

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn, Dustin Sheldon and Jeff Shearer present. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved as posted. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved.

Let the record show that Maintenance Superintendent Jeff Shirley, LeRoy Vrbsy, Ethan Hewett, Katelyn Murtfeld, Andrew Wake and Megan Smith were present at this meeting.

At 9:02 a.m., motion by Sheldon to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 20.17(3) to discuss union negotiations. Vote: Blackburn, aye; Sheldon, aye; Shearer, aye. At 9:03 a.m., the board went into closed session. Roll call: Chairman Clint Blackburn, Vice-Chairman Dustin Sheldon and Member Jeff Shearer, Jack Reed HR by telephone, and Assistant Auditor Cassie Gilbert. At 9:23 a.m., motion by Sheldon to go out of closed session. Vote: Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye.; Sheldon, aye.

Motion by Shearer to approve the following Resolution No. 2025-41 for the secondary roads transfer. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-41

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 3rd day of December 2025, that the following transfer of funds be approved and made: \$72,893.00 property tax relief of local option taxes, from the Local Option Sales Tax Fund to the Secondary Road Fund.

Motion to approve transfer made by Shearer.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert, Assistant
Fremont County Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman	aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon	aye
/s/Jeff Shearer	aye

Motion was made by Sheldon to approve the following Resolution 2025-42 for the secondary roads transfer. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-42

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 3rd day of December 2024, that the following transfer of funds be approved and made: \$779,236.00 from the Rural Services Basic Fund, share of Rural Services taxes, to the Secondary Road Fund and \$72,893.00 property tax relief of local option taxes, from the Local Option Sales Tax Fund to the Secondary Road Fund.

Motion to approve transfer made by Sheldon.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert,
Fremont County Assistant Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn	aye
/s/ Dustin Sheldon	aye
/s/Jeff Shearer	aye

Maintenance Superintendent Jeff Shirley met with the board for the signing of the following:

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign an IDOT payment voucher for engineering services for FM-CO-36(83) - 55-36, on L-31, Waubonsie Creek Bridge per agreement through 11/15/25. In the amount of \$12,411.23. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign an IDOT Payment Voucher for engineering services for BROS-CO36(95) - 8J-36, on 270th Street, Mill Creek Bridge per agreement through 11/15/25. In the amount of \$1941.40. Motion carried unanimously.

Katelyn Murtfeld with Mills County Public Health and member of the opioid committee and Sergeant Andrew Wake, also on the opioid committee, met with the board regarding the use of opioid funds for the sheriff's office to purchase a narcotic/crisis K9 vehicle kennel and equipment. The amount is \$8,823.00. Sergeant Wake says they are in the process of replacing the K9 unit so these funds would help this. The K9 unit is being built at the new dealership in Shenandoah. The new equipment is called a hot and pop. Katelyn mentioned there is \$92,000 in the fund and the County budget \$32,000 to be spent. Shearer asked where the opioid money came from. Katelyn told him that it is a settlement from the state. Shearer asked about previous dogs in the past.

Motion by Shearer to use the opioid funds to purchase a narcotic/crisis K9 vehicle kennel and equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

LeRoy Vrbsky met with the board to discuss dust control on roads. The dust control spray costs about \$700.00 dollars when it is done. Vrbsky is upset that it gets graded right after dust control spray gets put on. Vrbsky wants the Road department not to grade the road on October 1st. He would like the Road department to go back to only grading the road when needed. The road that needs not to be graded on is 400th Ave over by old Highway 2. Shirley mentioned we must grade the roads by October 1st due to the winter coming so the roads aren't slick, so people have traction with the gravel. Shirley understands about the dust control, but the road department has to think about the winter coming and the county cannot have bald roads they have to grade the roads to get them ready for winter. Shearer wants to ask about if a landowner clears a county road and then someone has an accident on that county road, they are liable for that person's accident. Shirley said yes if that person proved that the landowner ruined that county road, the landowner is liable for the accident. Vrbsky asked who made the October 1st rule. Shirley said the county made that rule. The grading of a road is up to the grader operator and if something is wrong with the road then it needs graded. Shirley stated the grader operator is new and he still has a lot to learn. Vrbsky states he needs to stop leaving groves in the hill. Blackburn stated on October 1st if the road doesn't need graded, don't grade the road. All parties agreed to the October 1st. Vrbsky stated I appreciate you going back and letting the new operate know about the October 1st agreement.

Motion by Shearer to sign an application for Payment No. 2 for the Highway 2/129 Drainage District. Blackburn, aye; Shearer, aye; Sheldon, abstain.

In other business, the Recorder's Monthly Report for November was approved.

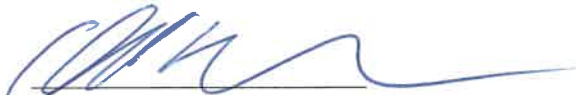
Claims were approved for December 5, 2025.

At 9:56 a.m., with no further business, motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman

At 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, a Department Head meeting was held in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom. Present were Alise Snyder, Scott Evans, Tarah Berry, Vicki Kirkpatrick, Clayton Long, Mark Stockstell, Robbie Kromminga, Clint Blackburn, Jeff Shearer, Cassie Gilbert, and Zach Benedict. Topics discussed: maintenance of the building, the new flight software for assessors, IT updates on Windows 11, and the Veterans Affairs update on the compensation for veterans in the county.

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn and Jeff Shearer present. Dustin Sheldon was not present. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved as posted. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved.

Let the record show that Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Election Deputy Jessica Richardson, Treasurer Alise Snyder, and Recorder Tarah Berry were present at this meeting.

Evyn Perry with Jackson Lewis, PC, did not attend the meeting.

Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the signing of the following:

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign the application for approval of underground construction in the county ROW for Windstream Kinetic to place fiber optic cable along alley and Moody Drive, 0.5 miles north of the intersection of Q and Argyle Streets. Motion carried unanimously

Election Deputy Jessica Richardson met with the board to discuss the update in pricing for the new election equipment. The old amount was \$14,703. The quote has gone up to \$15,193. Half would be paid this year and half next year in July 2026. The annual fee will also be going up to \$1050. Motion by Shearer to approve the new update pricing for the election equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the following new hire resolution for the sheriff's office. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-43

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 10th day of December, 2025, that the following individual shall be approved as a Jailer for the Fremont County Sheriff's Department, as requested by Fremont County Sheriff Kevin Aistrope. The effective date of employment shall be December 1, 2025.

Jonah Bateman

Motion was made by Shearer.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert

Fremont County Assistant Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn, Chairman aye

/s/ Jeff Shearer aye

Claims were approved for December 12, 2025.

In other business, the Sheriff's Monthly Report for November was approved.

At 9:19 a.m., with no further business,

motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST: 

Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn and Dustin Sheldon present. Let the record show Jeff Shearer was present by telephone. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved as posted. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved.

Let the record show that Assistant Engineer Robbie Kromminga, Treasurer Alise Snyder, Recorder Tarah Berry, Katelyn Murtfeld, and Sheriff Kevin Aistrope were present at this meeting.

Engineer Robbie Kromminga met with the board for the following:

Motion by Sheldon to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher for HGM Associates for engineering/surveying services for FEMA projects L-40 and L-31 per agreement through November 30, 2025, for \$8260.22. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to allow Chairman Blackburn to sign IDOT payment voucher for HGM Associates for engineering services for preliminary design for 310th Street/J-64 per agreement through November 30, 2025, for \$11,317.50. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed closing early on Christmas Eve. Shearer mentioned having the elected officials stay and keep their offices open instead of their employees staying. Treasurer Alise Snyder mentioned she wouldn't be able to do that due to prior engagements. Blackburn decided to leave it up to the elected officials. Snyder said the DOT is closed on the 24th, 25th, and 26th, so they will have no support. Recorder Tarah Berry also agreed she would not have any help from the DNR on those days. Blackburn stated that if the courthouse closes early, then other departments, like the sheriff and roads, will want compensation. Sheldon agreed to leave it up to the elected officials. Blackburn doesn't believe we should officially close; we should still offer some services. Snyder stated that the treasurer's office is closing at 3 pm on Christmas Eve. Motion by Sheldon to leave the closing early on Christmas Eve up to the department heads in their own office. Motion carried unanimously.

Katelyn Murtfeld with Fremont/Mills County Public Health met with the board for the signing of two documents. This is to provide help with substance abuse in Fremont County. Resilient Recovery Counseling is out of Villisca; Richard Mullen has a vast area he can help the county with, with the use of Opioid money. The goal would be to start this program on January 1st. The billing would be month-to-month. So, if you need to terminate the contract, you wouldn't be out the full amount of the contract of \$18,000. Katelyn also mentioned that she and her staff could learn from Richard and then carry on his services when he is not in Fremont County. Katelyn also mentioned that other grants could also pay for this contract. Aistrope asked if he could come to the sheriff's office and help the inmates for a couple of hours when he is visiting Fremont County.

Motion by Sheldon to approve Resolution No. 2025-44 for the Fremont County Opioid Settlement Assignment Memorandum of Understanding with Resilient Recovery Counseling. This is to provide help with substance abuse in Fremont County. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Shearer to approve the collaboration agreement with Resilient Recovery Coaching to allocate Opioid Settlement Dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:12 a.m., Wendy Mueller with West Central Community Action met with the board by telephone regarding the funding for FY26. She started by thanking the board for its support. They are requesting \$3,500.00 for FY26, the same as last year. Mueller went over the client's demographic information. They helped 229 households made up of 502 individuals in 2025. They helped with Head Start, childcare resources and referrals, child and adult food care program, Embrace Iowa, I Care – Black Hills Cares Assistance, Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program, and the food pantry. The food pantry served 123 households in 2025. They provided \$513,376.00 total dollars for services in Fremont County in FY25. Mueller said their outreach office is now located at 705 Indiana Street in Sidney. Sheldon thanked Wendi and her staff for doing an amazing job with everything they are doing with the program. After thanks from the board, motion by Shearer to approve the budget allocation of \$3,500.00 for FY26. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Kevin Aistrope met with the board regarding his Jail Administrator Position and a Lieutenant Position at his office. Aistrope would like to revamp the Sheriff's office staff. Aistrope mentioned Carol Rands is retiring. He wants the board to be aware that he isn't asking for more money rather wants to reallocate his funds. He wants to put most of the jail administrator's

duties to Chief Deputy Bothwell and move part of the Chief Deputy's duties to a Lieutenant position. Then, some of the jail administrator jobs will be put on some of the other employees. Aistrophe said he talked to Jack Reed with INCS about this, and he was okay with him doing this. Aistrophe mentioned he can't eliminate the position because of union reasons, but just wants to unfund the position. Sheldon's only concern is that we are adding another leadership position. Sheldon stated this, in turn, makes the Lieutenant's salary come from a percentage of the Sheriff's salary. He said that when the board increases the Sheriff's salary, the Lieutenant's salary will essentially go up by a percentage. The funds left over from the jail administrator position will be shifted over to the Lieutenant position. Aistrophe mentioned that the Chief Deputy job is more of a jail administrator position most of the time. Sheldon asked how the jail administrator's salary would be disbursed. Aistrophe said it would be a stipend to the other employees' salaries who are taking over some of their duties. Sheldon would like to know what employees are taking over, what jobs and what stipends they are getting if this is passed. Blackburn stated that by doing this, it will save the county \$12,000 for insurance and other amounts for IPERS. Aistrophe informed the board that the Chief Deputy would not be receiving a raise due to some of his duties being split between the Lieutenant and then him taking over as jail administrator. Motion by Sheldon to disperse the jail administrator duties and distribute the jail administration duties to qualified staff through a stipend. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Sheldon to add a Lieutenant position in the chain of command in the Sheriff's Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Shearer to approve the following Resolution 2025-45 naming holidays for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-45

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fremont County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of December, 2025, that the following holidays shall be observed by the Fremont County Courthouse Offices for the year 2026.

New Year's Day	Thursday	January 1, 2026
President's Day	Monday	February 16, 2026
Good Friday	Friday	April 3, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday	May 25, 2026
Independence Day	Friday	July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday	September 7, 2026
Veteran's Day	Wednesday	November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving	(Thurs. & Fri.)	November 26 & 27, 2026
Christmas	(Thurs. & Fri.)	December 24 & 25, 2026

Motion by Shearer and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

/s/ Cassie Gilbert

Fremont County Assistant Auditor

/s/ Clint Blackburn

aye

/s/ Dustin Sheldon

aye

/s/ Jeff Shearer

aye

Claims were approved for December 19, 2025.

At 9:45 a.m., with no further business, Shearer motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



Cassie Gilbert, Assistant Auditor



Clint Blackburn, Chairman