

TERM OF COMMISSION: May Session of the April Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center  
Boone County Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Kip Kendrick  
District I Commissioner Justin Aldred  
District II Commissioner Janet Thompson  
Captain Brian Leer  
Citizen John Amick

**Conference Call Information:**

**Number: 425-585-6224 Access Code: 802-162-168**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and roll call was taken.

**Purchasing**

1. Second Reading: Award of Contract C001135 (14-22APR26) – Chip Seal Pavement Preservation for Boone County Resource Management Department – **First Read 05.21.26**

Commissioner Aldred moved now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the award of Contract C001135 (14-22APR26) – 2026 Chip Seal Pavement Preservation for Boone County Resource Management Department. The contract is set out in the attached, and the Presiding Commissioner is authorized to sign the same.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.  
The motion carried 3-0. **Order #259-2026**

2. Second Reading: Amendment #5 for C000688 (32-29SEP23) – Small Interior and Exterior Construction for the Boone County Road and Bridge Department – **First Read 05.21.2026**

Commissioner Thompson moved now on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve Amendment 5 to C000688 (32-29SEP23) with Professional Contractors and Engineers for the Boone County Road and Bridge Department Door and Wall Repair. The terms of the agreement are set out in the attached amendment, and the Presiding Commissioner is authorized to sign the same.

Commissioner Aldred seconded the motion  
The motion carried 3-0. **Order #260-2026**

### **Sheriff**

3. Second Reading: Calling for a special election on August 4, 2026, on the question of whether to impose a law enforcement services sales tax – **First Read and Public Hearing 05.19.2026**

Commissioner Kendrick stated that he spoke with Sheriff Carey earlier in the day, and Sheriff Carey requested to move the question of whether to add a 3/8 cent law enforcement sales tax from the August 4, 2026, ballot to the November 3, 2026, ballot. Commissioner Kendrick stated that Sheriff Carey requested this extension to give himself time to speak with interested parties, release more information, and gather more data to share with the general public.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she has been thinking about the current jail and how, when it was built 32 years ago, it quickly filled to capacity. This jail was built to address the overcrowding issues Boone County was experiencing at that time. Commissioner Thompson stated that what has happened in the subsequent decades is significant. Commissioner Thompson stated that there was a deliberate effort by stakeholders in Boone County to manage the jail population and how the jail was utilized. Commissioner Thompson stated that this started with former Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper who attended a meeting of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and began having conversations with other government leaders about what to do when the jail is at capacity. Commissioner Thompson stated that other counties at the NACo meeting advised that governments cannot incarcerate themselves out of the problem by continuing to build bigger; governments must figure out a way to manage the population. Commissioner Thompson stated that former Commissioner Stamper returned to Boone County and formed the group informally known as the Jail Overcrowding Group, which held monthly meetings for many years. Commissioner Thompson stated that this group included the Presiding Judge, other judges, the sheriff, the jail administrator, the prosecuting attorney, the public defender, adult court services representatives, the Boone County Auditor, and a Boone County Commissioner, the latter two in attendance due to the fiscal impact to the county. Commissioner Thompson stated that this group was focused on managing the jail population and utilizing the jail to house those who needed to be in the jail for public safety reasons.

Commissioner Thompson stated that the question must be asked, "Are you mad at them, or are you scared of them?" Commissioner Thompson stated that the former is not a reason to incarcerate someone, but to instead divert them elsewhere; if it was the latter, the jail should be used to keep the community and those individuals safe. Commissioner Thompson stated that this group spent many years examining the tools available to utilize across the county and, subsequently, Boone County became a leader in adult court services. Commissioner Thompson stated that this group managed this process until recently when it stopped meeting as often and did not focus on the issues as intentionally. Commissioner Thompson stated that she lauds Sheriff Carey for vowing to bring the group back to prominence, but it must be a county-wide group effort to address the issues. Commissioner Thompson stated that, with the time frame the sheriff has requested, the community now has an opportunity to examine ways to manage the jail population and utilization of all available tools. Commissioner Thompson stated that Boone County has not used new programs such as assisted outpatient treatment, which would help return individuals to the community, keep them stable and safe, and keep them out of the jail. Commissioner Thompson stated that community support, such as stable housing, is needed or individuals would not successfully return to the community and instead would end up back in the carceral system.

Commissioner Thompson expressed her hope that, over the next few months, the sheriff will get the support that he and the community need to have mindful dedication of resources to determine who should be incarcerated in the jail. Commissioner Thompson stated that the work that was done in the past helped manage the jail that was too small when it was built and has not kept pace with the population growth in Boone County. Commissioner Thompson stated that the same stakeholders who were involved in the previous group must reconvene, including the Commission and the Auditor, who can discuss funds and budget availability across the county, but it must be the ones who are actively making the decisions and working with the population that affect changes.

Commissioner Kendrick stated that Boone County has grown more than 72% since the current jail was built. Commissioner Kendrick stated that the last time a study on the jail population commenced was 2017 and the population has grown over 11% from that time to the present. Commissioner Kendrick agreed that getting the group back together will be critical. Commissioner Kendrick stated that, in 2022, Boone County was spending \$500,000 per year to house detainees in other counties, which aligned with the 2017 study. In 2023, this number increased to \$700,000, but this increase may be explained by cost-of-living adjustments and inflation. In 2024, especially in the last part of the year, the amount increased to \$920,000. Commissioner Kendrick stated that, even at this amount, it was still more cost efficient to continue to house detainees in other counties. Commissioner Kendrick stated that the City of Columbia previously had many vacancies in its police department and has filled 24 of those positions since late 2024. Commissioner Kendrick stated that, in 2025, the out-of-county detention number increased to \$2.56 million, and the number is on pace to reach \$4.5 million for 2026.

Commissioner Kendrick stated that he knows community members do not want to build a new jail, but building or not building a new jail will not change the detainee population or the trendline.

Commissioner Kendrick stated that the numbers may increase even more if the City of Columbia's sales tax issue passes in August, as the county is inextricably linked with the City. Commissioner Kendrick stated that Sheriff Carey does not have any say in who gets detained or for how long, what the court order looks like, or when they get released. Commissioner Kendrick stated that the sheriff is responsible for finding space to fulfill the court order, and the Commission is responsible for funding it. Commissioner Kendrick stated that, with the current trajectory, within the next couple of years, the Commission may be forced to allocate fewer resources elsewhere in the county and divert them to housing detainees. Commissioner Kendrick stated that the sheriff is an independently elected official; Prop L is a law enforcement sales tax for the county; and the sheriff is asking for the proposition to be placed on the November ballot to be able to present his case to the voters for why a new detention facility in Boone County is needed and why detainees are better served when they are housed in Boone County.

Commissioner Kendrick stated that, should this proposition pass, it would likely be four to five years before a new facility were to open, so conversations will still need to be had about how to manage the budget in the meantime. Commissioner Thompson stated that, in the meantime, the group must reconvene to gain control of the issue. Commissioner Thompson stated that she was a public defender for 25 years and, when she had to visit a client that was housed out of county, that was the only client she met with that day, which caused delays and backlogs across the entire system. Commissioner Thompson stated that public defenders have an extraordinarily high case load, and traveling to a remote client impacts that client as well as the other clients that that public defender represents. Commissioner Thompson stated that the county must find a way to reduce the money being spent on housing detainees in other locations, but at the same time, it must be mindful about its processes and procedures. Commissioner Thompson stated that building a bigger jail will not solve the problem, but the county must be constitutionally aware and aware of peoples' rights and needs.

Commissioner Aldred stated that he trusts Sheriff Carey to provide voters with the information they need to make an informed choice on November 3, and the voters to make their decision. Commissioner Aldred stated the Commission will effectuate the will of the voter.

Commissioner Aldred moved now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby impose a county-wide sales tax pursuant to the provisions of RSMo §67.582, in the amount of three-eighths of one percent for the period beginning the second calendar quarter after notification of the results of the special election referenced herein to the Missouri Department of Revenue with no expiration date. Said sales tax shall be for the purpose of providing law enforcement services within Boone County. Said sales tax shall be imposed on all sales which are subject to taxation under the provisions of RSMo §§144.010 – 144.527 as amended and, pursuant to RSMo §144.032, said sales tax shall also be imposed on all sales of metered water services, electricity, electrical current, and natural, artificial, or propane gas, wood, coal, or home heating oil for domestic use only. The tax authorized by this Order shall be in addition to all other sales taxes currently authorized.

The imposition of this tax shall be effective only after approval of a majority of the qualified voters casting a ballot at a county special election. It is further ordered that the County Commission of the County of Boone hereby calls for an election to be held on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the voters the proposition contained in the following Notice of Election and Sample Ballot:

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the County of Boone that the County Commission of said county has called an election to be held in said county on the 3rd day of November, 2026, from and between the hours of six o'clock a.m. and seven o'clock p.m. on said date to vote on the proposition contained in the following sample ballot:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

**Proposition L:**

Shall the County of Boone impose a county-wide sales tax of three-eighths (3/8) of one percent (1%) for the purpose of providing law enforcement services for the county?

Instructions to voters: If you are in favor of the proposition, darken the oval opposite the word "YES". If you are opposed to the proposition, darken the oval opposite the word "NO".

The County Clerk of Boone County is hereby directed to provide notice of and conduct the election pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 115 RSMo.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion  
The motion carried 3-0. **Order #261-2026**

**Commission**

4. Public Comments

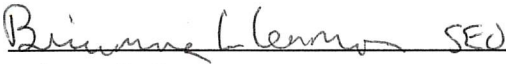
Citizen John Amick stated that he is in opposition to the proposed new jail. Mr. Amick stated that the proposal is too open-ended with not enough detail, including how large the facility would be. Mr. Amick stated that the questions should be settled before the proposition is placed on the ballot. Mr. Amick stated that he is glad to hear of the dedication to bringing the group back together, and he hopes that it is effective, not just virtue signaling, and that he hopes individuals and community groups are included in the conversations. Mr. Amick stated that bold ideas, such as the elimination of cash bail, could be used to eliminate overcrowding, and profit-motivated private contractors

could be addressed to help ease the impact on those who are detained. Commissioner Thompson stated that, over the years, the group has examined the cost of services such as phone calls from detainees because it is important for people to be able to maintain relationships with their families and personal wellbeing while they are incarcerated.

5. Commissioner Reports

No Commission Reports

Attest:

  
Brianna L. Lennon  
Clerk of the County Commission

  
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Kip Kendrick  
Presiding Commissioner

  
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Justin Aldred  
District I Commissioner

  
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Janet M. Thompson  
District II Commissioner