MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2026 @ 5:00 PM HELD AT THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Clay Reid	Vice Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Commissioner
Kerney Hair	Commissioner
Mel Powell	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Jeff Wessel	Sheriff
Lucas Allison	Cordele Dispatch
Will Rutherford	CRA Architects

Call to Order
Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. **CRA Architects – Jail Project Proposal Presentation**

Vice Chairman Clay Reid called the meeting to order and introduced the first item of business: a presentation from CRA Architects regarding a proposal for a new jail and sheriff's office complex.

Vice Chairman Reid invited Mr. Will Rutherford of CRA Architects to present the firm's proposal and provide information regarding prior projects completed for other agencies. Mr. Rutherford delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the firm's experience, qualifications, and approach to jail facility design. His presentation addressed past projects, current construction considerations, operational efficiency, and funding perspectives from a Board of Commissioners standpoint.

Mr. Rutherford presented a proposed facility layout designed to improve operational efficiency while reducing long-term operating costs. The proposed sheriff's office and jail complex would require approximately 2.5 acres of land. The preliminary design includes:

- Approximately 6,350 square feet designated for the sheriff's office, booking, and support areas.
- Approximately 5,650 square feet allocated for the jail facility.

The proposed jail would initially house 30 beds, with the ability to expand by an additional 32 beds in the future, bringing the total potential capacity to 62 beds for Wilcox County.

Mr. Rutherford also discussed staffing considerations and operational functionality. He explained how the facility layout would allow for efficient supervision, including the use of a certified jailer providing oversight from a central control tower while other personnel manage movement within the facility. He emphasized that thoughtful design and layout would help reduce staffing and operational costs while ensuring compliance with all applicable jail standards and guidelines.

Board members raised several questions regarding long-term goals, the County's role in the process if CRA Architects were selected, and potential flexibility in the design. Mr. Rutherford stated that design modifications could be made in collaboration with the Sheriff and the Board of Commissioners to meet the County's needs. Additional discussion included preliminary construction considerations and potential adjustments to the initial layout, including possible size increases, though only general cost figures were discussed.

Mr. Rutherford indicated that the proposed jail and sheriff's office complex could potentially be constructed within an estimated budget of $8 million. He also recommended the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) delivery method, noting his positive experience with this approach on similar projects and the quality outcomes achieved.

Adjournment

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

_____ CHAIRMAN, JAMIE HANDLEY

_____ COUNTY MANAGER, MICHAEL POMIRKO