






# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 23, 2024

## Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

*Jackson County, FL. – On Jan. 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners held a Regular Meeting. This is a recap of some of the reports and requests included in that meeting.*

### RECOGNITION: Citizen of the Quarter/Gail Brawley



County Administrator, Wilanne Daniels, introduced a new County initiative, called the 'Citizen of the Quarter' program. This initiative, designed to recognize and honor individuals who significantly contribute to improving the quality of life in Jackson County, reflects the Board's commitment to acknowledging community engagement, service, and volunteerism. The program serves as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging residents to take active roles in their community, thereby fostering a stronger, more connected county.

This quarter, the Board is delighted to honor **Ms. Gail Brawley**, whose exemplary actions have vividly illustrated the spirit of this program. Ms. Brawley has dedicated herself to maintaining and beautifying the roadside in her neighborhood, enhancing not only its visual appeal but also its safety. Her efforts have had a ripple effect, inspiring others in the community to embark on similar projects, thus multiplying the positive impact. By celebrating Ms. Brawley's commitment and hard work, the Board aims to encourage more residents to engage in activities that contribute to the betterment of Jackson County, making it a more vibrant and cohesive community.



PROCLAMATION 

 **HEALTHY & SAFE  
COMMUNITY**

CONTINUED 

**REQUEST: Adoption of RV Resolution**

County Administrator, Wilanne Daniels, requested Board adoption of a resolution to waive the requirements of Code of Ordinances 42-72(b)(1)(c) for 365 days from January 23, 2024, to allow for the use of an onsite RV as a primary residential structure for property owners whose primary residential structures were damaged from tornadoes and who are repairing or reconstructing their homes.



**RESOLUTION** 



**PRESENTATION: ISO Rating Update/JCFR**



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners was presented with an update on the improved ISO rating for the county's Fire Rescue services. The ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating, a crucial benchmark in assessing the effectiveness of fire protection services, has seen a significant enhancement in Jackson County. The new rating reflects the diligent efforts of the Fire Rescue department in improving their operational capabilities and response efficiency. This improved rating not only represents the department's commitment to public safety but also has potential positive implications for the community, such as possibly lower insurance premiums due to the enhanced fire protection standards.

The comprehensive analysis provided by the ISO and the PPC report emphasizes the county's advancement in fire suppression and emergency response. The ISO rating is reflected by a 1-10 scale, with 1 being the best, and 10 being the worst. This year, Jackson County's rating improved from a 5/5X to a 4/4X. This has the potential for savings on homeowners' insurance rates and opens the market to companies. These developments are a testament to the ongoing efforts to ensure the highest standards of safety and emergency services for the residents of Jackson County. The Board's discussion highlighted the importance of these improvements, underscoring their commitment to continuous enhancement of public safety infrastructure and services.

 **NO VOTE NEEDED**



**REQUEST: Approval of RFQ for TDC Strategic Plan**

A key focus of the recent Jackson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting was the progress on the five-year strategic plan for the Tourism Development Council (TDC). This initiative, aligned with the BOCC's broader five-year strategic plan, was thoroughly discussed during the TDC's December meeting. Board members actively participated in one-on-one discussions to delve deeper into the specific outcomes and needs of the TDC's strategic plan. The outlined goals of this plan are centered around enhancing departmental operational efficiency, improving the visitor experience in Jackson County, and implementing effective preservation strategies for the county's cultural and ecotourism assets.

To fund these ambitious yet essential initiatives, the plan proposes to utilize the reserves of the TDC. Additionally, the complexity and significance of the project necessitate a special meeting to be scheduled. This meeting is particularly crucial if two or more Commissioners wish to serve on the ranking committee, which will oversee and guide the strategic plan's implementation. The Board's dedication to this plan underscores its commitment to not only boosting tourism but also preserving the unique cultural and ecological heritage of Jackson County.



**REQUEST: Approval Position & Purchases/Community Paramedicine Program**

Jackson County Fire Rescue under the Board of County Commissioners is proposing to start a Community Paramedic – Mobile Integrated Health (CP-MIH) Program. This program will partner and collaborate with healthcare and community resources to meet the needs of patients in Jackson County where gaps have been identified. These gaps could include behavioral/mental health emergencies, overdose/drug ingestion, patients suffering from opioid use disorders and substance use disorders, repeat 911 callers, reduction of falls, and low acuity care calls.

During this meeting, Fire Chief, Charlie Brunner requested Board approval to add one full-time position and purchase a vehicle and other items for the Community Paramedicine Program contingent upon approval of the plan and funds released from the opioid settlement. Once the plan is approved by the NWF Health Network and funds are released, staff can hire for the position. Additionally, once the funds are released, fire rescue is requesting to purchase the following vehicle and equipment:

- Ford F-150 Truck off of Florida Sheriffs Contract Pricing.
- Lighting Package, Radios, WiFi Modem/Router, Laptop Stand.
- LifePak-15 Cardiac Monitor off of Savvik Contract Pricing.
- Laptop Computer.
- Laptop Dock, Desktop Monitors, and other related IT equipment.



**REQUEST: Approval of MOU Funding Agreement/Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation**

A notable item on the agenda of the recent Jackson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting was the discussion and request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Funding Agreement. This agreement is between the Jackson County BOCC and the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Under the terms of this agreement, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has pledged to provide a grant totaling \$28,409.69 to Jackson County. This grant is designated for the purchase of a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV), a valuable addition to the county's public safety equipment.

The most significant aspect of this agreement is the financial arrangement, where the Foundation will cover 100% of the costs, thereby incurring no expense to the County. Once the funds are received from the Foundation, the County will proceed with the purchase of the UTV. This partnership showcases a successful collaboration between the county and a philanthropic organization, aimed at enhancing the public safety resources of Jackson County without impacting its budget.



**REQUEST: Approval to Purchase UTV/Firehouse Subs Grant**

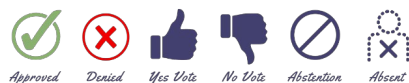
Following the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) addressed a related and consequential agenda item. The Board considered a request to authorize the purchase of a Can-Am Defender Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV). This UTV is to be acquired in accordance with the quote provided under the Florida Sheriffs Contract FSA23-EQU21.0 from ARS Power Sports - Okeechobee.

The total cost of the UTV, amounting to \$28,409.69, aligns precisely with the grant amount provided by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, as outlined in the previously approved MOU. This arrangement underscores a significant aspect of the purchase: there is no financial requirement or match needed from the County. The acquisition of this UTV, fully funded by the Foundation's grant, represents a strategic enhancement to the County's public safety capabilities, achieved without any impact on the County's budget.



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**LEGEND:**



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1  
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2  
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3  
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4  
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5  
JIM PEACOCK