



# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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## PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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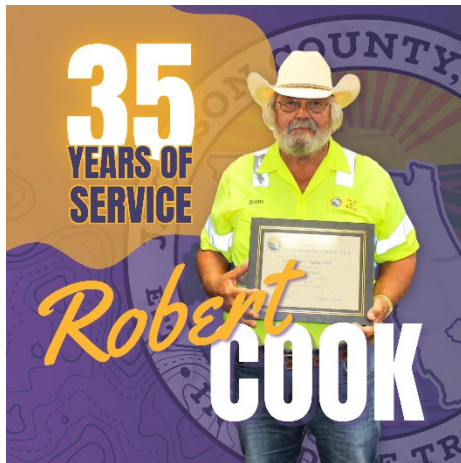
June 10, 2025

### Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On June 10, 2025, 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.

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#### RECOGNITION: Employee Years of Service



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has recognized the dedicated service of its employees by awarding "Years of Service" awards to those who have shown commitment and loyalty to the county through their tenure. This acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication serves as a testament to their contributions towards the growth and success of Jackson County.

At this meeting, Road and Bridge Director Jeffrey Register presented the award to **Robert Cook**, who currently serves as **Grader Operator** with **Road and Bridge**. He is recognized for **35 years of continuous service**.



**SUSTAINABLE SERVICES  
& BUDGETING**

#### REQUEST: Adoption of Updates to the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance and Approval of Transmittal to Florida Department of Commerce

The Board adopted updates to the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan by ordinance and approved transmittal to the Florida Department of Commerce, marking the completion of the state-required seven-year review process. The updated Comprehensive Plan reflects changes and priorities for future growth, smart development, and infrastructure planning in Jackson County.

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This milestone follows a thorough review process, public hearings, and collaboration with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC). The plan ensures the County’s policies, goals, objectives, and maps align with current state requirements and community needs.

Florida Commerce previously returned a positive preliminary review, and the Board’s action keeps Jackson County well on track to meet the state’s June 25, 2025 adoption deadline.



**REQUEST: Approval of an Extension to the Development Agreement for Southern Grape Company, LLC**

The Board approved an extension to the Development Agreement for Southern Grape Company, LLC, supporting the continued progress of a unique agribusiness and tourism project in Jackson County. The project includes the construction of a 9,810-square-foot wine production and events facility with retail, manufacturing, and meeting spaces, located along Hwy 231.

Recognizing the value this project will bring to local economic development and tourism, the Board voted to grant a 24-month extension—allowing the company additional time to complete this exciting venture and bring new opportunities to the community.



**REQUEST: Approval of a Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Permit for Partners for Pets**

The Board approved a request from Partners for Pets, Inc. for a Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Permit to allow alcohol sales during the upcoming Boot Boogie Concert. The one-day event will take place at the Jackson County Ag Center (3631 Hwy 90) on June 28, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.



**REQUEST: Approval of RFP 2425-18 State Lobbying Services and Set Ranking Committee**

The Board approved the release of RFP 2425-18 for State Lobbying Services, as the County’s current contract will conclude on August 31, 2025. To ensure a smooth transition and continued advocacy for Jackson County’s priorities at the state level, the Board also approved setting a ranking committee—comprised of all five Commissioners—to review and rank the proposals.



### **REQUEST: Award of RFP 2425-14 Debris Removal and Disposal**

On March 27th, the County posted the solicitation for Debris Removal and Disposal Services. Proposals for this solicitation were opened on June 8th. The ranking committee approved by the Board on May 13<sup>th</sup> completed their ranking, and rankings were tabulated by the Finance office. The top two ranked proposers were 1) Ceres Environmental and 2) DRC Emergency Services. Both proposers are also the incumbent contractors and have performed services for Jackson County. The Board approved the contracts to be awarded to DRC Emergency Services and Ceres Environmental.



### **REQUEST: Discussion and Approval of the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (C.O.R.E.) Project Plan Funding**

The Board approved to table the discussion on the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Project funding plan until a future Board meeting. Selected by the State of Florida as a CORE Funding County, Jackson County would receive approximately \$700,000 in its first year. The CORE initiative aims to strengthen local care networks through EMS rescue response, hospital-based stabilization and assessment, and 24/7 treatment and recovery services provided by PanCare Health. If approved, the plan would enhance emergency response capacity by funding new paramedic and EMT positions to staff an additional ambulance during peak hours. The Law Enforcement portion of the project is expected to launch in the next fiscal year.



### **REQUEST: Set a Public Hearing for the One-Center Sales Tax Ordinance**

The Board tabled a decision on the future of Jackson County's One Cent Sales Tax until the July 8, 2025 Board meeting to allow for further discussion and public input. This sales tax, set to expire on December 31, 2025, currently generates about \$5.8 million annually, funding nearly half of the Transportation Trust for operating the Road and Bridge Department.

At the July meeting, the Board will consider whether to adopt a new ordinance to continue dedicating the proceeds to road and bridge operations — or to adopt a modified ordinance that would allow the funds to be used for any public purpose authorized under Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes (with the exception of servicing bond indebtedness). If the ordinance is modified, a performance audit will be required before it takes effect.



### **REQUEST: Approval to Name Interim County Administrator**

The Board appointed Deputy County Administrator Rett Daniels as Interim County Administrator retroactive to June 4, 2025, and effective until the new County Administrator begins employment. This will allow operations to move forward in the interim.



### **REQUEST: Discussion and Approval of Terms of Employment for New County Administrator**

The Board approved the terms of employment and Employment Offer Letter for Mr. Jim Dean, who will soon begin serving as Jackson County's new County Administrator, pending his acceptance of the terms and signing of the offer letter. The agreement outlines compensation, benefits, and other employment terms to support Mr. Dean's transition into this key leadership role. His official start date will be no later than June 18, 2025. The Board and staff look forward to welcoming Mr. Dean and working alongside him to advance the County's priorities and serve the citizens of Jackson County.



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#### **LEGEND:**

