

VAN BUREN COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
April 17th, 2025

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Recorded in:
MINUTES Book
05/16/2025 01:05 PM
PAM BRADFORD
County Clerk
VAN BUREN County, AR

The Van Buren County Court met Thursday, April 17th, 2025, at the Van Buren County Courthouse Annex in Clinton, Arkansas for the regular monthly meeting, with Judge James presiding. Members of the Quorum Court attending were Justice of the Peace N. Brown, S. Brown, B. Roberson, M. Bradford, B. Page, E. Bass, V. Lemings and R. Mays. Also in attendance was Attorney Carol Crews and Pam Bradford County Clerk.

Next: PRAYER: Given by J.P. E. Bass

Next: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all and led by J.P. S. Brown

Next: ROLL CALL: All present (J.P. #4 vacant)

Next: AGENDA. J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to add an Ordinance and to dispense audible reading of the transfers, seconded by J.P. N. Brown, All agreed. J.P. N. Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. All agreed.

Next: MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT, APPROPRIATION ANALYSIS: J.P. N. Brown made a motion to accept minutes, treasury report and appropriate analysis, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. Judge James asked for any discussion, there was none.

Next: COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT: [Attached]

Next: SHERIFF'S REPORT: Not given.

Next: COUNTY JUDGE'S COMMENTS: none given.

Next: COUNTY BOARDS/COMMITTEES ADDRESS THE COURT: there were none.

I certify that this instrument was
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VAN BUREN County, AR
Pam Bradford D.C.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE:

- A. NEXT: J.P. B. PAGE READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE THE VIOLATIONS OF BURNING DURING BURN BANS IN VAN BUREN COUNTY, TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 2011-18, TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** After reading the ordinance J.P. B. Page made a Motion to adopt, second by J.P. M. Bradford. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. V. Lemings had inquiries about the Burn Ban. Arkansas code

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12-75-108 grants local disaster emergency declaration to the County Judge. J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to accept the emergency clause, second by J.P. S. Brown, All agreed. The Ordinance was approved and given. **NO. O-2025-16.**

RESOLUTION:

1. **NEXT: ATTORNEY CAROL CREWS READ A RESOLUTION, BY TITLE ONLY, TO RECOGNIZE THE ARKANSAS 250 COMMISSION AS IT BEGINS ITS WORK TO CELEBRATE ARKANSAS'S RICH TWO-HUNDRED-FIFTY-YEAR HISTORY FROM THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4TH, 1776 THROUGH JULY 4TH 2026.** After reading the resolution by title only, J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to adopt, second by J.P. N. Brown. The resolution was approved by all and given **NO. R-2025-03**
2. **NEXT: J.P. S. BROWN READ A RESOLUTION, BY TITLE ONLY, CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE QUORUM COURT.** After reading the resolution by title only, J.P. S. Brown made a motion to adopt, second by J.P. B. Page. The resolution was approved and given **NO. R-2025-04**

TRANSFER: J.P. N. Brown made a motion to approve all transfers, seconded by J.P. M. Bradford. Approved by all.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded by all.

Pam Bradford, Van Buren County Clerk

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COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

February, 2025

New this month:

FEMA has declined assistance for the March 14th flooding event. Since we did not know the extent of damage, Van Buren County verbally declared a flood disaster but then saw that the damage was too minimal to meet the threshold.

Besides normal maintenance repairs after the flooding rains, we had the Middle Fork of the Little Red River scour into the road bed on Rumley Road. Crews are currently repairing the damage.

A bridge on Happy Bend is being replaced with 60" culverts. The bridge was in such bad shape, the crew did not feel comfortable letting a school bus travel over it again. They worked all night to build a bypass around the bridge before the rain came. The bypass worked. Now, the crew will dig out the old bridge and move the culverts.

The grant projects that have been completed to mitigate flood damage all worked during what was termed as a "generational flood." Silver Rock Road, Peyton Mountain Road, Baker Lake Road, Old Highway 9, etc. all did the job of carrying the water without flooding the roads.

We lost a dump truck which was an insurance claim. Due to funding decreases, we will make do with 4 dump trucks for a while. We should be able to get the job done just fine with one less truck.

MAINTENANCE:

Quarry operations at full capacity.

We rebuilt a good part of the crusher during the cold, slow months. We are pushing product now!

GRANT PROJECTS:

The Rabbit Ridge/Bricky Road low water crossing grant has been approved. The total value of this grant is just under \$1,000,000.00

Work is proceeding on the Oyler Road Grant. Base is still being applied for the grant to come behind us and pave as far as the grant funds will take the asphalt. The award to the county is \$500,000.00 with VBC providing match in the form of base rock, equipment, labor and gravel. Total project value is \$1,500,000.00.

Lake Cliff Road Bridge Project – Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million. The feasibility study has been ordered.

Scotland Bridge Project -- UPDATE – WE RECEIVED WORD THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN ORDERED. Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million.

Archey Road Bridge Project – State and Federal Aid funded, County pays 2%. Total price tag of approx. \$1.5 million.

The Federal Infrastructure Program appears to have some extra money in it. We have applied for an off-program grant to build a new bridge at Shirley which would be constructed parallel to the current historic Shirley Train Bridge. Contrary to popular rumor, the county IS NOT entertaining even the thought of removing the historic structure. Traffic would move to the new structure and the old structure would remain in place for the historic value, pictures, etc. The value of this proposal is approximately \$2.5 million. The feasibility study has been ordered.

FEMA reimbursement for the declared disaster – Reimbursements can take a very long time to receive. I hope to receive \$150,000 - \$175,000. Governor Sanders approved the disaster on May 9 and VBC is listed as an approved county. After submitting all the required paperwork, we received a book for each impacted road to be completed. We are still waiting for the reimbursement.