



# Kane County

## KC Judicial/Public Safety Committee

Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A  
Geneva, IL 60134

### Meeting Minutes

MOLINA, Lenert, Gripe, Gumz, Linder, Tepe, Williams, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair)  
and Pierog (County Chair)

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**Thursday, August 14, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**County Board Room**

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**1. Call To Order**

Chairman Molina called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

**2. Roll Call**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Board Member Myrna Molina Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Vern Tepe Board Member Rick Williams Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog
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Also present: Co. Bd. Members Allan\*, Berman\*, Juby\*, Kious\*, Lewis\*; Merit Comm. Chairman Burgert; KaneComm Dir. Guthrie; OEM Dir. Buziecki; Sheriff Hain & staff Johnson, Catich, Schwab, Dominguez; Coroner Silva; Chief Judge Villa & staff O'Brien, Mathis; State's Attorney Mosser & staff Hunt, Frank; Public Def. Conant; Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust; Circuit Clk. Barreiro & staff Johnson; Treasurer Lauzen; ITD CIO Lasky\* & staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

(Madam Chairman Pierog arrived remotely at 9:02 a.m.)

**4. Approval of Minutes: July 10, 2025**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Linder

**5. Public Comment**

None.

**6. Monthly Financial Reports****A. Monthly Finance Reports**

Chairman Molina stated the monthly financial reports were on file. No additional report was made.

**7. Merit Commission****A. Merit Commission's FY2026 Budget Presentation (not attached)**

Merit Commission Chairman Burgert presented the FY2026 Budget. He mentioned that the Merit Commission's FY2026 Budget does not reflect the FY2024 Actual Budget, due to salaries, mileage, and testing. (Committee Member Gumz arrived in-person at 9:04 a.m.). He stated that he was informed by the Chief that testing for patrol will need to be done, due to the list being exhausted. He explained that the FY2024 Actual Budget was \$85,734. He stated that he was able to cut approximately \$9K from that total. He noted that \$7K was cut from the Commission's per diem, and \$2K was cut from mileage expenses, which is about a 10% cut from the overall budget. Burgert stated that the FY2026 Budget is approximately \$2,700 more than FY2024. The FY2026 Budget is approximately \$88K.

**8. KaneComm (M. Guthrie)****A. Monthly Report**

KaneComm Guthrie stated the monthly report was on file. She explained that KaneComm has continued with the hiring process. She explained that candidates have completed the skill testing, interviews, and background screening. She noted that candidates will move forward to the psychological and physical exams. She hopes to have about three telecommunicators hired in the next couple weeks. Guthrie spoke on the proclamation that was presented to Kane County resident, Ace Holder, at the County Board meeting. She described the 9-1-1 call that was made by Holder. She mentioned that Holder has been invited to visit KaneComm.

**B. KaneComm's FY2026 Budget Presentation**

KaneComm Dir. Guthrie presented the FY2026 Budget. She reviewed the numerous agencies that KaneComm serves, such as the Kane County Sheriff's Office, Big Rock Fire Department, and Kane County Office of Emergency Management. She shared a graph depicting KaneComm's activity and statistics year-to-date from January 2025 to June 2025. She explained that this year's volume for activity has increased, due to police activity. She noted that phone calls have remained consistent, but the calls for service have increased substantially. She reviewed KaneComm's organizational chart. She explained that there were no changes for FY2026. However, in FY2025, the part-time LEADS and QA/QI Coordinator position was added. Guthrie spoke on the KaneComm's Special Revenue Fund - Fund 269 revenues. The majority of the revenue comes from subscriber fees, which equates to \$1,749,227. The anticipated revenue total for FY2026 is \$3,230,722. Recently, Guthrie spoke on the increase to the 9-1-1 Surcharge Revenue. She explained that there is a

House Bill and Senate Bill in legislation to move the increase in 9-1-1 Surcharge forward. The increase would be one dollar more per every phone bill registered to the County. Guthrie spoke on the importance of these Bills being passed to KaneComm. The revenue is needed to stay up-to-date with technology and other matters. If this Surcharge increase fails, KaneComm will have to turn to their subscribing agencies to make up the revenue. Guthrie explained that the increased Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) Reimbursement includes expenses that are eligible for reimbursement, such as phone line costs, system maintenance, training, conferences, certifications, and operating supplies. She stated that the Subscriber Agreement between KaneComm and subscribing police and fire agencies has expired. She noted that KaneComm's revenue has increased approximately 5% from FY2025. She reviewed KaneComm's expenditures. She noted that personnel makes up approximately 81% of KaneComm's expense budget. KaneComm's anticipated expenditure total is \$3,230,071. Guthrie reviewed KaneComm's personnel budget. In FY2025, the personnel budget was \$2,618,053. The FY2026 personnel budget has decreased to \$2,617,053. Guthrie stated that KaneComm's collective bargaining agreement (CBA) was ratified in 2023, which included step increases and 3% increases. She noted that the FY2026 Budget does not include any additional positions and does include the allowed vacancies. Overall, KaneComm's FY2026 Budget increased to \$3,320,722 for FY2026 from \$3,109,678 in FY2025, which is a 3.89% change. The changes to FY2026 Budget included an additional line item for ETSB reimbursement in revenues. Additionally, the ETSB expenses were submitted for reimbursement. Guthrie shared a table depicting the FY2026 KaneComm's Proposed Budget, and changes made from the FY2025 Amended Budget. She noted that this table shows each line item and an explanation on whether an increase or decrease occurred. She reviewed a graph that depicted the budget comparison from FY2022 to FY2026. Guthrie addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

## **9. Emergency Management (S. Buziecki)**

### **A. Monthly Report**

OEM Dir. Buziecki stated that monthly report was on file. He stated that the delivery of the New Command Vehicle will occur later this month. Additionally, he mentioned the proclamation that was included on today's agenda for National Preparedness Month.

**B. Kane County Proclaims September 2025 as National Preparedness Month**  
KC Executive Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Executive Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Williams
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Vern Tepe
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams

**C. Office of Emergency Management's FY2026 Budget Presentation (not attached)**

OEM Dir. Buziecki presented the FY2026 Budget. He reviewed the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) profile. He shared information on the volunteer program. He reviewed OEM's mission and mandates. He explained that it is mandated by Illinois State law that Kane County has an Emergency Management Program to be responsible for the unincorporated areas, as well as, those municipalities that do not have an Emergency Management team. He stated that other than Aurora and St. Charles, OEM provides support for the rest of the County. He explained that OEM is mandated by law to maintain programs and capabilities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. Buziecki stated that OEM is currently working on updating the Emergency Operations Plan, which is due in March 2026. He shared the Kane County Code, Chapter 8, Article II, which depicts the responsibilities of OEM for Kane County. He reviewed OEM's organizational chart. He spoke on the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Volunteer Fund 247. He stated that this is funded by donations, typically from municipalities who use OEM's volunteer services, and used to support the volunteer program, such as purchasing equipment, uniforms, et cetera, and volunteer appreciation activities and events. The fund balance is \$55,607. Buziecki shared a chart that depicted the EMA Volunteer Fund line items. Another Special Fund that is overseen by OEM is Local Emergency Planning Fund 248, which is funded by private donations, with exception of staff time, to support the hazardous materials preparedness program. The fund balance is \$42,012. Buziecki noted that the donations are divided among three hazmat response teams and the Kane County Sheriff's Office's Bomb Squad. He mentioned that this fund has been built up in order to complete a Commodity Flow Study, which would look at what materials and chemicals are traveling through the County in order to be better prepared for emergencies. Buziecki reviewed the General Fund goals, such as completing the 2026 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Report, provide technical and planning assistance to municipalities upon request, continue to provide public education, increase the number of volunteer instructors to reach more people, and continuing to develop the new Kane County Recovery Group "Disaster Ready Kane" along with government, business, and non-profit organizations. He shared OEM's FY2026 General Fund Revenue. The FY2024 Actual Budget revenue was \$153,784. In FY2026 Budget, the expected revenue is \$72,250. Buziecki stated that in FY2024, OEM received federal grant money to conduct a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is why

FY2024 shows an increased revenue compared to other years. He spoke on personnel. He stated there is a slight difference in the number of working days in FY2026. He spoke on Contractual Services, Commodities, and Capital. He stated that all of these items have been reduced. He provided the overall summary of the County's General Fund pertaining to OEM. He stated that the FY2025 Budget was \$570,844, and the FY2026 Budget is \$495,333, which is a 13.2% decrease. He explained that there was a reduction in Capital costs due to the decreased cost of the mass notification system. Buziecki addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

**10. Sheriff/Adult Corrections (R. Hain)**

**A. Monthly Report**

Sheriff Hain stated the monthly report was file. No additional report was made

(Madam Chairman Pierog arrived in-person at 9:27 a.m.)

**B. Sheriff's FY2026 Budget Presentation**

Sheriff Hain commended Kane County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Alicia Dominguez for her work on the FY2026 Budget.

Sheriff Hain presented the FY2026 Budget. He stated the Sheriff's Office will enter into FY2026 with six active Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs), four of which are set to expire in FY2026. He explained that there was two directions given to departments/offices by the Finance Committee: reduce their overall budget by 13% or match FY2024 Actual Budget. He stated that the KCSO accomplished both. In FY2024, the total budget was \$7,231,818.95. For FY2026, the total budget is being submitted for \$6,267,041, which is a 13% decrease from FY2024. Hain reviewed the KCSO's yearly expenses. He explained that in FY2024 the salaries and wages total was \$38.2M. In FY2026, salaries and wages total \$41.5M, due to the CBAs, which caused significant cuts to other expenses. Hain explained that the Sheriff's Office is exploring the option of lay-offs for non-union personnel, which would occur at the end of the year. He compared the KCSO's revenues from FY2023 to FY2026. He explained that in FY2023, the KCSO received a lump sum of grant funding, that was supposed to be received in FY2022. Also, the LIV Golf Tournament was hosted in Kane County, which generated additional revenue. Hain stated that the Sheriff's Office is maintaining grant funding and is trying to seek out additional revenue sources. He explained that this presentation does not reflect the Asset Forfeiture Income. The Sheriff's Office generates funds from Local Asset Forfeitures, drug investigations, and federal partnerships. The goal of this additional revenue is to replace the KCSO's operational expenses that come from the County's General Fund. However, this is not something the office can budget on. Hain addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

**11. Coroner (M. Silva)****A. Monthly Report**

Coroner Silva stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

**B. Coroner's FY2026 Budget Presentation (not attached)**

Coroner Silva presented the FY2026 Budget. She stated that the Coroner's Office is seeking a 23% increase to their FY2026 Budget to efficiently run the office. She shared the Coroner's Office's organizational chart. She stated that there are five full-time Deputy Coroners, of which one is on light duty. She explained that the average caseload per Deputy Coroner in 2024 was 410 cases, which is over the national average. Silva shared the Office's mission and goals. She listed the state mandates in which all the Office's responsibilities related to the investigation of suspicious death and for determining the manner of deaths occurring in Kane County are regulated. She stated that the Coroner's Office is responsible for determining the manner of death from the following categories: accident, suicide, homicide, natural, and undetermined. Silva explained that since the Office is short-staffed with Deputy Coroners, Para Deputy Coroners have been assisting Deputies, but are not allowed to have their own caseload. She provided examples of the manner of death that must be investigated, such as a sudden or violent death, death due to a sex crime, undetermined death, death due to addiction to alcohol or drugs, and death where the decedent was not attended by a licensed physician. Silva reviewed the three categories of cases: Return to Medical (RTM), Sign-Out (SO), and Sign-Out Unnatural (SOU). She spoke on toxicology. She stated that each toxicology report costs \$250 to \$600 per case. In FY2024, the Coroner's Office spent \$134,896. Year-to-date, the Office has expended \$111K. Silva shared a five-year comparison of toxicology costs stemming back to 2021. She stated that the Office has been budgeting less for toxicology reports, but have been spending way more. She explained that toxicology is one of the major components of the Office's expenditures. Silva spoke on autopsies. She explained that each autopsy can cost \$1,500 to \$1,750 per examination. In FY2024, the total autopsy expenditure was \$450,650. Year-to-date, the Office has expended \$326K on autopsies, which is a total FY2025 projection of \$522K. Silva shared a graph that depicted a five-year comparison of the autopsies expenditure amounts. She spoke on salaries and wages. She stated that the increase in expenditures from FY2025 to FY2026 reflects a 3% increase for Deputy Coroners due to the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). She reviewed overtime salaries. She noted that significant amount of overtime is being spent due to the CBA allowing each Deputy ten hours of straight time and four hours of premium overtime per pay period. Additionally, the Office has been short one Deputy, in which others had to cover the caseload. Silva shared the Coroner's Office's challenges, such as increasing costs for autopsies and toxicology, reducing the length of time to close cases, staff turnover due to low wages, and quality of life issues due to employee shortage and long work hours. She shared several reviews from County residents. Silva stated that the last three challenges are related to the fact that the Office is short-staffed. She explained that the Office requires eight Deputy Coroners to meet minimum staffing requirements. However, the Kane County Coroner's Office has five Deputy Coroners, with one on limited duty. Each year, the

Coroner's Office loses one Deputy Coroner due to low salaries and large caseload. Silva addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

## **12. Judiciary & Courts (Villa/O'Brien)**

Chief Judge Villa spoke on the involvement of federal law enforcement at the Kane County courthouses over the past month. He explained that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been operating in the County's courtrooms for numerous years. He stated there is nothing new about federal law enforcement arresting those with federal warrants within the courtrooms. However, the way these are conducted has changed. Villa explained that previous to the Trust Act, federal law enforcement would identify themselves to the Sheriff's Office and courts stating who they had a warrant for. These individuals would be escorted through the Kane County's jail system and transported. Now, the Trust Act prevents local law enforcement from interacting and assisting with federal law enforcement. Villa explained that now the federal law enforcement agents come to Kane County's public spaces to locate these individuals who have federal warrants. He commended the Kane County Sheriff's Office and Court Services for their seamless work on dealing with these types of situations. He stated that Kane County has had no incidences. He recalled seeing ICE Agents in the Kane County Sheriff's Office's parking lot. He explained to the agents that Kane County entered a General Order in May 2025 and asked them to abide by it, and to his satisfaction, they have. He stated that they have tried to be as non disruptive as possible.

### **A. Judiciary & Courts' FY2026 Budget Presentation**

Chief Judge Villa presented the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Judiciary and Courts FY2026 Budget. He compared the FY2024 actual expenses versus the FY2026 submitted expenses. He stated that he could not reconcile the request of the Kane County Finance Committee of planning the budget off of the FY2024 Actual. In FY2024, the Judiciary and Courts returned 14.15% to the County's General Fund, which equated to \$602,349. The average yearly return to the General Fund is 9.5%. Villa stated that unlike household budgets where expenses are controlled, the Judiciary and Courts' expenses are dependant upon the projections of what society will bring. Additionally, the Judiciary and Courts have expend millions of dollars due to state mandated obligations. Due to all these, Judiciary and Courts budget for what is anticipated. Villa stated that in FY2024, Judiciary and Courts had state reimbursements of \$645,925.68 for interpreter services. He noted that the County receives a 100% reimbursement for interpreter services. However, the state does not reimburse for exotic language interpreters, which needs to be covered by the Judiciary and Courts' budget. Villa explained that the FY2026 Submitted Budget of \$5,194,829 is a \$1.5M difference from the FY2024 Actual Budget. However, the majority of this increase is due to the annual return of money back to the County's General Fund and the reimbursement amount for interpreter services. Villa explained that the main difference in the FY2026 Submitted Budget is the requested \$900K for interpreter services. He noted that year-to-date the Courts have expended \$725K for interpreter services, and it is expected to continue to rise each year. Villa shared the five-year comparison of the actual expense amounts from

FY2024 to FY2025. He stated that each year, there is an approximate \$100K difference. He spoke on the unpredictability of the services that will need to be provided each year to the public. He explained that if the amount returned is accounted for plus the reimbursement amounts, it is found to be difficult to cut 30% from the Judiciary and Courts budget. He stated that the FY2026 Submitted Budget is as lean as it can be. He spoke on the state mandated expenses that expends a large portion of the budget. He reviewed the possible budget cuts of \$50K that could be done, such as not providing food for jurors. He stated that as the County continues to grow, the services provided by the Judiciary and Courts will increase, as well. If budget cuts need to be done, services will need to be removed. Villa and Court Admin. O'Brien addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

**13. State's Attorney (J. Mosser)**

- A.** Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Illinois, Department of Human Services - Juvenile Justice Council Grant

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Vern Tepe
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams

- B.** State's Attorney's FY2026 Budget Presentation

State's Attorney Mosser explained that the FY2026 Budget presentation will be shared in two parts. She will discuss the procedural aspects of Judicial and Public Safety and what duties and services are provided. She explained that the Judicial and Public Safety entities are service providers and cannot make budget cuts in the traditional way most other departments/offices could. Mosser handed out the State's Attorney's Office's (SAO) 2024 Annual Budget Report. She explained that this report details what occurred in FY2024. She requested that the Committee pay attention to the amount of Domestic Violence cases that have significantly increased. Just like the Chief Judge, Mosser explained that she needs to budget for what is anticipated, which is out of her control and she must be reactive in her budgeting process. She spoke on the budget requirements of the County and the Judicial and Public Safety partners. She explained that the County Board has to prepare an annual budget that accounts for all sources of revenue and anticipated expenditures. Additionally, the Board must determine the amount of County taxes to be levied for all purposes. Mosser stated as County Officers or Department Heads, they must look at the budget to see whether or not the County Board has taken in all consideration of revenue sources, such as interest income and state income. Currently, she



explained that the County Board has not determined whether to increase property taxes, either for growth or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to truly determine the budget deficit. She reviewed Section 2-48 of the Kane County Code that outlines the budget responsibilities of the County Board and its committees. She shared the budget process that must be followed before the County Board can suggest any budget changes. She stated that the County Board has suggested budget cuts before any reports were made on the proposed budgets. Due to this, the suggested cuts are not based on the needs of the County, departments, and offices. Mosser explained that the County Board has the general power of county fiscal, financial, and budgetary management and authority to adopt the annual budget. Additionally, under Illinois law, County Boards have a duty to fund County Officers and are required to provide proper rooms and offices, and reasonable and necessary expenses for the use of the various County officers. Mosser spoke on Internal Control. She explained that the County Board's budget authority is limited to the appropriation of an aggregate lump sum amount for necessary equipment, materials, and services required by the County Officer and Officers must stay within the appropriated amount for each classification. Mosser spoke on her personal internal control and how she has been fiscally responsible over her four-year tenure. She explained that during her four-year tenure, she has dealt with unfunded mandates and record high attrition rates of staff based on inequitable pay between counties. In summary, Mosser repeated that it is the County Board's duty to appropriate sufficient funds for County Officers to operate their offices and perform their statutory duties. She stated that failure to appropriate sufficient funds to permit County Officers to carry out their statutory duties could be viewed as an abuse of discretion. Lastly, Mosser stated that 100% of the SAO's proposed budget is necessary to continue to serve the community, otherwise services will need to be cut.

SAO CFO Hunt explained that everything prepared for today's presentation was done in accordance with the direction of the Finance Committee. He stated that one of the challenges in trying to come up with a plan is due to it being focused on expenses and total disregard to additional revenue. He explained that the SAO's overall expense budget for FY2026 is \$20.6M. He noted that \$12.3M is located in the General Fund. The General Fund revenue budget totals \$2.7M, leaving \$9.6M to be covered by other revenue sources. Additionally, the SAO generates approximately \$5.4M that completely covers the various Special Revenue Funds. Hunt stated that the SAO's FY2026 Budget proposal is 60% funded by the County and 40% funded by other sources. He shared a table depicting the General Fund - 2024 Actual versus FY2026 Submitted Budget, which was the County Board's original direction for the FY2026 Budget. He explained some of the changes that needed to be made to the presented numbers to adequately represent the appropriate amounts. Hunt stated that even with the changes made, the SAO's updated submission would need a \$2,232,293 reduction from their budget, if only focused on expenses and not equating for the additional new grant funding. He reviewed the external grant monies that the SAO have and will receive that should be considered when

planning the budget. He stated that the SAO's budget within the General Fund is primarily salaries. He explained that everyone assigned to the SAO's work chart is assigned to a team.

Mosser added that her office provides services, prosecutes cases, and represents the County. She explained that if the SAO needs to cut \$2.2M from the FY2026, the services that her office provides will need to be cut. These services include the Child Exploitation Unit, Major Crimes Unit, Advocates, Special Victims' Unit, Deferred Prosecution Unit, Abuse and Neglect Unit, and Specialty Court Division. She stated that if the \$2.2M needs to be cut, then she would need to fire 26 employees whose salaries come from the General Fund, which accounts for 19% of the entire staff. Additionally, this budget cut of \$2.2M would force Mosser to choose what type of cases to prosecute. She stated that her job in this County is to prosecute crime, and she should not have to pick which cases to actually prosecute.

Hunt provided summaries of the FY2026 SAO Proposed Budget by Category, the FY2026 SAO Proposed Budget by Category Compared to FY2024 Actual Budget, and the FY2026 SAO Proposed Budget by Category Compared to FY2025 Adopted Budget.

Mosser emphasized that Judicial and Public Safety is just that, Public Safety. She believes that everyone here in Kane County lives in a safe community because of the initiatives that have been brought forth. She explained that her office is aggressive in prosecutions of those that harm the County. She asked that the Judicial and Public Safety Committee make the recommendation to the Finance Committee that they do not have the sweeping cuts that will in turn make the County unsafe.

Hunt spoke on the \$1M Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Grant that was received to establish the Human Exploitation Unit. He explained that the SAO was also awarded two Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). He noted that unlike most of the grants received, the two JAG awards do not require the SAO to hire additional staff, which allows the revenue to flow to the bottom line. He stated that, traditionally, County budgets were compared to the previous year. However, for the FY2026 Budget, the direction was to look at the FY2024 Actual Budget. Hunt shared a table depicting the FY2026 Budget Summary versus the New Budget Metric. He explained that the General Fund's FY2024 Actual Budget expenses were \$10,096,821. The FY2026 Submitted expenses are \$12,329,114, which is a \$2,232,293 difference. Hunt spoke on the new budget metric and the removal and expiration of grant revenues. He shared the SAO FY2026 Budget based upon the new budget metric. He explained that the budgeted grant revenues match exactly, charges for services and reimbursements have increased, and fines continue to decrease. He stated that the SAO's budgeted expenses increased to \$1,274,773, which salaries account for 97%. He explained that the main complaint of the FY2026 Budget Exhibit A that was presented by the

Finance Committee is that it does not include the 3.2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) that was passed in FY2025. Hunt listed the contents that have been included in the FY2026 Budget. He explained that one of the things that the SAO continues to be focused on is finding new grant revenues. He shared a graph depicting the grant revenue for the General Fund over the past five years. He explained that while expenses are increasing, the SAO are doing their best at finding grants to supplement them. Mosser and Hunt addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued. (Committee Member Gripe left at 11:00 a.m.)

**14. Public Defender (R. Conant)**

**A. Monthly Report**

Public Def. Conant stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

**B. Public Defender's FY2026 Budget Presentation**

Public Def. Conant presented the FY2026 Budget. She stated that the Kane County Public Defender's Office (PDO) is made up of 40 attorneys, 10 support staff, and two investigators. She noted that over half of the staff are attorneys who work in the courtrooms 365 days a year moving forward the Judicial system efficiently and effectively. She presented the PDO's organizational chart. She shared a graph depicting the opened and closed files from 2020 to 2025. In 2024, out of the cases that were closed, 79% were closed in one year or less, with 56% of the cases being closed in six months. Conant explained that the PDO has 18 current murder cases, with six set for trial. Between 2022 and 2023, the PDO was assigned 37 murder cases, which was unprecedented for the office. Additionally, in 2024, the PDO opened 3,327 felony cases and 4,238 misdemeanors. Conant explained that differences in cases that were handled by the PDO versus the State's Attorney's Office (SAO). She spoke on the average appointments of the Kane County PDO and the American BAR Association caseload standards. In Kane County, there is an average of 199 cases per felony attorney, compared to the 150 American BAR Association caseload standard. Additionally, there is an average of 384 cases per misdemeanor attorney, compared to the standard of 300. Conant explained that when these limits are exceeded, attorneys must triage cases. Attorneys provide their best in moving cases through the Judicial system, but face coming close to not providing efficient and effective representation of the clients. Conant shared a comparison of starting salaries between Kane County, Lake County, DuPage County, and Will County. She stated that Kane County's salaries for Assistant Public Defenders are not exorbitant in comparison to other counties. She addressed the challenges the PDO faced when there was not equitable pay for attorneys and how the approved pay increases have helped with retaining adequate staff. Conant presented FY2021 through FY2026 budget comparisons of revenues and expenses. She stated that just like the other Judicial partners, the PDO provides services. She explained that in order to meet the requested budget restrictions, the PDO would need to cut employees. She stated that Public Defenders are mandated by the Constitution, the U.S Constitution, the

Illinois Constitution, and Illinois State Law. Assistant Public Defenders (APD) are required to be in every courtroom. Conant stated that the PDO's FY2025 Budget was 96.3% salaries and wages. She noted that the contractual obligations within the budget do not equate to what has been requested to be cut for FY2026. She pointed out that each year she has developed the annual budget, the PDO has come under budget and given money back to the County. She addressed the repercussions if asked to cut 16% from the PDO's FY2026 Budget. Overall, the assistance to council would be affected significantly in every courtroom in Kane County. She spoke on the state mandates that have been placed upon the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit and the burdens it has caused on the PDO. Conant presented the salaries and wages from FY2025 and FY2026 comparing union and non-union employees. She stated that the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for staff is in its final year. The step-up increase within the CBA is 4%. She explained that the non-payroll expenses are slight increases to contractual obligations. Conant addressed the state mandates and requirements of the PDO. The majority of these mandates are unfunded and require APDs to be in courtrooms. However, none of the mandates state how many APDs are required, but Conant believes that the numbers shared today and in the past show the office is consistently busy and the caseloads continue to increase. She stated that the number of attorneys that the PDO has is necessary to move the Judicial system forward. She added that eliminating attorneys from the PDO will negatively impact the entire County's Judicial system. She explained that she has not requested any more attorney positions and has asked for a small increase for FY2026. She stated that the PDO is trying to provide quality representation to clients with the budget that has been allotted. However, the Office will not be able to continue to do so if people need to be cut. Conant stated she has presented a budget that enables the PDO to perform the mandated duties.

With regards to the PDO's budget numbers, Chief Judge Villa stated that every defendant has the right to a speedy trial. He explained that there are two types of trial entitlements, one that falls under the Constitution and the other is a state statute. He stated that under staffing the PDO could result in an inability to move and defend cases that meet a defendant's request for a speedy trial. He added that the PDO works diligently to meet the required timelines and should be allowed to continue to do so.

## **15. Court Services Administration (L. Aust)**

### **A. Monthly Report**

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated the following monthly reports were on file. She stated that everything within the monthly reports remain consistent month to month. She explained that within the financial report, Court Services is projected to be \$1.2M under budget. She added that \$400K of this is due to a decrease in juvenile placement.

### **B. JJC Housing Report**

**C. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Montgomery County for Juvenile Detention Services**

Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust introduced the following resolutions requesting permission to allow the Kane County Juvenile Detention facility to increase the per diem amount charged to other counties when housing their detained children. She explained that the increase is significant because Court Services has taken into account all of the costs, such as the increasing medical cost. She stated that the increase cost is being passed onto the partners because it is unfair for Kane County taxpayers to absorb that extra expense.

Aust stated that this first resolution is requesting permission to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Montgomery County to hold their children at a per diem rate of \$225 per day.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Williams
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Vern Tepe
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jon Gripe

**D. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mason County for Juvenile Detention Services**

Court Srvs. Exec. Dir. Aust noted that all the intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) would be increasing to the same amount, but it will be as they expire. Therefore, there will be several of these types of resolutions in the future.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Rick Williams
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Gumz
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jon Gripe

- E. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Shelby County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michelle Gumz
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jon Gripe

- F. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Carroll County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Gumz
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jon Gripe

- G.** Authorizing a Food Services Contract Extension for the Juvenile Justice Center Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust stated that this resolution pertains to an addendum that piggy-backs the Kane County Adult Justice Center's facility food service. She stated that the Juvenile Justice Center's rate will be increasing \$4K and that the current budget will be able to cover the expense.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michelle Gumz
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>AYE:</b>	Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Michael Linder, Vern Tepe, and Rick Williams
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jon Gripe

- H.** Court Services' FY2026 Budget Presentation

Court Svcs. Exec. Dir. Aust presented the FY2026 Budget: Costs and Programs by Function. She reviewed the Court Services' functions and staff. The Court Services Department employs 189 staff members that is combined into divisions: Probation, Pretrial, Juvenile Detention, Diagnostic Center, and Administration. She shared a graph depicting the Court Services' FY2026 Budget by function, which equates to \$14,053,396. She noted that the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) continues to be the largest factor within the annual budget at \$5.5M. She compared the FY2024 expenses versus the FY2026 expenses, which remained substantially similar. The major contractual service that will be cut for FY2026 is in Juvenile Placement, which will be cut by approximately \$200K. Aust noted that the majority of Court Services' revenue comes from the State. In FY2024, expenses were \$13,939,808. In FY2026, the anticipated expenses are \$14,053,396. Aust spoke on the FY2024 Court Services' revenue sources, which equated to \$15,305,405. She explained that the County's share of Court Services' cost is \$5,711,667, which is 37%. The funding for Court Services that does not come from Kane County is \$9,593,739, which is 63%. Aust shared the FY2026 Court Services' revenue sources, which equates to \$15,175,006. The County's share of Court Services' cost is \$5,780,396. The Court Services' funding that is not provided by the County is \$9,384,339. Aust shared two graphs comparing the FY2024 versus FY2026 revenue, which is substantially similar, except for the revenue within the Special Funds. She reviewed Court Services' expenses over the past 10-years retrospective of expenses and the contents that affected them. She noted that every impact she reviewed over the 10-year span was a major reason for the requested increases. She stated that there was a 21.62% department increase and a 30.63% national rate of inflation from 2014 to 2023. Aust spoke on some cautionary anecdotes

from the Federal government, such as repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and cutting Medicaid, juvenile placement, and Juvenile Drug Court. She provided additionally information on the potential cut to Medicaid and the adverse affects it could have. Aust shared a graph that depicted Court Services' revenue over the past 10 years. In 2015, revenue started to decrease due to the implementation of the ACA. However, since the services were being used less, cost declined. In 2019, revenue started to increase due to the petition to the state to reimburse the County more, especially for staff. She spoke on the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) Salary Reimbursement Types, which are directly paid to the County's General Fund. Aust reviewed that Court Services' General Fund Budget by category. She noted that 90% of the budget is personnel. Aust reviewed the shift of expenses from the General Fund to Special/Restricted Funds for the Substance Abuse Screening Balance, Probation Fees Balance, and Drug Court Balance. She explained that she has built up these funds with federal grants for a rainy day, which is now upon the County. She spoke on the cost of the JJC and the reimbursement amounts that offset the annual costs. She addressed the possible shut down of the JJC and the cost to the County for outside housing of detained children. She explained that her cautionary note is that once the County Board comes to the point of cutting staff, to have Directors present the true cost of doing so. (Ex-Officio Roth left at 11:43 a.m.) Aust addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

**16. Circuit Clerk (T. Barreiro)**

**A. Monthly Report**

Circuit Clk. Barreiro stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

**B. Circuit Clerk's FY2026 Budget Presentation**

Circuit Clk. Barreiro presented the FY2026 Budget. She listed the duties and responsibilities of the Circuit Clerk's Office (CIC). She shared pictures depicting Kane County's court locations, which consists of 32 courtrooms that must be staffed by the CIC. Additionally, deputy clerks staff the Elgin Mental Health/Delnor, Mercy Medical Center, and St. Joseph Provena Medical Center for remote court. She explained that there was 284 Illinois Compiled State Statutes and Mandates that the CIC has to abide by. Barreiro spoke on the Pretrial Fairness Act. She explained that the largest concerns for the Act is how the County continues to fund it. Barreiro shared that CIC's organizational chart. She reviewed a chart that depicted the CIC's Budgeted and Actual Expenditures from 2020 to 2026. The FY2024 Actual Budget expenses were \$4,482,421.31. The FY2026 Submitted Budget expenses are \$5,641,229, which is a \$1,158,807.69 difference. She noted that 97% of expenses are salaries. Referencing the General Fund from 2020, she explained that the total expenses were \$6M, which is not a significant difference for FY2026. Barreiro shared a graph depicting the collections received from 2021 to 2024. She reviewed the total number of cases versus headcount versus eFile transactions. She explained that headcount has remained the same, while eFile filings have



increased substantially. She shared a graph that showed the expenditures and revenues from FY2020 to FY2025. She noted that the CIC still collects approximately 50% less than FY2018. The CIC used to collect \$50K per day, but now the revenue is approximately \$25K. For FY2026, the anticipated revenue is \$6,158,320 and expenditures are \$5,641,229. She noted that in FY2023, the County provided an equitable wage increase and the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) was approved. Barreiro reviewed the CIC's FY2026 Total Salary and Benefits by Fund. The total salary is \$5,033,658. The total benefits amount is \$1,934,490. Barreiro spoke on the total clerks needed to properly staff the office and the job responsibilities of each. She noted that going below the needed number of staff would mean that non-mandated services would need to be cut, such as customer service phones, chat, and email, which is over 200 calls daily. Additionally, staff would only be assigned to perform record keeping and court responsibilities. Barreiro reviewed additional affects on the courts, office, and customers that cutting staff would have.

Committee Member Gumz provided her input and thoughts on the Judicial and Public Safety Offices/Departments' FY2026 Budgets and the need for adequate services to protect residents. She questioned the importance of public safety to the County Board. Discussion ensued.

**17. Old Business**

None.

**18. New Business**

None.

**19. Place Written Reports on File**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Linder

**20. Executive Session (if needed)**

None.

**21. Adjournment**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Linder
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Gumz

This meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Savannah Zgobica

Sr. Recording Secretary