



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Jackson County, Fl.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Table Of **CONTENTS**

02

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

03

**MESSAGE FROM THE
ADMINISTRATOR**

04

**ORGANIZATION
CHART**

05

**ADMINISTRATION
DIVISIONS**

11

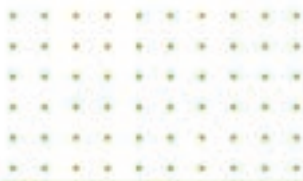
**COUNTY
DEPARTMENTS**

25

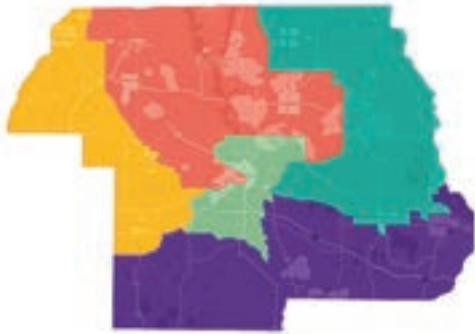
**COUNTY
BUDGET**

26

**SERVICE
PROJECTS**



Meet the COMMISSIONERS



D1

**ALEX
 McKINNIE**

D2

**EDWARD
 CRUTCHFIELD**

D3

**PAUL
 DONOFRO
 JR.**
 CHAIRMAN

D4

**DONNIE
 BRANCH**

D5

**JIM
 PEACOCK**

Jackson County is governed by five elected Commissioners, each representing one of five geographic county districts, balanced by number of residents.

Jackson County's government is structured to be accessible and responsive. The Board is the legislative and policy-making body of county government. The Board makes all budget decisions with regard to appropriation of funds to county departments and some constitutional officers. The chairman, who is selected every two years by the board, presides over all Board meetings, signs all legal documents, and appoints commissioners to various committees.

BOARD MEETINGS ARE ADVERTISED, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND STREAMED LIVE.



2864 MADISON ST. MARIANNA, FL. 32446

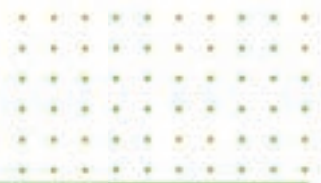


JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



JACKSONCOUNTYFL.GOV

Message From the ADMINISTRATOR



In reflecting upon the administrative accomplishments in 2023, I am pleased to identify progress in longstanding projects. Although not all endeavors have reached completion, significant advancements have been made in propelling them forward. Noteworthy achievements include the opening of Next Step at Endeavor Academy and the closure of the Governor's Job Growth grant at Endeavor, which played a pivotal role in initiating Next Step, as well as facilitating demolition on the main campus and implementing crucial infrastructure improvements.

Furthermore, the culmination of our five-year strategic plan marks a milestone, fostering a unified sense of direction among our staff and providing a framework for ongoing strategies. Given the complexity of our organization with diverse departments, the strategic plan serves as a guiding tool for administration to focus on overarching objectives and strategies identified during the planning process.

The second year of Citizen's Academy, which nearly doubled in class size, was successful once again. It is rewarding to observe the active participation of our citizens in this educational process.

Several road projects have reached completion and will be elaborated upon in the Road and Bridge section. These endeavors, funded by various grants and requiring substantial time investments, contribute to the investment in our infrastructure in our community.

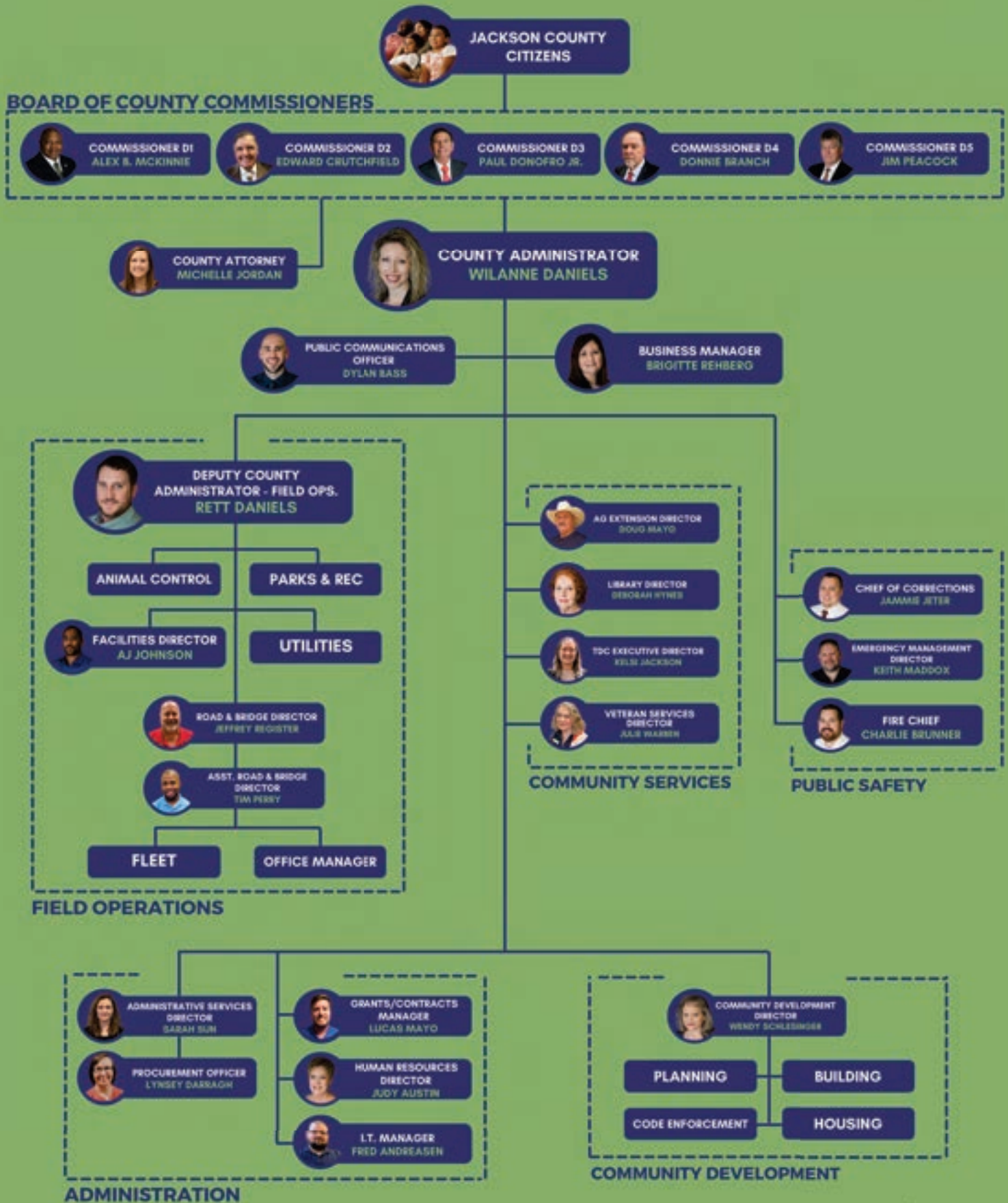
Despite encountering budgetary challenges throughout the year, there is optimism that a critical foundation has been established for future success. The commitment to the "FOR Jackson FOR Future FOR You" initiative continues to strengthen within our organization, extending its reach to civic clubs, Citizen's Academy, and other forums to underscore our unwavering support for the community. The positive reception of this initiative at the Florida Association of Counties conference in June is indicative of its resonance beyond our local boundaries.



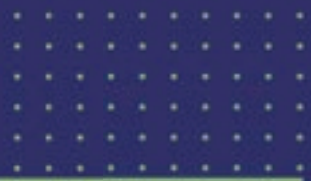
"Acknowledging the vital support provided by the Board of County Commissioners, I want to express my appreciation for your commitment to both myself and the staff. This year's achievements would not have been attainable without the unity and collaborative efforts of the Board. I value your dedication to the betterment of Jackson County."

Wilanette Daniels

Jackson County ORGANIZATION CHART



Administrative SERVICES



- Sarah Sun - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

“Administrative Services strives to be responsible managers of the County’s resources. We apply for grant funding to offset infrastructure costs, manage capital projects that will benefit the County, and seek the best value when utilizing public funds. We also help County departments navigate governmental processes that are often cumbersome. We work hand-in-hand with citizens, employees, State/Federal partners, and private entities to ensure the growth and progress of Jackson County.”



Big Wins

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Special Projects division tackles those tasks that fall outside the scope of other departments. This varies from things such as the development of new county policies, passing of local ordinances & resolutions to addressing the major economic challenges the County faces, such as establishing Countywide broadband infrastructure or addressing affordable housing.



Created inventory of surplus land for the development of attainable housing.



Closed out HMGP grant on Blueberry Road projects. County was reimbursed for over \$1M in outstanding funds.



Completed the renovation of the Autism Transition Academy Building, helping NextStep become an independent Organization.



Completed the new Road and Bridge Office Building that was initiated last year. R&B moved into their new space.



Received two FEMA HMGP grants to install emergency generators at several county facilities and lift stations.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY

October 2023 marks five years since Hurricane Michael. Over the course of this year the County has worked to complete and close out the FEMA projects awarded to the County for recovery efforts.



Grants

Our grants office stayed busy this year by submitting several grant applications, administering current grant projects, as well as taking on several new projects this year.

DPT.	GRANT AGENCY	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT
ADMIN	DEO Rural Infrastructure Grant	Jackson Blue Springs Campground Design	\$106,500
ADMIN	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection	Vulnerability Assessment	\$193,000
ADMIN	Florida Commerce	Project TAP- Infrastructure	\$982,850
ADMIN	Florida Commerce	Safe Room for JCSO	\$4,795,365
ADMIN	Florida Commerce	Madison's Restaurant HR Grant	\$415,688
ADMIN	Department of State	Cultural Facilities/ Endeavor Museum	\$500,000
ADMIN	Florida Commerce	Convention Center	\$1,000,000
EM. MNG.	Florida Department of Emergency Management	Emergency Preparedness and Assistance Grant	\$105,806
EM. MNG.	Florida Department of Emergency Management	Emergency Preparedness and Assistance Grant	\$49,519
JCCF	FDLE	CJDT Implementation Assistance	\$336,576
JCCF	FDLE	Law Enforcement Salary Assistance	\$610,220
JCFR	Florida Dept. of Health	Video Laryngoscopes	\$95,000
RECYCLING	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Mgt.	\$113,150
R&B	Florida Dept. of Transportation	LAP: Baptist College Sidewalks	\$400,804
R&B	Florida Dept. of Transportation	SCRAP: Browntown Road	\$2,504,080
R&B	Florida Dept. of Transportation	SCOP: Alliance Road Design	\$271,320
R&B	Florida Dept. of Transportation	SCOP: Holly Timber Resurfacing	\$3,742,493
R&B	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection	Charm Road Drainage Improvements	\$385,500
R&B	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection	Drainage Projects	\$1,500,000
TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT AWARDED TO JACKSON COUNTY			\$18,107,871

Procurement OFFICE



Lynsey Darragh - PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The Jackson County Purchasing Department is the gateway to the county's success. It ensures that the county's needs are met with efficiency, transparency, and integrity. It follows the best practices and policies of procurement. It fosters a culture of collaboration and professionalism among staff and vendors, while supporting the county's mission and vision, by delivering quality goods and services at competitive prices.

Big Wins



The purchasing department successfully facilitated 51 procurement projects to procure the best services for the best prices for the County possible.



Rolled out a new purchasing platform, Central Bidding, increasing the visibility of our purchasing projects available for bid.



Developed a new county purchasing website, streamlining the bid/purchasing process.



Developed an internal Purchasing Sharepoint page to keep employees apprised of policies and procedures.



PROCURED CONTRACTS: Blue Springs Concessionaire Contract, Continuing Services Contracts for Engineering and Design, and CEI.

CHALLENGE SOLUTION

PROCUREMENT IS ESPECIALLY CHALLENGING IN THE FACE OF THE RISING COSTS OF INFLATION.

RESTRUCTURING SOURCING STRATEGIES TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH COUNTY OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES.



GOALS FOR 2024

Improving procurement cycle time from identifying a need all the way to paying for goods and services

Improving the quality of goods and services procured through competitive sourcing

Minimize risks involved with procurement activities by assuring adherence to sound purchasing policies

Lowering costs by sourcing more competitive goods and services

Business MANAGER



-Brigitte Rehberg- BUSINESS MANAGER

The front office acts as the first point of contact for all interactions with citizens and staff. By offering courteous, professional service to all, we hope to further exemplify the Board of County Commissioners' values of being FOR Jackson, FOR Future, FOR You.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

New Position

After Student Intern, Savana Lee, transitioned to a permanent position as EMT with Jackson County Fire Rescue, we welcomed Jaliyah Godwin-Williams, as **Administrative Assistant**. We look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the coming year.

New Method

With newly available JCBOCC merchandise we have updated the payment methods for County-Branded items to include various forms of transactions.

New Vouchers

Pet Vouchers are one of the most commonly utilized initiatives that the County offers. We have updated and streamlined our Voucher process to accommodate the high demand from the public.

CHALLENGE SOLUTION

AMIDST STAFF LEAVING FOR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES, THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HAS EXPERIENCED A SEASON OF TRANSITION.

WELCOMED A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, JALIYAH GODWIN-WILLIAMS, A HARD WORKER AND WONDERFUL ADDITION TO THE OFFICE.

STATS

 515 PET VOUCHERS ISSUED

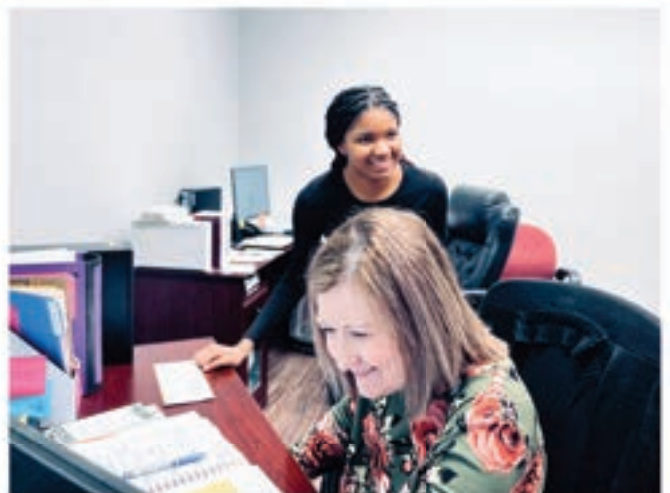
 37 BOCC AGENDAS CREATED

 300+ MERCHANDISE SOLD

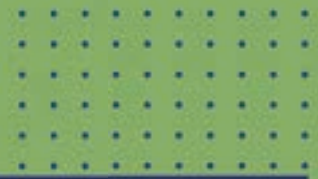
GOALS FOR 2024

Updated County branded merchandise for sale

Use of available software to improve the flow of JCBOCC meetings



Human RESOURCES



Judy Amster HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

“The mission of the Human Resources Department is to collaborate with county leaders to effectively meet the personnel needs of our employees as well as external customers. To accomplish this, the department develops and administers programs and services that support the success of the county’s mission and contribute to the achievement of Jackson County goals.”



The Human Resources Department provides services, innovative leadership and operations to BOCC staff in the areas of classification, compensation, training, development, recruitment, placement, employee/labor relations, and employee benefits. Human Resources also ensures BOCC compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Additionally, Human Resources administers group medical, dental, life, retirement, deferred compensation and cafeteria benefits to BOCC and other county agency employees.



BIG WINS



Developed and implemented new policies to include: **Bereavement Leave Policy & Non-Discrimination Policies.**



For the months of May, June, and July, worked in a dual capacity to cover for vacant Purchasing position.



Implemented quarterly training for Leadership directed at ensuring fair and consistent treatment of staff.

GOALS FOR 2024

COMPLETE REVISIONS OF PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

IMPLEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FIELD EMPLOYEES

IMPLEMENT INCENTIVE PAY PLAN AND QUARTERLY BONUS PROGRAM FOR FIELD EMPLOYEES

STATS

86
NEW HIRES

76
TERMINATIONS

25
PROPERTY CLAIMS

21
WORKERS COMP CLAIMS

Information TECHNOLOGY



The IT department continues to strive for excellence in serving those who serve the community. From Department to Department, we work diligently to bring new technologies to the table making government services more accessible to everyone. We are FOR Jackson, FOR Future, FOR YOU.



-Fred Andreasen- I.T. DIRECTOR



300+
TICKETS
PROCESSED



NEW NEXTSTEP FACILITY EQUIPPED



NEW ROAD & BRIDGE FACILITY EQUIPPED

Big Wins



FIRE RESCUE CONNECTED

We successfully integrated mobile WiFi to the County Fire Rescue / EMS vehicles. This allows for better communication and connectivity even in the furthest reaches of the county, enabling the EMS personnel to get reports to healthcare facilities before patient arrival to enhance the level of care provided to the Citizens of Jackson County.

PROMOTED

Meet Fred



We would like to welcome Fred to his new role as JCBOCC IT Manager

facebook

CHALLENGE SOLUTION

FORMER DIRECTOR VACATED POSITION, LEAVING MANY LARGE TASKS AND PROJECTS UNFINISHED.

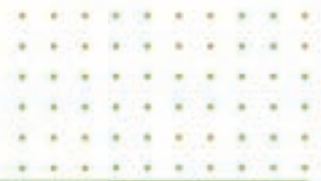
FACED THE CHALLENGE HEAD ON, RELYING ON CREATIVITY, DRIVE, AND RESOURCEFULNESS.

GOALS FOR 2024

TRANSITION TO VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP) TO PROVIDE BETTER COMMUNICATION AND REDUCE COSTS

BRING NEW AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO COUNTY FACILITIES

Veteran SERVICES



"Serving Those Who Served us All"



"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." – Abraham Lincoln

-Julie Warren - VETERAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
PACT ACT PRODUCED CLAIM INCREASE.	STAFF INCREASED MONTHLY INTERACTIONS.
DOWNED ELEVATOR/ LOCATION ISSUES.	TEMPORARILY RELOCATED TO ADMIN OFFICE.

GOALS FOR 2024

- MOVE DEPARTMENT TO NEW LONG-TERM LOCATION **THE RUSS HOUSE**
- ADD A NEW ACCREDITED COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER TO THE STAFF
- PROMOTE DEPARTMENT AS ONE-STOP TO ASSIST VETERANS **STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Promoted

Former Veteran Specialist, **Julie Warren**, was promoted to **Veteran Services Director** in October, 2023.

Tenure

2023 marks Ms. Julie Warren's **20th year** with the Veteran Services Department, outlining her commitment to serving our Veterans.

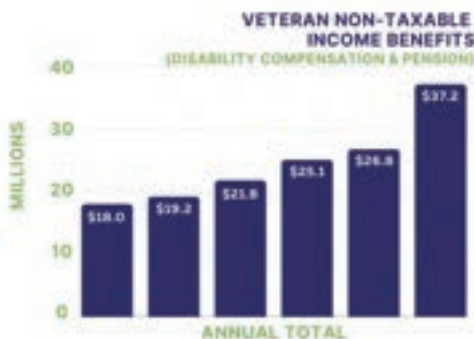
Rising Numbers

2023 saw the highest cost of living increase the Veterans Administration has ever provided, **8.7%**.

69% increase in our monthly interactions.

64% more claims than during the 2022 Fiscal Year.

STATS



6,368 INTERACTIONS



531 MONTHLY AVERAGE



591 CLAIMS FILED



699 MILITARY RECORDS REVIEWED

"On March 15, 2023, the Jackson County Veteran Services Department along with the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs, the Florida Veterans Foundation, and Molina Healthcare held a Town Hall hosted at Rivertown Community Church. Its purpose was to spread awareness and understanding of the PACT Act and the impact it could have on the lives of local veterans and their families.

We had 68 attendees in addition to the speakers and Service Organization reps.

Jeff Obose of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs said it was the best Pact Act Town hall to date. People were civil and eager to learn. I think they truly felt their service was respected and that we were there to help them."

- Julie Warren -



3/15/23 - VETERANS TOWN HALL



We are incredibly proud to share this heartwarming moment of three Veterans, who have served our country with honor, as they wait to see our Veteran Services Specialist, Julie Warren. Pictured is William Woods, Greg Kustor, William Medley, and Joyce Medley. These Veterans are long time friends who were excited to spend time with Julie.

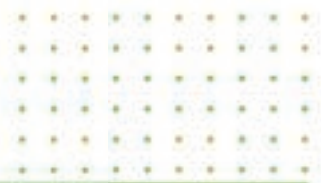
Julie is renowned for her dedication, patience, and meticulous attention to detail, which has helped countless Veterans receive the best outcomes on their claims. Her personable approach makes every veteran feel heard, valued, and respected.

This is a great example of what it means to be "FOR" Jackson.

Thank you, Julie, for your hard work and devotion. To our Veterans, we are forever grateful for your service. #FORjackson #FORfuture #FORyou #VeteranServices #ThankYouVeterans



Community DEVELOPMENT



“Over the past few years, the department has seen progress and improvements in development, commercial businesses, and residential housing. Daily, we speak with and meet folks from all over the country who are interested in moving to, building homes, and conducting business in our area. We are excited about supporting the County’s goals in which we promote a vibrant and growing economy and foster thriving neighborhoods that offer a high quality of life. As our communities expand and grow the department staff find new ways to provide quality service to our residents. We are very proud to serve our neighbors who live, play, and work in Jackson County.”

- Wendy Schlesinger - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

BUILDING CODE EFFECTIVENESS GRADING CLASSIFICATION (BCEGS)

Building Services participates in this program which influences our local fire and building codes.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

We participate in the National Flood Insurance Program to offer discounted flood insurance rates to our residents.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

This year the division worked towards enhancing the process to comply for tough cases and repeat offenders.

HOUSING GRANTS

This year \$1.7 million dollars was contributed through the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program.

ORDINANCE UPDATES

This year the staff worked diligently to bring the codes up-to-date and in alignment with State statutes.

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
DIFFICULTY RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR BOARDS/COMMITTEES	IMPLEMENTED NEW POLICY TO ADVERTISE FOR VOLUNTEERS
LENGTHY PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING RESIDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR HOUSING GRANTS	NEW PRE-SCREENING APPLICATION PROCESS FOR CONVENIENT ON-LINE APPLICATION
VARIANCE REQUESTS OFTEN DON'T ALIGN WITH COUNTY ORDINANCES RESULTING IN LENGTHY PROCESS	PLANNING STAFF IMPLEMENTED NEW PROCESS THAT SHOWS ELIGIBILITY FOR THE VARIANCE UNDER THE CODES

GOALS FOR 2024

CODES / IWRQ

Building Services will notify contractors of the upcoming FL Building Code changes / make adjustments to improve IWRQ database

IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY

Improve I.T. equipment to allow staff to efficiently serve the public, including purchase of a new server and phone system.

ORDINANCE UPDATES

Complete departmental updates to the Code of Ordinances which include Chapter 28 - Housing, and Chapter 42 - Planning

SPECIAL MAGISTRATE

Continue the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing process on the first Friday of each Month

HOUSING INITIATIVES

Continue to assist families with their housing needs under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP). The HHRP deadline is June 30, 2024, to expend the first allocation of funding at \$7.2 million. An additional \$2.2 million must be expended by June 30, 2025.



BRING A COMMISSIONER TO WORK-DAY

Each commissioner was invited to spend a few hours with the divisions to learn about office operations and services provided. The commissioners participated in a ride-a-long with Code Enforcement to get a first hand look at problem properties. This initiative was a great opportunity for staff to share time with the commissioners, speak with them one on one, and inform them about the processes of the county's regulatory office.



JESSICA NABORS, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Code Enforcement coordinated with the Department of Corrections who cleaned up a few sites in Marianna and Graceville that had public dumping in the right-of-way. This was a benefit to the neighbors in the community and contributed to the health and safety of the environment.



ALLEN BIGGS, BUILDING OFFICIAL

Building Services co-hosted a two-day contractor CEU training session with Universal Inspection Services at the Ag Complex on July 27, 2023.

YEARS OF SERVICE

Years of Service awards were presented to Mary Smith for 5 years, and Amber Barnes and Benet Johnson for 15.



SERVICE PROJECTS

Jessica Nabors, Mary Smith, and Kim Williams participated in a service project at Chipola Ministries in Marianna to distribute food at the food pantry On May 10, 2023, and worked in tandem with a volunteer crew from Road and Bridge.



PLANNING: 365 RDOs 7 Variance Requests 4 Al. Beverage Permits



BUILDING SERVICES: 3,334 Inspections 2,458 Permits \$410,465 Permit Fees



HOUSING: 9 HHRP Replacements 29 SHIP Purchase Asst. 16 SHIP Rehab Asst.

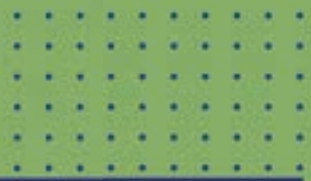


CODE ENFORCEMENT: 283 Site Visits 135 Cases Closed 223 Lien Searches



GIS: 650 New Addresses 42 New Projects 32 Closed Projects

Public LIBRARY



Deborah Hynes - PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR

One thing that we have discovered over the past few years is that the people who use the library are not seeking scholarly information. Rather, they are seeking entertainment. Therefore, we have done our best to provide what they desire, both in a physical format as well as in a digital form. And everything we do is free.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Easy Access

In an effort to provide the best service we can to our Jackson County citizens, we removed charges for computer guest passes. Now the only thing a guest must provide to use the public computers is a photo ID.

More Materials

We expanded our collection of materials for young adults and teens. We subscribed to a book leasing program, a huge learning experience for us on many levels.

Wider Reach

We provided more books to patrons that aren't available from local sources through an interlibrary loan program called FLIN Share-It. Allowing us to borrow requested titles from other libraries in the state.

STATISTICS



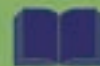
515

LIBRARY CARDS



4644

TOTAL NEW ITEMS



1449

NEW BOOKS ADDED



29210

ITEMS CHECKED OUT



44269

TOTAL # OF VISITORS



YEARS OF SERVICE: SETO VAN BOXTEL - 5 YEARS



SUSANNA GASTON SPEAKING: CITIZENS ACADEMY



DEBORAH HYNES SERV. PROJ.



YEARS OF SERVICE: ALICIA PURVIS - 5 YEARS



SUSANNA TEACHING BUDGETING AT NEXTSTEP



JENNIFER THOMAS - 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Correctional FACILITY



- Jammie Jeter - CHIEF OF CORRECTIONS

We specialize in **CARE, CUSTODY, and CONTROL** of inmates to keep the public safe.

BIG WINS

1 PASSED PLANNED INSPECTION WITH NO FAULTS.

2 PASSED SURPRISE INSPECTION WITH NO FAULTS.

3 FULLY STAFFED THROUGH THE MONTH OF SEPT.

4 UPDATED DESIGN OF ALL INMATE HOUSING UNITS.

5 FDLE GRANT PROVIDED NEW J.M.S. SYSTEM.

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
STATE CORRECTIONS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT RAISES	MAINTAINED A GOOD WORK ENVIRONMENT TO RETAIN STAFF
OUR FACILITY EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN REPORTED MENTAL HEALTH CASES	PARTNERED WITH JUDGES/ATTORNEYS TO DEVELOP PLAN FOR PROACTIVE EVALUATIONS
INSUFFICIENT SPACE FOR INCREASE OF HIGH PROFILE INMATES	RELOCATED INMATES TO ACCOMMODATE HIGH PROFILE INCREASE

INMATES RECEIVED	1,640
INMATES RELEASED	1,721
DISCIPLINE REPORTS	127
STAFF ASSAULTS	3



Emergency MANAGEMENT



- Keith Maddox - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR | OPERATIONS CHIEF



"It's impossible" and "We can't" are statements that deserve only one reply: "Challenge accepted."

JACKSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMPLEX



EMERGENCY OPS HIGHLIGHTS *Stats and* 10.1.23 - 9.30.23

COMPLETED TRAININGS



ICS TRAINING/UPDATES

MASS CASUALTIES RESPONSE CLASS
MITIGATION PROCESSES/PROCEDURES
INTERMEDIATE EOC OPERATIONS
GASOLINE TANKER RESPONSE
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AWARENESS
FL RECOVERY OBLIGATION CALCULATION



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

MULTIPLE SMALL FUEL SPILLS
ONE MAJOR TANKER OVERTURNED
(10-hour multi-agency response)
ONE SULFURIC ACID SPILL
ONE ANHYDROUS AMMONIA GAS LEAK

EASTSIDE BAPTIST JOY CLUB
MARIANNA HEALTH AND REHAB
CHIPOLA CAREER SOURCE
CITIZENS ACADEMY



GRANTS

EMPA — \$105,806
EMPC — \$49,519
HAZMAT — 52,671



RESPONSE

ESF (HEALTH/MED) - 8
REGIONAL STATE - 3
STATE DEM - 1
STAKEHOLDER ERTF - 4
STAKEHOLDER LMS - 4



MEETINGS

COMPLETED 12 DISASTER PLAN REVIEWS AND APPROVALS FOR HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

Secured interlocal agreements with Municipalities for emergency staging and POD locations.

OPTED INTO F-ROC PROGRAM

F-ROC is a new initiative, sponsored by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), that standardizes, streamlines, and simplifies the Public Assistance process.

COLLABORATIONS

Initiated a co-op plan process for all county departments in collaboration with Emerald Healthcare Coalition.

EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY

Worked with IT and Fire Rescue to fund and deploy a project to equip all emergency response vehicles with high speed internet hot spots to include reserve units that can provide internet and Wi-Fi calling anywhere in the county during disasters.

Extension SERVICE



-Doug Mayo- EXTENSION DIRECTOR

"2023 was a challenging year in a variety of ways. The heat and drought made things difficult for farmers. But, farmers remained appreciative of the technical assistance provided by the Extension Service. With high personnel turnover, the whole staff pulled together as a team to ensure our customer's needs were met."

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



SHARON McROY, TERRI HARDIN

After serving the Extension Service for 25 years, Sharon McRoy retired from the Office Manager position. For a quarter century, Sharon made things work behind the scenes from managing budgets and facilities, to helping residents connect with resource people. Terri Hardin was promoted to serve as her replacement.



ETHAN CARTER

Ethan Carter was recognized with the UF/IFAS Art Hornsby Extension Faculty Fellowship Award, for excellence in extension programming. He was also part of a team that included agents from a neighboring County that were national finalist in the "Search for Excellence" in 4-H and Youth Programming. They also won the Excellence in Ag Literacy Programming Award.

ABBIE PAYNE

Hiring Abbey Payne was a real bright spot for the Extension Service in 2023. Abbey began work in July as the new Horticulture Agent. She will lead the education program for fruit and vegetable farmers and home gardeners. She has hit the ground running. Her positive energy and enthusiasm are contagious, so we are thankful to add her to the team.



EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

EXTENSION EVENTS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	TOTAL EVENTS	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	RENTAL INCOME
157	4,743	321	13,328	\$16,874



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CITIZENS

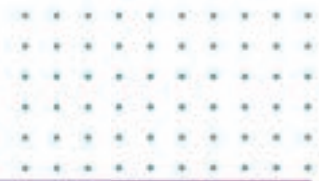
FIELD VISITS	OFFICE VISITS	PHONE CALLS	EMAILS	TOTAL CONTACTS
204	577	1,692	488	2,961

DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS

E-NEWS	ISSUES	43	ISSUES	134,735	REACH	520,821
FACEBOOK	POSTS	713	REACH	10,082	REACH	338,604
TWITTER	TWEETS	496	REACH	2,333	REACH	85,658
YOUTUBE	NEW VIDS	9	VIEWS	34,879	NEW VISITORS	2,503

Total Digital Contacts: 1,120,497





It has been a busy year for NextStep as we completed our first year of the Transition Academy, moved into our new space, and received national recognition for our innovative programming. Through the whirlwind of the past year, we have paused to reflect many times on how fortunate we are to have the support of the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners. The vision they dreamed up has become a reality--changing the lives of more than 50 adults with autism in only 12 short months!

- Tammy Dasher - NEXTSTEP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



YEAR ONE DONE

Participants completed Year 1 of the 2-year Program.



NACo AWARD

NextStep received the NACo Achievement Award.



GUEST SPEAKER

First Place Global Leadership Institute Symposium.



SPECIAL EVENTS

"Taking the Next Step" - Statewide Art Show.



NEW FACILITY

Moved into beautiful new space at Endeavor Park.

GOALS FOR 2024

GRADUATE THE INAUGURAL TRANSITION ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS

PROGRESS CONTRSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT OF PROGRAM



Fire RESCUE



“An organization, successful or not, is merely a reflection of the character of its leadership.”

- S. Truett Cathy -



- Charlie Brunner - JCFR FIRE CHIEF

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
BATTLED SUMMER HEAT WAVE AND DROUGHT	RECEIVED WATER/LIQUID IV DONATIONS
DIFFICULTY FILLING COUNTY FIREFIGHTER, PARAMEDIC, AND EMT POSITIONS	COUNTY ENROLLED 6 FIREFIGHTERS IN PARAMEDIC PROGRAM AT CHIPOLA
INSUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR OUTFITTING ENGINE EQUIPMENT	BOARD FUNDED \$34K FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT ON THE NEW ENGINE



Facebook



I am extremely proud to lead this team of professionals. Our firefighters have worked tirelessly this last year protecting and providing first class service. The men and women of JCO Fire Rescue have done an excellent job serving the community while facing challenges. We look forward to expanding and providing better service in 2024.

- Charlie Brunner, Fire Rescue -



STATISTICS

TOTAL CALLS		9,767
EMS CALLS		9,208
FIRE CALLS		559
PRE-PLAN MEETINGS		55
PLAN REVIEWS		15
TOTAL INSPECTIONS		481

(NEW BUSINESS CONSTRUCTION: Hampton Inn, Chick-Fil-A, Dollar General Market-Graceville.)

GOALS FOR 2024

FIREFIGHTERS/EMTs GRADUATE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

PLACE NEW SCBA's - AIR PACKS - INTO CIRCULATION

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF SERVICE 1974 - 2024

SUPPLY BLOOD ON AMBULANCES TO BENEFIT OUR PATIENTS

EXPAND PATIENT CARE BY STARTING COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC - MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH PROGRAM

Public WORKS



The Public Works Department strives to enhance the quality of life of all residents by designing, building, and maintaining public works infrastructure and providing safe, reliable, effective services consistent with the mission and goals of our county.



- Rett Daniels - DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



BIG WINS

1 REOPENED NEALS LANDING CAMP-GROUND.

2 ANIMAL CONTROL MOVED TO DIGITAL REPORTS.

3 BLUE SPRINGS UNDER 3RD PARTY VENDOR.

4 UPDATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE RECYCLING DIVISION.



CARDBOARD COLLECTED		330
ALUMINUM COLLECTED		27
PAPER COLLECTED		5.6
SHELTERED ANIMALS		550
CITIZENS LODGE RENTALS		75
CYPRESS PARK RENTALS		25

GOALS FOR 2024

- Utilities radio read retro fit for residential customers.
- Expand Animal Control to a two-man full time operation.
- Update décor at Citizens Lodge and Cypress Park.

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
HURDLES WITH FILLING EMPTY POSITIONS	FOUND WAYS TO RETAIN STAFF AND FILL VACANCIES
LACK OF CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT FOR INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS THAT HAVE BEEN POSTED	MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO BE MORE ACCOMODATING TO THE COMMUNITY
LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT	PROACTIVELY THINKING OF FUTURE AVENUES



Tourist DEVELOPMENT



The TDC's primary goal is to promote Jackson County as a tourist destination and create an economic impact for our area. Every step we take works towards a future where Jackson County thrives as an economic powerhouse, ensuring a high quality of life for both citizens and visitors.

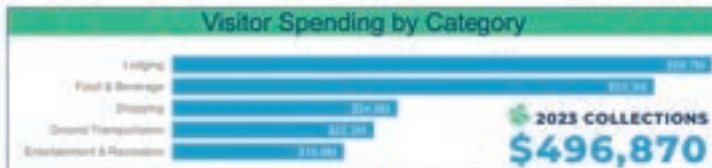
- Kelsi Jackson - TDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

	PURCHASED GREAT OAKS PROPERTY FROM HISTORICAL SOCIETY		"HUDDLE UP" SPORTS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN
	RAISED BED TAX FROM 4% - 5%, ADDING ESTIMATED \$140K.		UNDERTOOK SEVERAL OUTREACH EFFORTS TO GROW SUPPORT
	JACKSON ENDEAVOR MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS SELECTED		AWARDED \$40K IN FUNDING TO SEVERAL COMMUNITY EVENTS
	WEBSITE UPGRADED / LAUNCHED ITI DIGITAL VIRTUAL VISITOR CENTER		FRESH DIGITAL LIBRARY FROM VISIT FLORIDA CO-OP
	GREW SOCIAL MEDIA REACH FROM 27,056 TO 107,474		HIRED CHASTITY SHEFFIELD: 16 YEARS TOURISM EXPERIENCE



CHALLENGE	SOLUTION
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DEFUNDING VISIT FLORIDA	JCTDC SUPPORTED VISIT FLORIDA BY ATTENDING "TOURISM DAYS"
LACK OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENT NEEDS	DEVELOPING COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN TO ASSIST NEEDS



\$19.4M
State & Local Taxes Generated

\$14.6M
Federal Taxes Generated

	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total
GDP	\$69.1M	\$12.1M	\$10.7M	\$91.8M
Jobs	2,336	271	179	2,786
Wages	\$40.6M	\$7.2M	\$4.9M	\$52.8M
Total Business Spending	\$143.6M	\$28.9M	\$20.0M	\$192.5M



Road and BRIDGE



Road & Bridge is striving to become a more cohesive and unified team, to better serve the citizens of Jackson County.

Jeffrey Register - ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Moved into new R&B office building.



Paved and resurfaced over 14 miles of roadway.



New District Supervisor bringing improvements.



Department morale continues to improve.



Commissioners' support allowed purchase of much needed equipment.

GOALS FOR 2024

IMPLEMENT A NEW CDL TRAINING POLICY

ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENTAL FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT



RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS
100+



SERVICE REQUESTS
2.5K



DAILY ACTIVITIES
22K+



EMPLOYEE COUNT
65 OF 70

County BUDGET



Sarah San - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

There is no higher level of accountability in Government budgets than in a Local Government's budget.



\$36M - TRANSPORTATION

\$31M - PUBLIC SAFETY

\$ 17M - ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

\$ 11M - GENERAL GOVERNMENT

\$ 9M - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

\$ 9M - OTHER USES/NON-OPERATING

\$ 2M - HUMAN SERVICES

\$ 2M - CULTURE/RECREATION

\$ 1M - COURT RELATED

The Board had very difficult decisions to make this year- as the County was outpacing revenues significantly. The Board showed true leadership in the face of adversity and heavy criticism and voted to increase the millage rate by one half of a mill. The current millage rate is 7.9450.

The millage rate is the amount of property value that is used to calculate local property taxes. This is one of the most important sources of funding for Jackson County, as it funds the majority of general government operations.

The Board once again approved the adoption of a \$1,650.00 raise for each position to address the minimum wage mandate and the naturally occurring compression that accompanies minimum wage issues.

The Board committed funding to the Broadband initiative, committed to a financial advising partnership, and funded several key capital outlay projects that have not been funded for several years- all in an effort to further the vision, mission, and values of the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners.

Service PROJECTS



"JCBOCC has implemented service projects in place of previous standing leadership meetings. This included reading to elementary students for Literacy Week, roadside litter pick-up, stocking local food pantries/ Backpack for Kids, and visiting nursing homes. Our monthly service projects forged a tight bond within our leadership team and ignited a passion in all of us that we are working under a much larger vision than any of our individual hopes and dreams. We are working and serving the greatest County in the world!"

William Davis





FOR JACKSON
FUTURE
YOU





Jackson County, Fl.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



2023

**JCBOCC
ANNUAL
REPORT**

(850)-482-9633

2864 Madison Street Marianna, Florida 32448

www.jacksoncountyfl.gov