JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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November 24, 2026

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On November 24, 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.

Approval of Updated Towing Rates

The Board approved Resolution 2026-39, establishing an updated towing rate schedule for Jackson County, effective November 24, 2026. The adjustments followed a review of towing rates previously approved in September, along with comparisons of current and proposed fees and consideration of increased operating costs for towing service providers.

The updated schedule establishes rates based on vehicle size and the type of equipment or services required. Base towing rates range from $175 for standard vehicles to $700 for specialized heavy-duty rotator services, with additional rates established for mileage, storage, after-hours access, and specialized recovery services. The resolution can be found on the county website at www.jacksoncountyfl.gov

HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITY

Adoption of Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The Board adopted Resolution 2026-40, approving the supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. The annual adjustment accounts for additional revenues received and actual cash balances carried forward that exceeded the County's original budget estimates. The supplemental budget reflects approximately $130.4 million in total revenues and expenditures across County funds, including general operations, transportation, public safety, utilities, and capital projects.

The supplemental budget ensures the County's financial records accurately reflect available funding and authorized expenditures for the fiscal year. This action is an adjustment to the previously adopted budget, not the approval of a new $130.4 million spending initiative.

SUSTAINABLE SERVICES & BUDGETING

CONTINUED

Public Hearings Scheduled for Two Proposed Telecommunications Towers

The Board approved requests to schedule two public hearings for December 8, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., to consider proposed wireless telecommunications towers in unincorporated Jackson County.

The proposals include a 250-foot tower with a 5-foot lightning rod proposed by Freebird Communications IV on Dickson Road, approximately 0.23 miles south of Oscar Road, and a 195-foot tower with a 5-foot lightning rod proposed by The Towers, LLC near the intersection of Wintergreen Road and Dozier Road. Both projects would be located on privately owned, leased property.

The Jackson County Planning Commission previously reviewed both applications and recommended approval. The proposed facilities are intended to support wireless communications infrastructure and would be subject to applicable development regulations, including setbacks, landscaping, security, and permitting requirements.

The Board's November 24 action established the public hearing dates but did not authorize construction of either tower. The December 8 hearings will provide opportunities for public input before Commissioners consider final approval of the proposed developments.



VIBRANT & GROWING ECONOMY

Board Appoints Vice Chairman

The Board approved the appointment of District 4 Commissioner Donnie Branch as Vice Chairman as part of the Board's organizational proceedings.

The Vice Chairman serves in a leadership capacity alongside the Board Chairman, presiding over Commission meetings and carrying out the Chairman's responsibilities when the Chairman is absent.



SUSTAINABLE SERVICES & BUDGETING

Old US Road Resurfacing Project Awarded

The Board approved the award of a $1,809,550.80 contract to Southeast Construction Company, LLC for the milling and resurfacing of County Road 167 (Old US Road).

The project received five competitive bids, with Southeast Construction submitting the lowest bid. The County's engineering consultant, DRMP, reviewed the submissions and recommended the company for the contract award.

The approved bid came in below the $3,469,324 in funding allocated by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the project. The improvements will help restore the roadway's driving surface, enhance safety, and support the long-term maintenance of Jackson County's transportation infrastructure.



SUSTAINABLE SERVICES & BUDGETING

INNOVATIVE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

CONTINUED

Proposed Improvements to Magnolia Boat Landing

The Board reviewed the Magnolia Boat Landing Feasibility Study and Preliminary Site Plan, outlining potential improvements to enhance safety, accessibility, and recreational opportunities at the County-owned boat landing.

The study was prepared by DHM Engineering and incorporates public feedback gathered during a November 16 public meeting. Proposed improvements include rehabilitating or replacing the existing boat ramp, expanding parking, improving pedestrian access, addressing shoreline erosion and drainage concerns, and enhancing signage, lighting, and restroom accessibility.

The preliminary design also emphasizes preserving the site's natural character while minimizing environmental impacts. The study will help guide future planning and decisions regarding improvements to the recreational facility.

The presentation was informational, with no formal Board action or construction funding approval required at this stage.

INNOVATIVE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

December Commissioner Meeting Schedule Adjustments

The Board approved a schedule adjustment for its December 8, 2026, meeting, moving the start time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. to accommodate the County's annual employee Christmas luncheon. The Board also voted to cancel its second December meeting, originally scheduled for December 22, 2026, due to its proximity to the Christmas holiday. As a result, December 8 will be the Board's only regularly scheduled meeting for the month.



SUSTAINABLE SERVICES & BUDGETING

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

The Board approved three items supporting ongoing water and sewer infrastructure improvements in Jackson County, including progress on the Indian Springs Phase 2 Water Project and the Blue Springs Road Phase 3A Sewer Extension.

For the Indian Springs Phase 2 Water Project, the Board approved a $912,221.55 change order to complete additional well improvements, including valve replacements, upgraded control panels, water-level monitoring equipment, pump replacements, and other facility upgrades. The action also extends the contract's final completion period by 305 days and approves a $327,376.16 contractor payment application. Additionally, Commissioners approved an amendment to the project's State Revolving Fund loan agreement, extending the construction completion schedule to October 15, 2027, and setting the first semiannual loan payment for April 15, 2028.

CONTINUED

The Board also approved the construction agreement, required bonds, and notice to proceed for the $4.28 million Blue Springs Road Phase 3A Sewer Extension, with Extreme Land Restoration, LLC serving as the contractor. Scheduled to begin December 1, 2026, the project includes new sewer lines, a lift station, and approximately 21 residential sewer connections, including the abandonment of existing septic tanks.

INNOVATIVE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Commissioner Fortunato Appointed to Tri-County Airport Authority

The Board approved the appointment of District 2 Commissioner Peter "Sonny" Fortunato to the Tri-County Airport Authority Board for a three-year term. The appointment followed a request from the Authority to fill a vacant seat on its governing board.

The Tri-County Airport Authority oversees the operations and development of the Tri-County Airport in Bonifay, which serves the surrounding Northwest Florida region. Commissioner Fortunato's appointment ensures Jackson County's continued representation in regional aviation planning, airport operations, and infrastructure development.

HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving Holiday Closures

The Board approved the closure of Jackson County offices on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, in alignment with the State of Florida's additional office closure for the Thanksgiving holiday.

This closure is in addition to the previously scheduled closures on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27. As a result, County offices will be closed November 25–27 in observance of Thanksgiving, with regular business hours resuming on Monday, November 30.

Essential and emergency services will continue to operate throughout the holiday.

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LEGEND:

Approved, Denied, Tabled, Yes Vote, No Vote, Abstention, Absent

Scan Here FOR COMPLETE MEETING AGENDA