

Subject: Feb. Commission Report

FEBRUARY COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

To: Van Buren County Residents
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NEWS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

COVID MINI-GRANT: Commissioners approved a COVID mini grant contract from SCAO that was applied for by the Circuit Court Family Division. This funding was made available to address the effects that COVID has played in delaying the return of children from foster care to their homes. This is a nine-month grant and there is no required local match. SCAO will reimburse the Court for 100% of these expenditures up to \$16,396.70.

ACCESS AND VISITATION GRANT: Commissioners approved an Access and Visitation Grant to help pay for supervised visitation service in domestic relations cases for the Friend of the Court. This grant reimburses the Friend of the Court up to \$2,250 for supervised visitation services that are provided by Family and Children Services. There is no match required.

COUNTY COURT GRANT CONTRACTS: Commissioners also approved 3 grants for the County Courts. 1) The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) awarded \$696,944 to enhance the Family Reunification Court program. 2) The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded \$549,990 to enhance the court's Drug Court Program. 3) The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) grant received by MSP in the amount of \$13,145. This funding will be used to purchase equipment for remote hearings and pretrial supervision software.

FORMER HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Commissioners approved remodel/updates to the former Health Department Building in the amount of \$55,000. These repairs are necessary to prepare the building for County Services or possible outside occupants. This building is the possible new home for the USDA and the Van Buren County Conservation District

APPOINTMENTS: Paul DeYoung was re-appointed to the Land Bank Authority and the Building Authority; both of these are 3-year terms.

ARPA FUNDS: Commissioners approved three ARPA allocations/expenses 1) 7 million dollars was allocated and moved into an account designated as broadband expansion for Van Buren County 2) \$82,000 was approved for HVAC improvements for the 911 Center. 3) \$142,000 was approved for HVAC improvements for the Historic Court House. These HVAC improvements will update controls and make sure there is sufficient fresh air circulation for the occupants of these buildings.