

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 13, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Government Contract Review Committee met on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 2:50 PM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Donald Douglas, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Donald Douglas, Co-Chair; Representative Mark Hart, Co-Chair; Senators Stephen Meredith, Craig Richardson, and Reginald L. Thomas; and Representatives Jared Bauman, Bobby McCool, and Rachel Roarx.

Guests: Leslie Brown, Executive Director, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); Michaela Stevenson, Program Manager for Healthcare and Workforce, CPE; Eric Pelfrey, Director for Professional Services, Department of Highways, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); James Edmunds, Engineer Specialist, Department of Highways, KYTC; Ryan Fisher, Assistant Director, Department of Highways, KYTC; Brandie Craft, Program Coordinator, Department of Highways, KYTC; Jay Huber, Contractor, Department of Highways, KYTC; Katie Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation (KHRGC); Jamie Eads, Executive Director, KHRGC; Susan Speckert, Chief Operation Officer, KHRGC; Dr. Michael Strynick, Chief Strategic Communications Officer, Kentucky State University (KSU); Jessica Holman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, KSU; Dr. Heather Bigard, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, KSU; Astrud Masterson, Executive Director, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Wesley Duke, General Counsel, CHFS; Kathy McNaughton, Purchasing Branch Manager, Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA); Michael Board, Executive Director, Office of Legal Services, KPPA; Karen Wirth, Director of Budgets and Financial Management, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Melody Cooper, Policy Advisor, KDE; Shelley Badgett, Director of Special Education for State Schools, KDE; Barry Swanson, Chief Procurement Officer and Interim Vice President for Facilities Management, University of Kentucky (UK); Shannan Stamper, Deputy General Counsel, UK; Sally Molsberger, Chief Procurement Officer, University of Louisville (UofL); Austin Gray, Associate Counsel, UofL; Carrie Whitmore, Project Manager, Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, UofL; Matt Sawyers, Commissioner, Department for Local Government (DLG); Aaron Jones, Branch Manager, DLG; Patti Clark, Director, Division of Mental Health, Department for Behavioral Health,

Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), CHFS; Sarah Johnson, Division Director, DBHDID, CHFS.

LRC Staff: Jarrod Schmidt, Kim Smith, and Elizabeth Raymond.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to approve minutes of the December 2025, meeting of the committee. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider as reviewed the Personal Service Contract List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider as reviewed the Personal Service Contract Amendment List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider as reviewed the Memoranda of Agreement List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider as reviewed the Memoranda of Agreement Amendment List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider as reviewed the Kentucky Entertainment Incentive Program Agreements List, with exception of those items selected for further review by members of the committee. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider as reviewed the Correction List. Co-Chair Hart seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Baker Tilly, 2400003425-1.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2600001160; Anderson Professional Services, LLC, 2600001162; QK4, Inc., 2600001189; WSP USA, Inc., 2600001259; Gresham Smith, 2600001262; Egis BLN USA, Inc., 2600001276; WSP USA, Inc., 2600001280.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

360care, LLC, 2600000896.

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Steven Ray Vallance, 2600000855.

JUSTICE - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Emily Raisle Neal, 2600000672.

KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Gray Miller Persh, LLP, 2600000974.

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

Randall A. Honeycutt, 2600001102; Eric M. Hines, 2600001104; Lloyd A. Ray, 2600001106; Randy Combs, 2600001107; Erik Christian Salman, 2600001116; Scott Doyle, 2600001117.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Judith K. Jones-Toleman, Attorney at Law, 26-19; Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana, 26-21.

KY COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Clotfelter Samokar, PSC, 26-004.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Ken Perry Realty, Inc., 2025-164.

OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS

Clinton Investigations, LLP, 2600000253.

OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY

BDO Government Services, LLC, 2500000238-1.

OSH REVIEW COMMISSION

James Dickinson, 2600001111.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Anchor Planning, LLC, K26-128; Sasaki Associates, Inc., K26-129.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE AMENDMENTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Dentons Bingham Greenebaum, LLP, 2600000641.

BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Multi, 2400000142; Multi, 2400000143.

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Blue & Company, LLC, 2500003360.

DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Tichenor and Associates, 2400003782.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Chase Environmental Group, 2400004578.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

GRW Engineers, Inc., 0600002125; HDR Engineering, Inc., 1100001727; American Engineers, Inc., 1400000378; QK4, 1400000709; Palmer Engineering Company, 1500001283; Strand Associates, Inc., 1500001578; QK4, Inc., 1600000935; Palmer Engineering Company, 1700002768; QK4, Inc., 1800000321; DLZ Kentucky, Inc., 1800000391; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 1800002226-1; Palmer Engineering Company, 1900002137; HDR Engineering, Inc., 1900003491; Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., 1900004224; American Engineers, Inc., 1900004731; H. W. Lochner, Inc., 1900004969; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 1900005012-1; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 2000000306-1; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2000000524; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2000000525; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2000004390; GRW Engineers, Inc., 2100001615; Redwing Ecological Services, Inc., 2100003236; American Engineers, Inc., 2100003406; Palmer Engineering Company, 2100003447; Palmer Engineering Company, 2200000359; Gresham Smith, 2200000427; Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., 2200001178; Kentucky Field Service Realty, 2200001387; Mary McClinton Clay, 2200001388; H. W. Lochner, Inc., 2200001600; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 2200002954-1; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2200003067; J.M. Crawford & Associates, Inc., 2200004576; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2300000049; Burgess and Niple, Inc., 2300000347; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2300001416; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 2300001492-1; QK4, Inc., 2300001506; Aecom

Technical Services, Inc., 2300001512; HMB Engineers, Inc., 2300001514; Stanton Constructability Services, LLC, 2300001539; Innovative Contracting & Engineering, LLC, 2300001541; DLZ Kentucky, Inc., 2300003353; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 2400000291; Burgess and Niple, Inc., 2400001003; QK4, Inc., 2400001250; Bluegrass Valuation Group, LLC, 2400001357; The Raleigh Company, 2400001360; Thoroughbred Real Estate Services, LLC, 2400001364; Tammy L. Barnes, 2400001366; John Daniel Lyons, 2400001369; J. Michael Jones and Associates, 2400001370; Dustin Markwell, 2400001371; Bold Pursuits, LLC, 2400001373; W and W Properties of Bowling Green, Inc., 2400001375; G. Herbert Pritchett & Associates, Inc., 2400001376; Mary McClinton Clay, 2400001377; Garver, LLC, 2400001381; Gresham Smith, 2400001390; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., 2400001481; HDR Engineering, Inc., 2400002786; Leslie M. Haney & Albert W. Gross Partners, 2500001995; H W Lochner, Inc., 2500002378.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Dayspring Counseling Services, LLC, 2400003781; Noble Supply and Logistics, LLC, 2500001733; Safeware, Inc., 2500003116.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

CMTA, Inc., 1900003502; GRW Engineers, Inc., 2000000343; KZF Design, Inc., 2200000755; Patrick D. Murphy Company, Inc., 2300001754; Schmidt Associates, Inc., 2400000546; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2400004538; BCCLT, Inc., 2500001521; Terracon Consultants, Inc., 2500002299; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2500002489.

KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 15FW002859; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 18FW001103; Res Kentucky, LLC d/b/a Redwing Ecological Services, 18FW002056; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 19FW004505; Res Kentucky LLC d/b/a Redwing Ecological Services, 20FW000086; Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2500001448; Agri-Air, LLC, 2600000538.

KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

Lexington Equine Medical Group, 2400003731; Rood, Riddle & Partners, PSC, 2400003733.

KY COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Mobile Marketing Solutions d/b/a Brewco Marketing Group, 942.

KY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Newgen Strategies and Solutions, LLC, 2400002072; Harvey Economics Company, 2400002404; Elliot Engineering, Inc., 2400002405.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

E & E Cycles of Kentucky LLC, 2400003058; Harley Davidson Bowling Green, 2400003065; PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, 2400003159.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Bentz, Whaley, Flessner & Associates, Inc. d/b/a BWF, K25-234.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENTS WERE REVIEWED
WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Asbury University, 2600001072; Bellarmine University, 2600001073.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Louisville & Jefferson MSD, 2600000475; Lincoln Trail District Health Department, 2600000521; Springfield Water & Sewer Commission, 2600000714.

DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Jeffersonville, 2500002637; City of Beattyville, 2600000100; The Haven Ministries, 2600000631; Wayne County Fiscal Court, 2600000861; KCEOC Community Action Partnership, 2600000973; Owsley County, 2600001042; Owsley County, 2600001043; Warren County Fiscal Court, 2600001046; Lincoln Trail Area Development District, 2600001090; Elliott County Fiscal Court, 2600001095; Carter County Fiscal Court, 2600001124; Cadiz-Trigg County Industrial Development Authority, 2600001149; Pennyriple Area Development, 2600001167; Perry County Fiscal Court, 2600001238.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2600000504; Kentuckiana Lactation Improvement Coalition, 2600000889; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000985.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Kentucky Alternative Livestock Association, 2600000578.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Kentucky Non Public Schools Commission, Inc., 2600000962; Cognia, Inc., 2600001049; Barren County Board of Education, 2600001099; Fayette County Board of Education, 2600001217.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Multi, 2600000042; Multi, 2600000043; University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2600000050.

JUSTICE - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

City of Somerset, 2600000719; Fayette County Sheriff, 2600000736; Hope Center, Inc., 2600000737; Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, 2600000738; Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, 2600000739; Maryhurst, Inc., 2600000740; Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, 2600000741; Seven Counties Services, Inc., 2600000742; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000743; Western Kentucky University, 2600000744; Whitneystrong, Inc., 2600000745; Cabinet for Health and Family Services - DBHDID, 2600000897; Cabinet for Health and Family Services - DBHDID, 2600000898; Baptist Health Foundation Hardin, Inc., 2600000908; City of Georgetown, 2600000912; Prosecutors Advisory Council, 2600000913; Domestic Violence Emergency Services of Gateway, Inc., 2600000914; Fayette County Sheriff, 2600000915; Hope Harbor, Inc., 2600000919; The Ion Center for Violence Prevention, Inc., 2600000920; Jefferson County Attorney, 2600000921; Kentucky River Community Care, Inc., 2600000923; Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, 2600000924; Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, 2600000925; La Casita Center, 2600000926; Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, 2600000927; Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, 2600000928; Rape Victims Services, Inc., 2600000929; Safe Harbor of Northeast Kentucky, Inc., 2600000930; St. Elizabeth Medical Center, 2600000931; Scott County, 2600000932; Springhaven, Inc., 2600000934; Center for Women Children and Families, Inc., 2600000935; Women Aware, Inc., 2600000936; Zerov, 2600000937.

KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2600000977.

KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

City of Beattyville, 2600000967; City of Dawson Springs, 2600000980; Garden Club of Kentucky, 2600000981; Christian County Hopkinsville Development Corporation, 2600000983.

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, 2600000733.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS WERE
REVIEWED WITHOUT OBJECTION:**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES**

Mental Health Association of Kentucky, Inc., 2400001653; Pennyroyal Reg
Mental Health Mental Retardation Board, 2400002059; Northkey Community Care,
2400002325; Kentucky River Community Care, Inc., 2400002329; University of
Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400002883; Recovery Cafe Lexington, Inc.,
2400002897; Volunteers of America Mid-States, Inc., 2400002992; Western Kentucky
Regional Mental Health & Retardation Advisory Board, 2500002776.

BOARD OF MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION THERAPY

Department for Public Health, 2400002621.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

Public Protection Cabinet, 2400002086.

CHFS - DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

Multi, 2600000026.

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Kentucky Communications Network Authority, 2400003836.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, 2400001878; National Council
On Crime and Delinquency, 2400002401; Center for Employment Opportunities, Inc.,
2400002610; Community Action Kentucky, Inc., 2500001690; Kentucky Housing
Corporation, 2500001691; Eastern Kentucky CEP, Inc., 2500003381.

**DEPARTMENT FOR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS & VOLUNTEER
SERVICES**

Multi, 2400000037; Multi, 2400000038; Jefferson County Board of Education,
2400001404.

DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Lee County, 2100002188; City of Horse Cave, 2100003247; Menifee County
Fiscal Court, 2300000941; City of Frenchburg, 2300001298; City of Stanton,
2400000126; Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc., 2400000665;
Christian County, 2400001154; City of Bowling Green, 2400001611; City of Bowling
Green, 2400002984.

DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES

University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2500000197.

DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex, 2500001474-1.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Dayspring Health, Inc., 2400001479; Kentucky Cancerlink, Inc., 2400001588; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400001703; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400001708; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400001929; University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400001997; C E Mendez Foundation, Inc., 2400002009; University of Louisville Research Foundation, 2400002284; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2400002286; University of Louisville Hospital, 2400002614; Hands & Voices of Kentucky, 2400003061; House of Ruth, Inc., 2400003291; University of Kentucky Research Foundation, 2500000732; Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, 2500002245; Bluegrass Primary Health Care Center, Inc., 2500002247; Bowling Green/Warren County Primary Care Center, Inc., 2500002483.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sylvatica Forest Farm, 2600001004.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Fayette County Board of Education, 2500002742; Barren County Board of Education, 2500002978.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

New Legacy Reentry Corporation, 2400003659.

FACILITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

City of Sandy Hook, 2500001128.

JUSTICE - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Seven Counties Services, Inc., 2500002116.

THE FOLLOWING KENTUCKY ENTERTAINMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM AGREEMENTS WERE REVIEWED WITHOUT OBJECTION:

ECON DEV - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

GR Film Slate 8, 2600001119; GR Film Slate 7, 2600001120; Ethanalmighty Movie, LLC, 2600001121; The Loop Production, LLC, 2600001154; The Seer and the Sword, 2600001155; RTL Productions, LLC, 2600001156; Never Say Die Productions, LLC, 2600001157; Omni Productions, LLC, 2600001158; Pioneer Productions, LLC, 2600001159.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WERE SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Pair O Medics Emergency Training, LLC, 2600001086. Leslie Brown, Executive Director, CPE, and Michaela Stevenson, Program Manager for Healthcare and Workforce, CPE, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mrs. Brown stated CPE administers the Healthcare Workforce Incentive Fund created by 2023 RS HB 200. Funding is awarded through a competitive process to eligible public and private entities under bid standards established in statute, which differ from the Finance Cabinet's procurement requirements under KRS Chapter 45A. Proposals are reviewed by a steering committee who evaluates and scores submissions using established metrics and makes recommendations for contract awards. While the awards are competitive, the projects are not bid through the Finance Cabinet process due to differing statutory standards.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2600001062; QK4, Inc., 2600001063; Burgess and Niple, Inc., 2600001064; Prime AE Group, Inc., 2600001065; Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2600001130; Michael Baker International, Inc., 2600001131. Eric Pelfrey, Director for Professional Services, Department of Highways, KYTC, and James Edmunds, Engineer Specialist, Department of Highways, KYTC, discussed the contracts with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Pelfrey stated scour assessments evaluate erosion caused by water flow under bridges, focusing on how high-water events can remove soil or rock around foundations and piers and potentially undermine structural elements, while load ratings assess the capacity of the bridge's superstructure to safely carry loads. Federal requirements mandate bridge inspections every two years under the National Bridge Inspection Service, and because the state lacks sufficient staff,

consultants are used to perform many of these inspections. Separate contracts are maintained to ensure that qualified firms with the appropriate specialties are selected for scour analysis and structural load rating work.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Edmunds stated the scour program involves assessments that focus on the effects of water flow beneath bridges. During high-water events, flowing water can erode soil, rock, and other materials around bridge foundations, potentially compromising their stability. Assessments examine soil and rock types, water flow rates, and foundation characteristics to evaluate the risk of erosion and possible undermining of key structural elements.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contracts as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY HORSE RACING AND GAMING CORPORATION

Frost Brown Todd, LLP, 2025-006. Katie Smith, Chief Financial Officer, KHRGC; Jamie Eads, Executive Director, KHRGC; and Susan Speckert, Chief Operation Officer, KHRGC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Eads stated legal needs were identified, leading to the issuance of an RFP in early November for legal services. The RFP was evaluated by a review panel in accordance with board-approved procurement policies aligned with KRS Chapter 45A, and all four firms that applied were awarded contracts to create a pool and avoid conflicts of interest given the corporation's regulatory role in racing, sports betting, and charitable gaming. Internal legal counsel will be used whenever possible. Before the awards were formally announced, an order issued by the charitable gaming division led to a temporary restraining order, requiring the corporation to enter into an emergency contract to address the matter.

In response to Representative Bauman, Ms. Eads stated a phishing incident occurred in the Louisville, Lexington, and Owensboro areas in which tens of thousands of dollars were being phished from gaming machines. In response, an order was issued to place those machines on hold while the issue was investigated and addressed as a public safety concern. Following that action, the affected parties sought and were granted a temporary restraining order.

A motion was made by Senator Thomas to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

Stratagon, Inc., 26-17. Dr. Michael Strynick, Chief Strategic Communications Officer, KSU; Jessica Holman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, KSU; and Dr. Heather Bigard, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, KSU, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Representative Bauman, Dr. Bigard stated the contract is being used for awareness to highlight academics. Many in Franklin County are not aware of the

university or its achievements and enrollment is a major piece of the university's financial gain and wellness.

In response to Representative Bauman, Ms. Holman stated she is new to the university and is still becoming familiar with its financial and enrollment strategies. The institution has adopted a growth-focused plan with strong local support and identified a need for additional marketing expertise to better promote the university and attract students. The university is addressing past issues with student account collections by enforcing payment responsibility, offering payment plans, and cleaning up accounting records to properly reconcile old receivables.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Holman explained the university has a student payment plan requiring an initial payment and a verified automatic monthly payment system. While this policy was not consistently enforced in the past, the university is now holding students accountable and enforcing the existing requirements. Limited exceptions are allowed when there is documented proof of pending funds, such as scholarships or military benefits. Overall, the university is consistently applying its payment policies to improve accountability and collections.

In response to Senator Thomas, Dr. Strysick stated there is positive momentum in the university's growth and enrollment, including 916 students participating in dual enrollment from local high schools. Colleges are facing an enrollment cliff caused by declining birth rates following the 2008 recession, resulting in fewer high school graduates and increased competition among institutions. The awareness campaign is intended to highlight the university's unique attributes, improving visibility and helping mitigate financial challenges associated with declining enrollment and revenue.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Thomas seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

C2 Strategic Communications, 26-26. Dr. Strysick, Ms. Holman, and Dr. Bigard discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Dr. Strysick stated the need to act quickly to address ongoing crisis communication issues that may continue for several weeks or months. Based on his familiarity with the local higher education landscape, he identified the selected firm as qualified, conducted due diligence, and verified credentials through peer references. The \$45,000 in the contract represents a spending cap rather than a fixed fee, with services billed hourly and are not expected to reach the maximum amount. He noted that coordination with the university's insurance carrier was required to support this effort.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed.

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL SERVICE AMENDMENTS WERE SELECTED
FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Public Consulting Group, LLC, 2500000061. Astrud Masterson, Executive Director, CHFS, and Wesley Duke, General Counsel, CHFS, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Masterson stated the contract is being phased out as the previous vendor, Public Consulting Group (PCG), completes work they were already responsible for. A new contract was awarded to Civic Solutions on November 1 2025, but a three to four month transition period was required for the new vendor to come on board. Due to the previous contract being awarded and protested, the contract had to be re-bid. PCG's contract was extended in short increments beginning in August 2024 to ensure continuity of services, with no new cases assigned after December 2025. Limited funds are being added solely to close out PCG's work during the transition, with the overall contract period running from August 2024 through March 2026.

In response to Senator Thomas, Mr. Duke stated, due to procurement delays and related challenges, services had to be continued to ensure cases were still reviewed, similar to operating under a continuing resolution. The contract was extended to keep work moving until the new vendor could be brought on. With the new vendor now in place, the expectation is to move forward under a new contract period and transition fully to the new provider.

A motion was made by Chair Douglas to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Aecom Technical Services, Inc., 2100001785. Mr. Pelfrey and Mr. Edmunds discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Pelfrey stated it was normal to ask for Phase I and Phase II. Phase I is for preliminary engineering, which was advertised in 2021 and cost \$590,000. The project is now in Phase II, the final design phase, with a cost of about \$1.1 million. The schedule is on track and construction is planned to be advertised in 2027.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

WSP USA, Inc., 2400003042. Mr. Pelfrey and Mr. Edmunds discussed the contract with the committee

In response to Co-Chair Hart, Mr. Pelfrey stated the project is on Kentucky 8 in Campbell County and is using a progressive design build where the contractor is brought

in early to finalize the design plans. An initial \$400,000 was authorized when the project began a few years ago, and the contractor has now been selected and begun work. The remaining \$4.1 million is being authorized to complete the total \$4.5 million project which was outlined in the original RFP.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

KENTUCKY PUBLIC PENSIONS AUTHORITY

Haystackid, LLC, 2400003528. Kathy McNaughton, Purchasing Branch Manager, KPPA, and Michael Board, Executive Director, Office of Legal Services, KPPA, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Representative Bauman, Mr. Board stated the firm is an e-discovery consulting company based in Chicago, along with other offices in multiple locations, and does not provide legal services or act as attorneys. Its role is to manage e-discovery for litigation occurring in multiple states, including Kentucky, California, and Delaware. The firm coordinates and manages more than two terabytes of data for discovery purposes across these jurisdictions.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hart to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed.

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Maxim Healthcare Services Holding, Inc., 2400000164. Karen Wirth, Director of Budgets and Financial Management, KDE; Melody Cooper, Policy Advisor, KDE; and Shelley Badgett, Director of Special Education for State Schools, KDE, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Ms. Wirth stated the contract is part of a statewide master agreement the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) used to quickly obtain speech pathology services for a student with an IEP after the school's speech pathologist went on long-term leave and ultimately did not return. Unable to hire a replacement immediately, KSD worked with the Finance Cabinet to be added to the master agreement to secure services for six months to meet the student's needs. While contracting met the immediate need, the preferred long-term solution is to hire a speech pathologist directly. KSD is not using any other services listed under the contract.

In response to Chair Douglas, Ms. Wirth confirmed the contract is scheduled through June 30, 2026. The previous employed speech pathologist decided not to return. The funds will remain within KSD's budget and are not being used for any other purpose. They will be applied to cover the contract costs, which will also be partially offset by remaining available funds.

A motion was made by Senator Richardson to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Bauman seconded the motion, which passed.

TRANSPORTATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Tim Cody, 2400003078. Ryan Fisher, Assistant Director, Department of Highways, KYTC; Brandie Craft, Program Coordinator, Department of Highways, KYTC; and Jay Huber, Contractor, Department of Highways, KYTC, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. Huber stated the program is experiencing record participation, growing from just over 2,000 students per fiscal year when it was brought in-house in 2018 to 5,119 students last year, with projections of nearly 6,000 students in FY 26. 2023 RS SB 60 expanded testing waivers for military families and helped address capacity limits at Kentucky State Police testing centers. The program was previously run through Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), but was brought in-house due to inefficiencies, reducing the cost per student from \$400 to approximately \$200. The program no longer uses the vendor Total Control, though its curriculum is still used on a limited basis. The primary curriculum provider is now the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, which is based in California and widely used across most states and military sites.

A motion was made by Senator Meredith to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Frier & Levitt, LLC, K25-103. Barry Swanson, Chief Procurement Officer and Interim Vice President for Facilities Management, UK, and Shannan Stamper, Deputy General Counsel, UK, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Representative Bauman, Ms. Stamper stated the 340B pharmaceutical and PBM contracting area is highly complex and handled by a limited number of specialized firms, leading the university to contract with Frier & Levitt to review and negotiate pharmacy benefit manager agreements. Through audits and contract reviews, two potential contract disputes with a PBM were identified, involving improper fee charges and 340B drug reimbursement practices. One dispute is currently in nonbinding arbitration with litigation-like proceedings underway, while discussions are ongoing to potentially settle both matters before incurring full litigation costs. Because the stakes are very high, approximately \$35 million in one case and \$30 million in the other, the contract amount is being increased to cover anticipated legal expenses through June 30, 2026, while maintaining previously approved rates that have remained unchanged since 2019.

In response to Senator Meredith, Ms. Stamper stated the issue is essentially a dispute over how reimbursement for 340B pricing should be calculated and paid.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Lockett & Farley Architects, 00001044. Sally Molsberger, Chief Procurement Officer, UofL; Austin Gray, Associate Counsel, UofL; and Carrie Whitmore, Project Manager, Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, UofL, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Chair Douglas, Mr. Gray stated the project involves two phases of design and construction, but the current contract amendment is primarily driven by timing. After purchasing a property in July 2025 to renovate for additional student housing, the university used an existing PDM contract to perform initial inspections and begin limited design work. This allowed the project to move forward quickly while approvals were pending. Following full project approval by the board in December, the contract with Lockett & Farley was expanded to cover the complete project scope, which aims to add approximately 550 student housing beds by Fall 2027 to support growing enrollment.

In response to Representative Roarx, Ms. Whitmore stated there were repairs done to the roof truss members and to building three under the previous owner.

In response to Representative Bauman, Ms. Molsberger confirmed the current apartments were built in 2015.

In response to Representative Bauman, Mr. Gray stated participating remotely was not intended to minimize the importance of the matter, but was chosen because it was presented as an equal option to attending in person and allowed them to avoid time away from university responsibilities. An apology was offered for any misunderstanding.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to disapprove the contract. Representative McCool seconded the motion with Chair Douglas, Senator Richardson, Senator Thomas, and Representative Roarx voting no. Motion failed. A motion was made by Representative Roarx to consider the contract as reviewed. Senator Thomas seconded the motion with Senator Meredith, Representative Bauman, Representative McCool, and Chair Douglas voting no. Contract moves forward.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENTS WERE SELECTED
FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Owsley County, 2600001044. Matt Sawyers, Commissioner, DLG, and Aaron Jones, Branch Manager, DLG, discussed the contract with the committee.

In response to Rep. McCool, Mr. Sawyers stated by law, the department distributes funds to local governments when there is agreement from the County Judge Executive and the area's legislative delegation. Owsley County submitted a project scope and budget with the required concurrence. Under 2024 RS HB 6, the department's role is limited to allocating funds and ensuring basic compliance. County officials explained the project is part of a rehabilitation effort to address abandoned or deteriorating properties.

One such property is an out-of-service car wash that has been closed for more than a decade. Using coal severance funds to replace the equipment would allow the structure to be reused, restoring the only car wash in the county and reducing the need for residents to travel long distances for this service.

In response to Senator Meredith, Mr. Sawyers stated the county owns the property being rehabilitated and according to discussions with County Judge Executive Little on behalf of the fiscal court, the county will operate and manage the car wash. It will function as a commercial car wash owned by the fiscal court, with revenue generated through user fees, which will be retained by the county.

A motion was made by Representative Bauman to consider the contract as reviewed. Representative McCool seconded the motion, which passed.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS WERE
SELECTED FOR FURTHER REVIEW:**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES**

Pennyroyal Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Board, 2500002778; Communicare, Inc., 2500002782; Northkey Community Care, 2500002784; Pathways, Inc., 2500002787; Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, 2500002788; Kentucky River Community Care, Inc., 2500002789; Cumberland River Behavioral Health, Inc., 2500002791; Lake Cumberland Mental Health Mental Retardation Board, 2500002792. Patti Clark, Director, Division of Mental Health, DBHDID, and Sarah Johnson, Division Director, DBHDID, discussed the contracts with the committee.

In response to Representative Bauman, Ms. Johnson stated the added funds were federal grant dollars received to support existing programs. These funds were not included in the original contract and were added through contract modifications once received.

A motion was made by Senator Thomas to consider the contracts as reviewed. Representative Roarx seconded the motion, which passed.

EXEMPTION REQUESTS:

THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

The Energy and Environment Cabinet requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for Coal Education projects awarded under the Office of Energy Policy (OEP). A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to December 31, 2027. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture requested an exemption from Committee Policy Statement #99-4, which prohibits contracts and agreements from extending beyond the biennium for the purpose of dispersing funds for county fairground infrastructure construction and renovation projects. A motion was made by Senator Meredith to grant the request to June 30, 2027. Senator Richardson seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.