



RECEIVED

OCT 29 2025

House Clerk's
Office

BALLARD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

P.O. Box 276 • Wickliffe, KY 42087
Phone: 270-335-5176 Fax: 270-335-3010

October 20, 2024

To: The Honorable Clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives

From: The Ballard County Fiscal Court

Re: Impeachment Hearing request

The Ballard Fiscal Court is attaching a resolution and other items for review and calling for an Impeachment process for the duly elected Ballard County Jailer Eric Coppess at the next general session of the Kentucky House of Representatives in January 2026.

Feel free to reach out to our office for additional information and discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cooper".

Todd Cooper, Ballard County Judge Executive

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OCT 29 2025

House Clerk's
Office

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08-05-001

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FISCAL COURT OF BALLARD
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, REQUESTING THE KENTUCKY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INITIATE
IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS REGARDING A
BALLARD COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIAL, NAMELY
JAILER ERIC COPPESS**

WHEREAS, the Ballard County Ethics Committee, herein BCEC, has been receiving public reports of allegations of repeated serious incidents at the Ballard County Detention Facility; and

WHEREAS, the BCEC was provided written and verbal reports of allegations during the BCEC quarterly meetings and have investigated allegations; and

WHEREAS, the BCEC has issued a written, signed letter to the Ballard Fiscal Court detailing the alleged incidents that have taken place at the jail with the letter being attached as a recitals dated **July 24, 2025**; the BCEC has requested the Ballard Fiscal Court pass said Resolution to present to the Kentucky House of Representatives to begin formal impeachment proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Ballard County Fiscal Court, was provided a copy of the findings the letter of request by the BCEC and by unanimous vote passed said resolution, which will be presented to the Kentucky House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this Resolution be adopted in order to evidence such support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE FISCAL
COURT OF BALLARD COUNTY, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:**

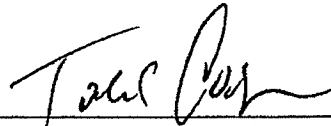
Section 1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the statements of allegations set forth in the recitals attached to this Resolution are true and accurate in all respects, and the recitals therein are incorporated in this Resolution by reference, as if set forth verbatim herein.

Section 2. The Ballard County Fiscal Court hereby supports the requests from the BCEC for impeachment process to begin the Kentucky House of Representatives. Furthermore, the Ballard County Fiscal Court agrees to the findings of the BCEC.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

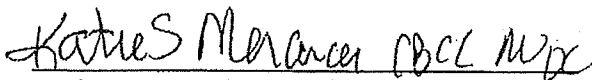
Section 4. The Ballard County Fiscal Court hereby authorizes Todd Cooper, Ballard County Judge-Executive, to sign all forms and documents related to the impeachment process.

ADOPTED by the Fiscal Court of Ballard County, Kentucky, on **5 August, 2025**, signed by the Judge Executive, attested by the County Clerk and declared to be in full force and effect.



Todd Cooper, Judge Executive

Attest:



Katie Mercer, County Clerk

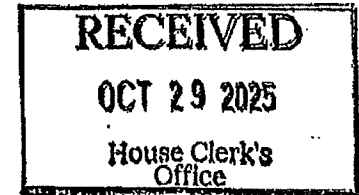
Certification

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting County Clerk of Ballard County, Kentucky (the "County"), and as such Clerk I further certify that the foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Fiscal Court of Ballard County at a properly convened meeting held on **5 August, 2025**, signed by the Judge Executive and now in full force and effect, all as appears from the official records of the County Clerks Office in my possession and under my control.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this **5 August, 2025**.



Katie Mercer, County Clerk



July 24, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Ballard County Fiscal Court
Ballard County Courthouse
Wickliffe, KY

Dear Members of the Fiscal Court,

We are writing in our capacity as members of the Ballard County Ethics Committee to formally request that the Fiscal Court consider adopting a resolution urging the Kentucky General Assembly to initiate impeachment proceedings against two elected officials currently serving our county: Katie Mercer, County Clerk, and Eric Coppess, Jailer.

Jailer – Eric Coppess

The Ballard County Jail has experienced a series of serious incidents under Mr. Coppess's supervision:

- On July 7, 2025, two jail employees, Quimby and Redfern, were indicted by a Ballard County Grand Jury in connection with inmates being allowed to possess communication devices within the facility. Their employment was terminated by Fiscal Court motion on July 15, 2025, retroactive to the date of indictment.
 - On July 11, 2025, two deputies were assaulted due to multiple facility failures. A malfunctioning door mechanism allowed an inmate to leave the outdoor recreation area and access the jail's control room. The door had been propped open due to the air conditioning being out of service since April. The inmate choked one officer and injured another by slamming a door on his foot, causing significant pain and injury.
 - Additional issues include the discovery of contraband within the jail and Coppess' consistent absence from the jail.
-

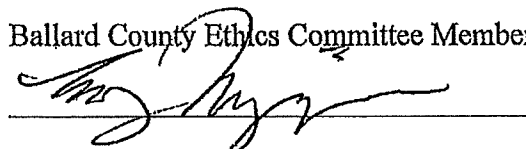
These incidents reflect a pattern of mismanagement and failure to maintain a safe and secure correctional environment. In response, the Fiscal Court passed a motion in open court on July 15, 2025, formally requesting Mr. Coppess' resignation. Mr. Coppess refused to resign his position.

These actions, taken together, represent a breach of public trust and may rise to the level of "misdemeanors in office" as defined under Section 68 of the Kentucky Constitution. We respectfully urge the Fiscal Court to investigate these matters and, if warranted, pass a resolution requesting the Kentucky House of Representatives to initiate impeachment proceedings.

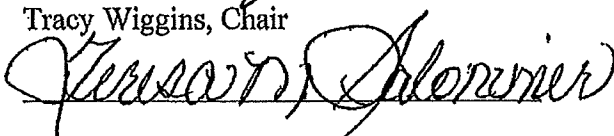
Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued service to Ballard County.

Sincerely,

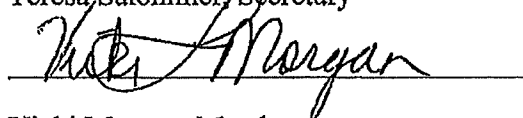
Ballard County Ethics Committee Members



Tracy Wiggins, Chair



Teresa Salonimer, Secretary



Vicki Morgan, Member

63.090 Definition of "neglect of duty" as used in KRS 63.100 to 63.160.

As used in KRS 63.100 to 63.160, unless the context requires otherwise, "neglect of duty" includes the following things listed but does not exclude things not listed:

- (1) The commission of a trespass or wrongful act in the performance of official duty;
- (2) Accepting a bribe to neglect official duty;
- (3) Gross neglect equivalent to fraud;
- (4) Willful neglect and such forms of misfeasance or malfeasance as involve a failure in the performance of the duties required by law;
- (5) Careless or intentional failure to exercise due diligence in the performance of official duty;
- (6) Habitual drunkenness in office; or,
- (7) Gross immorality or misconduct in office amounting to neglect of duty.

Effective: October 1, 1942

History: Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 208, sec. 1, effective October 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. sec. 3766a-6.



BALLARD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

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Ballard County Fiscal Court
P.O. Box 276
Wickliffe, KY 42087
(270) 335-5176

July 15, 2025

Matthew Quimby
119 High Street
Bardwell, KY 42023

Dear Mr. Quimby,

This letter serves as formal notification that, effective July 7, 2025, your employment with the Ballard County Jail has been terminated.

This decision was made following a motion and second, and was passed with a unanimous vote by the Ballard County Fiscal Court. The basis for this action stems from your current inability to fulfill the duties of your position due to pending criminal charges, which have created a hardship on the daily operations of the jail. The facility must move forward with the hiring and retention of employees to ensure adequate staffing and operational continuity.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Bethany Denton, Ballard County Attorney, at (270) 335-3504.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Cooper".

Todd Cooper
Judge Executive



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(270) 335-5176

July 15, 2025

Christopher Logan Redfern
1380 Monkey Eyebrow Road
LaCenter, KY 42056

Dear Mr. Redfern,

This letter serves as formal notification that, effective July 7, 2025, your employment with the Ballard County Jail has been terminated.

This decision was made following a motion and second, and was passed with a unanimous vote by the Ballard County Fiscal Court. The basis for this action stems from your current inability to fulfill the duties of your position due to pending criminal charges, which have created a hardship on the daily operations of the jail. The facility must move forward with the hiring and retention of employees to ensure adequate staffing and operational continuity.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Bethany Denton, Ballard County Attorney, at (270) 335-3504.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Todd Cooper", is written over a horizontal line.

Todd Cooper
Judge Executive

Ethics Board update: July 2025

Jail: Two employees(Quimby/Redfern) were Indicted by a Ballard Co. Grand Jury July 7 in connection with inmates being allowed to have communication devices in the jail facility. The Fiscal Court terminated their employment July 15, 2025 by motion effective July 7, 2025.

Jailer: Two deputies were assaulted Friday night July 11, 2025 due to 2 issues. A door mechanism was not working properly allowing an inmate to leave the outside rec area and reach the Control Room(heart of the jail). The officer had the door open because the ac was not working in the control room, to cool off. The inmate was able to enter the control room and choke the officer and when another deputy came to assist the inmate smashed officer #2 foot in the door causing him to break a toe nail and pain in his leg. The ac has been out in the control room since April.

Based on a continual pattern of issues at the jail, the Fiscal Court made a motion and the motion passed, in open court July 15, 2025, asking Jailer Eric Coppess to resign.

To: Todd Cooper, Judge Executive
RE: Eric Coppess, Ballard County Jailer
From: Ethics Committee
Date: May 27, 2025

After review of the information presented to the Ethics Committee on 4/21/25 involving the Ballard County Detention Facility, the Committee makes the following recommendation.

Recommend that Jailer, Eric Coppess, be suspended from his elected position pending the outcome of the inquiry by the Grand Jury. This recommendation is based on the willful neglect of Coppess as Jailer in which during his supervision of the facility, Internet connected game systems and contraband were recovered on 4/15/25 by the River County Drug Task Force when they served a search warrant at the premises.

Summary of Information presented to Ethics Committee on 4/21/25:

A gaming device was being used by inmates in the "rec room" (library/court room) facility in the jail, which was connected to the Internet. Statements were received from two staff members, Quimby and Redfern. Both stated that they knew about the Internet connection and were facilitating or allowing the violation of known policy to take place. This resulted in the search warrant being issued. Jailer Coppess was called to the jail by the Task Force Officers. During the search, two games systems were recovered along with some other contraband. Reports to the Judge Executive Office stated that employees were being presented to the Grand Jury for criminal charges. No further information was received on whether any criminal charges would be brought against Coppess.

Tracey Wiggins, Chair

Teresa Saloniher, Secretary

Vicki Morgan, Member

Jail Employee: **Matt Quimby**

Allegation: began a relationship with a female inmate at the Ballard Co. Jail. KSP investigated and found nothing arising to criminal charges. Former Staff and other inmates have made statements the relationship was taking place while the female was an inmate at the jail. Quimby divorced his wife and moved in with the female after her release from the Ballard Co. Jail. If this is not criminal, it is unethical.

One staff member made the allegation against Quimby about the relationship with the female inmate, the next date the staff member was terminated.

Allegation: *Providing inmates with Internet access to inmates along with password to communicate with others outside the facility in violation of KRS. Criminal Charges are pending.*

Jail Employee: Logan Redfern

Allegation: was at a Conference. Became intoxicated and began fighting others at the Conference

Allegation: allowed a female inmate inside his private office at the Jail, and was playing guitar and singing a song to the inmate. Unethical violation.

Allegation: Providing inmates with internet access to inmates along with password to communicate with others outside the facility in violation of KRS. Criminal Charges are pending.

Ballard County jail officials charged with providing contraband



4/21/25

ADVERTISEMENT

By WEST KENTUCKY STAR STAFF
2 hours ago | WICKLIFFE



A Ballard County Jail captain and lieutenant have been arrested for allegedly providing contraband to inmates.

The River Counties Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force began an investigation into the Ballard County Jail in early April. On Monday the investigation resulted in the arrest of a Captain Matt Quimby and Lieutenant Logan Redfern.

The Carlisle County Sheriff's Office said the task force executed a search warrant at the Ballard County Jail on April 14 with help from the McCracken County Sheriff's Office Special Services Team.

Authorities said they found an electronic device connected to the Internet that had allegedly been provided by the two administrators. The device was capable of voice conversations and text messaging conversations that were not recorded or monitored. Inmates are prohibited from possessing items capable of those functions that are not monitored or recorded in the event those devices are used to facilitate an escape, contraband delivery, or other illegal actions.

The device was said to have been approved by jail administrators and was set up in an inmate commons area where 6 Class D inmates had unrestricted access.

Quimby and Redfern are each facing six counts of promoting contraband and official misconduct.

Quimby was lodged in the Marshall County Jail, Redfern was lodged in the McCracken County Jail.

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HOME BUDDY

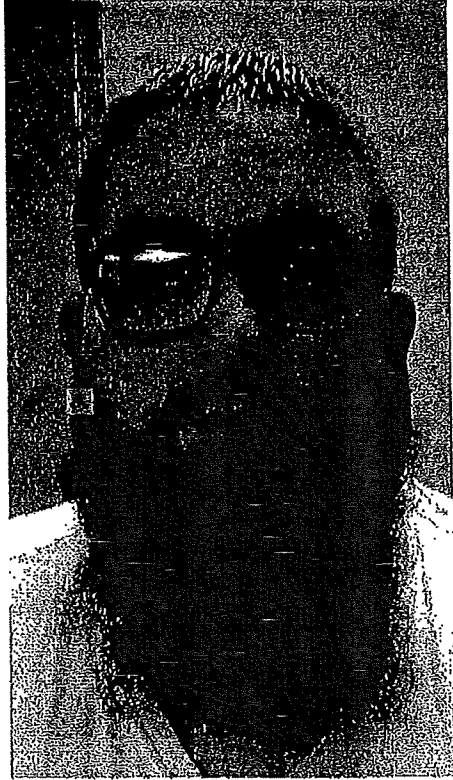
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Ballard County jail officials charged with providing contraband



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The device was said to have been approved by jail administrators and was set up in an inmate commons area where 6 Class D inmates had unrestricted access.

11/01/24 Jail meeting

In custody death:

Our attorney-Stacey Blankenship with KKBH-needs all reports, logs, camera footage/call logs etc regarding Austin Spencer. Stacey wants to talk with Eric. Her number is 270-448-8888

Action Items:

A) DOC corrective action plan response

B) supervisory neglect issues(former employee J. Hargrove case(if violation is found by employee, suspend with/without pay immediately, do not allow them to continue to work)

1)need to plan TRAINING FOR ALL SUPERVISORS

2) inmate held 80 days past release date—Inmate, *Tod Stewart*(daughter called the Circ. Clerk asking for release date, found he was held to long) who is charged with verifying sentences

3) employee "blackmailing" inmates and placing them "in the hole" for reporting issues to DOC

4) every person in custody is your personal responsibility

5) Logan playing guitar to female inmate in his office

C) Employee uniforms/dress code*inmates roam the jail....peace officers can't tell the difference between the inmates and the staff(t-shirts with BCJail?)

D) the jail at times stinks to high heaven, the facility is dirty(use inmates to clean it up?)

Resolved action items discussed over the last couple of months?

*jail showers not working for class d inmates(call a plumber) *waiting on parts as of 09/19/24*

*inmate outgoing mail is reportedly being censored/withheld from delivery(*legal per Kar/KRS?*)

*inmates being released to roam the streets all hours of the day...can we move them out of the city?
This issue on-going for years(*Angela is calling PATS about transports*) *Jimmy H. says he is afraid of liability moving inmates when they are "free citizens"*