






JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 22, 2025

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On April 22, 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 Proclamation Dedicating the BOCC Meeting Room



The Board honored the late Ernie Padgett with a heartfelt proclamation dedicating the BOCC Meeting Room in his memory. Mr. Padgett devoted 31 years to public service, including impactful leadership as both County Commissioner (1980–1984) and Jackson County's first County Administrator beginning in 1987. His legacy extended beyond Jackson County, as he went on to serve as County Administrator in Santa Rosa, Manatee, and Okaloosa counties before returning home to lead Jackson County once again from 2017 to 2018. Mr. Padgett's

unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and genuine passion for local government continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps. His name will now forever be part of the space where decisions are made to move Jackson County forward.



REQUEST: Adoption of Fair Housing Proclamation

The Board adopted a proclamation presented by Ann Jones of Central Panhandle Association of Realtors, declaring April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in recognition of the ongoing commitment to equal housing opportunities for all. First enacted in 1968, the Fair Housing Act remains a vital piece of federal legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination and promoting inclusive, diverse

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communities. Jackson County joins in reaffirming this mission by supporting fair housing practices that ensure every resident and prospective resident has access to safe, decent, and equitable housing.



**VIBRANT &
GROWING ECONOMY**



**HEALTHY & SAFE
COMMUNITY**

PRESENTATION: The Importance of Farming in Jackson County

Jeffery Pittman of Jackson County Farm Bureau delivered an insightful presentation to the Board highlighting the vital role agriculture plays in shaping the local economy and the future of our community. He emphasized the importance of protecting Jackson County's natural resources and shared valuable information on rural infrastructure, revenue sources, and how we can work together to support and strengthen our agricultural landscape.



**VIBRANT &
GROWING ECONOMY**

REQUEST: Approval of TDC Special Event Sponsorships/Grants

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council is committed to supporting and promoting tourism-related events that showcase the local culture, attractions, and businesses. To achieve this goal, the department offers special sponsorships/reimbursements and grants to event organizers who demonstrate a positive impact on the local economy and community. By investing in these events, the department hopes to attract more visitors to the county, increase tourism revenue, and create memorable experiences for both residents and visitors alike.

During this meeting, Tourist Development Council Director, Kelsi Jackson, requested Board approval of three (3) sponsorships/grants, which were approved.

Sponsorships/Grants:

- **Stock Dog Show Sponsorship:** Ed Clements hosted a Stock Dog Cattle Show event on February 22-23 at the Jackson County Ag Center. Funds were previously approved for facility/event rental fees and sanction fee expenses. *The TDC board voted to approve a sponsorship reimbursement of \$5,000 to Mr. Ed Clements.*
- **Sneads Boat Race Sponsorship:** Town of Sneads is applying for \$5,000 for its annual Drag Boat Racing event hosted on Lake Seminole on June 21-22. Funds will be used for advertising and sanction/safety fees. *The TDC board voted to approve \$5,000.*
- **Southeastern Youth Rodeo Sponsorship:** The Southeastern Youth Rodeo Association is applying for \$14,000 for a two-day rodeo event over Memorial Day Weekend at the Jackson County Ag Center. Funds will be used to cover facility rental fees, bucking chutes, and social media advertising. TDC staff will coordinate and execute the \$200 advertising expense. Facility rental fees will be paid directly to the TDC. *The TDC board voted to approve \$3,000.*

- **Main Street Marianna Grant:** Main Street Marianna is applying for **\$6,000** in grants for two events: Independence Day Celebration and Christmas Festival. Funds will be used for advertising and giveaways. TDC staff will coordinate and execute all of the advertising and giveaway purchases for this grant. *The TDC board voted to approve \$6,000.*



REQUEST: Appointment to Department of Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board

Florida law requires the establishment of a Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board (CAB) in each judicial circuit. The CAB will work with the circuit chief probation officer to use data to inform policy and practice, which improves the juvenile justice continuum. A County Commissioner is required to serve on the Board. The Board unanimously approved Commissioner Donnie Branch to serve on the Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board.



REQUEST: Approval of Grant Match Funds for the Campbellton Volunteer Fire Department

The Board approved a \$7,500 grant match to support the Town of Campbellton Volunteer Fire Department, helping them leverage a Florida Forest Service grant for vital firefighting and life-saving equipment. The County is committed to supporting our rural fire departments and ensuring the safety of our communities.



REQUEST: Discussion of Disposition of Surplus Vehicles for Road and Bridge

The Board unanimously approved declaring several Road & Bridge vehicles and equipment as surplus. While the motion to dispose of the items through sealed bids did not pass, staff will bring back an alternative plan for surplus disposal at the next board meeting, ensuring the County finds the most effective and efficient path forward.



REQUEST: Adoption of Changes to Section 44-57 of the County Ordinances

Last September, the Board discussed changes to the current procedures for handling right-of-way connections. After clarification was obtained on the Board's intent, staff and Attorney Michelle

Jordan reviewed the current ordinance and worked together to draft a revised ordinance providing for Road and Bridge to construct one connection to a single residence at no cost, providing that connection is for the property owner's primary residence. The owner remains responsible for culvert-related materials. The Board adopted the changes to the ordinance.



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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