

LOCAL NEWS

Fiscal Court
cont. from pg. 4

said that he has done “a remarkable job” as Road Foreman and thanked him for his years of service and everything he has done for the county. The judge then presented a plaque to Mr. Kelsey in honor of his 25 years of service to Rowan County.

Environmental Services Director Tyler Brown reports to the court that 120 electrical permits have been filed on the year, so far, and that crews have picked up 3,953 bags of trash along 239 miles of roadway, on the year so far, as well. He also mentioned that a Household Hazardous Waste event has been scheduled for Nov. 14, 2026.

EMS Director Homer Lewis reports to the court that the EMS service is up to 4,438 runs for the year, so far, which averages approximately 19.3 to 19.4 runs per day, compared to last month and this month. He also remarked that this high number of runs could lead to approximately 7,000 runs by the end of the year. He also spoke

about ER truck maintenance and talked about replacing some equipment that will be out of date and unable to be worked on, as well. Later in the meeting, the court approved the hiring of EMT William Logan Foster to the Rowan County EMS Service.

Under Old Business, the court approved the passing of the 2nd reading of an ordinance amending a previously passed ordinance regarding the Joint Tourism Commission; approved the passing of a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,042,214.84; and approved the passing of an ordinance setting the 2027 Motor Vehicle and Watercraft tax rates as follows, Motor Vehicle – 8.0cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change) and Watercraft – 8.0cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change).

Under New Business, the court approved an order setting the 2026 Real and Personal Property tax rates as follows: Real Property – 6.4cents per \$100 of assessed value (.1cent decrease) and Personal Proper-

ty – 7.1cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change).

The court approved the County Treasurer to submit payment to Goodman Electric, LLC, regarding the upgrading of the lights at the Courthouse to LED lighting, which is being done in phases.

The court discussed, at length, and subsequently approved a temporary moratorium on Data Centers in Rowan County, which is intended to slow the process down until the county determines what regulations should be put into place regarding the construction of Data Centers in the county.

The court approved to rename the Tri-County Animal Shelter facility to the Rowan County Animal Control Facility. The judge mentioned that the Tri-County name caused confusion because the shelter was originally to begin as a three-county operation, involving Rowan, Bath, and Fleming Counties, hence the Tri-County name, which didn’t come to fruition, and that Rowan County bears the cost for the shelter any-

ways.

The court approved an ordinance amending/ repealing Ch.153: Manufactured Home Parks and RV Communities, and replacing it, which closely aligns with the Commonwealth of Kentucky regulations and state guidelines.

The court approved the county-wide HVAC preventative maintenance bid award to Perfection Group, at a cost of \$27,480.00 for the first fiscal year. There was a total of six bids received, and the court went with the lowest bid. The county has a total of six buildings that use preventative maintenance. The court also approved payments to Geo-Thermal and Portable Solutions that have been working on the air conditioning at the courthouse, as well.

The court approved the appointment of Justin Caudill as the new Rowan County Road Department Foreman, to replace Steve Kelsey who will be retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Caudill previously served as the Rowan County Building Inspector.

The court approved the appointment of Justin Perkins as the new Rowan County Road Department Project Supervisor, which has been vacant since the retirement of Wayne Lambert.

The court approved the hiring of Rodney Fouch to serve as temporary Rowan County Building Inspector, following the transition of previous building inspector Justin Caudill to Road Foreman in Sept., until the position can be permanently filled, at a later date.

The court approved the hiring of Lonnie Whitt to the Rowan County Road Department as a County Laborer.

The court approved the Elliotville Volunteer Fire Department grant match, in the amount of \$5,000.00; approved the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security grant – authorizing resolution; and approved the Appalachian Regional Commission grant – authorizing resolution, regarding the construction of an amphitheater at the Harry T. Clark Community Park.

The court approved the budget transfers;

approved the monthly financial statement; and approved the consideration of monthly bills; and approved the Rowan County Sheriff’s 2025 tax settlement. Sheriff Matt Sparks also spoke to the court about the ongoing sign theft issue in the county, as well.

The court approved to accept the Rowan County Public Library 2026 Real and Personal Property tax rates as follows: Real Property – 8.9cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change) and Personal Property – 11.1cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change); and approved to accept the Rowan County Public Library 2027 Motor Vehicle and Watercraft tax rates as follows, Motor Vehicle – 3.5cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change) and Watercraft – 3.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value (no change).

The meeting then went into closed session and was subsequently adjourned following the session, with committee meetings held directly afterwards.

Legislative Update

Richard White

Kentucky State Fair: Rooted in Kentucky’s history

For generations, Kentuckians have marked the end of summer by making their way to Louisville for one of the Commonwealth’s most beloved traditions: the Kentucky State Fair. For more than a century, the fair has provided a place for families, farmers, entrepreneurs, artists, students, and communities from every corner of Kentucky to come together. It is a celebration of our Commonwealth, but it is also something more enduring, a living connection between Kentucky’s past, present, and future.

The history of the Kentucky State Fair is deeply intertwined with the history of Kentucky itself. The fair grew from a time when agriculture was at the center of nearly every community and when opportunities to showcase livestock, crops, machinery, craftsmanship, and new agricultural practices were important not only for competition, but for sharing knowledge. Farmers could see new equipment, compare techniques, showcase the results of their labor, and learn from one another. Families could see firsthand the products of Kentucky farms and the skills of their neighbors.

Over the decades, Kentucky changed, and so did the State Fair. Kentucky’s economy became more diverse. New industries emerged, technology transformed the way we work, and our communities grew and evolved. Yet the fair continued to adapt without losing sight of the traditions that gave it meaning in the first place. Agriculture remained at its heart, while new exhibits, businesses, entertainment, educational opportunities, competitions, and attractions allowed each generation to make the fair its own.

That continuity is part of what makes the Kentucky State Fair so special. A child who watches a livestock show today may someday become the fourth or fifth generation of their family to raise livestock. A young entre-

preneur selling a product at the fair may be taking the first steps toward building a successful Kentucky business. A family enjoying a concert or sharing a favorite fair food may be creating the same kinds of memories that their parents and grandparents made decades earlier.

The fair reminds us that history is not simply something we read about in a book. Sometimes, history is something we experience together.

The State Fair also tells the story of Kentucky’s entrepreneurial spirit. Throughout its history, the fair has given Kentuckians a place to showcase what they create with their own hands and ingenuity. Today, that tradition can be seen in the small businesses, artisans, vendors, food producers, craftspeople, and entrepreneurs who bring their products to the fair. Behind every booth is a person with a story, a family business passed from one generation to another, a new idea that began around a kitchen table, or a dream that required

years of persistence before it became a reality.

There is something uniquely Kentucky about spending a summer day at the fair, walking through the gates, hearing the sounds of the midway, visiting the barns, watching a horse show, enjoying a concert, admiring the work of Kentucky’s young people, and deciding what classic fair food to try. For children, the fair can feel like an adventure. For parents and grandparents, it can bring back memories of attending the fair when they were young themselves. For families, it offers an opportunity to put down the phones, step away from the demands of everyday life, and simply spend time together.

Those simple moments are worth preserving.

The Kentucky State Fair is, in many ways, a reflection of the Commonwealth itself: proud of where we have come from, grateful for what we have today, and hopeful about where we are going.

Our Commonwealth has changed consider-

ably since the earliest days of the State Fair, but the values that bring us together have not. Hard work still matters. Family still matters. Community still matters. And there is still something powerful about Kentuckians from every corner of the Commonwealth gathering in one place to

celebrate what we have built together

That is why the Kentucky State Fair continues to matter. It is a celebration of our history, a showcase of our present, and a glimpse of our future, and I am proud to see this Kentucky tradition continue for generations to come.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Richard.White@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.

RETIRED

ARE YOU RETIRING OR HAVE YOU RETIRED?

WANT TO ROLL OVER YOUR IRA OR 401K AND PAY NO TAXES OR DO YOU HAVE FUNDS THAT ARE NOT WORKING FOR YOU?

DO YOU NEED AN INCOME WITHOUT TOUCHING THE PRINCIPLE?

BE THE BOSS OF YOUR RETIREMENT, PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK FOR YOU WITH UP TO 8% INTEREST!

FOR A PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT: CALL JIM AT 606-683-2104 CELL: 859-948-4376 EMAIL: gatesjimmie@yahoo.com

WHO YOU GONNA CALL??? INTEREST BUSTER!!!

WHO YOU GONNA CALL??? INTEREST BUSTER!!!

WHO YOU GONNA CALL??? INTEREST BUSTER!!!