



COMBAT Commission Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2025 8:31 AM – 9:05 AM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Lanna Ultican, Arimeta DuPree, Larry Beaty, John Sharp, Susan Wilson

Also Present: Vince Ortega, Tammie Jordan, Elle Larson, Joseph Loudon, Earline Lawrie, Shannon Bobo, Carolyn Whitney, Kisha Briggs, Justin Horton, Ryan Taylor, Winifred Jamieson, Gina Robinson, Melesa Johnson, Megan Marshall

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 AM.

DISCUSSION:

Director's Report

- Vince Ortega opens by congratulating newly appointed and returning commissioners and thanking them for participating in the emergency COMBAT meeting and orientation session. He explains that while this meeting would typically come after legislative approval, due to delays in the 2025 budget deliberations, the team is operating from 2024 figures to keep funding processes moving.
- Melesa Johnson acknowledges outgoing and incoming commissioners and emphasizes COMBAT's proactive role in crime prevention. She highlights the current budget uncertainty due to delayed county legislative decisions and explains that today's objective is to align the adjusted funding levels with the 2024 budget. This interim step ensures that COMBAT is ready to act as soon as the 2025 budget is finalized.

COMBAT Commissioners' Discussion Items

- Commissioner Larry Beaty inquires about prosecutor representation at police headquarters. Melesa Johnson confirms that her office has assigned prosecutors to all KCPD patrol stations, assault squads, and robbery units. This proactive measure aims to ensure cases are well-prepared for prosecution from the start.
- Commissioner John Sharp asks to move the next meeting from April 8th due to its conflict with the public safety sales tax election. He explains the critical importance of this tax for funding emergency services and public safety infrastructure. Vince Ortega and Elle Larson confirm the meeting has been rescheduled to May 13, 2025, at 10 AM.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tammie Jordan states the revised total budget for 2025 is \$12,528,743, based on 2024 appropriations. Of this, \$12,512,086.27 has been allocated across Prevention, Treatment, STRiVIN', and Law Enforcement School-Based Initiatives. Agency selections remain unchanged; only the funding amounts were adjusted downward to match the revised budget.
- Vince Ortega reiterates that commissioners have seen both the agencies and amounts. The approval requested is for the full \$12,528,743, although some individual agency awards



have been reduced proportionally. Vince Ortega mentions that \$16,656.73 remains unallocated but will likely be used and is included in the approved total.

- **Commissioner Lanna Ultican moves to approve the total adjusted 2025 budget of \$12,528,743; Commissioner John Sharp seconds:**

Susan Wilson: YES	Arimeta DuPree: YES
John Sharp: YES	Larry Beaty: YES
Lanna Ultican: YES	

- Vince Ortega briefly reminds the group about the importance of preparing for the March 31, 2027 anti-drug tax renewal vote and invites the Commissioners' involvement in strategy development.

OLD BUSINESS:

- N/A

MOTION:

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th at 10 AM (Hybrid)