

**VAN BUREN COUNTY QUORUM COURT**  
**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**August 21, 2025**

The Van Buren County Court met Thursday, August 21, 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 in attendance were Justice of the Peace N. Brown, B. Roberson, M. Bradford, B. Page, V. Lemings, R. Mays, E. Bass, P. Wellenberger, Pam Bradford County Clerk, and Carol Crews, Attorney also attended.

**Next: CALL TO ORDER**

**Next: PRAYER:** Given by J.P. V. Lemings

**Next: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited by all. Led by J.P. P. Wellenberger

**Next: ROLL CALL:** All present, with the exception of J.P. S. Brown

**Next: AGENDA.** A motion was made by J.P. M. Bradford and seconded by J.P. B. Page to add an additional ordinance and approve the agenda with changes. All in favor.

**Next: MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT, APPROPRIATION ANALYSIS:** A motion was made by J.P. N. Brown and seconded by J.P. B. Roberson to approve the minutes, treasures report, as well as the Appropriation Analysis Report, all in favor. Judge James asked for any comments. There were none.

**Next: COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT:** [Attached]

**Next: SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Attached.

**Next: COUNTY JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** Judge James spoke on the history of the county regarding the 1 (one) cent sales tax, and how it had been allocated throughout the years to date. In the discussion, he spoke of the gas & oil rise and fall, the previous annex building mold issues, the challenges and fluctuation of the county road funds due to natural disasters, cost of diesel fuel, equipment, maintenance, and how the monies are calculated within the budget for the county road fund. He informed the Quorum Court that we were denied Federal Funding relief pertaining to our previous natural disaster we had due to the prolonged rigid temperatures in 2024; because not enough counties had applied for that disaster relief. He spoke on how that disaster had created an extreme hardship on our county road department. He explained how all of these circumstances combined created such a vast financial hardship on the county road fund, causing him to lay off a portion of the county road staff, and placing two employees as part time. Questions were presented, discussed, and answered satisfactorily by Judge James.

**Next: COUNTY BOARDS/COMMITTEES ADDRESS THE COURT:** Danny Griffin with the Soil Conservation addressed the Quorum Court and Landon Bates regarding his AG Tech trip. Van Buren County Election Commissioner Jon Matthews spoke on the reprimanding of the Searcy County Election Commissioners by The Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners. Attorney Chad Brown spoke about the Victim / Witness Grant, which paid The Victim Witness Coordinator's salary through FOCA, being eliminated. Public comment by The Van Buren County Committee Republican Chairman, Kevin Johnson, spoke on the upcoming filing deadlines.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE:**

- A. NEXT: J.P. N. BROWN READ AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #O-2024-54, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025, TO INCREASE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATE \$576.28 INTO THE VAN BUREN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT-CIVISION 1 BUDGET #1000-402.** After reading the ordinance J.P. N. Brown made a motion to adopt, second by J.P. V. Lemings. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **NO. O-2025-27**
- B. NEXT: J.P. B. PAGE READ AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #2024-54, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$9,423.82 INTO THE SRO BUDGET #1000-411 AND FOR OTHER BUSINESS.** After reading the ordinance J.P. B. Page made a motion to adopt, second by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. J. P. E. Bass asked if this was coming out of millage. County Clerk Pam Bradford explained that this was by contract and the schools pay for it. The Ordinance was approved and given **NO. O-2025-28**
- C. NEXT: J.P. P. WELLENBERGER READ AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATE \$180,000.00 INTO THE VAN BUREN COUNTY 911 SYSTEM FUND #3020.** After reading the ordinance J.P. P. Wellenberger made a motion to adopt, second by J.P. B. Roberson. Judge James asked if there was any discussion, there were concerns of the amount to be appropriated. A motion was made by J.P. N. Brown to amend The Ordinance from \$180,000 to \$60,000, second by J.P. Lemings. The Ordinance was adopted as amended and given **NO. O-2025-29.**
- D. NEXT: J.P. B. ROBERSON READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #O-2024-24, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$4,464.11 INTO THE APPROPRIATE LINE ITEMS IN COUNTY GENERAL TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL COST TO**

**AAC, ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS COUNTIES FOR AUTO/EQUIPMENT INSURANCE.** After reading the ordinance a motion was made by J.P. B. Roberson to adopt second by J.P. P. Wellenberger. Judge James explained the fairgrounds portion has to be appropriated to pay, but they will refund the county. J.P. M. Bradford asked if we owned the fairgrounds and Judge James responded with affirmative. The ordinance was adopted and given **No. O-2025-30**

- E. NEXT: J.P. V. LEMMINGS READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATE MONIES FROM THE COUNTY ROAD PERSONAL SERVICES BUDGET #2000-200 TO THE COUNTY JUDGE BUDGET #1000-100 TO CORRECT THE EXPENDITURES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PAYROLL IN JULY 2025.** After reading the ordinance a motion was made by J.P. V. Lemings to adopt and second by N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The ordinance was adopted and given **No. O-2025-31**
- F. NEXT: J.P. B. ROBERSON READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE OZARK HEALTH, INC. AS THE CONTRACTED ADMISTRATOR OF VAN BUREN COUNTY'S SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM, TO DELACARE AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** After reading the emergency ordinance, a motion was made by J.P. B. Roberson to adopt, second by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James explained how this is an example of good government. The ordinance was adopted and given **No. O-2025-32**. A motion was made by J.P. E. Bass to acknowledge the emergency clause and second by J.P. B. Roberson. Judge James asked if there was any further discussion. There was none.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded by all.

**Pam Bradford, Van Buren County Clerk**

# COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

August, 2025

## New this month:

**I will address the Court on the funding decrease and the funding history of County Roads in Van Buren County. County Road funding at a critical juncture.**

The crew is working on the completion of the Oyler Road Project. Bids will be let for the grant funded pavement at the end of August. We expect the new asphalt to be laid by the end of October.

## MAINTENANCE:

Trying to catch up on equipment repairs. Tariffs have created a bottleneck with the supply chain for many of our parts. When tariffs were being discussed, many supplies were hoarded before the tariffs were put into place creating a temporary supply shortage.

## 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 - – Feasibility Study was completed. Waiting for further word. 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 Feasibility Study is begun on the Shirley Bridge Grant. The value of the new bridge will be approx. \$3 million.

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, 2024 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.**



# Type Total Report

Print Date: 01-Aug-25  
Print Time: 01:00:06  
User Name: jwells

Incidents Created From: 01-Jul-25 00:00:00 To: 31-Jul-25 23:59:59 ; Unit Org: VAN BUREN.LAW.VAN BUREN.LAW.VAN BUREN CO SO; Unit(s): All; Source: All; Community: All

Unit Org	Event	Event Description	Type Count
VAN BUREN CO SO	ABND/HU/OPEN	ABANDONED/HU/OPEN	3
VAN BUREN CO SO	ACIC	ACIC QUERY	109
VAN BUREN CO SO	ANML	ANIMAL	26
VAN BUREN CO SO	ASSAULT	ASSAULT	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	ASSIST	ASSIST AGENCY	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	ATTENDED DEATH	ATTENDED DEATH	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	COMPLAINT	COMPLAINT	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	COURT	COURT	6
VAN BUREN CO SO	DISTURBANCE	DISTURBANCE	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	EXTRA PATROL	EXTRA PATROL	26
VAN BUREN CO SO	FIRE ALARM	FIRE ALARM	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	FV	VEHICLE FIRE	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	INFO	INFORMATION ONLY	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	LAW ALARM	LAW ALARM	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	LPS	LAW PUBLIC SERVICE	8
VAN BUREN CO SO	MED	EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALL	22
VAN BUREN CO SO	MISSING PERSON	MISSING PERSON	12
VAN BUREN CO SO	MOTORIST ASSIST	MOTORIST ASSIST	2
VAN BUREN CO SO	MVA	MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	14
VAN BUREN CO SO	MVA WITH PI	MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT WITH PERSONAL INJURY	23
VAN BUREN CO SO	PD	POLICE	4
VAN BUREN CO SO	PHYSICAL DOMESTIC	PHYSICAL DOMESTIC	191
VAN BUREN CO SO	PROPERTY CHECK	PROPERTY CHECK	15
VAN BUREN CO SO	PROPERTY DAMAGE	PROPERTY DAMAGE	9
VAN BUREN CO SO	PROWLER	PROWLER	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	PS	PUBLIC SERVICE	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	REPO	REPOSESSION	6
VAN BUREN CO SO	REPORT	REPORT	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	STOLEN VEHICLE	STOLEN VEHICLE	25
VAN BUREN CO SO			3

For Official Use Only



# Type Total Report

Print Date: 01-Aug-25

Print Time: 01:00:06

User Name: jwells

Incidents Created From: 01-Jul-25 00:00:00 To: 31-Jul-25 23:59:59 ; Unit Org: VAN BUREN.LAW.VAN BUREN.LAW.VAN BUREN CO SO; Unit(s): All; Source: All; Community: All

Unit Org	Event	Event Description	Type Count
VAN BUREN CO SO	SUICIDE THREAT	SUICIDE THREAT	2
VAN BUREN CO SO	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	10
VAN BUREN CO SO	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	7
VAN BUREN CO SO	THEFT OF PROPERTY	THEFT OF PROPERTY	4
VAN BUREN CO SO	TRAN	TRANSFER/TRANSPORT	41
VAN BUREN CO SO	TRF	TRAFFIC CONTROL	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	TRFC	TRAFFIC RECKLESS DRIVER	9
VAN BUREN CO SO	TS	TRAFFIC STOP	559
VAN BUREN CO SO	UNATTENDED DEATH	UNATTENDED DEATH	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	VANDALISM	VANDALISM	1
VAN BUREN CO SO	VERBAL DOMESTIC	VERBAL DOMESTIC	4
VAN BUREN CO SO	WARRANT	WARRANT SERVICE	27
VAN BUREN CO SO	WELFARE CHECK	WELFARE CHECK	23

Type Count -VAN BUREN CO SO: 1204

Total Incidents: 1204



## **VAN BUREN COUNTY SHERIFF**

**Sheriff Eric Koonce**

P.O. Box 451

Clinton, Arkansas 72031

Telephone: 501-745-3838

Fax: 501-745-4898

### **97 Total Incident Reports for July 2025**

#### **Misdemeanor:**

**Drug Violations - 2**

**Personal - 29**

**Property - 18**

#### **Felony:**

**Drug Violations - 2**

**Personal - 14**

**Property - 9**

**CID Call Outs - 3**

**Search Warrants - 0**

**Felony Affidavits - 11**

# Detention Statistics from 7/1/2025 to 7/31/2025

Agency	Booked				Released				Transferred			
	Male	Female	Unk	Total	Male	Female	Unk	Total	Male	Female	Unk	Total
Van Buren County Sheriffs Office	67	22	0	89	59	14	0	73	3	0	0	3
Arkansas State Police	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Fairfield Bay Police Department	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Us Marshalls Office	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals:	69	23	0	92	62	15	0	77	3	0	0	3

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