



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 24, 2025

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On February 24, 2025, 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.

REQUEST: Adoption of American Red Cross Month Proclamation

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has proclaimed March 2025 as Red Cross Month, honoring the vital work of the American Red Cross and its dedicated volunteers. For more than 140 years, the Red Cross has been a beacon of hope, providing disaster relief, blood donations, support for military families, and life-saving training. The Northwest Florida Red Cross Chapter continues this legacy, offering aid to those in crisis and strengthening our community.



REQUEST: Adoption of National Flood Awareness Week Proclamation

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has officially proclaimed March 3-7, 2025, as Flood Awareness Week, joining the Florida Floodplain Managers Association in promoting flood preparedness and education. Severe weather events, including heavy rainfall and tropical storms, have impacted our community in the past, highlighting the importance of flood risk awareness. Jackson County remains committed to reducing flood risks through its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, which offers residents access to flood insurance at reduced rates. Citizens are encouraged to take proactive steps to protect their homes and families by staying informed about flood preparedness, mitigation strategies, and available resources.



REQUEST: Adoption of Resolution for FDOT Grant Applications

The Board adopted a resolution in support of submitting grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for crucial roadway improvement projects. These applications, under the SCOP, SCRAP, and CIGP programs, aim to enhance infrastructure and improve transportation for residents.

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Proposed projects include Blue Springs Road Phase II and Holyneck Road under SCRAP, Kynesville Highway Phase III and Nortek Boulevard under SCOP, and New Hope Road under CIGP. These efforts reflect the County’s ongoing commitment to securing funding for safer, more efficient roadways in our community.



REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearing for Revision to Airport Regulations Ordinance

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners is continuing efforts to enhance airport zoning regulations in coordination with the Tri-County Airport Authority. Since August 2024, the County has worked alongside Avcon, Inc. to update the Airport Ordinance and Overlay for participating jurisdictions. Following a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the Board has approved setting a public hearing for March 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. to review the proposed updates. This initiative ensures responsible planning and supports future growth and development around the airport.



REQUEST: Approval of the Summer Work Program Policy

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has approved an exciting new Summer Youth Employment Program designed to introduce local high school students to career opportunities within County government. This initiative will provide valuable hands-on experience for students aged 16-18 while also supporting workforce recruitment efforts for key County departments.

Under the program, four part-time positions have been approved, with students working up to 30 hours per week during the summer. Participants must be juniors or seniors enrolled in a Jackson County high school and can participate for up to two summers. Students may gain experience in departments such as Parks and Recreation, Utilities, Recycling, Maintenance, and Road & Bridge.

The program will run annually, contingent upon funding, beginning the first Monday after the school year ends and concluding the Friday before school resumes. Participants will be subject to County employee policies while gaining real-world experience in public service. This initiative reflects the Board’s commitment to investing in the future workforce and fostering civic engagement among Jackson County’s youth.



REQUEST: Discussion of One Cent Tax Ordinance

The current One Cent Sales Tax Ordinance (2009-05) sunsets on December 31, 2025. By Ordinance, proceeds for this tax revenue must be deposited into Transportation Trust for operating the Road and Bridge Department. These proceeds fund a significant portion (approximately 50%) of the Transportation Trust Fund. In order to renew this Ordinance, the Board will need to determine if the funds for the new Ordinance should continue to go into Transportation Trust or in General Revenue.

In the current budget year (2024-25), the County is projected to receive approximately \$5.8 million dollars from the One Cent Tax. In addition to this amount, the Transportation Trust Fund is subsidized by General Revenue by \$5.8 million.

If there is a modification that no longer restricts these funds to Transportation Trust, the County will be required to have a performance audit completed before the new Ordinance takes effect.



REQUEST: Approval of Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant Agreement D0300 for Rehabilitation of Barber Road Lift Station

The Board approved the Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant Agreement D0300, securing \$1,665,000 for critical upgrades to the Barber Road Lift Station. This project will transition the system from a suction to a submersible lift station, replace outdated equipment, rehabilitate the wet well, and reconstruct the bypass pump. These improvements will enhance system capacity, support new businesses in the area, and ensure more efficient wastewater management, marking a significant investment in local infrastructure.



REQUEST: Approval of Opioid Settlement Funding MOU with Jackson County Sheriff's Office

The Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office to allocate opioid settlement funds. Under this agreement, the County will share up to 50% of the funding with the Sheriff's Office, ensuring that these critical resources are used effectively. This collaboration reflects a united effort to address substance abuse, enhance public safety, and provide support to our community.



REQUEST: Direction on Garbage Collection RFP

The Board reviewed the future of solid waste services in Jackson County, discussing options for either continuing the current contract with Waste Management or exploring new proposals. After careful consideration, the Board voted to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to evaluate potential service providers. With the existing contract set to expire on December 31, 2025, this process will help ensure the County secures the best possible waste management services for residents while maintaining efficiency and cost-effectiveness.



REQUEST: Approval of Guidelines for Distributing Fill Materials

The Board approved new guidelines to ensure consistency in providing fill dirt to Jackson County municipalities and the School Board. Under this policy, Road and Bridge will provide up to 10 loads of fill material at no cost, regardless of whether the County or the requesting entity handles hauling. Any additional loads beyond this will be provided at cost reimbursement rates. This decision supports local needs while maintaining fairness and efficiency in resource distribution.



REQUEST: Ratification of Appointment of Member to New Market Tax Credit Board

The Board of County Commissioners approved the appointment of Chairman Jamey Westbrook to the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) Board, following the bylaws requirement that the BOCC Chairman serve in this role. Former Commissioner Jim Peacock previously represented the County on this board, which is closely tied to NextStep at Endeavor Academy. This appointment ensures continued leadership and collaboration in efforts to support economic development and community initiatives at Endeavor.



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LEGEND:



District 1
Dr. Willie Spires

District 2
Edward Crutchfield

District 3
Paul Donofro Jr.

District 4
Donnie Branch

District 5
Jamey Westbrook