe Room Grant awarded to Lewis County. The safe room will be located on Clarksburg Road, behind the Vanceburg Fire Department and beside Gateway Head Start. It will accommodate nearly 100 people.

I attended the Kentucky Association of Area Development Districts meeting via Zoom. Chairman Mayor Kevin Cotton called the meeting to order. The previous meeting minutes and financial reports were presented and approved. The FY 2027 budget was approved. Eric Sexton and Will Hodges spoke about the scholarship program. Judge Steve Henry provided a legislative and lobbying update. KCADD Executive Director Casey Ellis gave his report before the meeting adjourned.

The Lewis County Opioid Abatement Committee held a public forum in the Fiscal Courtroom on June 11, 2026, to provide the public with an opportunity to share ideas on the best uses of opioid abatement funds to continue the fight against substance use disorder in our community. Thank you to Chair Tammy Brown, Sheriff Johnny Bivens, County Attorney Ben Harrison, Treasurer Penny Lee, Tera Buriss of Mountain Comprehensive Care, EMS Director Michael Byble, and Health Department Director Anita Bertram for your time and dedication to the committee.

I attended Fleming-Mason Energy's Customer Appreciation Day and thanked them for the outstanding service they provide to the people of Lewis County.

I attended the Vanceburg/Lewis County Industrial Authority Board of Directors meeting at City Hall. Chairman Kenny Clark called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes and financial reports were presented and approved. Craig Stanfield addressed the board with questions regarding the marketing of

several properties. During the election of officers, Levi Clark was elected Chairman, Terry LeMaster was elected Co-Chairman, and John O'Cull was elected Secretary/Treasurer. BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette also spoke about a community economic development certification before the meeting adjourned.

I was invited to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 9 office in Flemingsburg to meet with Chief District Engineer Steve Gunnell and his staff. We discussed state roads and projects in Lewis County. Steve Gunnell, Darrin Eldridge, Joe Callahan, Brandon Howell, Terry Ishmael, Vickie Griggs, and Jane Mers all provided updates. Steve also shared his concerns about the \$3 million in reductions included in the new highway plan beginning July 1, 2026.

I attended a Comprehensive, Inc. employee benefits meeting via Zoom. Hunter Rowe with Foundation Risk Partners explained the differences between the current state plan and the plan being offered. The board will make a decision by July, and the new plan will begin in January 2027.

The closeout meeting for the Camp Dix Fire Department Community Development Block Grant was held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, at the Lewis County Courthouse.

Shirley Williams with Woodmen of the World presented the county with a special flag commemorating America's 250th anniversary. The flag will be displayed in the courthouse. Thank you, Shirley!

I attended and chaired the BTADD Full Board of Directors meeting. The meeting was called to order, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Previous meeting minutes and committee reports were presented and approved. Kaleigh Zeigler presented the Regional Debris Management Plan. Steven Culp presented the financial report and the FY 2027 contract, both of which were approved. A Bracken County citizen was approved for appointment. Executive Director Kevin Cornette spoke about the ANCHOR Project, FY 2027 dues rates, and recurring expenses. During the Frankfort and Washington

updates, we heard from Brian Storz with DOW, James Stephens with Senator Rand Paul's office, and Craig Shockley with Congressman Andy Barr's office. Staff reports and the Executive Director's report were approved. I thanked the staff and board members for their outstanding work and dedicated service.

I participated in the Judges and Magistrates Joint Summer Conference in Lexington. As always, there were numerous meetings and training sessions to attend. I took full advantage of the opportunity and had many productive conversations with officials from across Kentucky about issues affecting counties. Topics included the gas tax reduction and its impact on road funding, agriculture, coal and minerals, solid waste, housing shortages, power supply, and data centers.

I attended the Buffalo Trace Agency for Substance Abuse Policy Board meeting via Zoom. Chairman David Green called the meeting to order. Previous meeting minutes and financial reports were approved. Tara Anderson provided a Harm Reduction update, while Savannah O'Hearn presented the Harm Reduction Campaign. Tara Anderson also presented final progress reports on the mini-grants and membership.

I attended the Comprehensive, Inc. Full Board of Directors meeting. Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell called the meeting to order. Previous meeting minutes and financial reports were approved. Acting CEO Natalie McLeskey provided an update. The board approved moving from the state insurance plan to either the Cigna HDHP or Cigna PPO plan. Ms. Hicks updated the board on the Stone Leigh property, and Ms. Insko reported on the fundraising event held at the Limestone Center. Additional business was discussed before adjournment.

I attended the LVCAP monthly Board of Directors meeting. I called the meeting to order, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Previous meeting minutes and financial reports were approved. Executive Director Kenny Walters presented program reports, which were approved. Under new busi-

ness, the board approved moving forward with the Pathways to Excellence Resolution. The board also congratulated Emily Brown and Director Walters on earning their Community Action Certification. Additional business was discussed before adjournment.

I attended the Lewis County Health Department Quarterly Board of Directors meeting. Chairman Joe Bentley called the meeting to order, followed by prayer. Previous meeting minutes and treasurer's reports were approved. The Taxing District and Health Department budgets were presented and approved. Program updates were then presented before the meeting adjourned.

Buffalo Trace Area Development District Executive Director Kevin Cornette and I traveled to East Kentucky Power Cooperative in Winchester to meet with Rodney Hitch, Director of Economic Development. Rodney gave us a tour of the facility, and we discussed economic, industrial, and community development opportunities in Lewis County. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about EKPC and the important role it plays in supporting communities across Kentucky. I was especially pleased to hear Rodney's familiarity with Lewis County.

I presided over the June 26, 2026, Special Fiscal Court meeting to close out the 2025-26 fiscal year. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. We discussed resolutions related to the ARC POWER Recreational Grant and the ARC INSPIRE Grant for Workforce Planning. The Fiscal Court also approved applying for grant funds to satisfy the local match requirements for both projects. We discussed the covenants at the industrial property in Tollesboro. All invoices and transfers were approved before the meeting adjourned. The next regular Fiscal Court meeting will be held on July 13, 2026.

As usual, June was a busy month in the County Judge's Office. There was a great deal happening throughout the county and city last week, with Fourth of July celebrations and America's 250th anniversary events. Hope you took time to enjoy these events with your family and friends. May God bless!

## Property Transfers



### June 2026

Arnold E. Renfroe Jr. and Nallely Lerma Rodriguez to Arnold E. Renfroe Jr. and Nallely Lerma Rodriguez. Lot #22 Bruner Poplar Flat Subdivision survivorship. No monetary consideration.

Brent Lay and Ohio Valley Veneer Inc. to Brent Lay. 1442.653 acres Straight Fork/Briery. \$2,006,479.50.

Jessie Botkins, Jack D. Thomas, Jack D. Thomas Revocable Trust, Carole M. Thomas, and Carole M. Thomas Revocable Trust to Jessie Botkins. One acre near Harrison Hollow Branch. \$10,000.

Jack D. Thomas and Carole M. Thomas to Steven Lewis and Tiffany Lewis. Lot #8 Black Oak Camp Lots Subdivision. \$20,000.

Timothy W. Henderson, Jack D. Thomas, Jack D. Thomas Revocable Trust, Carole M. Thomas, and Carole M. Thomas Revocable Trust to Timothy W. Henderson and Wanda S. Henderson. 14.420 acres Cooper Fork. \$75,000.

Jack D. Thomas and Carole M. Thomas to Derrick Miller Jr. and Alexandra Miller. Lot #9 Black Oak Camp Lots Subdivision. \$20,000.

David Crane, Gail Crane, and Zachary Crane to Ella Hershberger and Jonas Hershberger. 127.715 acres KY

344. \$392,000.

Donna Ison, Donna Kilgore, and Nathaniel Ison to Rebecca Parker. Parcel near Patrick Branch of Laurel Fork. \$125,000.

Lorena M. Sexton, deceased, Debby Jean Williams, Lorena M. Sexton Living Trust, and Shawna Sexton Voiers to Lorena M. Sexton Living Trust, Shawna Sexton Voiers, Debby Jean Williams, Madelene Mae Stamper, and Magdelene M. Voiers. Four tracts Lewis County. No monetary consideration.

Shawna Sexton Voiers and Martin Voiers to Tara Williams Fry. Lot 2 Hughes Farm - Tollesboro. No monetary consideration.

Shawna Sexton Voiers and Martin Voiers to Shawna Sexton Voiers and Martin Voiers. Lots 4, 5, 6, and 7, Hughes Farm - Tollesboro. No monetary consideration. Lorena M. Sexton Living Trust, Shawna Sexton Voiers, Debby Jean Williams, and Debby Jean Williams to James R. Williams. Signed deed. No monetary consideration.

Lorena M. Sexton Living Trust, Debby Jean Williams, Debby Jean Williams, and Shawna Sexton Voiers to Lorena M. Sexton Living Trust, Debby Jean Williams, Debby Jean Williams, Caleb

Sexton Voiers, and Shawna Sexton Voiers. Parcels Lewis/Mason Counties. No monetary consideration.

Brandon W. Stamper and Tammy J. Stamper to Donald L. Stamper and Amy M. Stamper. Two lots Garrison. \$20,000.

Jamie Darrell Osborne, Angel Osborne, Braxten Davis Osborne, and Madison Osborne to Cornerstone Community Church of Tollesboro. Two Tracts Tollesboro. \$125,000.

Norman Davis to Norman Davis, Janice Davis, and Mike Davis. Two parcels Vances Creek. \$1.00.

Norman Davis to Norman Davis, Janice Davis, and Mike Davis. Parcel Lewis County. \$1.00. Arthur Miller Jr. to Rodney McGlone and Melinda McGlone. Parcel along KY 59. Civil action.

Lewis County Shooting Sports Club Inc. and A.W. Graham Properties LLC to Lewis County Shooting Sports Club Inc. 2.26 acres Tollesboro. \$40,000.

Ronald E. Perry and Joyce Louise Perry to Ronald E. Perry and Joyce Louise Perry. Parcel Town Branch deed. No monetary consideration.

Kevin Johnson, Aimee Houde, and Johnson Family Revocable Living Trust to Richard Lewis Hance and Sheri Elizabeth Hance. Lot

8 Vanceburg Recreational Subdivision. \$25,000.

Kathryn L. Duzan and David Duzan to Scotty Switzer and Angela Moody Switzer. 1.595 acres McCarty Rd. \$47,000.

Upcycled LLC to Conroy Wayne Hall and Susan Kathleen Hall. 0.045 acre Main St., City of Vanceburg. \$85,000.

Gary L. Maddix and Jeanette Maddix to Bo Sparks. Two tracts near Firebrick. \$100,000.

Elmer Fite and Kimberly Fite to Timothy E. Pawlowski. Parcel KY 59. Gift.

Henry Earl Thacker Sr. to Henry Earl Thacker Jr. and Maggie E. Thacker. Tract Kinney Creek Smooth Rock. \$1.00.

Debbie L. Cooper to Tyler Applegate and Rachel Applegate. Lot #10 Meadowbrook Subdivision section III - Black Oak. \$13,000.

Mackenzie Tackett to Kaden Allen Lawhorn. Lot #11 Meadowbrook Subdivision - Black Oak. \$136,000.

Sharon Lee Rowe and Joseph E. Rowe to Carson Ginn. 111.911 acres KY 377 (Cloddy Field Br.) \$200,000.

James D. McCann, William P. McCann, Patsy McCann, Kitty Lynn McCann, and Lowell T. McCann to James D. McCann. 80 acres East Fork of Cabin

Creek. Love and affection.

Vanceburg Community Church and Steven D. Applegate to John Silvey and Rebecca Silvey. 0.039 acres Court Street - City of Vanceburg. \$10,000.

Gail R. Thayer and Nancy Sue Thayer to Gail R. Thayer and Gail R. Thayer Living Trust. 12 acres McDowell Creek Rd. \$33,000.

Bruner Land Company Inc. to Ashley Wallingford. Parcel near Bruner Pine Grove Farms. \$39,900.

David Michael Axline and Wenchi Axline to Richard D. Axline. Parcel Front Street - City of Vanceburg. \$57,500.

Judah Hemmerly to James M. Hemmerly. Five tracts Vanceburg Recreational Subdivision. \$1.00.

Keathel Chauncey and Taryn Chauncey to James Lovely and Amber Jahn. Parcels near Kinniconick Creek. \$35,000.

Linda Darlene Morris, Harold Dean Ginn, Mark Kevin Ginn, Melissa Ginn, Anthony Keith Ginn, Lorie Ginn, Barbara Lynn Ison, Vicky Charlotte Thompson, Whitney Thompson, Rodney Lee Ginn, and Belinda Kay Ginn to Linda Darlene Morris. Interment Rights - Garden of Devotion. Love and affection.

Harold Dean Ginn, Lorie Ginn, Barbara Lynn Ison, Vicky Charlotte Thompson,

Whitney Thompson, Mark Kevin Ginn, Melissa Ginn, Linda Darlene Morris, John Morris, and Anthony Keith Ginn to Rodney Lee Ginn and Belinda Kay Ginn. Parcels Lewis County. \$32,000.

Matthew Thomas Lee and Cassey Marie Lee to Jason Briffa and Amy Briffa. Parcel near Spruce Hollow. \$495,000.

Shirley M. Bentley to Eric Bryan Bentley and Robie Mont Bentley. Parcels Lewis County. \$1.00.

David Ginn Jr., Karson Ginn, and Sarah Marie Ginn to David K. Ginn and Carol Ginn. Lot #27 Briery Creek Development. No monetary consideration.

James W. Spangler Sr. and Brenda Sue Spangler to Randy Silvey and Nancy Silvey. 0.334 acre KY Hwy. 9 near Clarksburg. No monetary consideration.

Virginia L. Butler to Rick Butler & Sons Logging LLC. Parcels Tar Fork w/ Lien retained. \$70,000.

Fielden Stafford and Sandra Stafford to Christopher Kane Neal and Samantha Neal. Tracts Kinniconick Creek. \$250,000.

Jesse King to Jacob James Followell. Tract Tollesboro KY 10. \$170,000.

Marcella Esham to Marcella Esham and Lana Masters. 118 acres W. KY 8. \$1.00.