



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 14, 2026

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On January 13, 2026, 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.

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, Chief of Corrections Jammie Jeter presented the award to **Gina Girdler**, who currently serves as Corrections Officer I with Jackson County Correctional Facility. She is recognized for **5 years of continuous service**.



REQUEST: Adoption of Resolution Supporting the Construction of a Publix Supermarket

The Board adopted a resolution expressing support for the potential construction of a Publix Super Market in Jackson County, recognizing the need for additional full-service grocery options and the benefits such a development could bring to local residents. The resolution acknowledges how a new grocery store could improve access to essential goods, reduce the need for residents to travel outside the county, create jobs, and strengthen the local economy while serving as a regional retail draw. The Board also noted that the project may be eligible for state or federal economic development tools, such as New Markets Tax Credits, and authorized staff to work cooperatively with partners to explore opportunities, while making clear that the resolution does not obligate County funding, incentives, or pre-approve any zoning or land-use decisions.



CONTINUED

REQUEST: Review of a General Development Order for Windwood RV Resort and Campground

The Board denied a request for a General Development Order and special exception to allow a 24-unit RV park proposed for Pontiac Loop in unincorporated Jackson County. The item followed a public hearing that included comments from nearby residents and the applicant, as well as a recommendation from the Jackson County Planning Commission to deny the request. After reviewing the proposal and the input received, the Board voted to deny the application, citing safety considerations and compatibility with the surrounding area, consistent with the County's comprehensive planning standards.



REQUEST: Approval of Public Access Ordinance

The Board approved a proposed Public Access Ordinance, which provides clear guidance on how County buildings and facilities are used by the public. The ordinance defines public forum areas and outlines what activities are permitted or prohibited inside enclosed County facilities, helping ensure safe, respectful, and orderly access for everyone. The ordinance was reviewed and approved by the Interim County Attorney and is intended to protect both public access and the effective operation of County services.



REPORT: TDC Quarterly Report

Kelsi Jackson, Director of the Tourist Development Council, presented a strong quarterly update highlighting continued momentum and growth across tourism, facilities, and marketing efforts. The TDC closed FY 2024–25 with its highest revenue year to date, totaling \$928,500, reflecting both strong collections and strategic use of reserve funds. This successful quarter included continued development of the Endeavor Convention Center with a dedicated staff member now overseeing operations, preparations for its grand opening, and ongoing improvements informed by early user feedback. Community engagement remained a priority, with museum workshops held across multiple municipalities, museum construction reaching approximately 30% completion, and grant timelines extended into 2026. Progress also continued at Great Oaks with facility upgrades, rentals underway, and exploration of long-term projects to increase usage. With the Strategic Plan now adopted, TDC staff are actively implementing initiatives such as a Tourism Ambassador Program, signature events, enhanced data collection, and expanded event support—particularly in outlying communities like Graceville and Malone. Coordinated marketing and event funding efforts during the fall and holiday season drove strong engagement, elevated local festivals and businesses, and reinforced Jackson County as a destination rooted in agriculture, heritage, and authentic seasonal experiences.



REQUEST: Approval to Purchase Vehicles from ITB 2526-04

The Board approved the purchase of vehicles through ITB 2526-04 to support essential County operations. Following the solicitation of bids on November 11, 2025, the Board authorized the use of available funds totaling \$494,414.50, which includes proceeds from surplus vehicle auctions and excess funds from previous road and bridge equipment purchases. These vehicles will be used to strengthen Road and Bridge, Public Safety, and Public Works operations, helping ensure County staff have reliable equipment to continue serving residents efficiently and safely.



REQUEST: Approval to Solicit 2526-06 – Realtor Services

The Board approved moving forward with soliciting ITB 2526-06 for Realtor Services to assist with the professional management and sale of surplus County-owned properties. This step helps ensure surplus properties are marketed effectively and sold in a manner that supports responsible stewardship of County assets and maximizes value for the community.



REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearing for Small Cities CDBG Grant Application

The Board approved setting two public hearings as part of the required process to apply for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). These hearings allow the County to share information and receive public input on a proposed application to fund the construction of an elevated water storage tank and a new well, projects aimed at strengthening local water infrastructure. The public hearings are scheduled for January 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. and January 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



REQUEST: Approval of Jackson Blue Springs Concessionaire Agreement

The Board approved a one-season extension of the Jackson Blue Springs Concessionaire agreement with Coldwater Excursions, continuing a partnership that has successfully operated for three seasons. The extension moves the current expiration date from April 25, 2026, to December 31, 2026, providing continuity of services while allowing the County time to prepare and competitively bid a longer-term concessionaire agreement aligned with state models.



REQUEST: Ranking of Attorney Interviews

The Board approved the next step in the selection process for contract legal services by directing that all six attorneys interviewed on January 6, 2026, be formally ranked during the January 27, 2026 regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. Each Commissioner will assign a ranking of one (most

qualified) through six (least qualified), and the results will be tabulated and presented publicly at that meeting. Following the Board’s ranking, staff will move forward with contract negotiations with the firm ranked as most qualified, continuing a structured and transparent selection process.



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