

Change in off-road tax

A change in how certain off-road vehicles are taxed in Kentucky will take effect over the next two years, ultimately eliminating annual property taxes on street-legal special-purpose vehicles.

Beginning in 2028, side-by-sides and other qualifying off-road vehicles that have been approved for on-road use will no longer be subject to yearly property taxes. Instead, owners will pay a 6 percent usage tax at the time of registration for vehicles operated on public roads.

The change does not immediately eliminate property taxes on those vehicles. Owners will still be responsible for paying property taxes on any street-legal special-purpose vehicle they own as of Jan. 1, 2026, and Jan. 1, 2027, following the standard assessment schedule.

The update reflects a shift from a recurring annual tax based on vehicle value to a one-time tax tied to registration and road use. These vehicles, commonly referred to as side-by-sides, have become increasingly popular in rural areas where local governments have approved limited roadway access.

State officials say the change is intended to simplify taxation and better align how these hybrid off-road and on-road vehicles are treated under Kentucky law.

Animal shelter report

Crittenden County Animal Shelter took in 44 dogs during February while continuing to move a significant number through adoption and rescue efforts, according to its monthly intake and discharge summary.

The shelter reported a head count of 44 dogs as of Feb. 28, with 16 in foster care. During the month, 28 dogs were transferred to rescue organizations and 24 were adopted, while six were reclaimed by their owners.

Two dogs died due to medical reasons and one was euthanized. No dogs were reported as escaped or unrecovered during the reporting period.

Financially, the shelter generated \$1,255 in February, led by \$1,105 in pet adoption fees. Reclaim fees added \$150, while no revenue was reported from dog licenses, sponsorships or donations.

COUNTY

Continued from page 1
gency management director effective April 1. He had been the assistant director.

•The court approved \$15,000 in opioid settlement funds for protective equipment for sheriff's deputies, including respirators to guard against fentanyl exposure.

•Salary adjustments for non-statutory elected officials for 2027 were approved, applying a cost-of-living increase which had been discussed at last month's meeting. Positions affected include the

county coroner, deputy coroner and assistant county attorney. Salaries for the county attorney and magistrates remain unchanged.

•An ambulance service committee reported no recommendation at this time as it continues reviewing bids for the county's emergency medical service contract, which expires this summer.

•Magistrates also declined to move forward with a discussed hauling ordinance after determining it was not in the county's best interest. Some conversation at last month's meeting

was spawned by a resident questioning of how the county protects roads from being damaged by loggers or other commercial operators moving heavy vehicles on rural roads.

•Sheriff Evan Head reported that his office has collected 94.35% of property taxes, with final collections to be turned over to the county clerk by April 15.

The sheriff also noted ongoing legislative efforts that could increase court security reimbursement rates from \$15 to \$25 per hour, while requiring counties to pay deputies a minimum of \$20 per hour.

•County Clerk Daryl Tabor requested an increase in pay for precinct election officers, citing long hours and a stressful workload. The court approved raising election day pay to \$180 and early voting pay to \$120 per day, with \$25 for training and for serving as an alternate in case of a call-in absence. To help fund the increase, \$1,200 in election advertising funds will be transferred.

"It's a very difficult, stressful job," Tabor said. The motion was approved unanimously.



Marion hosting public listening event in Apr.

The City of Marion will host a public listening session on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m., at city hall.

The session will serve as an open forum for residents and stakeholders to share ideas and proposals related to funding priorities and expenditures for the city's 2026-2027 fiscal year budget.

City Administrator Adam Ledford will host the meeting, which is intended to gather public input ahead of the upcoming budget process.

For more information, contact Marion City Hall at 270-965-2266.

City continues to discuss nuisances

City of Marion is preparing to more aggressively enforce a decades-old nuisance ordinance as part of a broader push to improve property conditions and public safety.

At its March regular meeting, city officials discussed the ordinance, which has largely remained unchanged since the 1970s, but did not outline specific amendments. Instead, the focus centered on stepped-up enforcement of existing rules governing junked vehicles, discarded appliances, overgrown properties and accumulated rubbish.

The ordinance defines such conditions as public nuisances and makes it unlawful for property owners to allow them to remain.

Officials indicated enforcement has been limited in recent years, but that will change as the city works toward a more proactive approach to code enforcement. The effort is part of a broader initiative aimed at making the community cleaner, safer and more attractive for residents and property owners.

Under the ordinance, property owners can be notified of violations and given time to correct them before the city takes action. If not addressed, the city has the authority to remove nui-

sances and place a lien on the property to recover costs.

While no formal changes were approved, city leaders signaled that revisions could be considered in the coming months as discussions continue.

Riverview Park's February report

Riverview Park saw minimal activity last month, but local officials say spring weather is already creating a boom in demand. During February, the park on the Ohio River recorded just four total overnight stays, including one tent night and three RV nights, reflecting the typical seasonal slowdown during winter months.

Now that the bridge has been replaced between the park and KY 91 North, a normal camping season is predicted at the site, which is known as the former Dam 50 area.

Marion gets grant

City of Marion has been awarded a \$1,500 safety grant through the Kentucky League of Cities' 2026 Workers' Compensation Safety Grant Program, city officials announced this week.

The funding will be used to enhance the city's investment in personal protective equipment for employees.

In addition to the grant, Marion officials said the city has secured insurance savings tied to recent improvements in loss control practices. The city received a 6% discount on auto and workers' compensation insurance premiums, along with a 3% reduction in general liability insurance.

City leadership indicated those efforts are part of a renewed focus on workplace safety and risk management. The program, administered through KLC, had previously been in place during an earlier administration but had lapsed in recent years.

Officials said the city's goal is to continue building on those improvements and qualify for the top tier of participating cities in Kentucky, which could increase insurance discounts to as much as 12% across all categories.

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Throwback Thursday 25 Years Ago

Winners from a 2001 Crittenden County Conservation District awards banquet were (front from left) Robert White, Eric Collins, Mary Holloman and Janson James. Standing are Frank McCallum, Don Arflack, Angel McDonald, Garry Croft, Becky Lewzader, Betty Green, W.T. Green and Roger Thouvenin.

10 YEARS AGO

March 24, 2016

■ Girl Scout Troop (Daisy) 127 from the Crittenden County Service Unit recently completed its annual cookie sales. Members were Brooklyn Stinnett, Braelyn Merrill, Aalina Henry, Morgan Stewart, Olivia Hinchee, Lila Curnel and Morgan Piper. Group leaders were Angel Henry and Leslie Stinnett.

■ Lady Rocket freshman softball player Brandy Book was hot at the plate for the first two games of the season. She hit two home runs at two different parks, helping win both games.

■ Crittenden County Rocket basketball team had its annual banquet, and the following boys received awards for their achievements during the season: Dylan Hollis, Ryan James, Dakota Watson, Tyler Coleman, Bobby Stephens, Sean O'Leary, Logan Belt, Gavin Dickerson and Will Tolley. The parent of the year award went to Sheryl Watson.

25 YEARS AGO

March 22, 2001

■ Local farmer Garry Croft earned the highest award bestowed upon an individual by the Crittenden County Conservation District. He received the Master Conservationist Award. Other award winners were Robert White, Eric Collins, Mary Holloman, Janson James, Frank McCallum, Don Arflack, Angel McDonald, Becky Lewzader, Betty Green, W.T. Green and Roger Thouvenin.

■ Lady Rocket basketball players Allison Wesmoland and Kayla Bebout, both seniors, were named to the Second Region Scholastic Team. Both had 4.0 GPAs.

■ Marion Gymnastics' Tumble Cats earned seven first-place, nine second-place and six third-place trophies. The following local members were Elizabeth Collins, Bethany Heaton, Sam Montgomery, Carrie Roberts, Jessica Tinsley, Dani Decker, Hillary Wright, Emily Myers, Talaney Werne, Ali Lamburt and Taylor Wright.

50 YEARS AGO

March 25, 1976

■ Residents and employees at Best Care Nursing Home celebrated their birthdays in March. Members were Mary Jewel Alexander, Ocie Kirk, Frannie Vaughn, Lillie Collins, Lloyd Crotser, Maudie Gilland and Eula Cannon.

■ Members of the 4-H electric project used an "atom smasher" to produce and study static electricity. Under the instruction of Doug Mullins, the students involved were Donnie Phillips, Kevin Brantley, Scott Templeton, Danny Starrick, Rickie Rozwalka and Williams Sanders.

■ Lisa Enoch, Ninia Burton, Jennifer Hill, Heidi Bantle, Rhonda Kirk and Sharon Tabor in were sixth-grade 4-H members who participated in a cooking project.

Notice of Passage and Summary of Ordinance

Ordinance No. 26-O-001: An ordinance amending the fiscal year 2025-2026 annual budget. Notice is hereby given that the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, at its regular meeting held March 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., gave second reading to and passed an ordinance relating to the county's budget. The ordinance had previously received its first reading at the Fiscal Court's regular meeting on February 19, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The ordinance decreases budgeted receipts by \$49,424.79 and also reduces appropriations by the same amount. The full text of the ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk at the County Administrative Office Building on Industrial Drive in Marion and is available for public inspection.
Prepared by Robert B. Frazer, Crittenden County Attorney,
P.O. Box 364, Marion, KY 42064 270-965-4600
Dated March 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 26-O-002 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET
Notice is hereby given that the Fiscal Court of Crittenden County Kentucky, at its regular meeting held on March 19, 2026, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., gave reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Ordinances of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

A majority of the Fiscal Court having found an emergency to exist due to the financial condition of the Jail Fund, adopted this Ordinance which decreases budgeted receipts in the amount of \$24,000.00 and also decreases the budgeted appropriations in the same amount.

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Clerk in the County Administrative Office Building, Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY: ROBERT B. FRAZER
CRITTENDEN COUNTY ATTORNEY P.O. BOX 364
MARION, KY 42064 | 270-965-4600 | March 23, 2026

Crittenden County Public Library | What's to Read

The local library is showcasing a fresh lineup of new releases this week, offering something for every type of reader from courtroom drama and thrillers to young adult fantasy and historical fiction.

Leading the list is Judge Stone by James Patterson and Viola Davis, a highly rated courtroom drama centered on a small-town judge facing a life-or-death decision in a deeply divided case. The title has drawn strong early reviews, earning a 4.6-star rating on Goodreads.

Also gaining attention is This Story Might Save Your Life by Tiffany Crum, available in both audio-book and eBook formats. The novel blends mystery and emotional storytelling as a popular podcast host becomes the prime suspect in a disappearance.

Fans of fantasy can dive into The Hybrid Prince by Tui T. Sutherland, the latest installment in the bestselling Wings of Fire series, while romance readers may gravitate toward The Night We Met by



Abby Jimenez, a story built around a life-changing decision and unexpected love.

Mystery readers have several options this week, including The Keeper by Tana French, set in a tight-knit Irish village shaken by tragedy, and The Lake of Lost Girls by Katherine Greene, a suspenseful tale told

through alternating timelines and podcast elements.

Nonfiction readers can explore North of Ordinary by Sue Aikens, a memoir detailing survival in the Alaskan wilderness, while literary fiction is represented by Whidbey by T Kira Madden and Daughter of Egypt by Marie Benedict, which reexamines the discovery of King Tut's tomb through a lesser-known historical figure.

All titles are currently available through the library's digital collection. Patrons can browse by category or access the catalog online to borrow titles instantly.

Crittenden Press

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