

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

July 29, 2025

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Matt Eggert
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Valley Co: Theresa Petska (Alternate)
Tri-Co Municipalities:
Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman
Range Co. Municipalities:
Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Paige Rychon

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Office Manager, Donna Steckel/Dispatch Supervisor, Caden Johnson/Dispatch, Miki Gerten/Dispatch

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Meyer. Notice of the meeting and agenda were sent to County Clerks of each member county for posting and given in advance to all members of the Board.

Roll Call was taken with six (6) members present.

The meeting being duly posted and a quorum present, the Chairman proclaimed this meeting to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meeting Act was posted in the meeting room.

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the agenda.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Joseph and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the June 24, 2025 Minutes.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Public Comment: None

Motion by Dave Larson and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the June 2025 Financial Statement.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Towers & Equipment Report:

Alma reported that nothing has been done regarding the Litchfield generator at this time. We are still waiting on Tom Bandur to report back with pricing information.

The Sargent generator was running rough yesterday. There was also alarm issues that Jay had found. Power Tech was going to stop by and check on the generator.

The Sherman East repeater was off line for a while during heavy rain last week but did reset.

Diana Hurlburt had asked about the progress of the Garfield equipment. Alma stated that at her last communication with Platte Valley that they were trying to get it scheduled in.

Alma reported that the Ford Explorer with the help from Dave Larson had been delivered to Kearney after battery was installed for Platte Valley to remove radios and then deliver to Adam Marshall auction. It is scheduled for September 16th final auction date.

The new budget was requested to be placed on the agenda for discussion. Not all were pleased that the budget came in at one amount in May, and then showed a large increase at the June meeting without

time for further review. Concerns were raised that the base amount of the budget was increased at the last minute without discussion of how it would affect the bottom line. It was noted that setting the base at \$35,000 made more sense than raising it to \$40,000 without prior consideration. It was also noted that the wage increases ranged from 11% to 18%, with an overall average of 13.1%–13.8%. The concern was raised that the budget base should reflect these percentages rather than picking a rounded figure for the increase. The suggestion was made to begin the budget process in March, finalize decisions in May, and hold the vote in June.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Bergman had sent message for the meeting that there was nothing to discuss, but was holding a Law Enforcement meeting on Friday and would know how things were going.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1282 Status Checks, 302 Pages, 266 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 135 Traffic Violations, 126 Messages, 120 - 911 Accidental/Disconnect/Test, 87 Rescue Calls, 83 Minor Detail, 81 Weather, 72 Burn Permits, 66 Assist Citizen, 57 Assist Other Agencies, 50 Livestock Complaint, 49 Accidents, 35 Gun Permit, 34 Paper Service, 27 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 26 Reckless Driver, 22 Animal Calls, 18 Motorist Assist, 17 Traffic hazard, 14 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 14 Fire Calls, 14 Patient Transport, 13 Siren, 10 Radio Test, 10 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 9 Abandoned Vehicle, 9 Suspicious Events, 8 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 8 Utilities Complaints/Outage, 7 Alarms, 7 Check Welfare, 7 Miscellaneous Tasks, 7 Transfer 911 Call, 6 Mutual Aid, 5 Civil Matters, 4 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 3 Follow Up, 3 Fraudulent Activity, 3 Missing Person/Juvenile, 3 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 2 Arrests, 2 Gas Drive-Off, 2 Prisoner Transport, 2 Property Damage, 2 Suspicious Person, 2 Suspicious Vehicle, 2 Theft, and 12 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of June was 3145 including 378 - 911 calls and 1441 Administrative calls into the Dispatch Center only.

Donna gave a report for dispatch: Jake had just come back from the Law Enforcement academy and is now teletype certified. While there he was able to see the new Teletype Omnixx cloud-based system that State Patrol is changing our Teletype to on August 4th. Donna told about the amount of traffic stops through Burwell Rodeo weekend that with the new teletype system to be able to get teletype at the 3rd workstation would have helped to have another person on duty to be able to run traffic, but did not help to have a third person on duty with just one teletype access where most of the calls were to run traffic. At one time they had 5 calls on 5 different frequencies pretty much at once creating a very hectic time through the weekend. Jaimie Stefka is our new employee. Taylor has been working with protection orders since her training at State Patrol in North Platte and also helping with quality assurance. Recent employee counseling sessions have been well received.

Director's Report:

- The TEXT 2 911 is now working. The hold up had been through Lumen and they did not have us turned up to receive calls. After getting Motorola, Lumen and Intrado to talk together they finally found the problem.
- The teletype equipment had been installed by Applied Connective with only one computer and monitor. The second monitor in use was Region 26's that was used for the spit screen. The teletype connection needed at workstation 3 will be utilizing one of the monitors there and will be a tab over for the user. If that does not work, we eventually may need to install another computer at that location.
- All of the grant funds for the License Plate Readers have been received in and will be paid out to the respective counties tomorrow. We are now working on permits with NDOT to install in road right of ways. Each county will need to sign a resolution accepting the agreement with NDOT which will renew every five years. Both the County boards and Sheriff will need to sign the agreements. The Law Enforcement meeting will be coming up to discuss the possibility of another round of grant funds for more cameras and will need to determine soon who would

receive those and be able to manage them.

- The Sandhills Mutual Aid in Thedford and the Loup Valley Mutual Aid meetings which we hosted here at Region 26 were held this month.
- Nothing more has been said on the Fiscal Agent for the North Central Region. I was informed that for Custer to take over the Fiscal Agent position they would not be paying any of the bills due by individual counties and then be reimbursed but would do the paper work. After discussion the board would like to keep the Fiscal Agent work at Region 26 since that would be no different than how we would be handling this moving forward.
- NRIN Conference Call regarding the buildout funds for a project that they are looking at for a fiber connection from Region 26 to Ainsworth. Currently there is no pass through at the Region 26 building only an endpoint which does not allow for a ring for redundancy. The meeting was for the board to vote on NRIN paying for the monthly charge for the 5-year contract.
- NRIN Interlocal renewal possibly has come out to each county. The renewal is due by the end of the year and we will handle that through Region 26 for the counties.
- Loup City rescue came up to discuss Active911 to replace their Page my Cell. They want to be able to see a map of where they are going and want our CAD to be able to spill into it. After checking there would be a cost for Region 26 to connect to them. There had been more discussion on the direction of our Page my Cell.
- The weather created some havoc on the first day of Burwell Rodeo with numerous tornado sightings being reported into dispatch.
- The EMPG (Emergency Management) grant just became available for this year and the application is due Monday, August 4th.
- On the Senator Deb Fischer grant, there was a report sent out of the projects she had submitted for Appropriations for Nebraska and the Region 26 project was on the list.
- The dispatch air conditioner went completely down over 4th of July weekend. 4-County air was able to get new air conditioner and have replaced in a few days.

Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Dave Larson and seconded by Theresa Petska to go into executive session.

Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstained (0). Executive session entered at 8:46 pm.

A motion was made by Theresa Petska and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to reconvene to public session at 9:06 pm. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstained (0).

Findings: No Action Taken

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be August 26, 2025 at 7 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

ALI – Automatic Location Identification (for 911)	LBPHD – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)
ANI – Automatic Number Identification (for 911)	LE – Law Enforcement
APCO – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials	LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
ASR # – Antenna Structure Registration (Tower ID #)	LEDRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch	LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
CC – Communications Center	MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team	MRC – Medical Reserve Corp
CJIS – Criminal Justice Information System	NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
COADs – Community Organizations Active in Disasters	NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials
COOP – Continuity of Operations Planning	NAEM – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019	NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)	NENA – National Emergency Number Association
DEE – Depart. of Environmental & Energy (State)	NESCA – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
DHHS – Department of Health & Human Services (State)	*NCR – North Central Region* (see below)
DHS – Department of Homeland Security	NIMS – National Incident Management System
DR – Disaster Recovery	NIRMA – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
DOT – Department of Transportation - (NDOT) Nebraska	NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
E911 – Enhanced 911	NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
EAS – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)	PD – Police Department
ECW – Emergency Call Works (Reg 26 911 Equip)	*PET – Planning Exercise Training* (see below)
EM – Emergency Manager	POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch	PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant	PMC – Page My Cell (secondary Paging to Depts.)
EMS – Emergency Medical Services	PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician	PSC – Public Service Commission
EOC – Emergency Operations Center	PVC – Platte Valley Communications
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)	RFP – Request for Proposal
ERG – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)	SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
FAA – Federal Aviation Admin. (Report tower light outages)	SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
FADD – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician	SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
FCC – Federal Communications Commission (for Radio Frequency Licenses)	SME – Subject Matter Expert (Homeland Security Grants)
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency	SO – Sheriff's Office
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)	SRS – State Radio System
FY – Fiscal Year	T-CPR – Telecommunicator CPR
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)	THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
GIS – Geographic Information System	UPS – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
GPS – Global Positioning System	VFD – Volunteer Fire Department
gWORKS – Public information on Property by County	VOAD – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials	VOIP – Voice over Internet Protocol
HHS – Health and Human Services (Federal)	V-TAC – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program	WEA – Wireless Emergency Alert
ICS – Incident Command System	WCDHD – West Cent. District Hlth Dept. (Covers Thomas)
IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert Warning System	W.H.O. – World Health Organization
IPPW – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop	WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)	WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team
JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)	WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction
LASO – Local Agency Security Officer	* North Central PET Region Includes:
LBF – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location	Keith, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Cherry-Keya Paha, Brown-Rock, Boyd-Holt and Region 26: (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)