



## County Administration

300 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Third Floor  
Prineville, OR 97754  
541-447-6555

[Administration@crookcountyor.gov](mailto:Administration@crookcountyor.gov)

# Crook County Board of County Commissioners

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 9:00 AM

**Crook County Administration Conference Room | 203 NE Court St. |  
Prineville OR**

Members of the public and media are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom: 1-253-215-8782; Meeting ID: 962 4214 4333; Passcode: 970900

**Commissioners: Brian Barney, Chair; Susan Hermreck; Seth Crawford**

## Work Session Agenda

### Public Comment

Please note that each speaker is limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. This guideline helps ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to speak.

### Discussion

#### 1. Oaths of Office

##### Requester:

Cheryl Seely, County Clerk

#### 2. Property Recording Alert Service (PRAS)

##### Requester:

Cheryl Seely, County Clerk

#### 3. Update on Bowman Museum Staff Organization and FTE

##### Requester:

Sean Briscoe, Director of Bowman Museum

#### 4. Letter of Support to Senators for Delisting Wolves

##### Requester:

Susan Hermreck, County Commissioner

#### 5. Letter to Department of State Lands re: Data Center Project Application

##### Requester:

Will Van Vactor, County Manager

**6. 2026 County Financial Assistance Agreement for Behavioral Health Services**

**Requester:**

Eric Blaine, County Counsel

**7. Local Plan and Budget for Behavioral Health Services**

**Requester:**

Eric Blaine, County Counsel

**Manager Report**

**Commissioner Updates**

**Executive Session**

**8. ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.**

**Notice and Disclaimer**

The Crook County Board of Commissioners is the governing body of Crook County, Oregon, and holds public meetings (generally on the first and third Wednesday of each month) to deliberate upon matters of County concern. As part of its efforts to keep the public apprised of its activities, the Crook County Board of County Commissioners has published this PDF file. This file contains the material to be presented before the Board of County Commissioners for its next scheduled regular meeting.

Please note that while County staff members make a dedicated effort to keep this file up to date, documents and content may be added, removed, or changed between when this file is posted online and when the Board of County Commissioners meeting is held. The material contained herein may be changed at any time, with or without notice.

**Crook County makes no warranty of any kind, express or implied, including any warranty of merchantability, accuracy, fitness for a particular purpose, or for any other matter. The County is not responsible for possible errors, omissions, misuse, or misinterpretation.**

Please also note that this file does not contain any material scheduled to be discussed at an executive session, or material the access to which may be restricted under the terms of Oregon law.

If you are interested in obtaining additional copies of any of the documents contained herein, they may be obtained by completing a Crook County Public Records Request form. Request forms are available on the County's website or at the County Administration office.

**Additional Items**

Additional items may be discussed that arise too late to be included as a part of this notice. For information about adding agenda items, please contact the County Administration office at 541-447-6555. Crook County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This event/location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need accommodation to make participation possible, please call (541) 447-6555.

Contact: Brian Barney ([brian.barney@crookcountyor.gov](mailto:brian.barney@crookcountyor.gov)) (541) 447-6555 | Agenda published on December 23, 2025.



## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**  
Oaths of Office

**Background and Policy Implications:**

Clerk's Office no longer preparing or issuing Oaths of Office to certain boards and committees.

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**  
cost savings to Clerk's Office

**Requester:**  
Cheryl Seely, County Clerk

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**



# CROOK COUNTY CLERK

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300 NE Third Street, Rm 23 • Prineville, OR 97754

Phone (541) 447-6553 • Email: [cheryl.seely@crookcountyor.gov](mailto:cheryl.seely@crookcountyor.gov)

*Cheryl Seely, County Clerk*

December 31, 2025

## **Board of Commissioners**

Re: Oaths of Office for Boards and Committees

In the past, I have prepared and issued oaths of office for several of the appointments to the county boards and committees. Assistant County Counsel, Bryan Libel, at my request, researched the requirement for these board or committee members to take an oath of office and found that several do not require an oath, however, the bylaws for these boards and committees may. I will no longer be preparing or administering oaths of office to the boards and committees listed below. In the case that their bylaws require an oath, I will work with them as to the issuance of the oath, this may be something that their executive board may be able to administer.

- **Ag Extension Service District**
- **Budget Committee**
- **Abatement of Dangerous Buildings Code – Appeals Committee**
- **Fair Board**
- **Housing Works**
- **Taylor Grazing**

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,

**Cheryl Seely, c.c.c.**  
Crook County Clerk



## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**

Property Recording Alert Service (PRAS)

**Background and Policy Implications:**

Update on the implementation of this new service offered by the Clerk's Office

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**

Already in Clerk's Budget

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**



## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**

Update on Bowman Museum Staff Organization and FTE

**Background and Policy Implications:**

The Museum has replaced the vacated Museum Host and some of the extra help with a 30-hour-per-week Admin Clerk. This will improve operational consistency and allows a consistent person to handle some additional responsibilities; savings resulting from underutilizing available extra help FTE for several months. The personnel requirements will be evaluated through FY26 to determine needed FTE in FY27.

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**

There is no effect on the budget. The museum has the budget to support the changes to the staff FTE.

**Requester:**

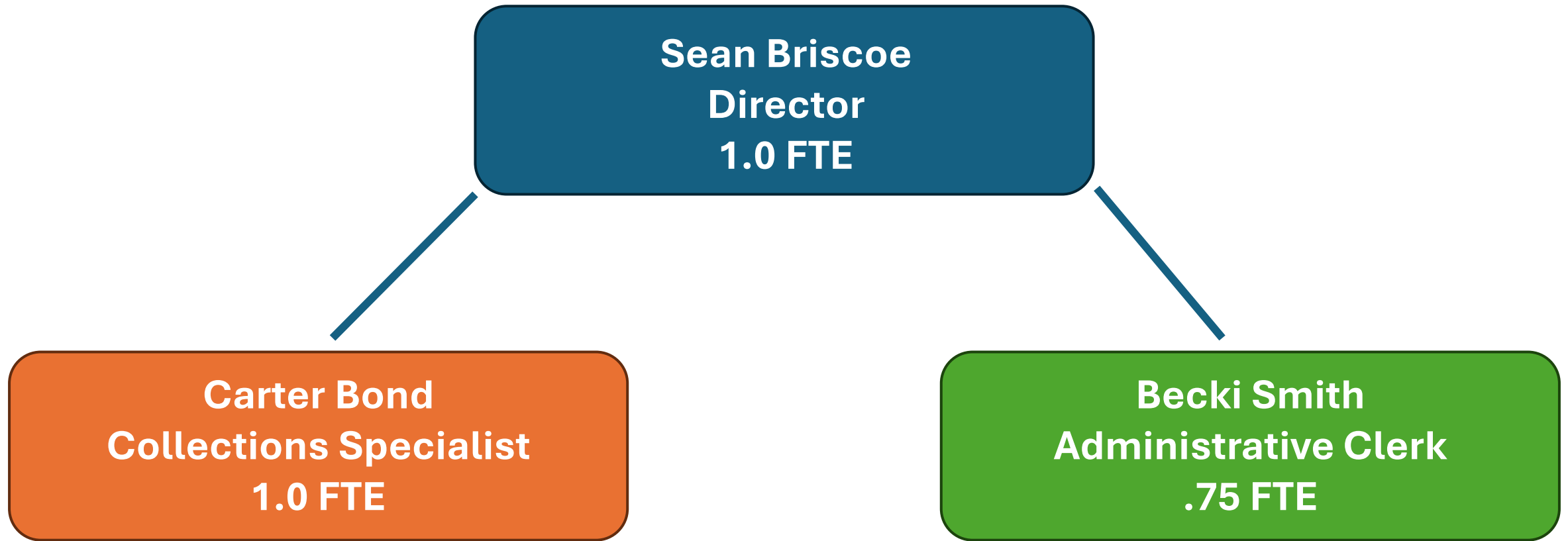
Sean Briscoe, Director of Bowman Museum

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**

# Bowman Museum

## Staff Organization Chart





Museum Regular Positions	FY26 ADOPTED		FY26 CHANGES		Change in FTE	Change in Expense	NOTES
	FTE	Personnel Total	FTE	Personnel Total			
Museum Director	1.00	154,700	1.00	152,600	-	(2,100)	
Collections Asst/Specialist	1.00	83,100	1.00	82,000	-	(1,100)	
Administrative Clerk (30 hours per week)			0.47	14,700	0.47	14,700	0.47 FTE = annualized FTE 11/16-6/30 (0.75 FTE in FY27)
Museum Host (Sat)	0.10	4,100	0.02	700	(0.08)	(3,400)	Resigned 8/9, no plan to refill
Museum Extra Help (Tue-Fri)	1.00	50,100	0.61	31,400	(0.39)	(18,700)	0.61 FTE = about 24 hours per week
<b>Museum Total FY26</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>292,000</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>281,400</b>	-	(10,600)	

\*Replacing the vacated Museum Host and some of the extra help with a 30 hours per week Admin Clerk improves operational consistency and allows a consistent person to handle some additional responsibilities; savings resulting from underutilizing available extra help FTE for several months. Personnel requirements to be evaluated through FY26 to determine needed FTE in FY27.



## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**

Letter of Support to Senators for Delisting Wolves

**Background and Policy Implications:**

Commissioner Hermreck requests Board consideration and approval of a letter of support to the senators advocating for the delisting of wolves.

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**

This request is made in consideration of the potential budgetary impacts to the County associated with wildlife management, public safety, and related operational costs.

**Requester:**

Susan Hermreck, County Commissioner

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**



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December 31, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Via email: [gavin\\_coble@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:gavin_coble@merkley.senate.gov)

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Via email: [nichole\\_vaneikeren@wyden.senate.gov](mailto:nichole_vaneikeren@wyden.senate.gov)

Subject: Letter of Support to Delist Gray Wolves in Oregon

Dear Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden,

The Crook County Board of Commissioners writes to express our strong support for the delisting of the gray wolf in the State of Oregon.

Oregon's gray wolf population has expanded significantly over the past several years, with the statewide population now exceeding 200 wolves. A substantial number of these packs are concentrated in eastern Oregon, where large-scale livestock operations are prevalent and where the impacts of wolf predation are most acutely felt by ranching families and rural communities.

Under current state management regulations, wolves located east of Highway 395 may be lethally removed under limited and specific circumstances, while wolves west of Highway 395 are restricted to non-lethal management options only. This uneven regulatory framework does not reflect current population realities, nor does it provide landowners and local authorities with the necessary tools to effectively address serious and ongoing conflicts.

Crook County is presently experiencing severe and escalating issues with a wolf pack in the eastern portion of the county. This pack has caused substantial disruption to livestock operations and has raised increasing concerns related to public safety. To date, there have been six confirmed wolf depredations, including the most recent loss of a 1,300-pound bred cow. In addition to these confirmed losses, livestock have been repeatedly chased through fences, resulting in multiple cows and calves sustaining injuries so severe that euthanasia was required.

These incidents are not isolated. They represent a growing and unsustainable pattern of conflict that threatens animal welfare, the economic viability of family ranches, and the long-term sustainability of rural livelihoods. Despite diligent efforts, non-lethal deterrents alone have proven insufficient to prevent continued losses or reduce escalating risks.

The Crook County Board of Commissioners asserts that wolf recovery goals in Oregon have been met. Delisting the gray wolf would allow for more flexible, science-based management options that appropriately balance wildlife conservation with livestock protection, public safety, and the economic stability of rural communities.

Therefore, the Crook County Board of Commissioners respectfully urges state and federal wildlife authorities to move forward with delisting the gray wolf in Oregon and to restore management authority that reflects the success of wolf recovery efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to responsible, balanced wildlife management in the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

X

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Brian Barney  
County Commissioner

X

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Seth Crawford  
County Commissioner

X

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Susan Hermreck  
County Commissioner

CC: Governor Tina Kotek  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
US Wildlife Services



## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**

Letter to Department of State Lands re: Data Center Project Application

**Background and Policy Implications:**

The Oregon Department of State Lands received an application for a data center demonstration project on the land adjacent and west of the airport. In July of this year, the County wrote a letter in support of the City of Prineville acquiring said land. The enclosed letter in opposition to the data center maintains that the County supports a sale to the City.

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**

**Requester:**

Will Van Vactor, County Manager

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**



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Phone (541) 447-6555

December 31, 2025

Via email to [realproperty@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:realproperty@dsl.oregon.gov)

Department of State Lands  
951 SW Simpson Ave., Ste. #104  
Bend, OR 97702

*RE: Opposition to Application No. APP0065856 from Prineville Airport Land LLC (15S15E WM, S 4&10, TL 1100)*

Dear Department of State Lands Staff:

Crook County would like to express its opposition to the above-referenced application from Prineville Airport Land LLC for a data center demonstration project. Crook County remains in support of the application to purchase this property by the City of Prineville.

The proposed data center demonstration project does not make sense. As our Community Development Director made clear on the LUCS, this land is outside the UGB and zoned by the County as EFU—data centers are not an approved use. Moreover, data centers are already an established feature of our community, as several are in use or under construction.

Crook County remains in support of the proposed purchase by the City of Prineville. Under the City's ownership, the community could be assured that any development would be compatible with the adjacent Prineville/Crook County Airport and its future expansion plans. Under the City's ownership—as opposed to a faceless Delaware entity—the community could be assured that any future development would represent the “greatest benefit for the people of this state” and our region. Please refer to our July 30, 2025, letter in support of the City for more information, as the County's position has not changed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this application. Again, it just does not make sense for this property. Crook County welcomes you to discuss the future of this property at your convenience.

Sincerely,

X

Brian Barney  
County Commissioner

X

Seth Crawford  
County Commissioner

X

Susan Hermreck  
County Commissioner

cc:

Governor Tina Kotek

Senator Mike McLane

Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson

Secretary of State of Oregon Tobias Read

State of Oregon Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner

DRAFT



## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**  
2026 County Financial Assistance Agreement for Behavioral Health Services

**Background and Policy Implications:**

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**





## Agenda Item Request

**Date of Meeting:** December 31, 2025

**Subject:**  
Local Plan and Budget for Behavioral Health Services

**Background and Policy Implications:**

**Budget/Fiscal Impacts:**

**Legal Review (only if requested):**

**Elected official sponsor (if applicable):**