

County reports \$142K in opioid fund spending

Filing shows \$324K balance

BY ROGER SMITH
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

INEZ — Martin County reported spending \$142,011.73 in opioid settlement funds during fiscal year 2025, with money going to recovery services, opioid deputies, vehicles, office rent, recovery events, training and payroll-related expenses.

The county began the fiscal year with \$143,353.78 in the fund, received another \$311,694.25 and earned \$11,301.78 in interest. It ended the year with \$324,338.08 remaining.

The figures appear in former Martin County Treasurer Melissa Patrick's 40-page FY2025 opioid settlement report submitted Aug. 28, 2026, to the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission reporting system. Patrick resigned as county treasurer in June.

The state cautions that local governments report the information and that the system does not determine whether individual expenditures comply with settlement agreements or state law. Publication of the information also does not constitute approval by the Attorney General's Office or the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission.

The county reported 17 recipients or expenditure categories totaling exactly \$142,011.73.

The largest was \$50,000.08 for Recovery Resource Manager Carmel Cline through the Community Action for Recovery Enhancement and Support program, or CARES.

The county described CARES as a program serving people and families affected by substance use, alcohol dependency and mental health problems. The recovery resource manager worked with the Martin County Attorney's Office, courts, treatment providers, law enforcement and other agencies to connect people with treatment, housing, transportation, employment and other services.

The CARES report contains the most extensive outcome data in the filing.

Martin County reported 143 unique individuals treated, 65 receiving housing assistance, 47 receiving utility assistance, 70 receiving employment assistance and 54 receiving transportation assistance.

The county also reported 67 treatment referrals, 40 referrals to medication-assisted treatment and 82 people receiving warm hand-off assistance. Ninety people received wraparound services, 52 incarcerated people received treatment and 38 recently released people received treatment. The program reported serving 62 children under age 18.

CARES also reported distributing 100 naloxone kits, offering five youth programs and seven adult programs and providing training to medical professionals, peer-support specialists, first responders and community members.

The filing says the program worked with the local court system on deflection opportunities for people whose substance use or mental health problems had brought them into the criminal justice system.

It also reported referrals from Drug Court, child protective services, the sheriff's office, residents, family members and churches.

CARES reported developing an opioid response team involving law enforcement, first responders and peer workers and creating packets containing naloxone, pill-disposal materials and information about available services.

The county also paid \$12,000 to the Martin County Library for office space for the recovery resource coordinator.

Several smaller expenditures supported Celebrate Recovery activities.

The county reported \$1,500 to C&S Inflatables, \$798 to Lisa Kirk for food, \$921.85 through Visa for recovery program and office supplies, \$900 to Adkins Dairy Bar for food and \$138 to Ward's Signs for event signs. Together, those expenditures totaled \$4,257.85.

Payroll-related expenses included \$14,987.36 for retirement, \$4,634.36 for Social Security, \$1,083.84 for Medicare, \$386 for workers' compensation and \$116.80 for unemployment insurance.

\$54,072 tied to deputies, vehicle

Two of the county's larger expenditures were associated with opioid deputies.

Martin County reported \$24,747.79 for "Opioid Deputies." The county described the expense as payroll for two opioid deputies during the fiscal year. It stated that the project was intended "to help [the recovery resource manager] with getting people in treatment."

The county separately reported \$29,323.89 under the recipient "Enterprise Fleet Deputies Car."

The filing identifies the purpose as "Other" and gives the subcategory as "Gas for Opioid Deputy." Its project description says the expense provided transportation for opioid deputies to respond quickly to individuals and families in need and says the deputies carried naloxone, pill-disposal packets and resource information.

The filing does not explain that the \$29,323.89 was a vehicle lease payment.

The county also reported \$300 to the Kentucky Constable Association for opioid-response training and \$23.42 through WEX for what it described as "gas for constable cars."

A final \$150.34 payment to Advance Auto Parts was identified as a battery for the CARES program vehicle.

Filing compared with KyPolicy review

Martin County's spending also appeared in a statewide review released earlier by the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy.

KyPolicy examined fiscal year 2025 opioid settlement spending by Kentucky counties and classified some expenditures as evidence-based, problematic, mixed or unclear.

The center highlighted three Martin County expenditures in its discussion of criminal justice spending: \$24,748 for two "Opioid Deputies," \$29,324 "for gas for the Opioid Deputy," and \$7,807 to tow, repair and maintain a constable's vehicle.

The first two amounts correspond closely with Martin County's later annual filing.

The \$24,748 figure matches the county's \$24,747.79 opioid-deputy expenditure.

The \$29,324 figure matches the county's \$29,323.89 Enterprise Fleet entry. KyPolicy's description of the payment as gasoline also mirrors the county's own "Gas for Opioid Deputy" purpose subcategory. However, the recipient name identifies the expense as "Enterprise Fleet Deputies Car."

The \$7,807 constable vehicle figure is different.

That amount does not appear among the 17 expenditures in Martin County's Aug. 28 annual filing.

Transaction information associated with the earlier review listed constable-related vehicle expenses including approximately \$5,400 to Burke's Body Shop, \$672 to Capital Tire, \$500.42 to Oil Changers/Fast Change, \$345 to Autoglass of Ameri-

ca, \$65 to Butcher's Garage and Towing and \$855.54 described as Advance Auto repairs for a constable.

Those expenses account for approximately the \$7,807 cited by KyPolicy. A separate \$300 constable training expense was also listed.

Martin County's later annual report does not contain

those towing, repair and maintenance expenditures.

Instead, the only expenditures in the Aug. 28 filing expressly associated with constables are the \$23.42 WEX charge for gas and the \$300 training payment.

The difference cannot be explained simply by an omitted line item because the 17

expenditures listed in Martin County's annual report add exactly to the county's reported \$142,011.73 total.

The available records do not explain why approximately \$7,807 in constable vehicle expenses appeared in the transaction data reviewed by KyPolicy but not in Martin County's later annual report.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IF ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN...

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program

OR ELIGIBILITY BASED ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME.**

YOU MAY QUALIFY

DISCOUNTS BASED ON LOW INCOME VIA FEDERAL LIFELINE***

Contact us today to find out how the area's best wireless service provider can help you get connected.

LIFELINE IS A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BENEFIT PROGRAM AND ONLY QUALIFIED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE. LIFELINE SERVICE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL. APPLICANTS MUST PRESENT DOCUMENTATION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME OR PARTICIPATION IN QUALIFYING PROGRAMS. LIFELINE IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR ONE PHONE LINE PER HOUSEHOLD, WHETHER LANDLINE OR WIRELESS. CONSUMER CANNOT ALREADY RECEIVE LIFELINE SERVICE. **WE ARE NOT ABLE TO OFFER LIFELINE DISCOUNTS TO WEST VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIA CUSTOMERS AT THIS TIME. KENTUCKY RESIDENTS ONLY. ***SEE WWW.LIFELINESUPPORT.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION. THERE WILL BE A DISCOUNT OF \$9.25 FEDERAL AND \$3.50 STATE.

Appalachian WIRELESS



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

Since 1951



Your Local Phone, TV and Internet Provider

1621 Ky Route 40 W Staffordsville, KY 41256

www.foothills.net

888-262-3782

 Find us on Facebook

 **GIG-CERTIFIED PROVIDER**



MARTIN COUNTY HEAD START ENROLLMENT

ENROLL TODAY!

2026-2027

2026-2027 Registration is Here!

If your child will be 3 or 4-years-old by August 1st, 2026, please contact the Head Start office to discuss enrollment process. Please make sure to provide birth certificate, proof of income, SNAP documentation, and immunization records!

- ✓ ADULT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- ✓ ADULT EMPLOYMENT/SUBSTITUTE OPPORTUNITIES
- ✓ MARTIN CO. 2025 KINDERGARTEN READINESS SCORES OF PREVIOUS HEAD START STUDENTS 43% TO 67% READY!

Eden Elementary - Stacy Martin (606) 393-6170

Warfield Elementary - Chelle Cook (502) 861-5703

Inez Elementary - Delsie Fletcher (606) 393-4881