

上公 2024



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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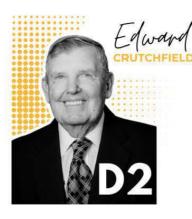
> BRIDGING THE GAP

31



OMEET THE













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

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Jackson County's government is designed to be accessible and responsive. The Board serves as the legislative and policymaking body, overseeing budget decisions for county departments and some constitutional officers. Every two years, the Board selects a chairman to preside over meetings, sign legal documents, and appoint commissioners to committees.



2864 MADISON ST. MARIANNA, FL. 32446



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



JACKSONCOUNTYFL.GOV



The Board recognized outgoing Commissioners Alex McKinnie (District 1) and lim Peacock (District 5) for their dedicated service to Jackson County. Commissioner McKinnie served 4 impactful years, while Commissioner Peacock contributed 8 years of leadership.

The Board extends a heartfelt thanks for their commitment to making Jackson County a better place to live, work, and grow, embodying the County's vision: For Jackson, For Future, For You.

MESSAGE FROM THE Thinistrator

Dear Commissioners,

I am so pleased to submit the 2023/2024 Annual Report. Our team has done an exceptional job over the last year as we continue to turn the "idea" of FOR Jackson FOR Future FOR You into a reality. I have stepped back in amazement as I have seen this concept



come to life. Not only in the way our team interacts with the public, but how they interact with all of you and one another.

When we set out on the journey of **FOR**, it seemed impossible. While we have not arrived yet, I can see the evidence of a well beaten path coming into focus. The sentiment of **FOR** is shining through with things such as Citizen's Academy, increased social media interactions, and our culture becoming more defined from within the organization.

You all have accomplished so much over this past year! Your leadership has led so many initiatives that will be detailed within. I am particularly proud of your decision to purchase Great Oaks. I am anxious to see it's completion in next year's report! Your leadership of the continued development of Endeavor, with the partnership with Chrome, is also of note. I am excited to see the continued development of the museum, convention center, and the industrial area. Of course, the housing development on Endeavor has the potential to jumpstart that exit in a meaningful way.

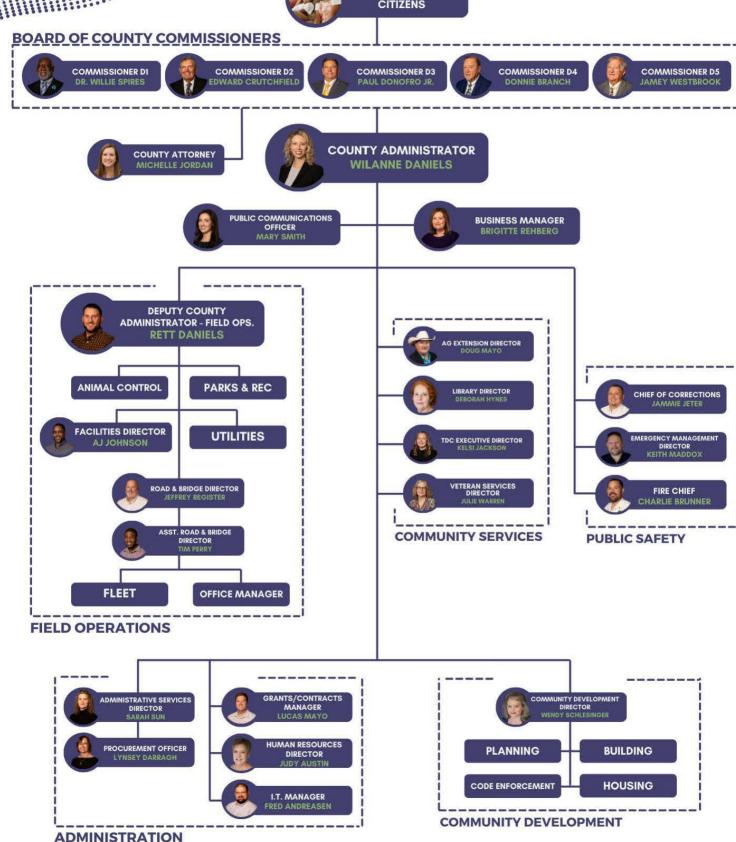
Thank you all for being willing to join our culture and make your own intentional contributions along the way.



"Our team has done an exceptional job over the last year as we continue to turn the "idea" of FOR Jackson FOR Future FOR You into a reality. I have stepped back in amazement as I have seen this concept come to life. Not only in the way our team interacts with the public, but how they interact with all of you and one another."

Jackson Country ORGANIZATION CHART





ADMINISTRATIVE Services



step toward making Jackson County a BETTER, STRONGER, and more RESILIENT community.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DIRECTOR



One of the biggest challenges for Administrative Services this year was starting the Corrections Re-Roofing Project. When the bids were received, the lowest bid was over \$1 million dollars more than we had in grant funding. We were able to overcome this hurdle and award the project. After such a long wait, the jail is finally getting a new roof!

PAVING THE WAY FOR POOSER'
ROAD - A CATALYST FOR
INDUSTRY

This year, Jackson County
made further progress in
paving the way for the
Endeavor Property to become
an economic and community
hub, thanks to critical
investments and a clear vision
for the future.



Received Governor's Job Growth Grant for \$4.68 Million for Paving & Infrastructure to Pooser Road



Received HMGP Grant for a portion of Pooser Road to address drainage issues.



JCBOCC awarded approximately 320 acres to Rausch Coleman Homes for the development of affordable housing

20 25

AS WE GO INTO THE NEW YEAR, WE AIM TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION ACROSS BOCC DEPARTMENTS, STREAMLINING COUNTY PROJECTS AND PROCESSES FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY.



The Administrative Services Team managing is responsible for approximately \$18 million dollars in grant funds. Below are highlights of the type of grants we are managing.



GRANT AGENCY	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT
Florida Commerce	Pooser Road Job Growth Grant	\$4,680,059
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	Vulnerability Assessment	\$368,400
Florida Commerce	Safe Room for JCSO	\$4,795,365
Florida Commerce	Madison's Restaurant HR Grant	\$415,688
Department of State	Cultural Facilities/ Endeavor Museum	\$500,000
Florida Commerce	Convention Center	\$1,500,000
Florida Commerce	Project JAWS	\$3,375,600
Florida Department of Emergency Management	Emergency Preparedness and Assistance Grant	\$105,806
Florida Department of Emergency Management	Emergency Preparedness and Assistance Grant	\$50,158
FDEP	Cypress Park	\$200,000
Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement (FDLE)	Law Enforcement Salary Assistance	\$803,294
FDEP	Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Mgt.	\$93,750
FEMA/FDEM	Pooser Road Drainage	\$775,805
Florida Commerce Match	Pooser Road Drainage	\$244,768
FDEP	Shangri La	\$1,028,116
F	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Department of State Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Department of Emergency Management Florida Department of Emergency Management FDEP Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement (FDLE) FDEP FEMA/FDEM Florida Commerce Match	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Department of State Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Commerce Florida Department of Emergency Management FDEP FLORIDA COMMERCE FDEP FLORIDA COMMERCE FOLE FOL

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT AWARDED TO JACKSON COUNTY \$18,936,809

REMENT ice



ive procurement County nment ensures that public funds are used wisely, PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY and the **EFFICIENT DELIVERY** of services to the community.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER



Implemented a WEX Fuel Card Agreement, ensuring employee compliance with policies/procedures, streamlining receipt submissions, and reducing end-of-month processing time from 3 hours to 1.5 hours. Special thanks to Jaliyah Godwin-Williams for her key role in this success!

+ NOTABLE PROJECTS

Endeavor Convention Center

Jackson Hospital **HVAC Upgrades**

Rodeo Arena **Equipment**

> New Jail Roof

Helipad in **Sneads**

Shangri La Land Clearing

Pooser Road **Affordable** Housing **Development**

> TDC Strategic Plan

57 procurement projects 9 including 16

ROAD IMPROVEMENT projects

CODED/PROCESSED OVER

Oinvoices FOR PAYMENT

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

REFINING PROJECT REFINING PROJECT
SCOPES TO KEEP
INITIATIVES MOVING
FORWARD. COLLABORATE
WITH DEDICATED
GRANTS/CONTRACTS
MANAGER, LUCAS MAYO,
TO SECURE ADDITIONAL
FUNDING, ENSURING
PROJECTS COULD PROJECTS COULD PROCEED SMOOTHLY.



Keep projects on budget and high-value with competitive bidding.

Renovate Great Oaks and secure a Concessionaire for management.

Revitalize the AG Center with a new facility manager.

Launch a streamlined electronic invoicing system with Finance for end-toend purchase order efficiency.

Finalize Pooser Road bidding to support new housing growth.

The front office is ALWAYS FOR Jackson and FOR Future, but we are especially FOR YOU . . . our citizens and staff, who make Jackson County the best place to live and work.



MANAGER



This fiscal year provided valuable learning opportunities for our front office team as we deepened our understanding of existing procedures to drive meaningful improvements. Our ongoing commitment is to ensure every interaction with citizens and staff is PROFESSIONAL, COURTEOUS, and EFFICIENT.

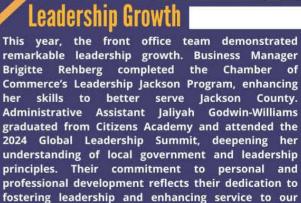












ONE OF OUR KEY GOALS FOR 2025 IS TO REVAMP AND MODERNIZE OUR LOBBY TO CREATE A WELCOMING AND ENGAGING SPACE THAT REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CITIZENS. WE WANT EVERYONE WHO VISITS TO FEEL THAT WE ARE FOR THEM, **ENSURING THEIR EXPERIENCE IS POSITIVE FROM THE** MOMENT THEY WALK THROUGH OUR DOORS.

community.



Resources



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.

99

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR



With help from our student worker, Dillon Shelton from Next Step Academy, we're 95% finished converting 50 years of paper files to digital!

Sponsored our first Tree of Lights Celebration of Life for Christmas 2023. The Tree of Lights is in memory of employees and their immediate family members. We recognized 16 employees and 36 family members.





Processed over 200 seasonal Poll Workers for the Supervisor of Elections for the 2024 Elections.



TERMINATIONS WORKERS C



435
PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

234
PROPERTY CLAIMS

GHANNH:



HR managed the complex task of processing over 200 seasonal employees for the Supervisor of Elections, a crucial need during the 2024 election cycle. Additionally, high employee turnover presented challenges, such as decreased productivity, increased recruitment and onboarding costs, and lower employee morale, impacting overall efficiency and straining resources.

SULUTION

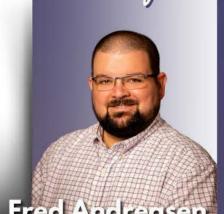
HR provided comprehensive support from recruitment to retirement, promoting a positive work culture with a focus on professional development, work-life balance, and diversity, while also ensuring compliance and managing costs through competitive pay and benefits. To address high turnover in certain departments, HR ensured thoroughly vetting candidates, developing targeted training programs, and ensuring supervisors communicate expectations and address concerns effectively.

20 25

IN 2025, HR AIMS TO AUTOMATE PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS, ENABLING REAL-TIME ONLINE SUBMISSIONS AND TRACKING. THIS WILL STREAMLINE THE PROCESS, REDUCE COUNTY LIABILITY, AND ENHANCE SERVICE QUALITY FOR OUR CITIZENS. ADDITIONALLY, HR WILL FINALIZE COMPREHENSIVE UPDATES TO THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, ESTABLISHING A STRONGER AND MORE EFFICIENT FOUNDATION FOR OUR WORKFORCE.



The Department continues SERVE an EVER GROWING number of departments and personnel. As we transition into the next year, we hope to assist all of them in their goals of making Jackson County a better place to live.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR



THIS YEAR, IT SHIFTED FOCUS FROM LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS TO MULTIPLE TARGETED INITIATIVES. FORTIFYING OUR SYSTEMS **AGAINST EVOLVING CYBER** THREATS.



CYBERSECRITY CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE LARGEST CHALLENGES THIS YEAR SAW MORE STAFF AT ALL **LEVELS ATTEND** CYBER SECURITY TRAINING





OUTFIT NEW CONVENTION CENTER FOR WIFI AND NETWORKING

ENHANCE DIGITAL AMENITIES (WIFI, SCREENS, **AUDIO) AT VARIOUS COUNTY FACILITIES TO** BETTER CONNECT STAFF AND THE PUBLIC THAT **USE THOSE FACILITIES**

ENHANCE CYBERSECURITY THROUGH NEW AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR ALL STAFF

levelopment



In Community Development we are here to serve the residents of the county with their development needs.

The department's motto is: Mapping the past - Building the present - Planning for the future. The county's core value is: For Jackson - For Future - For You

Our past teaches us how to build the present and plan for the future. What we do now, in the present, helps lay the groundwork for Jackson, for future, for you!

Wendy Schlesinger

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

≝ BUILDING SERVICES

Building Services managed a surge in building permits and inspections, collecting over \$522,000 in fees this year—an increase of \$112,000 from the previous fiscal year.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

The Planning Department and Building Services successfully maintained a class 7 ISO rating under FEMA's Community Rating System, securing a 15% flood insurance discount for Jackson County residents.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

This year, we added a Code Enforcement Officer and implemented the Special Magistrate Hearing process, enhancing our efforts to achieve compliance and clean up the County

HOUSING GRANTS

The Hurricane Housing Recovery Program's second disbursement funded projects like the Endeavor Forward Autism Cottage refurbishment and the Thomas Pines Rental Development. The first disbursement closeout helped over 63 families with demolition, reconstruction, purchase assistance, and rehabilitation needs.

TURNOVER WITH CONTRACTED HOUSING PROGRAM **ADMINISTRATOR**

IMPLEMENTING GUIDANCE FOR NEW STAFF TO LEARN COUNTY HOUSING

LACK OF PUBLIC **AWARENESS ON** DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS **IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION**

CONTROVERSIAL CHANGES TO CODE OF ORDINANCES ON HOUSING IN A DISTRICT

UPDATED THE CODE AND WORKED WITH THE PUBLIC TO FIND **EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS**



ALS FOR 2

Obtain approval from Florida Commerce on proposed 10-Year Comp Plan update and adopt final plan

Update the iWorO database to receive online building permits and to notify contractors on inspection results.

Closeout the 2nd disbursement of \$2.2 million dollars for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program and administer the Housing program more efficiently.

NE C

BUILDING RESILIENCE: HHRP IMPACT

Since receiving funding in 2019, the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) has been hard at work, successfully completing or progressing on 33 replacement homes, 19 rental development units, and 11 purchase assistance initiatives. significant investment has provided critical support to 16 special needs households and 47 other qualifying citizens of Jackson County, fostering a resilient and thriving community.





This year, Ashley Merrill and Jay Clark joined the Community Development Department Jackson County's Code Enforcement team, dedicated to ensuring safe, well-maintained properties across the community.

They are ready to help residents access resources to improve living conditions, while also addressing abandoned structures neglected properties to enhance safety and preserve property values.





AMBER BARNES: EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Amber Barnes, Senior Planner, was honored as Employee of the Month for April 2024. Since joining the County in 2007, Amber has excelled in leadership, technical skills, and outstanding service.











RDOs

21

GDOs

Variances

Alc. Beverage Licenses



2915 Inspections

> 2343 **Permits**

\$5.43 Million **Permit Fees**

HOUSING

SHIP Purchase Asst.

10 **SHIP Rehab** Asst.

10 **HHRP Projects** © CODE **ENFORCEMENT**

> 328 Site Visits

262 **Lien Searches**

43 Cases Closed GIS

331

New Addresses

New Streets

43 **New Projects**

36

Closed Projects



VETERAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

... to Mye for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.

~ Abraham Lincoln

PACT ACT PRODUCED CLAIM INCREASE.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS IN ADMIN OFFICE

STAFF INCREASED MONTHLY INTERACTIONS.

PERMANENTLY **MOVED TO HISTORIC RUSS HOUSE**

HOST ANNUAL TOWN HALL REFERENCE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION **BENEFITS AT THE HISTORIC RUSS HOUSE**

GOAL **CONTINUE TO** PROMOTE DEPARTMENT AS ONE-STOP TO ASSIST **VETERANS**

EY ACHIEVEMENTS

In January 2024, we welcomed new County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO), Melissa Roddenberry!

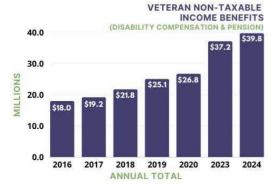
In March 2024, Veteran Services moved to its new home, The Historic Russ House in Marianna. We celebrated the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 22, 2024. More than 300 veterans were in attendance!

16% increase in our monthly interactions during the 2024 Fiscal Year. 67% total rise in interactions in 2 years! 7% more claims than during the 2024 Fiscal Year. 79% total rise in claims filed in 2 years!



Julie's journey with the County began in 1994 as a Library Page. For 22 years, she's been a cornerstone of Veteran

Services, tirelessly advocating for our heroes with unwavering dedication and precision to ensure they receive the support they deserve.



VETERANS 7.69% JACKSON COUNTY



7,361 INTERACTONS

613 MONTHLY AVERAGE

679 CLAIMS FILED

845 MILITARY RECORDS REVIEWED

STORIES



"After retiring from the Army with 24 years, I was looking to start the next chapter of my life. Working with veterans has made me still feel like part of the veteran family. It's rewarding to be able to assist them with the various benefits VA has to offer and to guide them in situations that they may need help with. Working as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for Jackson County has allowed me to interact with veterans in the local community and share stories, while serving my country in a new capacity. It's allowed me to give back to the ones who served and fought before me. It is my honor to care for our veterans and their families."

👝 Melissa Roddenberry



Let me tell you a little story.

Daddy said, "There's no way the VA will say that I am disabled because there's nothing in my medical file to show it. You are wasting your time!"

I said, "Let's try because its mostly correspondence for me. Julie at Veteran Services is actually doing all the work. Without her, I wouldn't have a clue where Johnnie & Judy (Spouse) to start!" Very reluctantly, Daddy said, "Okay, we'll see."

Fast forward eight months... I handed Daddy his mail and walked out of the room. A minute later, I heard "What on earth...?" I walked back in and read the packet of info VA mailed Daddy. We were both STUNNED! We knew the process would take years...if EVER! Daddy was declared 100% disabled by the VA! Thank you so very much for all you did to help him! Daddy says, "You make sure you tell that lady 'thank you' for helping an 'ol fool' retired GI." You have changed Daddy's opinion of the VA and his outlook on life a little!"

Karen Grice of Marianna with her father, Johnnie Hinson, U.S. Air Force



Teaching the next generation about Veteran Services





Serving Those Who Served us All









PUBLIC



PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR year that passes our clientele changes as well as what they want and need from their public library. This keeps us on our toes and governs how we utilize the taxpayers' money. We are an ever-developing institution dedicated to FULFILLING the INFORMATION and ENTERTAINMENT needs of all Jackson County citizens.

99

ACHIEVEMENTS

Programs + Partnerships

In partnership with Jackson County Master Gardeners and UF/IFAS, the Library held two popular seed library events, one in spring and one in autumn, with spring seeds nearly gone by June. Craft programs returned with low-cost workshops on watercolor painting and Halloween decor, and basic computer classes resumed with plans for advanced sessions as skills progress.



PPLCS supported Jackson County Library with standing order book programs, freeing staff to focus on service. They also covered costs for Libby, Hoopla, and in-person presentations, including Summer Reading Program entertainment—greatly enhancing our community offerings.



The Library Director secured a \$10,000 grant to fund early literacy materials and resources for Jackson County citizens.





CHALLENGE SOLUTION

CHALLENGING & FRUSTRATED PATRONS REGARDING POLICIES

PRESSURE FROM INDIVIDUALS OPPOSED TO INTELLECTUAL FREEDOME

RISING COSTS & BUDGET CUTS TO RESOURCES THAT PATRONS RELY ON IMPLEMENT PATIENCE AND CORDIALITY DURING INTERACTIONS

REMAIN COMMITTED TO PROVIDING DIVERSE MATERIALS

FIND ALTERNATE SOURCES OF FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS 1182 LIBRARY CARDS

636 NEW BOOKS

27961 ITEMS OUT

⋖ 🕯 43271+ VISITORS

5 (%) 951+ NEWs









🎯 GOALS FOR 2025

Partner with Chamber of Commerce to implement Imagination Library and provide free literacy materials to young families

Offer a monthly craft program and free computer/technology classes to adults

Develop an online monthly newsletter about library services & activities

CORRECT

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



CHIEF OF CORRECTIONS

ACHIEVEMENTS •



STARTED JAIL ROOF & HVAC REPLACEMENT

ACHIEVED FULL COMPLIANCE OF JAIL & MEDICAL INSPECTION

Corey Jones (Corporal) & Angela Burks (Nursing Supervisor) were recognized in April 2024 for their years of service with the Jail.











This year, Jail staff and community members came together to support an Officer in need of long-term wheelchair assistance. The team built a wheelchair ramp at the Officer's home and organized a successful fundraiser, demonstrating the Jail's commitment to their team and embodying the spirit of Jackson County.

ENHANCE STAFF TRAINING FOR IMPROVED SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY.

> PURSUE ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT FACILITY NEEDS.

COMPLETE INSTALLATION OF A NEW ROOF AND **UPGRADED HVAC SYSTEMS.**

> **EXPEDITE CASE PROCESSING TO REDUCE CASE** BACKLOGS AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY.

Statistics

INMATES RECEIVED

INMATES RELEASED

DISCIPLINE REPORTS

STAFF ASSAULTS

FMERGENCY



but succeeding when those preparations and plans fail . . . ACHIEVING that is when you know you built the right TEAM.

Keith Maddox

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR OPERATIONS CHIEF



BIG YEAR/BIG WINS

Emergency Management successfully integrated with Jackson County Fire Rescue merging our common assets and employee skillsets to better serve the community.



Renee Celebrates

Renee Scurlock reached her 40 years of service mark with Jackson County Emergency Operations and continues to provide selfless service to the community by serving as the Deputy Director of the EOC.



CHALLENGE | SOLUTION

COMMUNICATION AND INTERNET OUTAGES AFTER TORNADOES EXPOSED UNRELIABLE SERVICE IN PARTS OF THE COUNTY.

NON-LOCAL VENDORS FOR EMERGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS, SUCH AS GENERATORS, CAUSED DELAYS DURING HURRICANE HELENE.

REAL-TIME INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION AND DATA SHARING REMAIN DIFFICULT DURING EMERGENCIES.

MOBILE INTERNET CAPABILITIES WERE DEPLOYED IN RESPONSE VEHICLES AND PORTABLE SYSTEMS, SUPPORTED BY STARLINK AT THE EOC.

STAKEHOLDERS ARE SOURCING LOCAL VENDORS, WHILE STAFF COLLABORATED REMOTELY WITH OUT-OF-TOWN VENDORS TO ADDRESS ISSUES.

DEVELOPED A MICROSOFT TEAMS
ENVIRONMENT FOR UNIFIED COMMUNICATION
DURING DISASTERS.

ACHIEVEMENTS+ STATS

TRAININGS COMPLETED

Successful tabletop exercise for River Flooding developed by the Deputy EM Director – Meeting AAR & CRS Requirements.

Director completed online classes for FPEM Certification (Required by

DEM).

Attended MGT 384 Cyber Security Attack Training along with Deputy Director and IT Director.





SPEAKING **ENGAGEMENTS**

JACKSON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS MARIANNA HEALTH & REHAB **CITIZENS ACADEMY**

ERTF/LMS/CTST Meetings + DEM Region 2 Coordinator Meetings

MOU updates with partners for emergency services/supplies/shelter/transportation/fuel /food/etc.



Submitted Storm Ready renewal application for the NWS.

Disaster Plan Reviews

HAZMAT Facility Inspections.



EFFICIENT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE

Incidents related to HAZMAT, Utility Disruption, Tornadoes, Sinkholes, Flash & River Flooding, Hurricanes, and Fire Warnings.

January 9 tornadoes and efficient preparation for Hurricane Helene in September

Ocheesee Fire in February



WEATHER AMBASSADOR

Became a Weather Ambassador County. Required by the National Weather Service for accreditation of the Storm Ready Program.



Successful changes to departmental model of emergency operations.





Setup TEAMS environment for emergency management activations.

Establish a municipal/township liaison + a subset of defined EOC workers during activations.

Execute the audio-visual improvement plan funded during the 2023-2024 budget.

Improve the shelter registration intake and demobilization process by implementing redundant electronic data entry and storage within TEAMS.



INTEGRITY, COMPASSION, and EXCELLENT **Customer Service**

Every Call, Every Time

JCFR

FIRE CHIEF



IACKSON COUNTY FIRE RESCUE CELEBRATED 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

RECEIVED FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER'S GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$485,000 FOR A **NEW FIRE 2,000 GALLON TANKER TRUCK.**

RECEIVED MULTIPLE GRANTS TO FUND BLOOD ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM.



6 FIREFIGHTER/ **EMT'S GRADUATED FROM CHIPOLA COLLEGE** PARAMEDIC **PROGRAM & ALL PASSED THEIR BOARDS!**

ISO RATING IMPROVED FROM 5/5X TO A 4/4X ON APRIL 1, 2024.



ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC -MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH PROGRAM.

STATISTICS



TOTAL (2) 10,768

EMS CALLS



\$ 9,804

FIRE CALLS



PRE-PLAN MEETINGS



PLAN **REVIEWS**



TOTAL INSPECTIONS

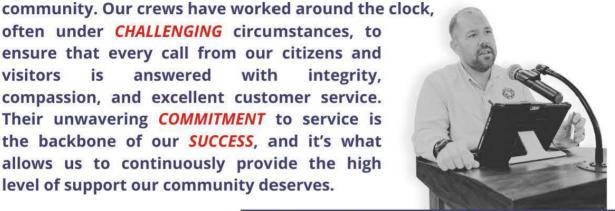


NEW BUSINESS CONSTRUCTION: Williams Paint & Body, Waffle House Charging Stations, Global Source Solar Farm, West FL Assembly of God Office

SOLUTIONS + GOALS

This year seemed to fly by as our team answered a record number of calls, reflecting the immense **DEDICATION** and **RESILIENCE** of our workforce. I am incredibly proud of the tireless effort our team has put in, consistently going above and beyond to meet the needs of our

often under CHALLENGING circumstances, to ensure that every call from our citizens and is answered with compassion, and excellent customer service. Their unwavering **COMMITMENT** to service is the backbone of our SUCCESS, and it's what allows us to continuously provide the high level of support our community deserves.



CHIEF BRUNNER // FIRE RESCUE

CHALLENGE

IACKSON COUNTY FIRE RESCUE FACED SIGNIFICANT DEMANDS DURING THE JANUARY 9TH SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADO EVENTS. REQUIRING IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO AFFECTED AREAS. ADDITIONALLY, THE APPROACH OF **HURRICANE HELENE PRESENTED** CHALLENGES, INCLUDING STAFFING, SHELTER OPERATIONS, AND PATIENT TRANSPORT UNDER HIGH-PRESSURE CONDITIONS.

THANKS TO TIMELY UPDATES FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION. THE DEPARTMENT INCREASED STAFFING LEVELS TO ENSURE READINESS FOR BOTH EVENTS, DURING HURRICANE HELENE. FIRE RESCUE COLLABORATED WITH **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND THE** DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SUPPORTING SHELTER OPERATIONS AND TRANSPORTING SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS, SHOWCASING ADAPTABILITY AND TEAMWORK IN CRITICAL SITUATIONS.

SOLUTION



- Establish **Blood Administration** Program to increase patient outcomes
- **Expand Community Paramedic** Program with 3-Year received from FDOH
- Place our next new Fire Engine into service at Station #1
- Improve customer service and safety within our organization



As I watched the first-ever group of participants graduate from NextStep, my heart was full. To have a front-row seat as this beautiful vision became a reality has been such a joy. 100% of our first graduating class left our campus competitively employed and armed with a wealth of knowledge about successfully "adulting." More importantly, they left filled with a sense of confidence and hope in their futures that they did not have prior to participating in our program. I have spoken about NextStep at venues all over the country, and people are always amazed at the FORESIGHT, VISION, and DETERMINATION shown by the leaders of Jackson County to implement an innovative, state-of-the-art program for autistic adults while at the same time reimagining and reclaiming a piece of our county's history.

NEXTSTEP PROGRAM DIRECTOR



1st Cohort of NextStep graduated 2-year program in July!



2nd Cohort of Transition Academy students begin program



Construction begins on ten apartments for NextStep students





STATEWIDE CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO.

INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM IN PHOENIX.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA'S ARGOS FOR AUTISM PROGRAM. AUTISM PENSACOLA, INC.

SOLUTIONS + STATS+ GOALS

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES AT NEXTSTEP IS RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE **FULL SCOPE OF OUR SERVICES. WHILE OUR TWO-YEAR TRANSITION ACADEMY** IS WELL-KNOWN, MANY ARE UNAWARE OF THE ADDITIONAL SHORT COURSES WE OFFER, FOCUSING ON **EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL, EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING, AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION SKILLS FOR THE AUTISTIC** COMMUNITY. TO ADDRESS THIS, WE'VE ACTIVELY **ENGAGED IN OUTREACH EFFORTS BY** HOSTING LUNCH-AND-LEARN EVENTS. PRESENTING TO LOCAL CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARTICIPATING IN MONTHLY **VOLUNTEER PROJECTS. THESE** INITIATIVES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY AND SHARE THE IMPACTFUL WORK HAPPENING AT NEXTSTEP.







100% of transition academy class of 2024 competitively employed upon graduation



100% of transition academy class of 2024 completed 34 courses in areas related to employment and independent living



Over 51 individuals with autism or other neurodiversities were enrolled in NextStep programs during the year





@ 2025 god

FOR ALL OF OUR **NEW STUDENTS** TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN **EMPLOYMENT**

PURSUE GRANTS AND OTHER REVENUE STREAMS TO BECOME **MORE SELF-**SUSTAINABLE WHILE STILL BEING ABLE TO OFFER TUITION **ASSISTANCE TO** THOSE WHO NEED IT

HAVE STUDENTS LIVING IN OUR NEXTSTEP APARTMENTS BY THE END OF 2025.

THROUGH **FOLLOW-UP MONITORING, SEE** OUR GRADUATES MAINTAIN THEIR EMPLOYMENT AS WELL AS THEIR **CONNECTIONS TO** THE COMMUNITY.

EXTENSION Services



66

2024 was a challenging year for both farmers and consumers. Costs continued to rise, so this was a KEY FOCUS for the educational trainings offered this year, and for the individual consultations that followed afterwards. From managing farms as efficiently as possible, to raising your own food at home, or buying your first home instead of renting, the staff at UF/IFAS EXTENSION JACKSON COUNTY provided research-based information to help solve these and other challenging issues faced by Jackson County citizens.

99

DIRECTOR

ACHIEVEMENTS



NEW HIRE SUCCESS (

Michael Young was hired to lead our 4-H program, plus we hired Beth Krzes to assist him. 4-H is back in business!

We were also able to hire Marcy Brock to support the Family and Consumer Science Program and to manage our meeting room reservations.



ETHAN CARTER

Ethan Carter was recognized with the Achievement Award by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). The Achievement Award is given to the top 2% of county agents with less than 10 years of experience based on their outstanding programs and professional contributions. Ethan's program focuses on row crop farming and pesticide safety. Ethan was nominated by his peers across Florida for this recognition.



GARDEN TO TABLE 😊

One of the most recent success stories for the Extension Service is the partnering of our Horticulture Program with our Family with Consumer Science program to offer the Garden to Table series of classes. In these classes, participants learned how to grow their own food, but also how to safely utilize it for family meals and to preserve it for future use. In the photo, Abbey Payne, Horticulture Agent, discusses growing some of the commonly raised herbs that grow well in our local area at the Herb Class of the Garden to Table Series.





SOLUTIONS + STATS+ GOALS





EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

EXTENSION EVENTS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	TOTAL EVENTS	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	RENTAL INCOME
126	4,150	218	9,205	\$18,747
ur GA				

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CITIZENS

FIELD	OFFICE	PHONE	EMAILS	TOTAL
VISITS	VISITS	CALLS		CONTACTS
273	2,116	5,723	704	8,816

DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS

E-NEWS	ISSUES 69	EMAILS OPENED 165,346	WEB 537,838
FACEBOOK			
WEBINARS	NEW VIDS 3	ATTENDANCE	HOURS VIEWED 84
YOUTUBE	NEW VIDS 4	VIDEO 36,772	HOUR 2.175.9

TOTAL DIGITAL CONTACTS 308,353

CHALLENGE



SOLUTION

TO BRIDGE THIS GAP, WE ENCOURAGED CONNECTION WITH THE EXTENSION OFFICE BY JOINING EMAIL NEWSLETTERS TAILORED TO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND FOLLOWING UPDATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS LIKE FACEBOOK. THESE EFFORTS AIM TO ENSURE CITIZENS HAVE ACCESS TO THE LATEST EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES OFFERED LOCALLY.



We are searching for dedicated volunteers to bolster our 4-H and Master Gardener Volunteer Programs. Both programs provided wonderful educational trainings with hands-on learning for our local citizens. It is our goal to find volunteers who have a passion for teaching kids life skills or unique interests, or love to garden and want to make a difference in our local communities.

Our extension agents strive to provide relevant voluntary training for the citizens of Jackson County. Dr. Andra Johnson, Dean of Extension for the University of Florida, has challenged us to seek citizen input to set priorities for the educational programs that are developed to meet the challenges of the next five years. A new "Extension Pathway" was developed to define the major areas of effort for the next five years across Florida. Our goal is to ensure that our efforts are relevant and impactful for the citizens of our local communities.



Development



The TDC's Mission is to **PROMOTE** Jackson County's **TOURISM** industry and create an **ECONOMIC IMPACT** for our community and small businesses. Through the impact of visitors, we **STRENGTHEN** Jackson's economic position and provide opportunities for people to **PLAY**, **LIVE**, and **WORK** in Jackson County.











Completed new agritourism & a new condensed visitor guide brochures



Partnered with State Parks & Blue Springs to launch first ever Summer Fun Passport campaign to help educate citizens about local tourism



Construction began on Convention Center & Endeavor Museum



Co-hosted Fire & Feathers fundraiser with Oak Grove Plantation & JC Fire Rescue, raising \$9,000 for the JCFR Blood Administration Program



Director Kelsi Jackson completed Chamber's Leadership Jackson Program & lead Endeavor Tour



Renovated Visitor Center for enhanced guest experience



Represented at Rural County Days in Tallahassee, Visit FL Welcome Center Showcases, & Canoecopia in Madison, WI



HOME BLOG CONTACT



Website got a refresh, updated SEO, new blog posts & launched "Yesterday's Yarn" on socials

ATS + GOALS

PARTNERING WITH KIMLEY-HORN FOR A STRATEGIC PLAN AND LEVERAGING TOOLS LIKE DESTINATIONS INTERNATIONAL'S ECONOMIC IMPACT CALCULATOR. TDC IS DRIVING TOURISM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN JACKSON COUNTY!





Revenue

\$733k

\$132k \$865k \$67k \$78k



Marketing

Social Media 2023 vs 2024

Website 2023 vs 2024

125k 28.3k 1.9k 970k 295k 46s



Short Term Rentals

\$128 \$729k -1.1% -4.9% 21.7% RevPAR Total Rever



Event Funding

\$249k \$33k \$30k

\$730

Funds Awarded Reimbursed



Capital Funding

\$40k \$1.5mil \$3.500 \$40k





Main Takeaways



The TDC will complete the 5-year strategic plan, open Great Oaks and the convention center, and initiate heritage museum planning. Goals include implementing rental compliance software and updating bylaws and event funding policies. Key marketing efforts focus on executing the FY24-25 plan with digital campaigns, brochure development, wayfinding signage, and programs like the Summer Passport and Jackson Fast Pass. Staff will produce dynamic video content to grow social media by 1,000 followers on Facebook and Instagram, expand audience reach, and boost website traffic through enhanced listings, blogs, and targeted ads. These initiatives aim to drive tourism growth and deliver significant economic impact to Jackson County.







Road & Bridge has become more COHESIVE and UNIFIED, allowing us to be a STRONGER and more PRODUCTIVE team.

ROAD & BRIDGE DIRECTOR

SUCCESSFUL STORM CLEANUP





JANUARY TORNADO CLEANUP HURRICANE HELENE CLEANUP





Several roads received much needed millings.

Much needed resurfacing on Willis Road















ORDERS



COUNT



GRADING HOURS 12,909



HOURS 3,536



FLEET MAINT. HOURS 1,616

SOLUTIONS + GOALS

CHALLENGE SOLUTION

SEVERE WEATHER
OUTBREAKS

DELAYS IN MOWING OPERATIONS, PARTLY DUE TO AGING EQUIPMENT

DEPARTMENT-WIDE STAFF SHORTAGES STAFF UNITED ACROSS ROLES TO ENSURE A SWIFT AND THOROUGH CLEANUP

WORKED DILIGENTLY TO REPAIR EQUIPMENT PROMPTLY AND PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR NEW MACHINARY AHEAD OF THE CURRENT LEASE EXPIRATION

CONTINUOUSLY SOUGHT OUT AND RECRUITED OUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO JOIN THE TEAM

IN JANUARY, a tornado caused damage through portions of our county, with much of the damage being near the ROAD & BRIDGE yard. Our crews assisted with push activities and helped Fire Rescue as they rapidly worked to help affected residents. Our two departments worked together seamlessly for the good of

our citizens, and it was a wonderful thing to be a part of after such a terrible experience.



JEFF REGISTER / ROAD DEPT

20 25 GØALS FOR 2025, THE ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT AIMS TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING INITIATIVE THAT WILL ENHANCE THE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE OF OUR TEAM, ENSURING THEY ARE WELL-PREPARED TO TACKLE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. IN ADDITION, WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A MINIMUM OF 70 EMPLOYEES FOR AT LEAST 75% OF THE YEAR, WHICH WILL BOLSTER OUR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND SERVICE DELIVERY. BY INVESTING IN OUR WORKFORCE AND PRIORITIZING STABILITY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY EFFECTIVELY



MAINTAINING our public infrastructure to the HIGHEST LEVEL of citizen satisfaction continues to be a challenging task for our department. We are committed to using all resources available to ensure SUSTAINABLE and EFFICIENT operations for the future of

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMIISTRATOR





UTILITIES

Jackson County.

INSTALLED & ACTIVATED RADIO READ **WATER METERS** FOR 80% OF RESIDENTIAL O CUSTOMERS

AWARDED A STATE GRANT TO 0

0

HIRED PART TIME EMPLOYE
TO HELP WITH **CALL VOLUME &** ON-CALL **SCHEDULE**

CHALLENGE SOLUTION

FILLING EMPTY POSITIONS

RETAIN STAFF AND FILLED VACANCIES

FERAL CAT POPULATION

PLANNING FUTURE PROGRAM

FAILING AGED INFRASTRUCTURE

SEEKING **GRANTS/FUNDING** SOURCES







CARDBOARD COLLECTED

330 §

ALUMINUM COLLECTED

SCRAP METAL

PAPER COLLECTED

SHELTERED ANIMALS

FACILITY RENTALS



COMPLETE **UPDATE DECOR AT** THE LODGE & CYPRESS PARK

EXPAND ANIMAL CONTROL TO A TWO PERSON FULL-TIME **OPERATION**

COMPLETE **INSTALLATION OF** RADIO READ **METERS FOR ALL** RESIDENTIAL **ACCOUNTS**

IMPLEMENT A FERAL CAT **PROGRAM WITH** ANIMAL CONTROL WORK WITH LOCAL **VET OFFICES FOR** ADDITIONAL SPAY/NEUTER RESOURCES



MANAGING and MAXIMIZING a Country Budget requires a focus on being both EFFICIENT and EFFECTIVE with resources.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR



\$44M - TRANSPORTATION

\$35M - PUBLIC SAFET

5 27M - ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

\$ 12M - GENERAL GOVERNMENT

11M - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

s 2M - DEBT SERVICES

2M - HUMAN SERVICES

2M - CULTURE/RECREATION

s 2M - COURT RELATED

The Board kept the millage rate the same as the 2023-24 fiscal year- 7.9450. While the millage rate stayed the same, the value of assessed properties increased, so there will be more ad valorem tax revenue received to fund county operations.

The Board once again approved the adoption of a \$1,650 across-the-board raise for all County employees to continue to meet minimum wage mandates and address compression.

While we had a successful budget session this year, the budget still remains tight. The Board carefully considered each special project request submitted and prioritized needs accordingly. The Board was able to approve necessary projects and still budget a reserve for future needs.

CONTINUE TO MANAGE THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY WITHIN THE SET BUDGET AND SEEK ADDITIONAL REVENUE SOURCES TO FUND COUNTY OPERATIONS.



7CBOCC BRIDGING THE GAP



CITIZENS Academy

Jackson County proudly celebrates the continued success of its CITIZENS ACADEMY, having completed our third year. This dynamic program empowers residents by offering an inside look at local government operations and the vital roles of each department. Designed to foster education, engagement, and active community involvement, the Academy serves as a bridge between citizens and their government.

This year's class featured 23 passionate graduates—our highest yet—highlighting a growing enthusiasm for understanding and impacting local governance. Their dedication reflects a stronger, more connected community, and we're excited to build on this momentum in the years to come









BRIDGING THE GAP

HARD HATS Strong Minds

In February, we partnered with Rivertown Community Church and David H. Melvin, Inc. to host Hard Hats, Strong Minds, a transformative event addressing mental health in the construction industry. Led by Dr. Vince Hafeli, the event shed light on an often-overlooked issue, bringing together community members to break the stigma and foster open conversations.



With powerful stories and insightful discussions, attendees united in a shared commitment to prioritize mental well-being alongside physical safety. This collaboration bridges the gap between industry and community, building a stronger, healthier future for all.







SERVICE Projects

JCBOCC continues to strengthen connections with the community through hands-on service projects. From reading to elementary students during Literacy Week to stocking local food pantries and Backpack for Kids programs, and visiting nursing homes, these initiatives go beyond outreach—they build meaningful relationships.

Each service project not only fosters collaboration within our leadership team but also deepens our connection with the heartbeat of Jackson County: its people. These efforts reflect our commitment to listening, engaging, and serving our community with purpose.

Follow us on socials











(850) 482-9633 2864 Madison Street Marianna, Florida 32448 www.jacksoncountyfl.gov