Lewis County Officials Present Monthly Reports

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County officials presented their monthly reports during the August meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court.

Sheriff Johnny Bivens filed his department activities from July 13, 2026 through August 10, 2026.

- Citations 13
- Subpoenas Served 5
- Domestic Related Calls 49
- Civil Summons Served 26
- Arrests 8
- Cases Open For Investigation 3
- Accident Investigations 10
- Criminal Summons 6
- Prisoners Transp. to Secure Facility 80 miles
- Juveniles Transported 0 miles
- DVOs and EPOs 5
- Court Security Hours 632 hours
- Prescription Deliveries 0
- Auto Inspections 100
- Funeral Escorts 8
- Concealed Carry Permits 12
- Miscellaneous 26
- Taxes Collected:

Property $0.00
Franchise $492,233.56
Total $492,233.56

Stolen property recovered: SO-26-000 Miscellaneous Tools. $500.00.

Total recovered $500.00

911 Coordinator Pam Jordan submitted a monthly report for the Lewis County E-911 Dispatch Center.

The center received the following calls for service in July:

- Sheriff 318
- Vanceburg PD 119
- EMS 188
- Coroner 1
- Air Evac 2
- Lewis County FD 20
- Garrison FD 19
- Vanceburg FD 17
- Black Oak FD 8
- Firebrick FD 5
- Lewis County 2 FD 1
- Tollesboro FD 20
- Camp Dix FD 9
- EMA 5

Total Calls 732

911 Wrecker Log July:

Mullin's 3
McCann's 5
W KY 8 1
Ginn's 3
G&H 0
Thayer's 3
Clark's 3
Crawford's 0
Bradford's 0

Road Supervisor David Goodwin submitted his road maintenance report for the month.

Goodwin said 843.26 tons of gravel and stone and 20.01 tons of hot patch had been hauled by the county.

Roadways Mowed/Brush/Trees: Straight Fork, Stamper Branch, Beechy, Perry Branch (T), May Hollow (T), Concord Trinity (T), Andrew Mason, Manley Hollow, Vance Creek, Quicks Run, Poplar Flats, Cabin Creek, Jordan Ln., Tully, Trinity Station, E. Fork, Dye Ln., Crooked Creek, Beechy (T), Ribolt Epworth (T), Simmons, Creamery Pike, Evans, Garrad, and Holly.

Creek Crossing Repair: Briery and Bree Branch.

Signs Made/Repaired: Laurel and Old Trace.

Roadways Repaired Shoulder: Andrew Mason and Lions Club.

Pipe Installed/Repaired/Cleaned: Beechy, May Hollow, Tully, and Greenbriar.

Roadways Graveled/Repaired: Burnt Cabin Branch, Fugate Ln., Briery, Sargent Br., Gerike Rd., Stevens Ridge, Lower Kinney, Stamper Ln., Canaan Ch. Rd., Mud Lick, Golden Ridge, Old Trace, and Stevens Hill.

Roadways Ditched: Straight Fork, Stamper Branch, and Greenbriar.

Roadways Graded: Briery.

Bridge Repairs/Cleaned: Bill Chain.

Blacktop/Gravel Patching: Perry Branch, Gerike, Vance Creek, and Canaan Ch.

Bus Turn Repaired: Crooked Creek.

Solid Waste Coordinator Roger Lewis gave his report:

- Performed all regular coordinator duties.
- Sent out letters, received several phone calls and completed several site visits concerning complaints and nuisances.
- Still taking recycle material.
- We are still picking up cardboard from most of businesses in Vanceburg and in the county.
- The County Road Department hauled a load of cardboard for us.
- Hauled 3 loads of scrap iron to Lancaster's.
- Hauled 2 loads of tires to Porters Tire Center.
- Pickers have picked 96.5 miles of roadway and have collected 1,008 bags of trash and 8 tires. I have inspected the work the pickers have done and they're doing a good job.
- Roads that have been picked are Rt. 8, Rt. 57, Rt. 1443, Rt. 3309, Rt. 10, Rt. 989, Rt. 1237, Rt. 559, Toller Hollow Branch Rd., Rt. 344, Rt. 377, Rt. 3310, Lions Club Rd., and Shelton Drive.

Animal Control reported 9 picked up; 3 dropped off; 16 rescued; 0 reclaimed; $15 donation; 1 adoptions ($100); 6 tags ($30); 10 E-911 calls; 99 office calls received. Cash total: $110.00; Check: $35.00; Total: $145.00. Fleming County Fiscal Court was billed $2,860.00. Twenty dogs remained at the shelter at the end of the month.

Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown gave his report. The Lewis County Alert System continued to gain followers. It was activated 11 times in July to notify residents of weather advisories, extreme heat warnings, flood advisories, a tornado warning, severe thunderstorm warning, and dense fog advisory. The alert system allows notifications to our residents through text, email, voice (telephone), Twitter, and the Smart 911 App. Targeted alerts can notify small groups (specific county offices/groups/employees). Lewis County Alerts has more than 5,600 subscribers.

- Worked with Vanceburg Fire on the smoke alarm partnership with Red Cross to provide units to area residents. Will continue working with all departments making this program available countywide.
- Pursuing grant for locator/tracker devices for residents who may wander (Alzheimer's/dementia). In discussion to join an adjacent county on this project.
- Pursuing grant funding for water rescue kits/medic kits for first responders.
- Completed necessary paperwork with KYEM as required.
- Participated in continuing education for EMA.
- Participated in continuing training for Red Cross Volunteer position.
- Planning CERT/preparedness trainings for local school/student groups.
- Participated in countywide test of outdoor sirens. (July 2)
- Attrended a PIO Zoom session on social media monitoring for PIOs. (July 15)
- Completed a Next Generation 911 Migration. (July 8-9)
- Attended Debris Mitigation Meeting. (July 14)
- Working on Verizon EMAG messaging for first responders.
- Attended Area 7 meeting in Morehead. (July 28)
- Assisted Red Cross with assistance to families following house fires.
- Notified of Certified Kentucky Emergency Manager Designation. (July 16)
- Maintaining EM office hours Mon. - Fri.
- Working to complete required Access Control List for CJIS.
- Traveled to Cumberland County with Area 7 EMDs to assist with Damage Assessments. (July 1)
- Performed Damage Assessments in Quincy Area for storm damage. (July 22)
- Working with Comprehend officials for more thorough implementation of 988 services in Lewis County.
- Attended Tier II Training in Morehead. (July 28)
- Recommend RAVE mass notification program renewal for one year to begin 10/15.
- Working with other counties in the region with communications plans for mutual aid.
- Working with Tollesboro Fire to improve communication link between Dispatch and Tollesboro Fire's radio repeater and outdoor warning siren. (Siren tech also involved in project)
- Working with Christian Appalachian Project to restore Operation Sharing Program in the county.
- Participated in Kentucky Qualification System – PIO certification training.
- Participated in Broadband Improvement review discussions with providers and local officials to finalize county plan.
- Notified of acceptance for training at Center for Domestic Preparedness. (July 31)
- Created newspaper, radio, and social media PSA distribution for heat, ticks, and weather preparedness.
- Working with AK and Windstream to restore 911 telephone service multiple times.
- Assisted LCSO with traffic control and scene photography for various incidents.
- Telephone conference with Area Director Jason York to discuss training and reporting practices.

County Treasurer Penny Lee reported the total of all county funds for the month of July had a beginning balance of $2,494,097.62 and an ending balance of $2,320,607.23. Receipts for the month totaled $582,133.86 while disbursements totaled $755,624.25. The next regular meeting of Lewis County Fiscal Court was at 3:00 p.m. September 14, 2026.

Judge Executive's Report

By George Sparks

August came and went in the blink of an eye. Although it was busy, it was a very productive month.

I started out the month by helping the Lewis County mowing crew mow at Black Oak Recreational Park. It certainly isn't an easy task to keep a 30-acre park mowed and looking nice. Black Oak is just one of many areas our team maintains. Our maintenance and solid waste crews work very hard to keep our county and parks clean and looking nice.

LC Finance Officer Morgan Cooper and I held a Zoom meeting with partners from Primary Plus, Meadowview Hospital, BT Workforce Development, MCTC, Local 248, and others to discuss having a Health and Career Fair at the Black Oak VFD on November 5. We are hopeful that we will have an even better turnout than last year's event. Please plan to come out and check out our exhibitors, take advantage of free or reduced-cost health screenings, and speak with employers if you are looking for a job.

I attended the public meeting and educational seminar for the Lewis County Nuclear Energy Ready Community Certification. Guest speakers included Kenya Stump, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy; Christina King, Director of Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN); and BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette.

EM Director Dennis Brown, Treasurer Penny Lee, and I spoke with KaTina Hill about the RAVE emergency mass notification system. Lewis County has had this service for the past five years, and it is now time to renew the contract. We shared thoughts about what would help improve the system, even though it has been great to work with. After speaking with KaTina, we will share the information with the Fiscal Court and let the court decide whether to continue with the service.

I presided over the August Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The previous meeting's minutes were approved. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to David Iery for his years of service on the court and his commitment to serving the people of this community. Mitch Hull and Richard Walje both shared their opinions about nuclear-ready certification and the public forum held on August 6.

In old business, the court approved advertising for bids for the 2026-27 blacktop projects. In new business, Brandon Howe spoke about the Rural Secondary Program. Ben U'sellis with Charter Communications/Spectrum updated the court on broadband expansion throughout the county. The court approved Resolution #2617 regarding HB 900 Lewis County Recreation Park funding. The court approved an increase in the procurement amount under subsection 401.2 of the Administrative Code from $40,000 to $50,000. The Non-Competitive Negotiations procurement amount was increased from $40,000 to $50,000. The tax rate for the county was approved to remain the same.

The court approved the litter abatement grant funding agreement. The court approved the reappointment of Myrtie Pud Carpenter to the FBFD, with the term expiring June 30, 2030. The court approved the reappointment of Dr. John O'Cull to the Vanceburg-Lewis County Industrial Authority. The court discussed the renewal of the RAVE mass emergency notification system. The court reviewed and approved monthly reports from all departments. The claims and transfers were approved, and the court was adjourned.

I served on an interview committee at BTADD to interview three candidates for the finance director position.

Christopher Tullis with Fresh Start Health visited my office to share his ideas and a proposal for the county's Opioid Abatement Funds.

Marcus Pearce and I met to discuss tourism in Lewis County. Marcus is the owner of Riffel's Camp & Float in Camp Dix on Kiniconick.

The LC Opioid Abatement Committee held a meeting in the Fiscal Court Room. During the meeting, Cassie Johnson from the LC Homeless Coalition presented a proposal, and we reviewed several other proposals that have been submitted. We plan to review them all in detail before our next meeting.

I attended the quarterly meeting of the Eastern Kentucky Health Care Preparedness Coalition via Zoom. We heard a presentation by Tracy Belfield about autism and first responders. We also heard updates about the Red Cross and a few other topics.

I attended the Regional Prevention Center Executive Committee meeting via Zoom. Chairman David Green called the meeting to order. The previous minutes and financial reports were presented and approved. We discussed the budget, mini-grants, policies, membership, and meeting dates before the meeting adjourned.

I worked with Treasurer Penny Lee, County Attorney Ben Harrison, and Quentin Allen on installing security cameras at Black Oak Recreation Park and the courthouse. Once the project is complete, we plan to put an AED in the park.

The Black Oak Recreational Park Committee held a meeting. We discussed the next steps in developing the sports complex, which will consist of four ball fields. Missy Hardy of BTADD provided grant updates. Board business and membership were discussed, along with planning, capital projects, ADA accessibility to the splash pad and shelter house, and community engagement.

I presided over the BTADD monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order, and roll was called. Executive Director Kevin Cornette led the prayer, and we held a moment of silence for Board Member Roger King, who recently passed away. Roger served many years on the BT board and was a wonderful person. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Rice. The previous meeting minutes and committee minutes were presented and approved. The financial report, presented by Stephen Culp, was approved. Staff reports were presented, followed by Frankfort and Washington updates. Kevin Cornette gave the board updates on several topics. The meeting was then adjourned.

I attended the 50th Annual Governor's Local Issues Conference in Louisville. I attended many training sessions, as well as the KCJEA membership/board meeting, the KAADD Council meeting, and the KORRRA board meeting. We discussed housing, animal shelters, data centers, roads, and bridges. We heard from Governor Beshear and several other state officials with the Department for Local Government.

Comprehend Inc. held a Board of Directors meeting in Maysville. Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell called the meeting to order. The previous meeting minutes were approved. The financial report was tabled until the next meeting due to a lack of up-to-date information. Mr. Voiers gave several policy updates that were recommended by a committee and approved by the board. Ms. Jordon gave a presentation on the DBHDID program. Ms. McLeskey presented the CEO report. Ms. Rose gave an update from the nominating committee. The meeting was then adjourned.

I attended the Licking Valley Community Action Program monthly Board of Directors meeting in Vanceburg. The meeting was called to order, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The previous minutes were presented and approved. Ms. Gray presented the financial report, which was approved. The projected annual agency budget for FY 2027 was approved. Ms. Craycraft, Lewis County Senior Center Director, welcomed everyone and gave the board an overview of all programs and services currently provided to our seniors. She and her volunteers are doing great work in our county. Executive Director Kenny Walters presented program reports and gave updates on the LIHEAP and CHFC programs.

I met with a group of four others at the vocational school to review and score four engineering firms that submitted proposals to conduct engineering studies and design work for a riverport in Lewis County.

I presented the Clarksburg Christian Church Youth Group with a Certificate of Appreciation for its generous donation to the Lewis County Fiscal Court Animal Shelter. The youth group held a car wash to raise funds. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to all involved!

I attended a Zoom meeting with Senator Rand Paul, James Stephens, and eleven other County Judge/Executives to talk about some of the challenges facing our counties and how Senator Paul's office can help. Senator Paul stated that we, as county officials, must set priorities. Washington hasn't set a good example in the way it spends money. All the counties face issues, and many of them are similar, including costs for jails, roads, bridges, the opioid crisis, and senior programs. I do appreciate Senator Paul and James for reaching out and taking the time to speak with some of the counties he represents.

I am looking forward to September and am very grateful to work with the people I do, day in and day out. I am thankful to all the citizens of Lewis County whom I am blessed to serve. Thank you, and may God bless you.

It makes sense to list local, having your listing agent close to your property is a real positive.

With my office being located on Main St. in Vanceburg, I specialize in Lewis County Properties whether homes, acreages, or businesses.

Licensed Agent, Licensed Drone Operator, and I work with local Contractors.

I also partner locally with Auctions By Cooper, Stacy Cooper when auctioning Real Estate.

RICHARD WALJE SALES AGENT, PHONE 606-262-0822
STORY REALTY & AUCTION LLC

1st,3rd,5th