



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 23, 2026

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On September 22, 2026, 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 Resolution to Adjust Towing Rates

The Board approved a resolution updating Jackson County's towing rate structure following a request presented at the September 8, 2026, meeting. County staff reviewed the existing rates, considered increased costs to towing service providers, and compared current and proposed rates before developing recommendations for the Board's consideration. The newly adopted rates replace those established by previous County resolutions and take effect September 22, 2026.

The updated structure establishes rates based on vehicle classification and addresses services including base towing, mileage, hourly recovery work, storage, after-hours service, and specialized equipment or recovery needs.



REQUEST: Adoption of Resolution for Great Oaks FRDAP Grant Application and Capital Improvement Amendment

The Board adopted a resolution authorizing submission of a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant application for improvements to the Great Oaks property in Greenwood. The County will seek up to \$200,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to support development and will add the Great Oaks Park Improvements project to the County's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan if funding is awarded.

Proposed improvements include a multipurpose trail, covered pavilion, trailhead and signage, parking area with ADA-accessible parking, outdoor restrooms, and connecting sidewalks. The grant application represents an opportunity to expand recreational amenities and improve accessibility at Great Oaks Park for residents and visitors.



CONTINUED 

REQUEST: Adoption of Resolutions to Apply for FDOT Beautification Grants for Caverns Road

The Board adopted resolutions authorizing Jackson County to apply for two Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Beautification Grants for SR 166/Caverns Road, seeking approximately \$100,000 for each of two segments to support landscape and beautification improvements along the corridor. Segment 1 extends from Pineview Drive to Old U.S. Road, while Segment 2 continues from Old U.S. Road to SR 71.

The proposed improvements would use a mix of native and Florida-adapted trees to add shade, seasonal color, and visual appeal along Caverns Road. The conceptual plans are designed to create a more attractive gateway connecting residents and visitors with destinations including Florida Caverns, MERE Park, nearby schools, neighborhoods, businesses, and other community facilities.



REQUEST: Adoption of Resolutions for Final Millage Rate and Final Budget for FY 2026-2027

The Board adopted resolutions establishing the final Fiscal Year 2026-2027 millage rate and budget for Jackson County. The final operating millage rate was set at 7.9450 mills, remaining the same as the current millage rate with no increase for the new fiscal year. The Board also adopted the County's final FY 2026-2027 budget of \$102,492,012, establishing the funding plan for County operations, programs, services, and projects. The adoption follows a series of budget workshops and the Board's consideration of the tentative millage rate and budget earlier in September.



REQUEST: Approval of Resolution of Technical Revision 2 Amendment of the 2024-2027 and 2027-2030 Local Housing Assistance Plan

The Board approved, certified, and adopted by resolution updates to Jackson County's State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), including a Technical Revision to the 2024-2027 plan and adoption of the new 2027-2030 plan. The updates incorporate recent state requirements allowing SHIP assistance for eligible residents affected by mobile home park closures and make several program adjustments, including increasing the allowable household asset limit to \$20,000 and requiring applicable recipients to maintain homeowners' insurance. The updated plan, recommended by the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and conditionally approved by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, will guide the County's continued use of SHIP funding to support local affordable housing needs.



REQUEST: Approval of Increase in Hourly Pay Rate for Auxiliary Paramedics

The Board approved an increase in the hourly pay rate for Jackson County Fire Rescue Auxiliary Paramedics from \$20 to \$24 per hour. The adjustment is intended to help the County remain

competitive with surrounding agencies while supporting the recruitment and retention of qualified paramedics.

Auxiliary Paramedics help fill staffing needs when full-time employees are on leave and assist with special event coverage and long-distance patient transports. Fire Rescue also plans to use advance scheduling of auxiliary personnel to fill known vacancies, helping maintain adequate coverage while reducing the need for overtime.



**HEALTHY & SAFE
COMMUNITY**



**SUSTAINABLE SERVICES
& BUDGETING**

REQUEST: Award 2526-18 Simplified Infrastructure Requirements

The Board approved a multiple award for RFQ 2526-18, Simplified Infrastructure Requirements, to Hollister Asphalt Paving and It's Your Asphalt, following the County's solicitation for qualified firms to provide infrastructure construction services. The continuing services may be used for a variety of County projects, including road construction and paving, resurfacing, drainage and stormwater improvements, water and sewer infrastructure, and other related construction needs.

Both firms submitted qualifications by the September 10 deadline and have previously performed work for Jackson County. The multiple-award approach provides the County with qualified contractors that can be utilized for future projects based on the type and scope of work needed.



**SUSTAINABLE SERVICES
& BUDGETING**

REQUEST: Approval of Evaluation Criteria and Committee for RFP 2526-28 Great Oaks

Concessionaire

The Board approved the evaluation criteria and review committee for RFP 2526-28, Great Oaks Concessionaire, moving forward with the process of selecting a vendor to manage day-to-day operations of the historic Great Oaks property in Greenwood. The County is seeking a concessionaire to help activate the 12-acre property as a tourism destination while preserving its historic character, with potential uses including tours, weddings and other events, community programming, dining or retail, and other visitor experiences.

The approved committee includes TDC Director Kelsi Jackson, TDC Board Member and venue owner Charlene Trickey Durham, and District 3 Commissioner and TDC Board Member Paul Donofro. Proposals will be evaluated based on relevant qualifications and experience, tourism impact and property activation, operational approach and feasibility, financial sustainability, and overall responsiveness. The evaluation places the greatest emphasis on how each proposal would activate Great Oaks as a tourism asset, attract visitors, and complement Jackson County's broader tourism efforts.



**VIBRANT &
GROWING ECONOMY**



**SUSTAINABLE SERVICES
& BUDGETING**

REQUEST: Approval of Final Completion of Jackson Museum and Hospital Improvement Projects

The Board approved Certificates of Final Completion for two County projects, formally closing out construction on the Jackson Museum Exterior Shell Reconstruction and Structural Repair Project and the Jackson Hospital Air Purification Improvements Project. Both projects have been inspected and determined to be complete in accordance with their respective contract requirements.

The Jackson Museum project received a final completion date of August 31, 2026, following approval by the project engineer and County staff. The Jackson Hospital Air Purification Improvements were approved by the project engineer, hospital representatives, and County staff, with a final completion date of September 11, 2026.



REQUEST: Approval of Small Cities CDBG Agreement for Construction of Water Well and Water Storage

The Board approved a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Agreement with the Florida Department of Commerce, securing \$3.8 million in grant funding for new water infrastructure to support continued growth and development along and near the Highway 71 corridor in Marianna. The project will include engineering and construction of an additional public water well and water storage system, with the well expected to provide approximately 1,000 gallons per minute and the storage tank providing a minimum capacity of 180,000 gallons. The grant requires no County match and currently extends through September 30, 2029.



REQUEST: Reschedule Public Hearing for Procurement Ordinance Update

The Board approved rescheduling the public hearing for the proposed update to Jackson County's procurement ordinance to Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The County is currently working to modernize its procurement ordinance, which has not been substantially updated since the 1980s. Rescheduling the hearing will allow the County to meet applicable advertising requirements and ensure the ordinance update process complies with Florida law and County policies.



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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
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