

## **EIGHTH MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Regular Session on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Cañon City, Colorado. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Debbie Bell	Commissioner	Present
Dwayne McFall	Commissioner	Present
Kevin Grantham	Commissioner	Present
Justin Grantham	Clerk and Recorder	Present
Eric Bellas	County Attorney	Present
Tony Carochi	County Administrator	Present

### **INVOCATION**

Craig Cavalier from FCC Florence gave the invocation.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Commissioner McFall** moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes / April 14, 2026
2. Approval of Bills for \$3,467,224.84
3. Ratification of the Chairman's signature on the Fremont County Airport Hangar #4 lease renewal and land lease renewal
4. Schedule Public Hearings: None.

**Commissioner Grantham** moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 4/28/2026 4:05

1. Introduction of the 2026 Blossom Festival Queen and her Court  
Queen - Olivia Landry  
1st Attendant - Zafa Koehn 2nd Attendant - Olivia Brady  
Miss Personality - Heather Thomas Sponsors - Megan McCarter and Tonya Wolf

Ms. Landry, the Queen of the 2026 Blossom Festival, was excited to announce upcoming events this week, beginning with a band competition on Wednesday and a choir competition starting on Tuesday.

Ms. Brady, the Second Attendant, picked up the announcement that the parade will be on Saturday and that this year is unique because there will be over 100 entries with the theme Stars Over the Rockies to celebrate Colorado's 150th anniversary. The parade will be held on Main Street between Third and 14th Streets. The parade is always a highlight, and this year, 24 marching bands will participate. Also on Saturday, the public can visit the Blossom in the Park craft show, which opens at 9:00 am. The Fort Carson Fourth Infantry Army Band will kick off the craft show, and it will reopen on Sunday with Church in the Park from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Ms. Koehn, the First Attendant, said Cluster Duck will return this year. She said it's a fan favorite for its live music, food, and drinks. The gates will open at 3:30. The first band to play will be the Rowdy Brass Band, followed by a local favorite, Six Bucks and a Flight, and then The Stories in the Skies, a Drone Show, at 8:30 pm. The last act of the night will be Bernie Nicks, who was the third runner-up on American Idol.

## ADMINISTRATIVE & INFORMATIONAL

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 4/28/2026 7:55

1. Staff / Elected Officials:
  - a. County Clerk's Monthly Report, Justin Grantham, County Clerk

**Clerk Grantham** presented the County Clerk's Monthly Report, which is available in full at [www.fremontcountyco.gov](http://www.fremontcountyco.gov).

**Commissioner McFall** moved to accept the Clerk's monthly report for March of 2026. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

- b. Public Trustee's First Quarter Report for 2026

**Public Trustee Elliot** said her office has released 316 deeds of trust, initiated 19 foreclosures, and two have gone into bankruptcy. Eight properties were sold at the auction: two to outside bidders and six to the bank.

**Public Trustee Elliot** presented the Public Trustee's quarterly report, available in full at [www.fremontcountyco.gov](http://www.fremontcountyco.gov).

**Commissioner McFall** asked if the two trailer parks are still in foreclosure.

**Public Trustee Elliot** answered that they are still in the process, and they have until July.

**Commissioner Grantham** asked if the 19 initiated foreclosures are more than usual for the first quarter.

**Public Trustee Elliot** answered that it is an average amount for the first quarter.

**Commissioner Grantham** moved to accept the Public Trustee's first Quarterly report of 2026. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

c. County Administrator Report, Tony Carochi, County Administrator

**County Administrator Carochi** presented the County Administrator Report, which is available in its entirety at [www.fremontcountyco.gov](http://www.fremontcountyco.gov).

**Commissioner McFall** said that at the next meeting, representatives from the City of Florence and the City of Canon City will be present to discuss the water plan addressing the lack of water and the drought conditions on the way.

**Commissioner Grantham** wanted to warn the public that Senate Bill 135 would allow the state to raise the REFC cap, which is the maximum threshold the state is allowed to keep in the coffers, resulting in less money going into Tabor Refunds. They are doing this under the guise of funding Preschool through 12th-grade education and creating a new Children's Fund that is completely undefined.

**Commissioner Bell** announced that the Combined Regional Communications Authority, or CRCA, after a full year or more of tedious work, was awarded the prestigious Center of Excellence honor twice, for both emergency medical and emergency fire dispatching. CRCA is the only Colorado agency to be dual-accredited at the same time. Commissioner Bell gave special mentions to Angie Clawson, CRCA Executive Director, Lindsay Hubbard, CRCA Deputy Director, and Alex Henry, CRCA Dispatcher. This is the pinnacle of achievement for emergency dispatch centers, signifying they are the top performers in the field.

**Clerk Grantham** said there will be a total of 4 ballots for the upcoming primary election: Republican, Democrat, Unity, and Libertarian. Unaffiliated registered voters will receive one Republican ballot and one Democratic ballot; only one may be voted on.

**Commissioner Grantham** asked Clerk Grantham whether someone who is unaffiliated and wants to vote for the Unity Party has to come in person to vote.

**Clerk Grantham** answered yes.

2. Citizens who wish to address the Commissioners on a matter not scheduled on the agenda.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 4/28/2026 35:02

1. Final approval of the Revisions and Updates to the Fremont County Environmental Health Department On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Regulations from The Public Hearing on April 14, 2026

**Building Director Wyatt Sanders** said they have not received any more comments or complaints regarding the proposed regulations.

**County Attorney Bellas** said that this same board serves as the Fremont County Board of Health pursuant to 2515012C, so this board can consider adopting the revisions to the OWTS regulations this morning. There is also a Board of Health regularly scheduled meeting this afternoon, where it may also be considered.

**Commissioner Grantham** moved to approve the revisions and updates to the Fremont County Environmental Health Department On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Regulations. Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 4/28/2026 37:26

2. Proclamation naming May 2026 as Foster Care Awareness Month  
Representatives: Nicole Foraker, Jordan Gunter, and Molly Willard, Department of Human Services

**Ms. Willard** is the supervisor of the Kinship Foster Program at DHS. She understands the hardships of this conversation because they want to discuss reunification and other services, but when needed, they are grateful to have this program. These families are essential, and they take May very seriously, wanting to acknowledge and recognize their foster parents. The county currently has five traditional foster homes and seven kinship foster homes. The participating members and staff are recruiting; this month, they are traveling around town and holding Q&A sessions. She then recited the proclamation, which is at the bottom of these minutes.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to accept the proclamation and to declare May 2026 as Foster Care Month in Fremont County. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 4/28/2026 48:28

3. Consideration of the Bid of Synergy Disaster Recovery for Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

**County Attorney Bellas** said FEMA requires this to update Fremont County's multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. In his professional opinion, it is a very good plan; Synergy Disaster Recovery consulted them, and the bid is \$55,980.

**Commissioner Grantham** moved to approve the \$55,980 bid from Synergy Disaster Recovery LLC for the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan update. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Ref. Fremont County BOCC Meeting 4/28/2026 52:08

4. Secure Transportation Service License and Permit for Lima Transportation LLC

**County Attorney Bellas** explained that this is for a behavioral health transport license. There are two varieties. This is an application for a Class B or no-physical-restraint authorized permit, as well as a permit for a vehicle without a partition between the driver and passenger, for Lima Transportation.

**Commissioner McFall** moved to approve a secret transport service license and permit for Lima Transportation LLC. It's a Class B license with a Type 2 permit for a 2014 Toyota Sienna. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Upon Vote: Commissioner McFall, aye; Commissioner Grantham, aye; Commissioner Bell, aye. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED 9:30 a.m.**

None.

**Commissioner Bell** adjourned the meeting at **9:54 am**.

To view the YouTube Video for the Commissioner Meeting, go to the following website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOBGAraDOBs>

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Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners



*Fremont County*

*Board of County Commissioners*

*PROCLAMATION*

*Whereas*, Fremont County is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety, well-being, and stability of all children, including providing supportive homes where children and youth can feel secure, nurtured, and empowered to succeed; and

*Whereas*, foster care providers in Fremont County—both licensed foster families who open their homes to children they have never met, and kinship caregivers who step forward out of love for a relative or family friend—represent the very foundation of our county’s child welfare system, offering safety, stability, and unconditional care to our most vulnerable children and youth; and

*Whereas*, throughout 2025, Fremont County foster care providers cared for an average of 38 children and youth in out-of-home placements at any given time; the vast majority—over 90% each month—were placed in family-like settings rather than congregate care, a testament to the dedication and capacity of our foster and kinship families; and

*Whereas*, kinship caregivers—including certified and non-certified relatives and family connections—consistently represented a significant share of all placements, with kinship providers (certified and non-certified combined) accounting for more than 40–50% of family-like placements in many months throughout 2025, providing children the immeasurable gift of familiar faces, family bonds, and cultural continuity during times of profound disruption; and

*Whereas*, the commitment of Fremont County’s foster care providers directly contributed to outstanding child outcomes: among children in care for up to 12-23 months, Fremont County achieved permanency rates of 80–100% across most of 2025, far exceeding the national standard of 43.6%; and for children in care 24 months or more, the county consistently achieved permanency rates of 50–75%, substantially outpacing the national standard of 30.3%; and

*Whereas*, of children with siblings in out-of-home placement, Fremont County foster care providers maintained sibling placement rates of 77–100% throughout 2025, ensuring that brothers and sisters could remain together, preserving crucial family bonds and reducing the trauma of separation; and

*Whereas*, foster care providers give far more than shelter—they offer patience, advocacy, medical appointments, school enrollment, emotional support, therapeutic consistency, and love, often during the most difficult chapters of a child’s life, asking for very little in return other than the knowledge that a child is safe and cared for; and

*Whereas*, licensed foster families in particular make a profound and deliberate choice to welcome a child they have never met into their home, their routines, and their hearts, navigating complex family dynamics, trauma-informed parenting, and the bittersweet reality that the ultimate goal is reunification—and these families deserve recognition not only for their generosity but for their remarkable strength, resilience, and unwavering belief that every child is worth fighting for; and

*Whereas*, local partnerships among Fremont County’s educational, legal, judicial, law enforcement, social services, mental health, substance recovery, behavioral health, and public health systems are essential to supporting both the



*Fremont County*

*Board of County Commissioners*

**PROCLAMATION**

children in care and the dedicated families who care for them, and we are grateful for the entire community of support that surrounds every foster and kinship placement; and

*Whereas*, Fremont County recognizes that there is an ongoing and critical need for more licensed foster care families—care providers who are willing to open their hearts and homes to children who have no family placement option available—and we call upon all Fremont County residents to consider how they might answer that call;

*Now, Therefore*, we, the Fremont County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2026 to be FOSTER CARE MONTH IN FREMONT COUNTY.

**Kevin Grantham, District 1 Commissioner**

**Debbie Bell, District 2 Commissioner**

**Dwayne McFall, District 3 Commissioner**