

Public notice

Audit shows Worthington finances good

WORTHINGTON – The annual audit of the city finances was presented at the Monday, Feb. 9, meeting of the Worthington City Council, a process which took up the bulk of the meeting.

The auditor hired by the city, Richard Paulmann,

CPA, highlighted the income and expenditure for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The council had copies of the audit and for them, the instructions to look at a certain page, then flip to another made sense. Those sitting in the audience were basically waiting

to hear the final statement. That came when Paulmann said there were no significant changes from the previous year, and that the city is in excellent shape financially.

The rest of the meeting went by quickly. The council set April 20 as clean up day for

the city and Mayor Jason Flocker gave an update on the recent bad weather. He praised the cooperation between the public works department, fire department and city police in regard to a severe leak and gave general kudos to all city workers for persisting despite the

weather.

The police and fire reports were given and a resident's concern about the undertunnel was addressed. Flocker told the resident that the problem lies with CSX's indifference to the situation and that the state is on-board.

Man arrested in juvenile sexual assault case

FLATWOODS — A Flatwoods man was arrested after an investigation into a juvenile sexual assault.

The case began on Sept. 18, 2025, after Flatwoods Police Department detective Clark received a report about a juvenile being sexually assaulted at the Flat-

woods Trailer Park.

After an investigation and many forensic interviews, Clark got an arrest warrant for Nathan Kidd, who had fled to North Carolina.

With assistance from the Greenup County Department for Community Based Services

(DCBS), law enforcement was able to identify his general whereabouts in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Kidd was arrested after coordination between Clark, Commonwealth Attorney Rheese McKenzie and his staff and the United State Marshall's Service.

Kidd was extradited back to

Greenup County and now faces several charges including first-degree felony rape – victim under 12 years of age, first-degree felony rape, first-degree felony sodomy, first-degree felony sodomy – victim under 12 years of age, incest and incest – victim under 12 years of age.

Legislative Report by Sen. Robin Webb

As we close out week six of the 2026 Legislative Session, the work in Frankfort is moving quickly but my focus remains on what it means for families here in Eastern Kentucky.

Committees are meeting every day with full agendas, and legislation is steadily advancing to the Senate floor. More than 100 bills have now passed at least one chamber, a strong sign that the General Assembly is actively working on the issues that impact our mountain communities and rural counties.

While there's still important work ahead, we're making real progress on policies aimed at strengthening our local economy, supporting small businesses and family farms, addressing affordability, improving our schools, protecting taxpayers, and ensuring government operates with transparency and accountability.

Eastern Kentucky has unique challenges but we also have strong communities, resilient families, and tremendous opportunities. My commitment remains the same: making sure the voices

of our region are heard and that the policies we pass in Frankfort deliver real results back home.

This week, the Senate approved the following measures.

Senate Bill 2 is intended to ensure fairness and balance in educator compensation by preventing school administrator pay raises from outpacing those of classroom teachers. The bill prohibits administrators from receiving a percentage pay increase greater than the average percentage increase provided to teachers within the same district, while still allowing for waivers under existing law. SB 2 also updates conforming language and removes outdated statutory provisions.

Senate Bill 4 Seeks to create a new statewide leadership training program for new school principals. Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, principals in their first five years on the job would participate in a structured, cohort-based practicum that provides mentoring, professional training, and peer support. The program is designed to better prepare prin-

cipals for instructional leadership, school safety, accountability, and managing staff and student needs—without adding new financial burdens for school districts. Most participation costs would be covered by the state, and training hours could count toward existing professional requirements.

Senate Bill 71 SB 71 strengthens fiscal oversight and governance by expanding required training for local school board members. The bill establishes a structured in-service training framework that includes finance, ethics and open meetings and open records education, with requirements tailored to a board member's length of service. It also adds training related to superintendent evaluation and requires boards to formally review budget roles and responsibilities with district leadership. SB 71 makes reforms to ensure school board members have a consistent understanding of financial responsibilities and public resource management. It aims to improve financial decision-making and accountability in public education.

Senate Bill 136 Updates Kentucky's unemployment insurance fraud procedures by requiring the Education and Labor Cabinet to refer suspected fraud cases directly to the U.S. Department of Labor and local prosecutors. It removes the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the U.S. Department of Justice from the referral process, streamlining investigations and clarifying lines of accountability. The bill also requires referrals to be made within 30 days of detecting suspected fraud and ensures no employment termination occurs without a legal finding of guilt under state evidentiary standards.

Senate Bill 183 Strengthens corporate accountability in Kentucky by requiring proxy advisory firms—companies that influence shareholder votes—to prioritize financial reasoning over political or ideological agendas. The bill builds on the 2025 bill of the same number by expanding the law's standards to cover all publicly traded companies doing business in Kentucky, not just those incorporated here. If a

proxy firm bases its recommendations on environmental, social or other non-financial factors, it must clearly disclose that information to shareholders, the company and the attorney general, explaining how those interests shaped its advice. SB 183 treats violations as deceptive business practices under Kentucky law and empowers companies, shareholders and state officials to take legal action. It also bars proxy firms from giving materially different advice to different clients without disclosure. By holding major players like ISS and Glass Lewis accountable, SB 183 ensures proxy recommendations align with sound financial judgment and protect long-term investor value.

Senate Bill 45 is my legislation to protect Kentucky's agriculture community and ensure

that a vital part of our economy is not undermined by overreach or radical activist efforts aimed at shutting down lawful operations.

SB 45 strengthens protections for agritourism and working-animal activities across the commonwealth by making clear that local governments cannot impose unreasonable or impractical restrictions on legitimate agricultural businesses. Kentucky's farms and rural enterprises are already subject to health, safety, zoning, and animal welfare laws.

The legislation clarifies and modernizes our agritourism statutes by formally recognizing activities such as farm tours, rodeos, livestock exhibitions, carriage rides, and other working-animal events when conducted in compliance with current law.

INVITATION TO BID

Greenup County Fiscal Court (Hereinafter referred to as County) invites proposals to provide all work, including but not limited to labor, material, equipment supplies, and transportation for construction of

LOAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE FACILITY

All bids must be submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents issued by Engineer of Record and this Invitation to Bid.

Bidders are invited to submit an offer under seal to the County at the Greenup County Fiscal Court, 301 Main Street, Room 102, Greenup, KY 41144 before 4:00 p.m. local time on March 20, 2026. The bids will be opened and read aloud during a County Commissioner's meeting on March 24, 2026 @ 9:30 am.

A full description of the Project is found in the Summary section 01100 of the Project Manual.

Bid Documents for a Stipulated Sum contract may be obtained from the Greenup County Fiscal Court for a non-refundable deposit of \$ 200.00 for each set on or after February 16, 2026, see Eric Patton for full set of drawings. Partial sets will not be issued. Electronic pdf sets may be requested by emailing the Engineer of Record for no charge. Engineer of Record is David Gibson, Gibson Engineering & Surveying LLC, email address david.gibson@rcbkky.com.

Bidders will be required to provide Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified check in the amount of not less than 5% of the total amount bid, including all add alternates, supported by Power of Attorney for the Bonding Agent, a certificate from the Department of Insurance authorizing the Surety Company to do surety business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and a current financial statement of the Surety Company. The bonds shall be on forms bound in the Project Manual. Bid Bonds submitted by the unsuccessful bidders will be returned promptly after opening of bids, except those of the two lowest bidders will be retained until the award of the contract is made to the successful bidder and after a Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent of the contract has been executed by the successful bidder.

A Contract Performance Bond and a Contract Materials and Labor Payment Bond equal to one hundred percent of the Contract Price will be required for the successful contractor. Other bidding requirements are described in the Project Manual.

A Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Load Volunteer Fire Department, 16486 State Route 7, Greenup, KY 41144. Attendance is mandatory. All prime Bidders MUST attend the Pre-Bid meeting to familiarize themselves with the Project location, site conditions and other relevant information. Should any Bidder fail to attend, their Bid will be disqualified.

Submit offer on the Bid Form provided. Bidders will be required to submit offer under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 45 days after submission. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive formalities, and to re-advertise.

Bobby Hall, Judge Executive
Greenup County Fiscal Court

Gerald Johnson, Chairman
Load Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors

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*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures