

Chief

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were beginning seasonal nuisance enforcement on vehicles and properties.

The council voted 6-0 to extend an offer of employment to Daniel Gessling for a vacant police officer position at a starting wage of \$21.94 per hour, effective March 18.

Roney outlined a proposal to create a detective position in the department. He said three cases opened since August 2025 had each taken about six months to complete because officers handling them were repeatedly pulled away by other calls. A detective assigned to more serious or time-consuming investigations would help the department complete cases more quickly and reduce overtime tied to transport and staffing shortages, he said.

Roney said the department currently has six officers plus the chief and that he would like to eventually move an experienced current officer into a detective role, then hire to restore the patrol position. He estimated the city would be about \$16,000 short to fully fund the added position this year. No detective position was created Tuesday, but the council unanimously approved revised job descriptions for sergeant and police detective.

In the parks report, Superintendent Kevin Boyce said crews were still trimming trees and had rebuilt three usable picnic tables from five older tables. The council approved

the annual evaluation of parks employee Kyle MacFadgen and granted him a raise to \$20.54 per hour effective March 14.

Boyce recommended replacing a mower, and the council approved purchase of a new Grasshopper mower from Moridge Manufacturing Inc. at the state contract price of \$12,936.40 after a \$6,500 trade-in allowance on a 2021 mower. The purchase had been budgeted.

Zoning Clerk Jimmy Hugunin said grass was starting to grow and reported that a property owner who built a fence in the road right of way without a permit would need to move it back about 15 feet. He also gave a census update. During discussion, Strawder raised questions about real estate signs placed on poles, and Roney said he had contact-

ed the realtor involved.

In finance matters, the council approved Claims Ordinance No. 2026-05 for \$321,512.42 and Payroll Ordinance No. 2026-05 for \$113,097.20.

The council appointed Luke as Burlington's Director No. 2 to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency Board of Directors for a two-year term from May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2028. Schneider serves as Director No. 1, and the two positions are elected in alternating years.

In other business, Strawder asked about trash containers from Republic Services. City Clerk Anne Brown said all allotted containers in Burlington had been distributed and that availability is a matter between customers and Republic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Loan

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development and rehabilitation projects.

One idea discussed was the potential construction of additional triplex rental units in Coffey County communities if grant funding becomes available. Housing Authority board members Greg Stice and Bill Parker expressed confidence in Stuke's leadership and emphasized the importance of maintaining housing programs for low- and moderate-income residents.

County Counselor Bowie encouraged the housing authority to review and update its bylaws to ensure they align with current practices and county records.

Executive Sessions

Commissioners held four executive sessions during the meeting, all with County Counselor Bowie present.

A 15-minute session with Health Department Administrator Amilia Marchant was held to discuss personnel matters, regarding job performance. Another 15-minute executive session included Sheriff Tom Johnson and Undersheriff Eric Smith to discuss matters relating to security measures.

Two additional 10-minute executive sessions were held later in the meeting to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel, regarding job performance.

No action was taken following the executive sessions.

Other Business

The commission approved minutes from the Feb. 23 and Feb. 25 meetings and authorized a payroll notice for Donald Morse, who was hired as a lake attendant at \$16.21 per hour effective Feb. 26.

Commissioners voted down a proposed Appraisal Specialist II job description for the County Appraiser's Office, and asked County Appraiser Connie Lawrence for additional information. McCurry supported the motion, but Peterson, Abendroth, Thomsen and Barker opposed it.

County Clerk Angie Kirchner reviewed health insurance renewal information with commissioners. The county currently operates a self-funded health plan. Kirchner reported that the county's consultants recommend replacing the county's pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) because of ongoing service issues. Commissioners were scheduled to meet with a recommended PBM at its March 9 meeting.

Bowie reported that a request to close a platted street in an unincorporated area will come before the commission after public notice is published and nearby landowners are notified. He also said paperwork is being prepared regarding a property tax adjustment request tied to a structure destroyed by fire.

Lebo

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the city's insurance policy with the council, discussing city properties, equipment, drivers and coverage. The total premium without changes is \$83,000. Council members noted several possible adjustments, and the final renewal policy will be prepared soon.

Ferguson, Lebo's representative to Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 12, reported that the water board is planning improvements to its treatment plant. An engineer is expected to attend the board's March meeting to discuss future plans. Ferguson, who also serves as secretary of the board, was approved during the meeting as the district's voting delegate to Kansas Rural Water Association meetings.

Eric Smith of the city's

maintenance department provided a written report accompanied by photographs. New employee Chuck Shedd also attended.

Smith discussed water flow issues from the railroad south to Sac and Fox Street and toward Dickinson Street. He also addressed lagoon concerns, culvert replacements, lift station maintenance, raising low manholes and other drainage issues. Plans include installing a culvert at the intersection of South Street and South Elm Street.

Council members received a letter from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding lead and copper rule notifications that were not completed by the city in 2025. The issue occurred when water samples were not collected and submitted to the state between June 1 and Sept. 10, 2025. City Clerk Griffin will work with KDHE

to bring the city back into compliance.

Officer Aaron Cathcard was absent but submitted a written police report. The department handled one dog-at-large complaint on Broadway Street, issued one speeding warning at Seventh and Ogden streets and assisted other agencies twice. Officers also responded to a verbal dispute and a juvenile custody matter, approved several ATV permits, helped provide a citizen with a ride, spoke with a local scout troop, patrolled the school zone and responded to a silent alarm at Casey's General Store.

Griffin also presented the February bank statements.

The council approved spending up to \$8,000 for the 2026 contract with Rainbow Fireworks Inc., an increase of \$3,000. The fireworks display is scheduled for 9:45 p.m. July 3 on the west edge of Lebo.

Crystina Nolan reported

that two municipal court cases were handled and three zoning permits were issued for a building and two fences.

Coffey County Spring Cleanup Week will be April 13-18. The Lebo council will have TWA provide two dumpsters for public use on Monday, April 13, and Tuesday, April 14.

The council also announced the Park and Recreation Board is seeking a summer ball director.

Griffin presented a quote from APAC for 2026 street work. The proposal includes milling and rebuilding sections of North Sycamore and South Walnut streets, along with purchasing additional millings to build up streets ahead of a planned seal project in 2027.

Nolan also provided information on three 2026 Ford trucks for the council's review. After discussion, the council voted to table the matter.

LeRoy

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locating a small home on his property in LeRoy. Otto said the situation involved a misunderstanding after the house was delivered before the foundation was prepared.

Talley said he plans to place the structure on a compacted rock base and cinder-block foundation before sliding the home into place. The home measures about 560 square feet, which places it in the category of a manufactured home under city regulations. City officials confirmed Talley had completed the required permit paperwork. The council approved the building permit.

A request for a donation to support the Southern Coffey County High School after prom event was tabled until the next meeting because no one was present to speak on the request. Prom is scheduled for April 11.

The council adopted a policy to guide decisions about reducing excessive water bills. City Attorney Smith said the policy serves as a "guiding principle" to accompany the

city's ordinance governing water bill adjustments. Among the provisions, the policy limits reductions to once every two years and states bills less than \$100 over normal usage will not be considered for reduction.

The council discussed a request to de-annex property at 61 Sixth St. Otto said the property owner had spoken with him and the city attorney and was willing to cover expenses associated with the process. Smith said the council will need to schedule a public hearing and publish notice before taking action. The council is expected to consider a resolution establishing a hearing date at a future meeting.

The governing body entered a 15-minute executive session with the city attorney to discuss potential litigation.

Copeland reported that city staff recently discovered a significant water leak after a property used approximately 320,000 gallons of water over a 20-day period. Killough Construction is prepared to begin street patching work once weather conditions improve. Some repair areas have grown larger since the work was originally

bid. Copeland reported handling three dog complaints.

Coffey County Commissioner Mark Petterson updated the council on several county topics of interest to the LeRoy area. The county has issued a request for proposals from engineers to study options for rehabilitating or replacing the Reaper Lane bridge over the Neosho River south of LeRoy. Proposals are due March 11. Residential property valuations were mailed last week. Applications for the county's dust control program are due March 27. He also reported that communication towers under construction in LeRoy, Lebo and Gridley are expected to be completed around April.

Council member Katie Bowen proposed organizing a citywide garage sale to encourage visitors and support local businesses. The council voted to sponsor the event and approved charging \$5 for residents who wish to be included on a citywide garage sale map. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2.

Mayor Otto read a letter addressing rumors related to maintaining a family headstone at the LeRoy Cemetery.

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