



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 26, 2024

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On November 26, 2024, at 9:00 AM, 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.

REQUEST: Adoption of Supplemental Budget for FY23-24

At their most recent meeting, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners adopted a supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24. This budget adjustment accounts for unanticipated revenues and actual cash balances exceeding the original projections, enabling the County to authorize expenditures for these additional funds.

The updated budget totals \$135,690,246 in estimated revenues and expenditures, ensuring resources are aligned with community needs. This proactive measure demonstrates the County's commitment to fiscal responsibility and adapting to changing financial landscapes while continuing to serve Jackson County residents effectively.



REQUEST: Approval for RaceTrac Marianna Gas Station and Convenience Store

The Board has approved the development of a new RaceTrac gas station and convenience store, contingent upon submission of a landscaping plan. This project promises to enhance local amenities and improve access to essential services for residents and visitors.

Located at 4934 Magnolia Road, at the northwest corner of Magnolia Road and Highway 71, the development will feature pedestrian and vehicular areas totaling 283,328 square feet and connect to Jackson County's water and sewer systems.

Recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on November 4, 2024, this project highlights Jackson County's commitment to fostering growth and convenience for the community.



CONTINUED 

REQUEST: Approval to Extend the Development Agreement for Holiday Inn Express

The Board has approved a 12-month extension to the Development Agreement for the Holiday Inn Express project, accommodating construction scheduling needs. Initially approved by the Board on November 22, 2022, this project will bring a 92-room, four-story hotel to the area, featuring a 57,063-square-foot building and 63,118 square feet of impervious surface.

Located on the east side of Highway 71 South, just 0.36 miles south of the I-10 corridor, this development represents continued progress in enhancing accommodations for travelers and supporting economic growth in unincorporated Jackson County.



UPDATE: Blue Springs Road Project

Jackson County received an update on the Blue Springs Road project during this meeting, provided by Eric Worrell of Alday-Howell Engineering, the project's engineer of record. The update highlighted key progress and upcoming steps.

The current contractor has successfully identified several leaks in the lines and will address these issues before repaving begins. Importantly, the cost of these repairs will be covered by the contractor. Once this phase is completed, the project will transition to the next stage, which will be managed by a different contractor.

This update reflects steady progress and a continued commitment to ensuring the successful completion of the Blue Springs Road project for the benefit of the community.



REQUEST: Approval to Award TDC Grant for JaCo Comic Con

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council (TDC) has approved and recommended a \$2,000 grant to support the upcoming JaCo Comic Con, set to take place at the Ag Center in April 2025. Hosted by *A New Chapter Books and More*, this exciting event is expected to attract comic and pop culture enthusiasts from across the region.

The funding will cover promotional efforts and event documentation, including posters, banners, social media ads, rack cards, and photography/videography. The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved to award the TDC grant. This partnership highlights the County's commitment to fostering unique events that boost tourism and celebrate creativity in the community.



REQUEST: Approval to Appoint New Members to TDC Board

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has approved the Tourist Development Council's (TDC) recommendation to fill three vacant seats with experienced and passionate community leaders during their November meeting:

- **Kay Shepard:** Owner of Willis House Bed and Breakfast, will serve as the bed tax collector representative.
- **Charlene Trickey-Durham:** Owner of Raylene Reserve (event venue) and a professional photographer, will fill the tourism-related partner seat.
- **Jay Player:** Owner of A New Chapter Books and More, will also join as a tourism-related partner.

These appointments reflect the County’s dedication to leveraging local expertise and commitment to growing Jackson County’s tourism industry.



REQUEST: Approval of Contract 2324-33 AG Center Concessionaire with Chamber of Commerce

During its October 8, 2024, meeting, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners awarded RFP 2324-33 for the AG Center Concessionaire to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, setting the stage for a dynamic collaboration to support events and services at the AG Center. While the Board decided to table finalizing the contract terms to allow additional time for review, this partnership underscores the County’s dedication to strengthening community resources through collaboration with trusted local organizations.



REQUEST: Approval of Agreement 2324-35 Endeavor Museum Demolition with Great Southern Demolition, Inc.

Jackson County is making exciting progress on the future Endeavor Museum with plans to carefully preserve history while preparing for future development. Bids were recently opened for the selective demolition of the former cafeteria on the Endeavor Property, a 10,144-square-foot building impacted by Hurricane Michael. After a thorough review, the Board approved awarding the project to Great Southern Demolition, Inc., for \$98,720 with an agreement approved and signed. The selective demolition will preserve the building's original façade, honoring its history as the County moves forward with the revitalization of the Endeavor Property.



REQUEST: Approval to Reject Bids for 2324-38 Museum Development Consultant

The Board opted to defer action on proposals for the Museum Development Consultant position after receiving two submissions that exceeded the current year's budget allocation. While no contract was awarded at this time, staff plans to include the project in the next fiscal year's budget and reissue the request for proposals. This strategic approach ensures the County remains fiscally responsible while continuing to prioritize the development of the future Endeavor Museum.



REQUEST: Approval of Contract 2324-36 Convention Center Concessionaire to Chamber of Commerce

The Board has approved awarding the Convention Center Concessionaire contract to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce following a collaborative negotiation process. Under the agreement, the County will receive 20% of revenues up to the first \$40,000 and 15% of revenues exceeding that amount. The County will cover utility costs for the first year, with plans to renegotiate this aspect thereafter. This partnership marks a positive step toward enhancing the operations and offerings of the Convention Center while fostering collaboration with the local business community.



REQUEST: Approval to Award RB-2425-05 Pavement Striping Annual Contract to Guettler & Guettler, Inc.

On November 14, 2024, Jackson County received a bid from Guettler & Guettler, Inc., whose pricing aligns with the project description. Scope of work would include providing services for the re-striping of specified County roads and parking lots. Having a proven track record of quality work with the County, staff confidently recommended awarding the project to Guettler & Guettler, Inc. This decision ensures that the project will be completed by a trusted partner known for delivering excellent results.



REQUEST: Discussion of Appointments

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has filled important committee vacancies left by outgoing members, ensuring continued leadership and representation for the County. Commissioner Paul Donofro was appointed to serve on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) and its Regional Transportation Plan Technical Advisory Committee. Commissioner Willie Spires will represent the County on the Tri-County Community Council and the Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) Board.

These appointments reflect the Board's commitment to active engagement and advocacy for Jackson County in regional and statewide initiatives.



REQUEST: Discussion of Proposed Cattle Lease at Endeavor

The Board approved a lease agreement with Lord Cattle LLC for approximately 300 acres of County-owned land at the Endeavor property. Under the agreement, the lessee will clear the land and construct necessary infrastructure, including fencing, water systems, wells, and corrals, to support cattle operations.

The lease, spanning 30 years, includes an annual payment of \$15 per acre, totaling \$4,500. It also outlines a reimbursement structure in the event of early termination, ensuring a balanced and fair approach for both parties. This agreement marks a significant step in utilizing County resources for agricultural development and supporting local industry growth.



LEGEND:



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District 1
Dr. Willie Spires

District 2
Edward Crutchfield

District 3
Paul Donofro Jr.

District 4
Donnie Branch

District 5
Jamey Westbrook