



Lawrence County
PURCHASING COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, October 6, 2025 | **Time:** 4:30-5:13 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Phillip Heatherly, Dave Ray, Will Burnett, Chris Sutherland, Steve Hagan, Shane Eaton, and Travis Cauwels. **Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Williams, **County Purchasing Agent** Kelly Odom, and Michael Wheeler.

ROLL CALL: Chairman David Morgan, Vice-chair Travis Cauwels, Dave Ray, Phillip Heatherly, and Will Burnett.

- **Executive Morgan** called the meeting to order.
- **Odom** explained there were no bids for Collection Services for EMS billing or Collection Services for Solid Waste. Agenda items #1 and #2 will no longer be in discussion for a lack of bid.
- **Odom** noted, currently our contract with our correctional food services for the jail ends on November 1st.

AGENDA ITEM #3:

Correctional Food Services for Lawrence County Criminal Justice Center.

(The tabulation sheet for all bids, is available in the minutes folder.)

Bid 1: Trinity Food Service.

Bid 2: Summit Food Service.

- The committee discussed whether food service operations should be handled in-house or outsourced. They agreed to review the ingredient bid lists before making a final decision.

AGENDA ITEM #4:

Correctional Food Services for Lawrence County Criminal Justice Center - Ingredient List.

Bid 1: Summit Food Services.

- **Odom** noted a dietitian has to approve meals if we do it in house.

- **Odom** clarified the use of the Giles County Jail ingredient list for comparison purposes, noting that the bid covers two weeks' worth of supplies at a time.
- **Commissioner Cauwels** noted that costs will be limited to ingredients only, as jail staff will be responsible for preparing the meals.
- **Susan Taylor, speaking via phone call**, explained that the department has experienced several issues with the current company, including one incident where an employee was reportedly under the influence. She also stated her belief that transitioning food service operations in-house would save the county money.
- The committee continued to discuss cost differences and liability considerations.
- **Commissioner Ray** asked whether a policy is in place for operating food services in-house.
- **Taylor**, again speaking via phone call, assured him that such a policy exists.
- **Executive Morgan** requested that Taylor send the Policy and Procedures to Brandi, so they can be forwarded to Markus Insurance for review.
- **Commissioner Ray** expressed his support for the proposal, citing that both the Jail and the Sheriff's Department favor the change. He also suggested reviewing the contract annually.

Motion to Recommend Summit Food Services Bid for Correctional Food Services for Lawrence County Criminal Justice Center - Ingredient List.

Motion: Ray. **Second:** Cauwels.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

Motion to Decline Both Food Services Bid.

Motion: Ray. **Second:** Burnett.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

AGENDA ITEM #5:

Correctional Mobile Dental Services

- **Odom** explained that Dr. Baker terminated his contract due to being unable to provide malpractice insurance. She noted that a new vendor must be selected and stated that she had spoken with Mid-America Health, the county's current vendor, who is willing to assume the contract.

Motion to Recommend Mid-America's Bid for Mobile Dental Services to the County Board of Commissioners.

Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Ray.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously. 5/0.

Adjournment.

Motion: Ray. **Second:** Cauwels.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

Minutes Submitted By: Christian Tyree