

Compensation Board recommends 56% increase for sheriff

By Kimra Hines, Reporter

During the Davis County Compensation Board meeting on Dec. 22, 2025, a motion was approved to recommend the current Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Davis County Board of Supervisors of 2.8%, and an increase of 52% for the county attorney, 56.916% for the sheriff, and 15% for the county auditor, county recorder, and county treasurer for the 2027 fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Supervisors' Chairman Ron Bride explained that the supervisors cannot go by the exact figures suggested by the compensation board because it would add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the budget. He said, "With the current budget constraints, that's just not realistic."

The Davis County Sheriff's salary for the 2026 fiscal year is \$85,878, ranking lowest in the state of Iowa. Based on that amount, a 56% increase would be an additional \$48,091 bringing the salary up to \$133,969. The average sheriff's salary in Iowa is \$120,199.

The chief deputy is paid 85% of the sheriff's salary which is \$72,996. All other deputies are paid 80% of the sheriff's salary which is \$68,702.

The Iowa State Association of Counties Elected Officials Report shows Davis County is among the least populated counties, ranking 80 out of 99.

The fiscal year 2026 sheriff's salary for neighboring counties is Appanoose—\$103,908; Van Buren—\$100,000; Wapello—\$110,311.

The Davis County Board of Supervisors' salary is \$39,531,

ranking 48 in Iowa. A 2.8% increase would be \$1106 for a total salary of \$40,637.

The fiscal year 2026 county board of supervisors' salary for neighboring counties is:

• Appanoose—\$35,566

- Van Buren—\$34,296
- Wapello—\$42,975
- The Davis County Attorney's salary is \$77,688, ranking 93rd in Iowa. A 52% increase would be \$40,397 for a total salary of \$118,085.

The fiscal year 2026 county attorney's salary for neighboring counties is:

- Appanoose—\$124,597
- Van Buren—\$60,369
- Wapello—\$118,916

The Davis County Auditor's salary is \$64,073, ranking 98 in Iowa.

The fiscal year 2026 auditor's salary for neighboring counties is:

- Appanoose—\$75,256
- Van Buren—\$68,731
- Wapello—\$79,361

The Davis County Recorder's salary is \$64,073, ranking 94 in Iowa.

The fiscal year 2026 recorder's salary for neighboring counties is:

- Appanoose—\$72,614
- Van Buren—\$61,286
- Wapello—\$77,350

The Davis County Treasurer's salary is \$64,073, ranking 97 in Iowa.

The fiscal year 2026 treasurer's salary for neighboring counties is:

- Appanoose—\$72,614
- Van Buren—\$60,760
- Wapello—\$78,318

A 15% increase for auditor, recorder, and treasurer would be \$9,610 for a total salary of \$73,683.

The deputies for the auditor, recorder, and treasurer are paid 80% of the elected official's salary.

In Davis County, the salaries of elected county officials are not set unilaterally by county supervisors but are guided by recommendations of the Davis County Compensation Board.

In Iowa, a county compensation board is not mandatory though.

Counties who choose to, have a seven-member County Compensation Board tasked with reviewing and recommending annual

salaries for elected county officials which include: the county auditor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, county attorney, and members of the board of supervisors.

The board is comprised of seven county residents who do not earn a salary but are reimbursed for expenses by the county.

The Board of Supervisors appoints two members, while the county auditor, attorney, recorder, sheriff, and treasurer each appoint one member. This structure is designed to ensure broad representation from across county government.

The Davis County Compensation Board members are Chairperson Cheryll Jones, Vice-chairperson David Yahnke, John Silko, Marcella Thompson, Sarah Horn, Max Leyda and David Gibson.

Jones explained, "It's our responsibility to look at salaries of communities and counties of comparable size and see how our folks compare to those salaries then make a recommendation to the board of supervisors."

The goal is to ensure county officials' pay remains competitive, fair, and consistent with similar roles.

Only the sheriff's salary has statutory requirements.

Per Senate File 2442, approved in 2024, regarding compensation, in setting the salary of the county sheriff, the county compensation board shall set the sheriff's salary so that it is comparable to salaries paid to professional law enforcement administrators and command officers of the state patrol, the division of criminal investigation of the department of public safety, and city police chiefs employed by cities of similar population to the population of the county.

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complement Iowa's existing programs, expanding opportunity even further while reinforcing the state's commitment to school choice."

Outlined in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed on July 4, 2025, the federally funded tax credit program will provide a direct dollar-for-dollar tax credit match up to \$1,700 for eligible taxpayers who contribute to approved scholarship granting organizations (SGOs). Participating taxpayers may donate up to \$1,700 and receive the full amount back as a federal tax credit, allowing do-

nors to support students at no cost to themselves. SGOs will be required to use these contributions for scholarships to eligible K-12 students across Iowa. Students eligible to receive scholarships through the federal tax credit program must have a family income below 300% of their area median income (AMI).

The Office of the Governor will work with the Iowa Department of Education to certify eligible SGOs to participate in the federal tax credit program. In accordance with federal law, the program will go into effect in 2027.

Correction
The Bloomfield Democrat mistakenly published the incorrect photo for Officer Brandon Johnson in the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day section of last week's Bloomfield Democrat.

Johnson's correct photo and officer profile follow:



Brandon Johnson

Brandon Johnson graduated from Davis County High School in 2009 and went on to graduate from Buena Vista University with a degree in sports psychology. He worked for the DHS, the Mt. Pleasant Correctional facility, and as a deputy with the Wapello County Sheriff's Department before joining the Bloomfield Police Department.

"My goal was always to come back to my hometown," he said. "I love this town and want to have personal relationships with the public — especially the young people."

Johnson said both departments at the Law Enforcement Center have good working relationships and help each other out as needed.

SUPERVISORS: County appointments approved

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all others.

A motion was approved for credit card expenditure limits without prior authorization to remain at \$3,000.

A motion was approved requiring prior approval to pay for national training. One example of an entity that does national training is Veterans Affairs.

A resolution was signed to award the Richard Harris Bridge contract to IBC for the amount of \$942,793.40.

An amendment to the FY2026 county five-year plan was approved which added a bridge on Kelp Ave. to the construction year. Also included was re-entering the 2026 rock program into the plan after the DOT had a program glitch.

A resolution in support of the Joint Build Grant agreement was approved. The Joint Build Grant Agreement is an agreement between Davis, Boone, Jackson, Marion, and Winneshiek Counties to enter a grant together. The grant is a Federal FY26 BUILD Safety application for funds to improve the areas of 180th St. (east of Drakesville) and Ice Ave. (south of Drakesville).

Updates to Title VI Assurances were

approved. The Title VI Assurances were not changed, just signed with the date to keep current. The purpose of the Title VI Assurances is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin.

The Bloomfield Democrat was approved as the official publication.

Depositories were approved with maximum balances as follows:

• Treasurer—BMO \$7

million, Success Bank

\$9 million, First Iowa

State Bank \$9 million,

Community 1st Credit

Union \$4 million, and

Iowa Public Agency

Investment Trust \$4

million.

• Auditor—First Iowa

State Bank \$1.5 million.

• Sheriff—First Iowa

State Bank \$1 million and

Success Bank \$1 million.

• Recorder—Success

Bank \$75,000.

• Davis County

Insurance Fund—BMO

\$1 million, Success Bank

\$1 million, First Iowa

State Bank \$1 million, and

Community 1st Credit

Union \$1 million.

Appointments were as follows:

• Rob Williams to a five-year term on the County Conservation Board.

• Rick Lynch to a three-year term on the Davis County Board of Health.

• Max Leyda, Blake

Lough, Ron Bride and Kathy Brown to two-year terms on the Land Preservation and Use Commission.

• Mary Anne Long and Richard Long to five-year terms on the Pioneer Cemetery Board.

• Dee Johnson, Veronica Weaklin, and Dan Wiegand to an annual term on the Welfare Board.

Re-appointment to an annual term, on the Real Estate Compensation Commission as follows:

• Owners and operators of ag property—Dean Amstutz, Ray Boas,

Jessica Davis, Joy Evans,

Susan Knapp, Max Leyda, and Denny Taylor.

• Owners of city or town property—Richard Boone Barry Day, Josh O'Dell, LeAnn Luedke, Pat Perry, and Cathy Redmon.

• Licensed real estate salesmen or brokers—A.J. Brown, Kathleen Y.

Brown, Susan Davis, J.R.

Lawson, Stephanie Lynch, and Andrew Scott and Angie Scott.

• Banks, auctioneers, property managers, property appraisers, persons responsible for making loans on property—Kimberly Fleming, Don Horn,

Alan Janssen, Darrell Limkeman, Tucker

Henderson, Jennifer Picton, and Dave Yahnke.

Gov. Reynolds opts into federal education tax credit program

Governor Kim Reynolds announced her plan to opt into a federal education tax credit program, set to begin in 2027, that will expand school choice in Iowa.

"Iowa believes in

empowering every student and family with world-class educational options — from our K-12 public schools to public charter schools, accredited private schools, and homeschooled — so they can choose the best place and path for their future," Governor Kim Reynolds said. "The Trump Administration's federal tax credit will

complement Iowa's existing programs, expanding opportunity even further while reinforcing the state's commitment to school choice."

Outlined in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed on July 4, 2025, the federally funded tax credit program will provide a direct dollar-for-dollar tax credit match up to \$1,700 for eligible taxpayers who contribute to approved scholarship granting organizations (SGOs). Participating taxpayers may donate up to \$1,700 and receive the full amount back as a federal tax credit, allowing do-

nors to support students at no cost to themselves. SGOs will be required to use these contributions for scholarships to eligible K-12 students across Iowa. Students eligible to receive scholarships through the federal tax credit program must have a family income below 300% of their area median income (AMI).

The Office of the Governor will work with the Iowa Department of Education to certify eligible SGOs to participate in the federal tax credit program. In accordance with federal law, the program will go into effect in 2027.

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