

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

9:00 AM

BOCC Meeting Room

### **Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners**

*Pursuant to Resolution #007-2016, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 20, 2016, members of the public are allowed to address the County Commission for a period of time limited to not more than five minutes or such time limits as may become necessary.*

*Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Sedgwick County, should contact the office of Crissy Magee, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator, 510 N. Main, Suite 306, Wichita, Kansas 67203. Phone: 316-660-7056, TDD: Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777*

*Email: [Crissy.Magee@sedgwick.gov](mailto:Crissy.Magee@sedgwick.gov), as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Please include the name, location, date and time of the service or program, your contact information and the type of aid, service, or policy modification needed.*

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:06 a.m. on September 12, 2018 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David T. Dennis, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Michael B. O'Donnell II; Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Commissioner James M. Howell; Mr. Michael Scholes, County Manager; Mr. Thomas Stolz, Deputy County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Assistant County Manager of Public Works, Facilities Maintenance, Project Services and County Engineer; Dr. Timothy Rohrig, Director, Regional Forensic Science Center; Ms. Deidre Helm, Project Manager, COMCARE Community Crisis Center; Ms. Bethany Corral, Interim Director, Human Resources; Ms. Eula West, Public Relation and Information Clerk; Mr. Scott Hadley, Assistant County Manager Public Safety/EMS Director; Ms. Kristen McGovern, Senior Buyer, Purchasing Department; Ms. Brandi Baily, Principal Accountant, Finance Department; Ms. Kate Flavin, Public Information Officer; Ms. Lynda Baker, Deputy County Clerk.*

#### **GUESTS**

*Mr. Bruce Gass, 1400 E. 59th Street South Ct., Wichita  
Dr. Nicole Klaus, Associate Professor, KU School of Medicine Wichita*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Pastor, thank you very much for being here today. I also try and recognize our elected officials, and Dr. Shelly Steadman is in the audience. Not only does she work for our [Regional] Forensic Science [Center] (RFSC), she is also the Mayor of Mulvane. Welcome. Next item, please."*

### **INVOCATION: Pastor Jeff Gannon, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church.**

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

*The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that all Commissioners were present.*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Next item, please."*

### **PUBLIC AGENDA**

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. I have one individual signed up to speak on the public agenda today. Bruce Gass is here to speak about field trips. Approach the podium please, and you have three minutes, sir."*

*Mr. Bruce Gass, 1400 E. 59th Street South Ct., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you Commissioners for your service, and thank you for the hours you spend listening to crazy people on the telephone, and I appreciate you guys. I serve at the pleasure of James Clendenin on several boards as a man off the street, and one of the*

*boards I serve on oversees a block grant from HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development), and as part of that, the funds that we use, we sponsor three day camps during the summer for underprivileged children. We are the soul financier of that program. It is actually an educational day camp. One of those, one of the activities that occurred during these three day camps is field trips, and some of these children, I am told, have never gotten out of their neighborhoods, and so the field trips are quite a highlight and very exciting.*

*"Two of those field trips are, of course, to Exploration Place and our beloved [Sedgwick County] Zoo. I was surprised as our camp director gave us a report, I was maybe naively surprised to find that we, the county, charge we the city for these children to come in to the zoo and to Exploration Place. I don't know if it's discounted or not, but I was surprised at that, and the left hand seems to be charging the right hand to do good with these children. So I've also been in city government long enough to know that everything is complicated, and number two, that I do not see the big picture like you gentlemen see the big picture. So my question is simple, I'd like to ask the county to stop charging for these children to come in to Exploration Place and the zoo when they are in these camps and on these field trips. Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you sir, and we can look into that. I don't have anyone else signed up to speak today, but we always offer it to anyone else that's in the audience. Does anyone else in the audience that did not have a chance to sign up, would they like to speak on the public agenda today? Seeing no one, next item, please."*

## **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

### **A     [18-691](#)**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2018.**

All Commissioners were Present.

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioners, you've all had a chance to review the minutes from August 8th [9th] and also from August 15th."*

#### **MOTION**

*Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 9, 2018 and August 15, 2018.*

*Commissioner O'Donnell seconded the motion.*

*There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.*

#### **VOTE**

Commissioner O'Donnell II	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Dennis	Aye

**Approved**

### **B     [18-690](#)**

#### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2018.**

All Commissioners were Present.

*Action for this item was taken with Item A*

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

**C**     [18-667](#)

PROCLAMATION DECLARING FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK.

Read by: Chairman David T. Dennis or his designee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the proclamation.

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioners, I have a proclamation to read."*

*WHEREAS, forensic science is a vital public service and access to quality forensic analysis dramatically improves the investigation of criminal activity leading to the exoneration of the innocent and the prosecution of the guilty; and*

*WHEREAS, forensic science plays a critical role in public outreach and crime prevention and that role is evolving within the criminal justice community; and*

*WHEREAS, crime scene investigators, forensic examiners, forensic scientists and forensic technicians provide unbiased, accurate and reliable analyses of evidence; and*

*WHEREAS, numerous professional organizations across the country have recognized September 16 – 22, 2018 as Forensic Science Week; and*

*WHEREAS, the dedicated and hard-working individuals that compose the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, are worthy of recognition for their commitment to proper scientific and medical investigations to support the cause of justice;*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Chairman David T. Dennis, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 16 - 22, 2018 as*

**FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK**

*throughout Sedgwick County, and encourage all residents to learn more about the importance of forensic science and show their sincere appreciation for the people, technologies and facilities that make reliable forensic science possible in our community.*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Dr. Rohrig is here to receive the proclamation."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the proclamation.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.*

**VOTE**

Commissioner O'Donnell II	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Dennis	Aye

County Clerk has assigned Resolution #126-2018.

Chairman Dennis said, "Welcome, Dr. Rohrig."

Dr. Timothy Rohrig, Director, Regional Forensic Science Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "On behalf of our 38 dedicated scientists and technicians at the center, I'm very pleased to accept this proclamation and extend a thank you to you. I was able to pull Dr. Steadman away from the laboratory to be here with me. The rest of the staff are busy working on cases as I speak. A lot of our work is really unknown to the public outside of the criminal justice system.

"Our drug chemists at the center, they identify new and dangerous drugs that are out on the streets in our community. Our DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) scientists, they will identify unknown burglars, rapists and others that commit very violent crimes in our community. Our firearms examiners will link guns that are used in drive-by shootings or in homicide cases, along with our toxicology scientists who will identify the dangerous drugs and people that are driving under the influence of them or that cause death to individuals in Sedgwick County.

"Not to mention our pathologists and our medical investigators. Our pathologists will help families understand why their loved ones passed away and how that may have occurred. Our medical investigators may be the first, and we're going to hear about this later today, will be the first individuals that come in contact with families of victims of suicide and extend their assistance in helping them understand this tragic event in their life. In addition to all of this work that our scientists do, we testify in court. We interpret, we explain these results to the jury, to the judge so they can understand the meaning of the work that we do. But more importantly, this mission could not be accomplished without your Commission, your support and backing of our center. So with that, I would like to thank you for the proclamation and also the support that you give the Regional Forensic Science Center. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, Dr. Rohrig. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "Dr. Rohrig, I'd just like to emphasize the fact that we appreciate the work of you and your staff in the proper administration of justice in our county and in the region. The scientific and technical knowledge that you all employ to come to right conclusions about facts in a case is absolutely invaluable, and I don't think that we could do the good job of providing good application of justice in our county without your services. So please express our appreciation to your folks."

Dr. Rohrig, said, "I will do that."

Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just wanted to say I agree with the previous comments, but I wanted to just highlight the fact that we're having a record level year in a bad way in the community. I think there's 37 homicides this year,

*if I understand correctly so far.”*

*Dr. Rohrig said, “It’s up, yes.”*

*Commissioner Howell said, “I know that adds a lot to what you have to do there in your facility there, so I just want to say thank you for managing the high pressures you’re dealing with right now, and I know that you do a tremendous job because you have to produce the scientific understanding and analysis of whatever goes before a court. So it’s scrutinized very harshly, if you will, and you guys do a great job. If I understand correctly, most of these homicides ultimately are solved in the Wichita area, so we have a great organization led by you and your staff, and I just want to say thank you for what you do. Despite the fact that things are more difficult today with all the added demographics and the statistics that are going the wrong direction, so to speak, you guys are keeping up with it and doing the job. We have not added a huge amount of staff to your organization, so you’re just finding ways to make it work, so I want to say thank you for doing that.”*

*Dr. Rohrig said, “Thank you, sir,”*

*Chairman Dennis said, “Thank you, Dr. Rohrig. One of the first places I got to tour after I came on the Commission was your Forensic Science Center and got to meet your staff and see what you do over there firsthand. I appreciate what you do for our community.”*

*Dr. Rohrig said, “Thank you.”*

*Chairman Dennis said, “Thanks for being here today. Next item, please.”*

**Adopted**

**D**     [18-682](#)

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK.**

Read by: Chairman David T. Dennis or his designee.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Adopt the proclamation.

*Chairman Dennis said, “Commissioners, I have another proclamation to read.”*

*WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12 minutes, with an average of 44,193 deaths by suicide a year. Every four days someone in Sedgwick County dies by suicide; and*

*WHEREAS, psychological studies have consistently found that the overwhelming majority of people who die by suicide—90 percent or more—had a mental health disorder at the time of their deaths, and often these disorders had not been recognized, diagnosed or adequately treated; and*

*WHEREAS, far too many Sedgwick County residents and Kansans die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable. In 2017, 96 Sedgwick County residents died by suicide; and*

*WHEREAS, the mission of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to promote and implement evidence based approaches, local research and community change to reduce the impact of suicide with the ultimate goal of zero suicides in*

*Sedgwick County; and*

*WHEREAS, in Sedgwick County help is available by calling the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 316-660-7500.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Chairman David T. Dennis, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of September 9-15, 2018, as*

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

*The topic of suicide will continue to challenge us all to increase our awareness and education, and I call upon the residents of our community to join me in learning to recognize the signs of someone at risk, taking those signs seriously, and knowing how to respond.*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Do I have a motion?"*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the proclamation.*

*Commissioner O'Donnell seconded the motion.*

*There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.*

**VOTE**

<i>Commissioner O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Dennis</i>	<i>Aye</i>

*County Clerk has assigned Resolution #127-2018.*

*Chairman Dennis said, "We have Deidre Helm, President of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, Manager of COMCARE's Community Crisis Center with us today. Welcome."*

*Ms. Deidre Helm, Project Manager, COMCARE Community Crisis Center (CCC), greeted the Commissioners and said, "I want to say, you're going to hear in a minute from Dr. Klaus about the statistics for suicide here in Sedgwick County in 2017. I want to say that this proclamation seems to be extremely important this year given that our rates are at a record high. So on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, I want to thank you for recognizing this and promoting the prevention efforts here in Sedgwick County so we can reach our goal of zero suicides here in the community. Thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, and thank you for all you do at COMCARE. Not just suicide prevention, but everything that you do to help folks that are in crisis, but this is an especially important week that we can get the word out to help everyone that may be contemplating anything as serious as that. We appreciate it very much."*

*Ms. Helm said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you for being here. Madam Clerk, next item."*

**Adopted**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**E     [18-634](#)     SEDGWICK COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION 2018  
ANNUAL REPORT.**

Presented by: Dr. Nicole Klaus, Associate Professor, KU School of  
Medicine-Wichita.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Receive and file.

**VISUAL PRESENTATION**

*Chairman Dennis said, "Welcome."*

*Dr. Nicole Klaus, Associate Professor, KU School of Medicine Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I appreciate this opportunity to be here with you this morning to share some of the data from the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition regarding 2017 deaths right here in our community. So I'm Nicole Klaus, and I'm a psychologist at KU [University of Kansas] School of Medicine and a member of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The data that I'm going to share with you this morning are really made possible through a collaboration with the Sedgwick County Division of Health and with Dr. Rohrig's team at the Regional Forensic Science Center.*

*"The resources and information provided from these organizations have been invaluable in tracking and monitoring what's going on with our suicide rates locally. So I feel like I come back year after year and have to tell you that we are again at a record high in suicide deaths in our community. There were 96 deaths last year, and that's the highest since we started tracking this data in 2001. We are not alone here in Sedgwick County. Here you can see the gray line is national rates, and those have been rising. But rates here in Sedgwick County and across Kansas are consistently higher than the national rates.*

*"When we look at method of suicide, we've seen that gunshot deaths have seen a pretty steep increase over the last several years, and suffocation and overdose deaths are the second and third causes of suicides, and that's consistent with national numbers as well. Last year, we had seen a spike in deaths among 25 to 34 year-olds, and this year that came back down to more typical levels. But we saw a significant increase this past year in older adult deaths as well as younger adults, the 15 to 24 year-olds. Males are much more likely to die of suicide than females. Roughly 75 percent of the suicide deaths in our community are males, and that's again consistent with national trends.*

*"Here in Sedgwick County, the vast majority of suicide deaths are in non-Hispanic white males. We saw this year that 60 percent of the individuals who died of suicide had a known history of mental illness, so that does not include those who had unknown or undiagnosed mental health conditions. Roughly a third of individuals who died had a history of suicidal thoughts, and about a quarter of them had a history of suicide attempts. When we talk about the increasing rates of suicide in the*



community, the question always becomes why is this happening and what's going on with these individuals? So for the first time this year through some collaboration with the Forensic Science Center, we were able to dig a little bit more deeply into that and look at recent life stressors.

"What we found was that in younger individuals, relationship stressors were the most common type of stressor described, and in older individuals, we saw higher rates of physical health problems. Overall, just over half of our individuals who died of suicide had a history of a significant medical issue. Other factors that came up in the data last year, nearly a quarter of those who died of suicide were veterans. About a third had alcohol in their system at the time of death, and about a quarter had an illegal drug in their system. Even one suicide death in our community is too many. Suicide is preventable, and I would invite the entire community to get involved and learn about warning signs and how to access help for themselves or a loved one who may need that. We had volunteers out around the community on Monday handing out these bookmarks, and I believe you guys all got copies of those that describe some of the warning signs, as well as what you can do to help somebody who may be struggling.

There are also several events coming up and opportunities in the community to get involved and help prevent suicide. So this Friday, the VA (Veteran's Administration) is hosting a Mental Health Summit, and the topic is Preventing Suicide through Building Communities, and that is free and open to the public. I believe they would appreciate an advanced registration, just so they know how many are coming, but I'd invite everybody to come out and be involved in that. On Saturday, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is hosting an Out of the Darkness Walk for suicide prevention, and there is also a free suicide prevention training coming up at the downtown Y.M.C.A. (Young Men's Christian Association) a week from this Saturday. So there are several opportunities, and I'd encourage everybody to get involved and try to prevent suicide. Thank you for your time, and I would welcome any questions you guys may have."

Chairman Dennis said, "Well Doctor, thank you very much for being here today to speak with us. We appreciate it very much, especially during this suicide prevention period of time, and providing us the information. I believe we have a Commissioner that's got some comments. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Klaus, thank you for being here today and providing this update. It's still a, I mean, I think I'm healthy minded, but this is depressing to see these statistics that we have 97 [96] folks in our community who decided to take their life. Is there, I don't think in your presentation, did you talk about economic factors or is that an influence in this?"

Dr. Klaus said, "You know, one of the things that we were looking for as we were reviewing autopsy files was economic issues or stressors, and I can go back to our life stressors slide. Financial problems and job problems were identified in a handful of those who died of suicide, but the relationship and health stressors were much more common. Those were just the ones where it was noted in that autopsy file that that was a particular stressor for the individual, but certainly just larger economic factors may certainly play a role."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well I was curious about why the different, why the spike in older and younger, but I think that you answered that question. For the younger people, it was just peer pressure type issues?"

*Dr. Klaus said, "It was often some sort of relationship problem, often a breakup of a relationship or conflict within a family or friendship that was a precipitating or contributing factor."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well, I appreciate that you have called this to our attention, once again. I think we need frequent reminders of this and just, you know, hope that you have good success in trying to get the word out that it is preventable, and each one of us has a responsibility to be sensitive and respond when we see the indicators of suicide tendencies. So thank you for being here."*

*Dr. Klaus said, "Absolutely, I hope to be back with better news next year."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "So do I."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Well thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask, can you provide some data going back a couple of years on how these numbers have changed on these different demographics, for example, the veterans? Is that a fairly static number, 23 percent of the breakdown, is that typical, or how is that changing?"*

*Dr. Klaus said, "That I don't know off the top of my head. This past year, we made some efforts in collaboration with the [Regional] Forensic Science Center to get some additional data that we hadn't had before, and that's one of those things that we were looking at. So for some of these data, we do have the trends over several years, and for some of them, these are new data coming in to our group."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Then the total number, 96 being the record, what I remember maybe a year or two ago was the number was about half that. Is that about right? Can you remember?"*

*Dr. Klaus said, "It's been a while since we were at half of that. You know, I think back 10 years ago and I can remember the rates being in the 50's and 60's."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay."*

*Dr. Klaus said, "So, it's certainly been trending up."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Anyway, if you have that data, it would be very, it'd be something I would like to look at and understand a little better."*

*Dr. Klaus said, "Absolutely, I can get you those numbers."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I think this ties into the issue of our mental health and substance abuse addiction treatments that we are involved in with COMCARE. Obviously there's a lot of work to do here, and I am concerned that we're not doing enough, and the numbers I remember looking at, maybe it's a third higher, but I just think there's been a steep curve, and it makes me wonder what's going on. One of the things I am familiar with a little bit, and that is, again, I've been knocking on doors talking to lots of people about a lot of topics, but this topic has come up with the people I've been speaking with, and some of those that have been personally influenced by family members who have committed suicide."*

*"We've had discussions, and one of the things I'm concerned about, and I don't know what we can do here, but there's a little bit of a fear when people call a suicide hotline of not knowing what's going to happen to them. In other words, they feel like they're making the call that's going to change their life in a way they're not in control of it. So is there a way we can comfort them and let them know that their life will not change, we just simply want to engage them with help and they're still in control."*

*Dr. Klaus said, "Sure."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I think that that fear is a deterrent to them making that phone call. Can you talk about that a little bit?"*

*Dr. Klaus said, "Sure. The suicide prevention hotline is really designed to be a resource for people. So when an individual calls, certainly if they have made a suicide attempt or we feel like their life is in immediate danger, we're going to get them some help immediately, and call on the nice folks from EMS (Emergency Medical Services) to assist us with that. But if they're just struggling and need some resources to treat their depression or their substance use, we are going to provide them with those resources and try to hook them up with things that they can then be in control of accessing to improve their life and their mental health."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you. Then the final thing, again, I think there's a stigma also, if someone who says they need some help, let's say they're having a bad time of life and you can imagine maybe there's some health issues going on or relationship issues or financial issues, that they're going through a bout of depression, if they declare that, that they need that help, and for some folks in certain careers, it can change their career from that point forward. So there was a deterrent to them to actually admit that they need some help. So I would like to, I guess as a, maybe this is a national discussion that needs to happen. But there ought to be a way for someone to get help and not necessarily lose their career over it. If you're flying an airplane, for example..."*

*Dr. Klaus said, "Absolutely."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "...and you're going through one of these situations, I would rather have someone flying an airplane that's getting treatment than somebody who's in denial because they don't want to admit that they're having a problem, so which is safer for the community? I'd rather have someone get the help and not be stigmatized and lose their career over that, so that's a national discussion, but I'd like to have, I guess, I don't know how to get that conversation started, but the stigma needs to be considered that if someone loses their career, the Department of Transportation (DOT) drivers, for example. If they admit that they have a, you know, a depression issue, they may not be able to drive a truck. So I understand the concern for the community, but not admitting that and not accepting that help, is probably more dangerous. So anyway, it's a concern I've got, and again, I've talked to lots of people at the doors about this, and I've had a lot of folks say absolutely, that's an issue we need talk about."*

*Dr. Klaus said, "Yeah, and I think one of the ways to address stigma is to get more people out and involved in some of these activities that I was referencing. The more that we talk about this, the more we can reduce stigma, and I absolutely agree with you. Addressing these problems early is going to be much better for a person's professional reputation than not addressing it."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Well anyway, I just want to say thank you for the presentation once again, and I hope things are better next year, but I think you're doing a great job, and thank you for bringing the data to us this year. Thank you, Chairman."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Well thanks, again, for being here. I'm very pleased that you're working with the VA. It's tragic that 23 percent of the folks are veterans, the same people that protected all of our lives and protected our country are now taking theirs for some reason. We've got to find a solution to that. I appreciate it. Thank you."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to receive and file.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.*

**VOTE**

<i>Commissioner O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Dennis</i>	<i>Aye</i>

*Chairman Dennis said, "Next item, please."*

**Received and Filed**

**F**      [18-680](#)

**PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES.**

**Presented by:** Bethany Corral, Interim Human Resources Director.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Present the Certificates.

*Chairman Dennis said, "Good morning, Bethany. Welcome. Who are we starting with?"*

*Ms. Bethany Corral, Interim Director, Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're going to start with Eula."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Very good."*

*Ms. Corral said, "So our first retirement is Eula West, Public Relation and Information Clerk. Eula was hired December 5th, 1969 and is retiring Friday, September 15th after 49 years of service. Eula, would you like to say a couple words?"*

*Ms. Eula West, Public Relation and Information Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Just give me a minute."*

*Ms. Corral said, "More than a couple, I'm sure. I won't stand in your way."*

*Ms. West said, "Good morning Commissioners, County Manager and everybody. I can't imagine me standing up here, but I guess it's real. They told me it was. But I can't believe that when I come in here, I come in for two weeks work. Mr. Paul Pickler, who was the purchasing agent with the telephone people, he said when I got through I was doing a little study for the telephone people, and he says, Eula, he said, I have a*

*question for you. Can you help me out for a couple of weeks? He said, I've got a girl on vacation and I need you. I said, oh well, maybe so. So I worked the two weeks, went back to Mr. P. and I said, Mr. P, two weeks is up. Well Eula, I said oh no, not now. He said can you work January, February and March. He said that's the busiest month we have around here. You can get your auto tags regardless of what your name is. I said, well, I guess so.*

*"So I worked that three months, went back to him, and he said, Eula, I have one more question. I said oh no, now what? He said would you like to have a job? I said well I guess so, I've worked half of the year now. So that's how it come me to be here. I don't know why I had a massive stroke, but the good Lord knows, but you can tell it didn't take my big mouth. It took my eye but not my big mouth, so I can still tell people where to go. I'm very happy. I've been happy with my job. I hate to be leaving, but if I can't give my best, I can walk, so that's what I'm doing today, but I appreciate everybody here. I appreciate all my friends, even to the County Manager, he's my big boss. But anyway, I've had a lot of bosses. They have been wonderful to me. They've been supportive to me, had one female, and that was Lela Albright. The rest have been male bosses, but they've been wonderful.*

*"So with that, I'm going to say farewell, but we're going to meet in this room again. I think it's about 2 o'clock for refreshments. So now, if you want to come by for refreshments, I don't think we have any here today, you can come back after noon at 2 [p.m.], okay? Well with that, I'm going to say goodbye and may God bless."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Well Ms. Eula, don't, Ms. Eula, Ms. Eula, if you would wait up there for just a moment, I'm sure that the Commissioners all want to say something. I'm going to come down and present your certificate in a minute. I'm going to leave the bench and come down and do that, but we have a few things that we'd like to talk about."*

*Ms. West said, "Okay."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "We're going to talk a little bit more this afternoon at 2 o'clock when we have your going away, but I'm going to start it off, a little discussion about Ms. Eula before that the other Commissioners so that, and then I'll turn it over to Commissioner Unruh. He can run it while I head down. But you know, I've only known Ms. Eula personally for a couple years, but I want to read a letter that is in her personnel file, okay? This letter is dated March 27th, 2000, and it was written to Commissioner Tom Winters who was the Commissioner of District 3 at that time.*

*"It says 'Dear Commissioner Winters, on March 14th, students from North High School Business Department had the opportunity to tour several key activities within Sedgwick County Courthouse. The visit and discussions could not have been possible without the superb support and assistance of Ms. Eula West. She assisted with the planning and scheduling of our visit, along with guiding our students throughout the tour. She is truly a valuable asset to Sedgwick County. Her assistance was very much appreciated. Our tour began with a visit to the 911 facility where Ms. Tina Hood provided an outstanding overview of the facility and how it operates within Sedgwick County. Following the 911 tour, Mr. Randy Duncan from Emergency Management took time to talk to our students about how his department serves the citizens of our community. Last but not least, the students had the opportunity to observe Judge Joseph Bribiesca's courtroom during an actual trial. The next day, Ms. West followed up our visit with a call to give us the verdict in the court case that the students had observed.*

*That type of personal interaction with our students was the norm for each of the Sedgwick County employees we had an opportunity to meet. Please pass on our sincere appreciation to each of these individuals, thank them for the time and effort they gave our students, which made the visit both educational and enjoyable. Sincerely, signed David T. Dennis, North High Business Department'. I signed that letter about 17 years ago, 18 years ago."*

*Ms. West said, "Yes Commissioner, I give, in the December months, I give an interview with all the high schools for their Madrigal singers, and they was happy to come in."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Well I appreciate it. I appreciated you back on March of 2000, I appreciate you today. I know that the other Commissioners are going to want to have a chance to talk, but I'm going to go down. Commissioner Unruh will guide the discussion, and I'll come down to see you. Thank you. Any other Commissioners wish to speak at this time?"*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Well Commissioners, before you turn on your lights, I'll just make my comments and say Eula, you clearly have had an impact on so many lives, that not only visitors to Sedgwick County but also to the employees here at the courthouse. You are consistently cheerful and optimistic and energetic and encouraging, and those are the things that, you know, we need around here a lot. So we really appreciate that, but one of the things you just mentioned is also, I think, worthy of emphasis and that's the fact that you schedule Madrigal groups to come here during Christmastime, and that's, you know, that's great to celebrate Christmas that way, but it brightens up the courthouse. Visitors and employees here all really enjoy it, so I just want to say especially thank you for your effort in doing that. We do have more comments. Commissioner O'Donnell."*

*Commissioner O'Donnell thanked the Chairman and said, "Eula, you're obviously an institution, a legend, and nobody wants to see you go, but understand that you felt at 90, that was probably an appropriate time to go, but I appreciated celebrating your 90th birthday out at the farm last year. That was a lot of fun, but you're wonderful and I wish you well in retirement, and I hope you come back and visit us. But we all love you and anybody's that been through the courthouse over the last 50 years..."*

*Ms. West said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner O'Donnell said, "...loves you too. I mean, it's incredible, your longevity."*

*Ms. West said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner O'Donnell said, "So thank you."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you. I just wanted to say I came here a few years ago. I didn't know you before then, but you came up and you were so welcoming and cheerful and smiling and loving, and every time I see you, you're always the same. I'm not sure that you've ever been anything but smiley and loving to everyone. I call you the personality of Sedgwick County."*

*Ms. West said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I was just curious. I went back to 1969 to see how many Commissioners you've interfaced with. Did you know there's been 28 Commissioners?"*

*Ms. West said, "Well, I really don't know what retirement qualifications are, but they told me that it was so many years of service plus your age. Well, let's see I've got 49 years of service, and I'm 91, so I think that qualifies me, don't you?"*

*Commissioner Howell said, "You sure do. I think you're topped out, but 28 Commissioners have been here since you've been here."*

*Ms. West said, "Oh, yeah."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So we come and go, but you're an icon. Everybody knows you."*

*Ms. West said, "I have all of the service books that we printed up until they no longer printed them, and they date back to 1969, so if anybody wants the books. I'm often called on with who was the Sheriff back in '74, who was, and I always had to relate back to them."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Well anyway, thank you."*

*Ms. West said, "I've got a pretty good mind, but not that far."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "You're going to be missed. We'll always think of you, especially around Christmastime, and may I say the word peanut brittle. You've done a tremendous job just loving this community in every way, so thank you for all you've done here."*

*Ms. West said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Eula, I just want to echo everything that the other Commissioners had. You truly are the face of Sedgwick County. You'll be missed. We hope you come back and visit us, and we'll see and talk to you more this afternoon and wish you the best of luck in retirement."*

*Ms. West said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Well thanks everybody here, and like I say, you're invited to the refreshments at 2 o'clock if you wish to come."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Very good. Can we go around in front of the podium and we'll get some pictures."*

*Ms. West said, "Well, alright."*

*Ms. Corral said, "Next we have Scott Hadley, our EMS Director. Scott was hired as a temporary EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) on February 22nd, 1989, and during his 29 years, Scott has served in many roles in EMS and has been our EMS Director since 2010. Scott is retiring on Monday, September 17th, after 29 years of service."*

*Here are some things you may not know about Scott and his career. He was an ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified master automotive technician and worked as a mechanic for 10 years at a local car dealership prior to his EMS career. One year his EMS co-workers and friends planned a surprise birthday party for him, but they forgot to invite him. His wife Laura had to stalk him because, in his words, he was too dumb to ask her out. He was the first person in his immediate family to earn a college degree, and he has baked 150 red velvet cupcakes with cream cheese frosting each Christmas since 2011 and delivered them to the on-duty EMS crews working that day and night. Congratulations, Scott. Would you like to say a few words?"*

*Mr. Scott Hadley, ACM Public Safety/EMS Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you, thank you. I appreciate it, and yes, I won't get into the stalking story, but it's not really that, I don't want to paint it in that way, but I was too dumb to ask her out, so she had to find me. But anyway, I do appreciate her. She's been my bedrock and she's been by my side every, the bulk of my career. I wouldn't be here today without her. I think she deserves one of the Manager's coins for enduring me the last 24 years, so we need to congratulate her. But I want to take a trip back in time just for a moment and make a couple points. 1974 was a pivotal moment for Sedgwick County EMS. In 1974, there was discourse and increasing degree of dissatisfaction with a private provider providing services to the city of Wichita and the county wasn't getting the same level of services. So some wise folks back in 1974 decided Sedgwick County would take the lead.*

*"On August 22nd, 1974, the Board of County Commission entered into the first agreement with the City of Wichita and formalized what we are today, a Sedgwick County EMS providing, being the exclusive provider for emergency services for both the city of Wichita and Sedgwick County. It wasn't really supposed to go into effect until the following summer 1975, but things didn't go well. So about the third week in February 1975, Sedgwick County EMS made its first call to citizens of the community. By the end of that year, eight new ambulances were delivered, and we responded to a little over 6,000 calls for service. Let's fast forward to today. Today we're running about 10 times that amount of calls, we're looking at about 63,000 calls.*

*"Although the faces have changed in each of those governing bodies, the unwavering commitment to our citizens has never wavered at all, and I greatly appreciate that. You've been very supportive of EMS over the years, and I am very grateful to be part of that and to be part of that history of EMS. You can pick up a paper today and read somewhere in the country we're shutting down EMS services, the communities will no longer be able to get EMS services, the provider there is leaving. That has never been the case there. In fact, we're adding services next year. Citizens we're in enhanced services next year. We're going to open up a new station either the end of this year or the first of next year. We just remodeled a station which is set to open next week again.*

*"So there's been an ongoing support, and I've got the privilege of being here serving the community all of those years, so I am very grateful. If you didn't know, as of today, we've responded to about a million and half calls for service and transported a little under 1.1 million patients to hospitals and other destinations in Sedgwick County today. That is just remarkable, and we couldn't have done that without the support. A lot of my supporting cast is here today, and those folks will be here when I walk out the door Monday night, will be here continuing to deliver those services at a high quality level, and I want to rest, that you're rest assured and the citizens are assured they're still going to get quality services, and I am just so grateful and fortunate and privileged*



*to be able to stand here before you today and get to lead EMS. It's just been an awesome and humbling journey, and I am extremely grateful, and I want to thank you and all of our other public safety partners, hospital partners, everybody that makes us what we are today. So thank you very much."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, Scott. I'm going to start it off again this time and turn it over to Commissioner Unruh once again, because I want to be able to present you your retirement certificate. But one of the people that I've worked with probably closer than anyone in the two years I've been on the Commission is Scott Hadley as Director of EMS. We've worked some really important issues for the future of Sedgwick County EMS. First of all, we found out that the VA hadn't been paying us a notice of a million and a half dollars. We're still working that issue today by the way, but we're getting closer. But that's been an ongoing issue for over a year now, just trying to solve that. But I got to know Scott and his leadership ability through that."*

*"Then recently we went into negotiations with the city of Wichita on providing EMS for the citizens inside the city of Wichita. That negotiation was much harder than I anticipated it was ever going to be. I probably learned more about EMS operations than most people will ever know on this Commission as we went through figuring out exactly how that it operates and how efficient that that operation is. Well over 99 percent of our calls are answered, this is non-emergent calls are answered within an hour. Within an hour for non-emergent calls, 99 percent. I think that's fantastic. How did that happen? It's because of Scott and his team of leaders that know how to manage an Emergency Management System. We're also certified, one of how many in the entire United States?"*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Accredited. We're one of about 180 in the United States out of about 16,000 ground ambulance services."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Out of 15,000, 180, and we're one of them. Again, that is Scott's leadership and Scott's team's leadership. We're going to miss you. We know that you're leaving behind a great team. That's part of being a great leader is that you always have to have someone that can step in when you leave. We appreciate the fact that you did leave a team behind you that can carry on your legacy. With that, I'm going to turn it over to Commissioner Unruh. He can make the first comments, and he can run it from there. I'm going to come down and it is my great honor to present you with your retirement. Thank you."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well Scott, I can say lots of things about you and the impact you've had on Sedgwick County. We can talk about your personality. You're a nice guy, good guy, fun to be around. We can talk about your character. We have absolute confidence in your integrity and your honesty and those things that make you a reliable person and dependable, somebody that we can depend upon in all situations, but the Chairman talked a lot about your leadership ability, and that's the tangible thing that's been so important to Sedgwick County over these years. I think it's evident, the impact that you've had on Sedgwick County public safety, and we are profoundly grateful that you have been willing to serve us and grateful for your excellent leadership. So thank you for that."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Thank you, sir."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "We have a comment from Commissioner O'Donnell."*

*Commissioner O'Donnell said, "Alright. Scott, thank you so much for your service. What many people don't know is that I've been friends with the Hadley's since 2005. When I was just 20, I started working for Laura, who is in the back of the room, so I can attest to what Scott said, that Laura does deserve the Manager's coin, and not just because of him, but because you managed me for what, four years? I'm not, despite popular belief, I'm not an easy person to manage, and so I came to love Laura and Scott through that, and just wonderful people. Scott, you've made Sedgwick County a safer place for the last 30 years and a better place for the last 30 years. There's not many people that can say that people are alive today and that people have had a higher quality of life because of somebody's career, but you have, and we've all benefited from that. You're not going to be easily replaced, and we're going to miss you, so thank you."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Thank you very much."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you so much. Director Hadley, I just wanted to let you know that you have represented the county extremely well. I think you're a tremendous professional. You're always sharply dressed, and you're distinguished. Your leadership is well noted. You're just a tremendous leader in every way, and you have built up a tremendous system. We started from very little, and you've grown that system to be one of the best in the nation. I've said that over and over. I'm extremely proud of all of our staff that work for you. You hone their skills, but they are also professional because of your leadership. I will stand up our EMS system to anyone in the nation. I think we have one of the very best in the nation.*

*"As a consequence, the public has an absolute total faith in that service we provide. I mean, you talk to anyone, the takeaway is they did a great job and they did their job extremely well, and we trust in their services and that is no accident. That just shows your leadership, that you've made this happen. So I want to say thank you for all of your service to the county. It is well noted, and whatever you do, I know it will be done well. It's your character, and we're going to miss you greatly. Thank you."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Thank you, sir."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yeah, I'll echo again everything everyone said, thank you very much for your professionalism, your dedication. You've done a wonderful job. I appreciate everything you've done. I truly hope that you enjoy your retirement, which by the way, did you have any plans for retirement you could tell us about? Are you going to travel the world or what?"*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Well we're going to, the first two weeks of October, we're going to Florida. My wife is originally from Florida, and we're going to make some determination if we're going to maybe relocate there again or stay around here. So we're going to travel a little bit and have a little fun."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Well, enjoy it. You deserve it. Thank you very much."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Thank you."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thanks."*

*Mr. Mike Scholes, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "So I've got some comments real quick. So Scott, you know, we've talked several times since you announced your retirement. So publicly, I'd like to just echo just some of what they said, but you know, I've never seen a professional such as yourself whose dedication and commitment, but the zeal and aggressive attitude towards every task that you have been given and the technical expertise, you will have no trouble in your retirement. I know your wife will probably want you in Florida, but you'll have no trouble being a consultant or some other gig just in just how much knowledge that you have, but you throw yourself behind it unlike any other person I've ever seen. You're absolutely right, I do have a County Manager's coin for your wife. She deserves it, and honestly, it's the families that make the professional. In this case, that is truly what happened, so let me recognize her. Here you go."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "She was in the Navy."*

*Mr. Scholes said, "Then I'll talk real slow. If you drop it, you do push-ups. I just want to say (inaudible), so thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Scott, thank you very much."*

*Mr. Hadley said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it. I appreciate everything you've done."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, and thank you for letting us have him. We appreciate it very much."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Brittany [Bethany], do we have anymore?"*

*Ms. Corral said, "No, sir."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Alright, thank you then."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Well thank you all, and thank you Scott and to Eula. We're seeing close to 80 years of experience walking out the door at one time. They're both going to be very highly missed. Thank you. Next item, please."*

**G**     [18-713](#)

RECONSIDERATION OF ITEM 7 OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2018 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS: MERCHANT SERVICES (RFP #18-0001) - DIVISION OF FINANCE. Presented by: Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

*Ms. Kristen McGovern, Senior Buyer, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "At the August 15th Commission meeting, Purchasing requested to defer item number seven for merchant services, and we are now bringing this item back to you for your approval. The recommendation is to accept the proposal*

*from Gila, LLC dba Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) and establish contract pricing for three (3) years with two (2) one (1) year options to renew. I'll be happy to try to answer any questions you may have, and I recommend your approval."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Questions from the board? Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a, I was provided a four-page detailed list yesterday of the debit network fee schedule for Bank of America, and I spent some time trying to look at this and figure out exactly what this means. This is very detailed and it's, I'll just say, quite confusing. I would like to know, does anybody, is there like a standard interchange fee for debit card transactions? Because on a lot of these it goes down to it looks like one penny is the interchange fee in some cases. Do we know what the interchange fee is for PIN (personal identification number) debit transactions?"*

*Ms. Brandi Baily, Principal Accountant, Finance Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "There is no standard transaction interchange fee for PIN debit transactions. That schedule that was sent to you, depending on what type of network the card decides to travel through, I believe there's several networks listed on there. The bank has told us that most cards travel through five of those off there more times than not, but there is not a standard. It just depends on the type of a card, whether it's a MasterCard debit, Visa Card debit, an American Express debit, a prepaid debit. So there is not a standard. That's where, yesterday I had mentioned to you that it's very fluid, it's very hard to pinpoint and determine what a true cost of a debit card transaction is."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, so I got the idea that in some cases the interchange fees are actually very small."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I don't know, maybe it's just one penny. I'm not sure."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Right, sometimes it's very, very small. Sometimes it's, I think there's some that go up to maybe even 2 percent on there, but it's very fluid."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Two percent of the transaction?"*

*Ms. Baily said, "Two percent of the transaction, correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So looking at this chart, most of these are flat fees, so it's hard for me to navigate the chart and find out exactly where some would end up because there's so many different options here. I am curious why we did not, I'm looking at the different options on the chart, can we talk a little bit about, talk a little bit about why we chose, this is not the lowest bid on this chart. Can we talk a little bit about why we selected the one that's a little more expensive? It's about \$52,000 more than what I see as the lowest bid on here."*

*Ms. Baily said, "When we did the proposal, we had requirements in there or things that we were going to evaluate the responders on, and MSB (Municipal Services Bureau)*

*Gila [LLC] had the highest, once we did the evaluation, they came out with the highest number on the evaluation. A lot of it was what they could offer us that was part of it, what their references had, how they responded to us. They just came out overall on top with the highest numbers through the criteria."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Can you, so one of the things that's different in this, this is the first time we're actually adopting a model where there's a convenience fee built into this charge, is that correct?"*

*Ms. Baily said, "Correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "That convenience fee is intended so that there is no charge to the county no matter what. So the consumer is covering the entire cost. There will be..."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Correct. Well, we've had the convenience fee established in the Treasurer's Office for those who do property tax payments at four percent. That has gone, we started them doing that convenience fee in 2012 with them originally I think it was two percent and then 3.95 for debit cards, and then in 2016, we changed it to just a two percent. Then last year in June, we changed it up to a four percent fee, but the county still paid for those fees. We kept that, the convenience fee, and kept it in a revenue deal to help us offset the expenses that were charged to us by our current provider. So this particular model, correct, the fee is being charged by the merchant, and the merchant will keep that fee and therefore Sedgwick County will not receive any bill."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, well I guess I have a concern that if someone wants to pay their tax bill, there ought to be some options to where they could pay without having to incur these fees. Somebody that has a cashback credit card, I understand if they're getting cash back why they would potentially have a fee. That does make sense to me that on average, someone wants to finance through their credit card, their taxes, that's an option, they can do that, but there's going to be a fee associated with that. But an e-check and for a PIN debit, in my opinion, I wish that there would be no fee on that because it actually saves us processing costs not having to deal with the check. Our cost is very low."*

*Ms. Baily said, "I do just want to make the comment, though, for the e-check though, when a customer goes out and uses an e-check, it's not verified guaranteed funds. All that's happening in that ACH (automated clearinghouse) world is it's checking the routing number just to verify that it is a bank account that's open. It doesn't verify that the funds are available. So we do still have returned checks on e-check transactions, so there is still that processing that happens to make sure we can collect on those checks."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So with this model, if someone wants to do an e-check online when they set this up, we're going to charge them, it looks like five cents?"*

*Ms. Baily said, "Five cents a transaction, yes. Our average transaction on e-checks last year was \$2,100, so it's adding the five cents to the \$2,100."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Again, not to say that's not a significant amount of money, because it's all important, but it seems like we ought to encourage someone to pay that way because it's the least administratively, it's the easiest for us if they want to pay that way, it's the least cost to us down that path. So charging five cents to me just*

*seems like a strange thing to do there. But anyway, it seems like the debit card fees were being incurred before and e-check fees from before under the Bank of America model is actually maybe a better deal than what we're getting this round."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So I have some concerns about this selection on a number of reasons, but I don't like to see the increase in fees on PIN debits or on e-checks. I think that's the wrong direction to go here. I do like the reduction from four percent down to 2.19 percent for the credit cards, that's fine, that's good if it covers the cost, but it sounds like that may not really cover the cost, and the shortfall's being made up by people using PIN debit and e-check. That's my concern. We're shifting the burden from one payer to another."*

*Ms. Baily said, "I think we're trying to make it more fair to those who decide to use a credit card or a debit card, so instead of the burden being on the person paying their property tax payment and trying to subsidize the fee for someone who's paying for a fire permit with a credit card. I think it's making it a little bit more fair."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I understand your perspective. I think the word fair is a debatable term. I think this is actually unfair, because you're shifting the burden from someone who has the cash, wants to pay their bill, we're actually adding the fee to them, so they can essentially cover the shortfall of someone who's paying by credit card, isn't covering their full fee. There's revenue shifting from different methods of payment is the way I see this, so I guess I see that as unfair. So I'm going to have to disagree with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all my comments."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Any other comments? Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I would just like to compliment the Finance Department and the Purchasing Department for doing an excellent job, I think, in negotiating what I believe is very equitable charges for these alternative ways of paying. It comes out to be a user fee. If you want to use certain types of payment, then there are costs associated with it, and those costs are not going to be absorbed by the county and spread to the entire tax base. The users will have to pay those, what are minimal fees. So to me, it seems like this is a very equitable solution and well negotiated, and it has reduced the major, what was perhaps a little bit too much of a charge, what we were doing. This is getting things back in line. I know that you all took your task seriously and came up with a good solution, so I appreciate it."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. I'd like to echo Commissioner Unruh's comments that I appreciate exactly what's happening between Finance and Purchasing on this issue. This past year, as I recall, we lost 53, \$54,000 as a result of that shortfall on how much that we were able to recover from the credit cards and so forth. In the future, there will be no shortfall whatsoever, and I appreciate you finding a solution so that we have no shortfall for all of the citizens. There's nothing coming out of the general funds."*

*"Every one of our citizens has a choice to make when they decide that they to pay their property tax and other bills. They can do exactly what I do. I write it check, and it doesn't cost me anything. So if they don't want to use that option, we have now*

*provided them other options. Some of those options are going to cost them a nickel. That's not too much to bear, I don't think, to exercise the different options. Some of the other ones are going to cost them a little bit more, but that's the choice that they are making. So I don't have a problem with that. I did have a problem with us subsidizing overall out of the general fund to a tune of over \$50,000 in this past year. Commissioner O'Donnell has a couple comments."*

*Commissioner O'Donnell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate everything that your office did on this particular issue. This was something that I started talking about last year when I realized the county had a four percent fee that we were charged, and that the State Use Law was at 2.25 percent, so I thought there was some vast inequity there. In fact, we had to raise it from two percent. We were charging to four percent at least to cover the county side, but we have negotiated a position, your office has, that has lowered it below both the State Use Law for the credit card and also for debit because it's 2.25 either way.*

*"So this is one of the lowest fees in the state that any county is going to have. If you look at cutting those fees in half, I mean, that could save the taxpayers of Sedgwick County, if 45,000 credit cards were used last year, roughly, you're going to be saving about \$200,000, the citizens of Sedgwick County, actually north of that if that number holds. So I think this is a win overall. It's going to cost, based on last year's estimates, about \$10,000 more for people using debit cards, but saving over \$200,000 for people using credit cards. So overall it's a big net positive for the taxpayers of Sedgwick County that are using either credit or debit to pay their bills when you add it all up. So I think it's great, and hopefully now the State can look at what we're doing and look at ways to lower their costs as well from that 2.25 percent. So thank you to your entire department."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yeah, I want to thank you for your work on this as well. The Chairman's right, I think it costs us a little over \$50,000 last year, but I think it's important to remember that just a few years ago, it was costing us around a million dollars a year out of the general fund, so we thought we did pretty good initially getting it down from a million to \$50,000. Now it's down to zero and to have a model like this, I mean, all you have to, you know, we just went out and asked the question to see what we could get and to come up with this, and I think it's a good thing for the taxpayer all around because, you know, I never really thought we'd get down to zero, but here we are. So thank you very much."*

*Ms. Baily said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you. I just want to clarify a point. Again, I think lowering the four percent fee down to the 2.25, or in this case, 2.19 is definitely good. I'd like to support that. It looks like one of the options on here is about 1.96 percent. That's even less than that. There's also a flat fee added to that, so it's obviously something a little bit north of, around two percent, so it's still, again, it's an option we could have chosen or even the Bank of America, I think, would have been, I guess, possibly better because they're talking interchange fee plus four cents, whereas the one we're choosing is interchange fee, which is exactly the same thing, plus .07*

percent, plus four cents. So clearly the Bank of America would have been less.

*"My point is, we have other options. I don't think, my opinion, it wasn't analyzed for the lowest cost. We owe it to the taxpayers. I don't want to use general funds, I agree with the Chairman on that. I don't mind passing on the cost to the consumers, that's fine, but we owe it to them to find the least amount of money. If someone wants to pay their taxes with a credit card, we'd like to lower the interest to charge on that as much as possible. There are several options on this chart that would be much less expensive than the one that's being recommended today. So it's not that I'm happy with status quo. I think lowering this fee is smart. We should do that. Just an FYI (for your information), the e-check, the total cost we're going to charge for the e-check for 21,000 transactions is going to be \$1,076. That's the total cost we're going to collect by charging 21,534 people a nickel each. To me, I'm not against charging the nickel, but it's just interesting we're talking about \$1,000 there. This fee a couple years ago, altogether the county was having over a million dollars in shortfall each year.*

*"So it essentially solves the problem 95 percent. We're dealing with the last five percent right now, and now we're talking about \$1,000. So I'm not saying these aren't worthy discussions. They certainly are, but the e-check issue, the \$1,000, the debit card, we're talking is just under [\$]10,000, it's \$9,697 is what we would expect to get from those fees. Altogether it's \$10,773. Again, I'm not saying it's not a worthy discussion, it certainly is, but the bulk of this is credit cards. We're going to allow the credit card merchant service provider to collect \$336,000 based on this model, whereas it could be essentially about \$52,000 less by picking one of those other models.*

*"So we're allowing someone to charge more money than is needed to provide this service, and that's my problem. I do want to say I do appreciate the work that was done. This has been a difficult discussion to get to this point. I appreciate the presentation and the work that you all have done. So please understand I appreciate all of your work on this, I really do. I just think there's a couple of better options here, and the fees would be lower. That's my reason for being a little bit opposing this today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. We had a team of individuals from Purchasing and from the Finance Department that looked at every one of these options and chose the one that, in their professional knowledge based on years of experience in Finance and Purchasing, chose this option.*

*MOTION*

*Commissioner Dennis moved to approve item 7 of the minutes of the August 9, 2018 meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts.*

*Commissioner O'Donnell seconded the motion.*

*There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.*

*VOTE*

<i>Commissioner O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Howell</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>



Chairman Dennis Aye

Chairman Dennis said, "Next item, please."

**Approved**

H [18-698](#)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR  
MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2018.

Presented by: Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the recommendations of the Board  
of Bids and Contracts.

Chairman Dennis said, "Welcome back."

Ms. McGovern said, "The September 6, 2018 meeting of the Board of Bids and  
Contracts resulted in four items for your approval."

1. PATIENT RUN REPORTING (HARDWARE) -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES (EMS)  
FUNDING -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

"The recommendation is to accept the quote from Apple, Inc. for an initial purchase of  
\$53,550 and establish contract pricing according to NASPO Master Agreement  
MNWNC-102, State of Kansas Contract 40398, good through March 31st, 2019.

2. PATIENT RUN REPORTING (SERVICE) -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES (EMS)  
FUNDING -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

"The recommendation is to accept the quote from AT&T Government Solutions, Inc.  
for the initial annual cost of \$31,200 and establish contract pricing according to the  
WSCA and NASPO with the State of Nevada Master Agreement with State of Kansas  
participating agreement #S1907 for Public Safety Broadband Network for First  
Responders service, good through June 30th 2019.

3. FOUR EA. 3/4 TON REGULAR BODY CARGO VANS EQUIPPED WITH 9  
ANIMAL TRANSPORT CAGES -- FLEET MANAGEMENT/ANIMAL  
CONTROL  
FUNDING -- ANIMAL CONTROL VAN

"The recommendation is to accept the low bid from Don Hattan Chevrolet in the  
amount of \$181,940."

4. JAIL EXPANSION -- PROJECT SERVICES  
FUNDING -- PROJECT SERVICES

"The recommendation is to accept the quote from Schaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey  
Architecture (SJCF) in the amount of \$299,400."

Ms. McGovern said, "I'll be happy to try to answer any questions you may have, and I  
recommend approval for these items."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Questions from the Commissioners?  
Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am supportive of the recommendation today, but I just wanted to make a point on the item number three, the vehicles were replaced in 1970, excuse me, I guess they are, excuse me, they're 2018, 2011. Do we know, my questions were answered on the sheet, I'm so sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

**VOTE**

Commissioner O'Donnell II	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Chairman Dennis	Aye

Ms. McGovern said, "Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Next item, please."

**Approved**

**CONSENT**

Mr. Scholes said, "Commissioners, I recommend you approve consent agenda item India (I)."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve consent agenda item India (I).

Commissioner Ranzau seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.

**VOTE**

Commissioner O'Donnell II	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye

Commissioner Unruh                      Aye  
Chairman Dennis                      Aye

*Chairman Dennis said, "Next item, please."*

- I      [18-612](#)                      General Bill Check Register for September 5, 2018 - September 11, 2018.  
   **Approved on the Consent Agenda**

### **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

*Chairman Dennis said, "Mr. Yost."*

*Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "On the legislative issues, we of course, have already expressed our desire for certain legislation from the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC). They are still contemplating that. Treasurer [Linda] Kizzire is going to go up to their meeting on the 21st and make a presentation about the matter that she requested that they offer, and then we also have a staff meeting coming up, I believe, it's on September 18th, to talk about other legislative, possible legislative requests that we all have. So, we're moving right along, and I'm hoping that we have our agenda complete by September..."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Good."*

*Mr. Yost said, "...at some point."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Depending on what we can do, we may move that to the 17th or some other day."*

*Mr. Scholes said, "Or some other future."*

*Mr. Yost said, "We're ready to go whenever it is."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "I don't think it will happen on the 18th..."*

*Mr. Yost said, "Alright."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "...bottom line. Okay, anything else Mr. Yost?"*

*Mr. Yost said, "No, not from me."*

*Chairman Dennis said, "Very good. Next item, please."*

### **OTHER**

*Chairman Dennis said, "Any Commissioners have anything for 'other' today? I'd like to make two comments. First of all, I want to congratulate the [Sedgwick County] Zoo on an outstanding Zoobilee just this past Saturday night. There were tons of people there, tons of food, bands, you name it, it was happening at the zoo. It was a little kind of overcast that evening, but it didn't dampen the enjoyment of all the folks that were there. So I want to congratulate the Sedgwick County Zoo for holding another great Zoobilee."*

*"The other thing that I want to congratulate is McConnell Air Force Base. They held the first air show since for the past six years, I think it's been since, eight years, for the past years, it's the first time that we've had an air show out there.*

*"They brought the [United States Air Force] Thunderbirds in, which was fantastic. Tora! Tora! Tora!, a number of other aircraft were flying stunts and so forth, static aircraft displays, Doc was sitting out there, along with a number of other aircraft. It was a great exhibition of air power, and flexibility is the key to air power, and we were able to demonstrate it at McConnell Air Force Base. So congratulations to everyone out there, and thanks, I know a lot of people worked over their weekend, but that's not unusual for the military because it's a 24 hour day, seven day a week operation. I sincerely appreciated the support that they gave to show our community what a great organization that the United States Air Force is and McConnell Air Force Base is a jewel here in Sedgwick County. Any other Commissioners have anything they'd like to add? Seeing nothing, I see that we have no executive session today."*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.*