

1 other grounds in lieu thereof; and for the purpose of carrying out
2 the provisions of this section it shall be sufficient to convey all
3 the interests of the county in those grounds when an order made for
4 the sale and a deed is executed in the name of the county by the
5 chair of the board of county commissioners, reciting the order, and
6 signed by the chair and acknowledged by the county clerk for and on
7 behalf of the county;

8 2. To audit the accounts of all officers having the care,
9 management, collection or disbursement of any money belonging to the
10 county or appropriated for its benefit;

11 3. To construct and repair bridges and to open, lay out, and
12 vacate highways; provided, however, that when any state institution,
13 school, or department shall own, lease, or otherwise control land on
14 both sides of any established highway, the governing board or body
15 of the same shall have the power to vacate, alter, or relocate the
16 highway adjoining the property in the following manner:

17 If it should appear that it would be to the best use and
18 interest of the institution, school, or department to vacate, alter,
19 or relocate such highway, the governing board or body shall notify
20 the board of county commissioners, in writing, of their intention to
21 hold a public hearing and determine whether to vacate, alter, or
22 relocate the highway, setting forth the location and terminals of
23 the road, and all data concerning the proposed right-of-way if
24 changed or relocated, and shall give fifteen (15) days' notice of

1 the hearing by publication in some newspaper in the county or
2 counties in which the road is located, and the hearing shall be held
3 at the county seat of the county in which the road is located, and
4 if a county line road, may be heard in either county. At the
5 hearing testimony may be taken, and any protests or suggestions
6 shall be received as to the proposed measure, and at the conclusion
7 thereof if the governing board or body shall find that it would be
8 to the best use and interest of the institution, school, or
9 department, and the public generally, they may make an appropriate
10 order either vacating, altering or relocating the highway, which
11 order shall be final if approved by the board of county
12 commissioners. The institution, school, or department may by
13 agreement share the cost of changing any such road. No property
14 owner shall be denied access to a public highway by the order;

15 4. To recommend or sponsor an employee or prospective employee
16 for job-related training and certification in an area that may
17 require training or certification to comply with state or federal
18 law as such training or certification is provided by the Department
19 of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, or any other
20 state agency, technology center school, or university;

21 5. To determine the years of service required for full-time
22 county employees to qualify for a continuing education program.
23 Such programs may consist of courses offered by colleges and
24 universities that are members of The Oklahoma State System of Higher

1 Education as well as any other in-state or out-of-state programs or
2 courses which are relevant to the employee's responsibilities as
3 approved by the county commissioners. Such programs shall require
4 that employees maintain at least an A or B average in order to
5 qualify for one hundred percent (100%) reimbursement. Employees who
6 maintain passing or satisfactory grades shall qualify for seventy-
7 five percent (75%) reimbursement under such programs. Such programs
8 shall require that documentation from colleges and universities
9 regarding courses completed, credits earned, and tuition charged be
10 submitted to a board of county commissioners within ninety (90) days
11 after the completion of courses. General applications and request
12 forms for such programs shall be submitted to a board of county
13 commissioners or an appropriate human resources department prior to
14 the conclusion of a county's current fiscal year. Employees who
15 elect to participate in such programs shall continue to meet the
16 full responsibilities of their positions, and participation shall
17 not interfere with availability for scheduled work or negatively
18 affect work performance. In order to be eligible for participation
19 in such programs, employees shall not have been formally disciplined
20 within one (1) year prior to submitting their program application.
21 A board of county commissioners shall be authorized to establish a
22 program requiring a one-year commitment of service to the county
23 from individuals who participate in such programs. Under such
24 programs, employees shall only be eligible to receive tuition

1 reimbursements in exchange for employment with the county lasting at
2 least one (1) year;

3 6. Until January 1, 1983, to furnish necessary blank books,
4 plats, blanks, and stationery for the clerk of the district court,
5 county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer, county judge,
6 sheriff, county surveyor, county attorney, justices of the peace,
7 and constables, to be paid for out of the county treasury; also a
8 fireproof vault sufficient in which to keep all the books, records,
9 vouchers, and papers pertaining to the business of the county;

10 7. To set off, organize, and change the boundaries of townships
11 and to designate and give names therefor; provided, that the
12 boundaries of no township shall be changed within six (6) months
13 next preceding a general election;

14 8. To lease tools, apparatus, machinery, or equipment of the
15 county to another political subdivision or a state agency. The
16 Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma
17 State University Center for Local Government Technology together
18 shall establish a system of uniform rates for the leasing of such
19 tools, apparatus, machinery, and equipment;

20 9. To jointly, with other counties, buy heavy equipment and to
21 loan or lease such equipment across county lines;

22 10. To develop personnel policies for the county with the
23 approval of a majority of all county elected officers, as evidenced
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1 in the minutes of a meeting of the board of county commissioners or
2 the county budget board;

3 11. To purchase, rent, or lease-purchase uniforms, safety
4 devices, and equipment for the officers and employees of the county.
5 The county commissioners may pay for any safety training or safety
6 devices and safety equipment out of the general county funds or any
7 county highway funds available to the county commissioners;

8 12. To provide incentive awards for safety-related job
9 performance. However, no employee shall be recognized more than
10 once per calendar year and the award shall not exceed the value of
11 Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); further, no elected official
12 shall be eligible to receive a safety award;

13 13. To provide for payment of notary commissions, filing fees,
14 and the cost of notary seals and bonds;

15 14. To do and perform other duties and acts that the board of
16 county commissioners may be required by law to do and perform;

17 15. To make purchases at a public auction pursuant to the
18 county purchasing procedures in subsection D of Section 1505 of this
19 title;

20 16. To deposit interest income from highway funds in the
21 general fund of the county;

22 17. To submit sealed bids for the purchase of equipment from
23 this state, or any agency or political subdivision of this state;

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1 18. To utilize county-owned equipment, labor, and supplies at
2 their disposal on property owned by the county, public schools, two-
3 year colleges, four-year institutions, or technical branches of
4 colleges that are members of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
5 Education, the state and municipalities according to the provisions
6 of Section 36-113 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Cooperative
7 agreements may be general in terms of routine maintenance or
8 specific in terms of construction and agreed to and renewed on an
9 annual basis. Work performed pursuant to Section 36-113 of Title 11
10 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall comply with the provisions of this
11 section;

12 19. To enter into intergovernmental cooperative agreements with
13 the federally recognized Indian tribes within this state to address
14 issues of construction and maintenance of streets, roads, bridges,
15 and highways exclusive of the provisions of Section 1221 of Title 74
16 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

17 20. To execute hold harmless agreements with the lessor in the
18 manner provided by subsection B of Section 636.5 of Title 69 of the
19 Oklahoma Statutes when leasing or lease-purchasing equipment;

20 21. To accept donations of rights-of-way or right-of-way
21 easements pursuant to Section 381 et seq. of Title 60 of the
22 Oklahoma Statutes;

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1 22. To establish by resolution the use of per diem for specific
2 purposes in accordance with the limitations provided by Sections
3 500.8 and 500.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

4 23. To apply to the Department of Environmental Quality for a
5 waste tire permit to bale waste tires for use in approved
6 engineering projects;

7 24. To enter into the National Association of Counties (NACo)
8 Live Healthy Prescription, Health and Dental Discount Program;

9 25. To work with federal, state, municipal, and public school
10 district properties in an effort to minimize cost to such entities;

11 26. To work with ambulance service districts established under
12 Section 9C of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution in an effort to
13 minimize cost to such entities;

14 27. To provide incentive awards to employees for participating
15 in voluntary wellness programs which result in improved health.
16 Incentive awards may be created by the Wellness Council set forth in
17 Section 1302 of this title;

18 28. To establish a county employee benefit program to encourage
19 outstanding performance in the workplace. Monies may be expended
20 for the purchase of recognition awards for presentation to an
21 employee or members of a work unit. Recognition awards may be
22 presented at a formal or informal ceremony, banquet, reception, or
23 luncheon, the cost of which may be expended from monies available in
24 the county department's or division's operating fund;

1 29. To trade in equipment to a vendor or on statewide contract
2 by acquiring used equipment values pursuant to subsection B of
3 Section 421.1 of this title;

4 30. To expend federal funds made available to a county of the
5 state through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
6 Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. 116-136, or similar relief funds
7 according to the permissible uses of the applicable federal
8 legislation or guidance issued by any federal agency thereof,
9 regardless of any lack of specific state statutory authorization to
10 perform the duties or functions for which the federal government has
11 provided the funds. The expenditure of the funds in accordance with
12 the federal legislation or guidance issued by any federal agency
13 thereof shall be at the discretion of the board of county
14 commissioners.

15 The receipt of funding through the CARES Act or similar relief
16 funds shall not be considered a supplemental appropriation and shall
17 be exempt from the requirements of Section 1420 of this title. In
18 the event the period allotted for expenditure of federal funds
19 crosses fiscal years, such funds shall not be considered revenue
20 when setting the county's budget for the next fiscal year; and

21 31. To enter into intergovernmental cooperative agreements
22 which shall include shared services, with local governmental units
23 within this state pursuant to the provisions of the Interlocal
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1 Cooperation Act, Section 1002 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
2 Statutes.

3 B. The county commissioners of a county or, in counties where
4 there is a county budget board, the county budget board may
5 designate money from general county funds for the designated purpose
6 of drug enforcement and drug abuse prevention programs within the
7 county.

8 C. When any lease or lease purchase is made on behalf of the
9 county by the board pursuant to the provisions of this section, the
10 county shall be allowed to have trade in values for transactions
11 involving the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act.

12 D. In order to timely comply with the Oklahoma Vehicle License
13 and Registration Act with regard to county vehicles, the board of
14 county commissioners may, by resolution, create a petty cash
15 account. The board of county commissioners may request a purchase
16 order for petty cash in an amount necessary to pay the expense of
17 license and registration fees for county motor vehicles. Any
18 balance in the petty cash account after the license and registration
19 fees have been paid shall be returned to the account or fund from
20 which the funds originated. The county purchasing agent shall be
21 the custodian of the petty cash account, and the petty cash account
22 shall be subject to audit.

23 E. When the board of county commissioners approves an express
24 trust, pursuant to Sections 176 through 180.4 of Title 60 of the

1 Oklahoma Statutes, for the purpose of operating a county jail, the
2 trustees of the public trust may appoint commissioned peace
3 officers, certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and
4 Training, to provide security for inmates that are required to be
5 transported outside of the detention facility, and investigate
6 violations of law within the detention facility. Other personnel
7 necessary to operate the jail may be employed and trained or
8 certified as may be required by applicable state or federal law.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT, dated
12 03/05/2026 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.