

RESOLUTION 2026- 13

A RESOLUTION OF THE DAWES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BANNING DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS IN DAWES COUNTY

WHEREAS, due to an ongoing drought and red-flag warnings for fire throughout the spring and summer of 2026 in Nebraska, including Dawes County; and

WHEREAS, there have been multiple wildfires that have occurred in 2026 in the Panhandle of Nebraska in nearby counties and Dawes County that have destroyed millions of dollars in public and private property, resulting in loss of life and livestock and endangering lives, disrupting life for citizens and government functions, to which recovering efforts are ongoing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chadron and City of Crawford have issued a ban on the sale and discharge of fireworks due to the ongoing drought conditions and increased fire danger in the month of June, 2026 continuing into July, 2026; and

WHEREAS, under Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-174.10, the County Board has the authority to make regulations as may be necessary or expedient to promote the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, as the ongoing drought conditions and increased fire danger are extreme enough to create a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens of Dawes County and surrounding counties, the County Board of Commissioners, after consulting with local fire chiefs and law enforcement and hearing from members of the public, discussed the matter at the meeting on June 23, 2026, and determined that it was necessary to issue a ban on the sale and discharge of fireworks in all areas of the County of Dawes that are outside the City of Chadron and the City of Crawford, and to set a fine for individuals who violate that ban.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Dawes County, Nebraska as follows:

SECTION 1. That the sale or discharge of fireworks is banned in Dawes County for 2026, unless otherwise rescinded or modified, and that ban encompasses all areas of the County of Dawes outside the incorporated limits of the City of Chadron and the City of Crawford.

SECTION 2. That individuals who violate the ban and discharge fireworks set forth in this Resolution are subject to the penalties as set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-114.05 and are a Class III misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. That individuals who violate the ban and discharge fireworks and start a fire will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, criminally and civilly, to protect the lives of other citizens of Dawes County.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2026.

DAWES COUNTY, NEBRASKA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Vic Rivera

Vic Rivera, Chairman

Jake Stewart

Jake Stewart, Member

Walter Juhlin

Walter Juhlin, Member

ATTEST:

Casey Keim

Casey Keim, Dawes County Clerk

