

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Board of Miami County Commissioners met in regular session, in the Commission Chambers, Miami County Administration Building, Paola, Kansas, on October 10, 2025. Those present were:

Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Keith Diediker, Commissioner	Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator
Paul Scruggs, Commissioner	Laura Epp, County Clerk
W. Jene Vickrey, Commissioner	Cari Foster, Operation Support Specialist

Absent: George Pretz, Chairman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission Meeting on September 24, 2025
- Approval of Accounts Payable payment vouchers
- Temporary Construction Easement Purchase — Chase D. and Angela W. Ellis (A25-10-056)
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Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the vote was the vote was carried, and the vote was unanimous.

ACTION AGENDA

Sitting as the Miami County Fire District #1 Board

Mark Whelan, Rural Fire Coordinator, requested the Commissioners to allow the change in the equipment request. Mr. Whelan said the 2025 capital budget was approved for Paola Fire Department (PFD) to spend \$3,000.00 on a replacement generator and \$5,000.00 for a turbo draft fire eductor. Command staff determined that they do not need to replace the generator at this time. They also determined that they do not need the turbo draft based on the equipment they currently have. PFD would like to reallocate the \$8,000.00 to equip Engine 5 with extrication equipment. This will allow more flexibility in responding to vehicle accidents involving fire and extrication at the same time. The extrication equipment owned by Miami County Fire District #1 would be moved from the city-owned rescue to the engine. This would allow for two incidents to be worked at the same time. Engine 5 needs a 20" circular storage device to hold and secure the extrication tools in a compartment. This will allow easy access to the needed tools. The second item is collapsible vehicle stabilizer struts. These are similar to what was purchased for the Osawatomie Fire District Heavy Rescue truck. \$8,000.00 was allocated for the capital budget items. The estimated cost for the storage device is \$3,200.00. If it comes with a slide pull out, the cost increases to \$4,400.00. The vehicle stabilization struts are estimated at \$4,600.00. The total projected cost is \$9,000.00. The \$1,000.00 overage can be covered under Paola existing 2025 budget. If the change is approved, 3 quotes will be obtained per county policy. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the purchase, the extrication equipment. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Mark Whelan, Rural Fire Coordinator, requested the Commissioners to approve the purchase of additional scuba bottles (SCBA) from Feld Fire. Mr. Whelan said the 2025 Miami County Fire District 1 capital budget funded \$12,000.00 for the purchase of additional scuba bottles. These bottles supply air to firefighters when they are in a hazardous environment. Paola Fire Department (PFD) has 16 full air packs including bottles plus 14 spare bottles, giving them a total of 32, the additional 10 bottles will give them a total of 42 spares, which is a one and a half to one ratio. The bottles are compatible with the existing Scott SCBA used by all the fire departments in Miami County. Bottles are proprietary in nature and sold by the area Scott distributor.

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Fontana has a total of eight air packs and eight spare bottles for a total of 16 bottles purchased in 2021. Louisburg has a total of 16 air packs and 16 spare bottles for a total of 32 bottles purchased in 2021. Paola Fire Department's bottles was purchased in 2019, Osawatimie Fire Department have 15 self-contained breathing apparatus with bottles and 17 spare bottles purchased in 2016 and 2017. \$12,000.00 allotted for the project. 10 SCBA bottles can be purchased from Feld Fire at a cost of \$12,263.20 plus shipping. The \$263.20 overage and shipping costs can be taken out of the existing yearly budget. Steel bottles have a life expectancy of 20 years and carbon fiber bottles that we are purchasing and have purchased have a life expectancy of 15 years. The carbon fiber bottles are lighter, so they are easier on the firefighters back, but do not have as long of a life expectancy. Commissioner Vickrey moved to purchase the extra bottles, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Mark Whelan, Rural Fire Coordinator, requested the Commissioners allow the use of 2025 funds to equip the six trained firefighters. Mr. Whelan gave an update on the status of the water rescue team Osawatimie Fire District (OFD) currently has two trained water rescue technicians with equipment. OFD has ten firefighters interested in obtaining the needed training. Fontana Fire District has four firefighters interested. Louisburg Fire District has ten firefighters interested. Paola Fire District has five firefighters interested. Paola has two trained but would need to be equipped with the needed equipment. Louisburg has four trained but would need to be equipped with the needed equipment. Class is 16 hours via KU Fire Service at no cost to the students. Cost to outfit each firefighter with the needed gear is between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Approximately \$20,000.00 remains in the Water Rescue budget. These funds can be used to equip the firefighters who have received the needed training at their full-time fire agency. That would give us a total of eight trained technicians with equipment. We would like to have a total of 20. The station chiefs will determine the 12 individuals out of the more than 20 interested fire fighters that want to receive training. We will need to use the 2026 water rescue budget plus additional funds from the capital budget to get them equipped once they are trained. Commissioner Vaughan asked Lucas Mellinger, Assistant Administrator, what Miami County's total annual contribution to the water rescue fund? Mr. Mellinger answered just shy of \$25,000.00 every year. Commissioner Vaughan asked Mr. Whelan how often do we have to upgrade the equipment? Mr. Whelan answered 10-15 years per person. Commissioner Vickrey moved to equip six water rescue technicians this year, and equip a total of 20 overall, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was carried, and the vote was unanimous.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan said we had a successful ribbon cutting at the Hillsdale Emergency Medical Services Station Open House Saturday, September 27, 2025. It was a great celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.




Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk