



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Building
358 3rd Avenue, Ridgeland, SC. 29936

Monday, June 16, 2025

MINUTES

Officials Present: Chairman John Kemp, Vice Chairman Joey Rowell, Councilman Chris VanGeison and Councilman Joe Arzillo

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, James Iwanicki, Danny Lucas, Chief Russell Wells, Corey Bivens, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

Call Workshop to Order - Chairman Kemp

- **FY 2025 / 2026 Budget:**

- **Fire and Rescue**

Chief Wells introduced Battalion Chief Jernigan, Phillip Cothran Communications Manager and Capt. Jeff Jabinsky and Battalion Chief Jay Lee. Chief Wells discussed items pertaining to his budget for staffing, salaries, office supplies, vehicle insurance and maintenance, maintenance contracts, public safety radio maintenance, equipment, training, 911 Communications, Building Repairs, Cherry Point Fire District, Fire and Rescue, and other items pertaining to his budget. He provided a presentation for Council and for viewing by the public which is attached here as Attachment "A".

- **Parks and Recreation**

Corey Bivens was present to discuss the goals of the department. He noted these goals were to preserve, maintain and develop. Mr. Lucas noted that there was a masterplan effort underway and has been provided to Council. They discussed personnel in this division, the JYRB, Youth Football, Youth Basketball, the boat landing and its challenges, playground equipment, the Levy area, and other items pertaining to this budget's department.

- **General Discussion - None**

Motion to come out of the workshop: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The workshop concluded.

1. Call the Meeting Order of the Jasper County Council Meeting by Chairman Kemp

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order. The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: *In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the meeting and the meeting agenda were posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the County Council Building at a publicly accessible place, on the county website,*

and a copy of the agenda was provided to the local news media and all person's or organizations requesting notification.

The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Councilman Rowell.

4. Approval of the Regular Agenda:

Chairman Kemp said he would like to remove Item # 19 because this ordinance was set back to the Planning Commission and add Executive Session Item # 2 for Potential Litigation and Position of a Public Agency.

Motion to approve Item # 19 and add Executive Session #2 that the Chairman read off: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

5. Approval of the Minutes 04.07.2025

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed,

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance Number #08-17 Any citizen of the County may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting (before the Council Meeting's 6:00PM start time on the Sign-In Sheet on the Podium), to address Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Ms. Shurgott was present to discuss her concerns of the County Finances and the County Budget.

RESOLUTIONS

6. [Kimberly Burgess](#) – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-36](#) a Resolution of Jasper County Council to Approve Special Services Contract with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, to Serve as the Municipal Advisor for the Proposed Bond Ordinance Currently Under Consideration by the County Council.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for consideration of Resolution #R-2025-36 a Resolution of Jasper County Council to Approve Special Services Contract with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, to Serve as the Municipal Advisor for the Proposed Bond Ordinance Currently Under Consideration by the County Council. She noted that this was to provide financial advisory assistance on this bond ordinance. She noted that as they move forward with more issues there would be an RFP. She noted that the County's previous Municipal Advisor passed away in an accident earlier this year.

Motion to approve: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

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Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

7. Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-38 a Resolution to Declare Certain Emergency Services Property to be Surplus and Authorize Its Demolition and Disposition Pursuant to Section 2-425 Of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for consideration of Resolution #R-2025-38 a Resolution to Declare Certain Emergency Services Property to be Surplus and Authorize Its Demolition and Disposition Pursuant to Section 2-425 Of the Jasper County Code of Ordinances. Ms. Burgess noted that most equipment was retired and potentially was sale items if they could find buyers.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell
Second: Councilman VanGeison
Vote: Unanimous
The motion passed.

8. Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-39 a Resolution Authorizing the Award of Funds for Requests for Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for consideration of Resolution #R-2025-39 a Resolution Authorizing the Award of Funds for Requests for Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes. Chairman Kemp inquired there was a total amount tied to the previous document. Director Burgess said the information was in the package 2 weeks prior. Ms. Burgess discussed the organizations that sought funding and provided the costs of these requests. She said that she needed to include as an exhibit of the Finding of Facts. She said to make sure they had met the requirements of the code and noted that she would like to have the Finding of Facts attached as an exhibit. She noted that there were some people present that would be recipients if Council would like to hear from them. Councilman Rowell asked if the committee had went over this information for these requests along with any other requests made. Ms. Burgess noted that these funds are not reviewed by Committee, noting that the State Funds were review by Committee but that these were Local Funds. She noted that these Local Funds are reviewed by Staff and with some consultation from an Attorney who is very familiar with Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes for the uses that staff identified were appropriate. Chairman Kemp noted his concerns for the Historical Society and noted that the little room at the Historical Museum was charged \$400.00 per month and that we give the room to the Chamber. He noted that some of that had to be the Chamber. Ms. Malphrus said she would like to address that if Council permitted. She said we can clarify this and that she had sent a letter via email to Council. She said the letter clarifies both local and state. She said the Historical Society has more than one room as well as the hallway and foyer with a lot of historical artifacts there with a great exhibition.

Ms. Kendall Malphrus requested to read the letter and Chairman Kemp said that would be fine. She discussed the facility located at 403 Russell Street, Ridgeland, SC. and noted it was owned by Jasper County. She also noted that the facility houses the Jasper County Visitors Center, the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce and the Jasper County Museum.

Ms. Malphrus noted that the ATAX request in question (coming up on Item # 11) was presented to you as a request for the Jasper County Museum. That was incorrect. It was submitted and reviewed by the ATAX Committee as a request for the Jasper County Visitors Center/Chamber of Commerce. This request is made to support a portion of wages for the employee who oversees the visitors center. She noted that the majority of

the salary is paid by the Chamber, and this request is a supplement to make the wages where they need to be for a person in that position, since they oversee the visitors center as well. Therefore, we are re-asking for your approval based on the correct information. Ms. Burgess discussed the resolution itself on this item. Ms. Malphrus discussed what each request covered. For additional information please see Attachment "B" or view our video online at YouTube by going to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA . There are also Closed Captions available for all our County Council videos, so please just click the "CC" button to follow along.

Motion to approve: VanGeison

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Discussion: Mr. Tedder asked that the motion be amended to include exhibit A. Councilman Rowell asked if they could defer to an upcoming meeting since they had just got exhibited tonight. Mr. Fulghum Said they could defer this item tonight and bring it up at the upcoming June 30th meeting that Council was looking to call.

Motion to defer until the next meeting: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

9. Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-40 a Resolution Approving A Settlement Agreement Relating to the Distribution of Park Revenue Generated by the Joint County Industrial and Business Park Developed By Jasper County And Beaufort County Pursuant to an Agreement Dated as of December 31, 1999, as Amended; Authorizing the Execution of the Settlement Agreement; and Other Related Matters.

Mr. Fulghum was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration of Resolution #R-2025-40 a Resolution Approving A Settlement Agreement Relating to the Distribution of Park Revenue Generated by the Joint County Industrial and Business Park Developed By Jasper County And Beaufort County Pursuant to an Agreement Dated as of December 31, 1999, as Amended; Authorizing the Execution of the Settlement Agreement. Mr. Fulghum noted that this was to resolve this ongoing lawsuit for several years with NickelPlate Multi County Industrial Park and distribution of fees associated with this park. He discussed the parties in the lawsuit regarding this settlement. He noted that all parties had agreed to the numbers and that the City of Hardeeville had approved this on June 5th. For additional information on this item, please go to our video online at YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA . There are also Closed Captions available for all our County Council videos, so please just click the "CC" button to follow along.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

10. Andrew Fulghum – Consideration of Resolution #R-2025-41 a Resolution directing County Administrator to submit the Ridgeland-Claude Dean Runway Length Justification Study to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for consideration.

Mr. Fulghum was present to review, address and discuss the request for consideration of Resolution #R-2025-41 a Resolution directing County Administrator to submit the Ridgeland-Claude Dean Runway Length Justification Study to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for consideration. Mr. Fulghum noted that the Airport Commission had reviewed it and recommended moving forward on June 11th.

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Motion to approve to have the County Administrator to submit: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: 3 yes votes and 1 abstention by Chairman Kemp

The motion passed.

11. Kimberly Burgess – Consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-42](#) a Resolution Approving the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Recommendations and Authorizing the Award of Funds for State Accommodations Tax Request.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for consideration of Resolution [#R-2025-42](#) a Resolution Approving the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Recommendations and Authorizing the Award of Funds for State Accommodations Tax Request. She noted that they were bringing this back relating to the \$20,000.00 for the Chamber noting those funds were for presented as for the Historical Society but was for maintaining and operation of the Visitor's Center at the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce. She noted they were bringing it back for Council's reconsideration of the \$20,000.00. Ms. Burgess noted that this was approved by the Accommodations Advisory Tax Committee and had been stricken from the resolution at the June 2nd meeting.

Motion to approve: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

12. Kimberly Burgess – Public Hearing and Consideration of the [3rd Reading](#) of Ordinance [#O-2025-13](#) of the County of Jasper, Amending the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Jasper County Budget as Originally Adopted June 3, 2024 By Ordinance No. O-2024-13 (As Amended) In Accordance with the Local Government Code of the State of South Carolina and the Ordinances and Rules of the County of Jasper, South Carolina; Where the Total Amount Appropriated is Increased By \$2,047,141 to a Grand Total Of \$65,529,893.81, With Revenue and Other Financing Sources Amended to Show an Increase of \$2,047,141 to a Grand Total of \$65,529,893.81, Appropriating the Various Amounts Thereof, and Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Therewith, and Providing an Effective Date. (*1st reading 05.05.2025; Public Hearing only on 05.19.2025; vote on this item was postponed at the 05.19.2025 meeting; Public Hearing and 2nd reading 06.02.2025*)

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration of the 3rd Reading of Ordinance [#O-2025-13](#) of the County of Jasper, Amending the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Jasper County Budget as Originally Adopted June 3, 2024 By Ordinance No. O-2024-13 (As Amended) In Accordance with the Local Government Code of the State of South Carolina and the Ordinances and Rules of the County of Jasper, South Carolina; Where the Total Amount Appropriated is Increased By \$2,047,141 to a Grand Total Of \$65,529,893.81, With Revenue and Other Financing Sources Amended to Show an Increase of \$2,047,141 to a Grand Total of \$65,529,893.81, Appropriating the Various Amounts Thereof, and Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict Therewith, and Providing an Effective Date. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve and amend the reading of the item title to reflect the total of \$62,409,494.00: Councilman Arzillo

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

13. Kimberly Burgess – Public Hearing and Consideration of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2025-14 to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2025 and ending June 30th 2026 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2025–2026, to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2025–2026; to provide for the levy of taxation for fiscal year 2025–2026; to limit the disbursements by the county treasurer to those appropriated by law; to provide that expenditures not exceed appropriations; to authorize tax anticipation notes; to make authorization of certain transfers; to provide for additional appropriations and borrowing; to codify Jasper County rates and fees; to provide for lapsing funds and continuing appropriations for subsequent years; to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings; to require the treasurer to sign general fund checks; to provide special rules for travel and training disbursements; to provide for travel reimbursements; to provide compliance with act no. 317 of 1990; to provide certain benefits to council members; to provide for county commission and committee stipends; to provide for jury mileage; to adopt property values; and to provide for effective date of this ordinance, and matters related thereto. (*1st reading 05.19.2025; Public hearing only 06.02.2025*)

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2025-14 to provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2025 and ending June 30th 2026 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2025–2026, to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2025–2026; to provide for the levy of taxation for fiscal year 2025–2026; to limit the disbursements by the county treasurer to those appropriated by law; to provide that expenditures not exceed appropriations; to authorize tax anticipation notes; to make authorization of certain transfers; to provide for additional appropriations and borrowing; to codify Jasper County rates and fees; to provide for lapsing funds and continuing appropriations for subsequent years; to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings; to require the treasurer to sign general fund checks; to provide special rules for travel and training disbursements; to provide for travel reimbursements; to provide compliance with act no. 317 of 1990; to provide certain benefits to council members; to provide for county commission and committee stipends; to provide for jury mileage; to adopt property values; and to provide for effective date of this ordinance. Ms. Burgess noted that she would pass out the answers to the questions made by Council after this meeting for the upcoming next meeting. Mr. Fulghum discussed when the school district would be holding their meeting and how that could affect the upcoming Council proposed meetings. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

14. Kimberly Burgess – Public Hearing and Consideration 3rd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-15 to Provide for the Issuance and Sale Of Not Exceeding Six Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,200,000) Aggregate

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Principal Amount of General Obligation Bonds of Jasper County, South Carolina In One or More Series, To Prescribe the Purposes for which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide for the Payment Thereof, And to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto (Pope Flynn Group) (1st reading 05.19.2025; Public Hearing and 2nd reading 06.02.2025)

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration of the 3rd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-15 to Provide for the Issuance and Sale Of Not Exceeding Six Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,200,000) Aggregate Principal Amount of General Obligation Bonds of Jasper County, South Carolina in one or more series, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended, to provide for the payment thereof. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

15. Kimberly Burgess - Consideration to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute Annual Renewal Contracts Greater than \$25K Included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration to authorize the County Administrator to Execute Annual Renewal Contracts Greater than \$25K Included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. These contracts were for PubliQ Software for Data Processing for the Computer Services Agreement for Tax Processing and Software Maintenance with a contract for 07.01.2025 thru 06.30.2026 in the amount of \$348,000.00; Summit Food Service for the Detention Center for Food Service for the Inmate Population with a contract for 07.01.2025 thru 06.30.2026 in the amount of \$470,000.00; and Southern Health Partners for the Detention Center Department for Health Care for Inmate Population with a contract for 07.01.2025 thru 06.30.2026 in the amount of \$365,100.00.

Motion to approve the Administrator to execute the three contracts Council had went over: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

16. Kimberly Burgess - Consideration and Acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Financial Audit Engagement Agreement between Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. and Jasper County and to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute the Agreement.

Ms. Burgess was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Financial Audit Engagement Agreement between Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. and Jasper County and to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute the Agreement.

Motion to approve: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

17. David Tedder – Public Hearing and Consideration of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2025-17 authorizing the sale to Elite Marble Holdings, LLC of a 2.79 acre parcel, more or less, being subdivided out of the original 25.52 acre Parcel identified as Parcel D as shown on a Plat recorded at Plat Book 27 at Page 80, being a portion of tax parcel 048-00-01-007, and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute such contracts, amendments, deeds and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the sale to Elite Marble Holdings LLC, or its assigns, and matters related thereto. *(1st reading 06.02.2025)*

Mr. Tedder was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2025-17 authorizing the sale to Elite Marble Holdings, LLC of a 2.79 acre parcel, more or less, being subdivided out of the original 25.52 acre Parcel identified as Parcel D as shown on a Plat recorded at Plat Book 27 at Page 80, being a portion of tax parcel 048-00-01-007, and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute such contracts, amendments, deeds and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the sale to Elite Marble Holdings LLC, or its assigns. Mr. Tedder noted that this was the piece of property that Elite Marble wanted to build a new shop on in Cypress Ridge. He noted there were no changes since the last reading. The public hearing was opened and the following people had comments: Gene Ceccarelli asked some questions about Elite Marble and asked if it had been through to the Planning Commission. He also asked what the outcome to the public was. Mr. Tedder said for these types of transactions they used SouthernCarolina Alliance for. Mr. Tedder noted that Mr. Taylor Boykin of SouthernCarolina Alliance was present. He discussed the fact that this would create 10 jobs over a 5-year period and that there was a Clawback included. After the conclusion of the public hearing comments, the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

18. David Tedder – Public Hearing and Consideration 3rd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-10 an Ordinance authorizing the sale to 719 Holdings, LLC of a 2.158 acre parcel, more or less, being subdivided out of the original 19.09 acre Parcel identified as Parcel B as shown on a Plat recorded at Plat Book 27 at Page 80, being a portion of tax parcel 048-00-01-005, and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute such contracts, amendments, deeds and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the sale to 719 Holdings, LLC, or its assigns, and matters related thereto. *(Public Hearing Only 04.07.2025; 1st reading 05.19.2025; Public Hearing and 2nd reading 06.02.2025)*

Mr. Tedder was present to review, address and discuss the request for the consideration of the 3rd Reading of Ordinance #O-2025-10 an Ordinance authorizing the sale to 719 Holdings, LLC of a 2.158 acre parcel, more or less, being subdivided out of the original 19.09 acre Parcel identified as Parcel B as shown on a Plat recorded at Plat Book 27 at Page 80, being a portion of tax parcel 048-00-01-005, and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to execute such contracts, amendments, deeds and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the sale to 719 Holdings, LLC, or its assigns. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed

19. Lisa Wagner – Public Hearing and Consideration of the 1st Reading of an Ordinance to amend Article 9:6, Accessory Structures, of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, to allow increased building sizes for accessory structures in the Residential, Rural Preservation, and Resource Conservation Zoning Districts. (1st reading 06.02.2025 was deferred to this meeting)

This item was removed from the agenda.

20. Administrator's Report: Mr. Fulghum reviewed the information from his report. There were no Action Items requiring a vote from the Council in the Administrator's Report

21. Councilmember Comments and Discussion: Councilmember Comments were given but there were no comments that required action.

Executive Session SECTION 30-4-70.

(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim – **Potential Litigation; Position of a Public Agency**

Motion to go into Executive Session: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS. **PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE MAY BE VOTES BASED ON ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Return to Open Session

Motion to return to regular session: Councilman VanGeison

Second: Councilman Rowell

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

- **Action coming out of Executive Session** – There was no action that came out of executive session.

22. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman Arzillo

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

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For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA . There are also Closed Captions available for all of our County Council videos. Just click the "CC" button to follow along.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



John A. Kemp
Chairman

Attachment "A"

A photograph of four red emergency vehicles parked in a snowy lot under a clear blue sky. From left to right: a large fire truck with 'JASPER COUNTY' on its side, a red pickup truck, a smaller red fire truck, and another large fire truck with 'JASPER COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE' and the number '30' on its side. The ground is covered in snow with some tire tracks.

Emergency Services FY 26 Budget Overview

Staffing:

- Vacancies:
- 45 (Levy): Fully Staffed • 12 FTE
- 46 (Fire/Rescue): 3 Vacancies • 74 FTE/ 19 PTE/ 20 volunteer
- 47 (CRR): Fully Staffed • 4 FTE
- 48 (911 Comms): 11 Vacancies • 22 FTE (if full) 6 PTE
- 54 (CPFD): Fully Staffed • 12 FTE
- 56 (ESO): 1 Vacancy • 4 FTE (when full)

- Salary
 - Overtime
 - New Personnel (no new personnel in any division this FC)
 - FICA
 - Retirement
 - COLA
 - Tort
 - Workers Comp
- Are calculated based on CFO data integrated in a spreadsheet for all ESO divisions.

Office Supplies (2200) Dept. Request

- 45 (Levy): \$2,500
- 46 (Fire/Rescue): \$8,200
- 47 (CRR): no line in budget
- 48 (911 Comms): \$5,000
- 54 (CPFD) \$5,400
- 56 (ESO): \$13,000
- Each of the line items is intended to be reflective of the costs associated to their day-to-day ops. This would include nominal business related items (I.E. copier paper, ink, pens, paper clips etc)

2300 Gas, Oil, Grease

- Most of the accounts are tied back to Fire/Rescue (46) and ESO (56).
- Multiple delivery methods (Fuel purchase cards, fuel accounts; public works fuel farm)
- Includes Diesel, gasoline, propane, diesel exhaust fluid, oils for small engines, lubricants etc.

Vehicle Insurance

- Increased due to new fire apparatus being purchased (higher values)
- Most operational divisions have vehicles attached to them.
- Budget request is based on data received from public works and finance division

Vehicle Maintenance

- Operational Divisions under Emergency Services umbrella; maintain a Vehicle Fleet of 60 Apparatus and 6 UTV/ATVs..
- Emergency Response Vehicles must be serviced/repaired by a certified **Emergency Vehicle Technician (ASE-EVT)**.
- Each Service includes a 72 Point inspection of the Operational Status of the apparatus with notes and pictures.
- The Cost of Service and Parts has increased significantly over the recent years. Many parts are brand specific and priced as such.
- Medic unit tires are estimated at \$1500-\$1800.00 per set.
- Fire Truck tires are estimated at \$3500-\$5400.00 per set.
- Brake Replacement ranges from \$1200-\$4000.00
- Service cost (routine oil change) and Inspection for Medic Units And Engines
- Medic Units \$700-\$900 (average of 6/unit/yr)
- Engines \$1500.00-\$1800.00 (average 3/unit/yr)
- Average Fire Truck, Pump Rebuild for type 1, structural engine is estimated to be a \$15,000.00.
- Engine and Transmission Repairs are above \$10,000.00.
- Specialty Apparatus such as a Ladder or Tower have higher repair cost due to the market standards and a limited amount of service providers. Additionally, the age is pushing repairs toward customization parts production

Maintenance Contracts: 2400

- 45 (Levy): \$11,953 YTD
- 46 (F&R): \$170,188.91 YTD
- 47 (CRR): \$2,310 YTD
- 48 (911 Comm): \$41,123.51
- 54 (CPFD): \$25,546.29
- 56 (ESO): \$50,700.21
- Some maintenance contracts were not executed in FY 25 secondary to the delivery of new equipment and apparatus.
- Some contracts went end of life, anticipation of new equipment needing annual testing pending.
- RMS/CAD/JMS software & hardware; phone system and radio system are migrating into a yearly contract.

48-2410 (public safety radio maintenance)

- Slated for replacement this year due to end of life approaching:
- 10 mobile radio
- 10 portable radio
- (3) 911 comm ctr consolette (wireless)
- Other radios that may need replacement due to irreparable damage
- The radios identified account for \$188,000 in present market/ state contract pricing.
- Ability to acquire replacement microphones, antennas
- Frequency tuning, and overall maintenance of public safety radios
- Challenges with product and service delivery.

48-2412 Palmetto 800 radio subscription services

- Similar concept of a cell phone
- Each radio has a monthly subscription fee
- This fee is determined by SC in their public private partnership with Motorola.
- Fees are correlated to each tower accessed by our radios
- We currently have 5 towers our radio talk groups are integrated
- This accounts for 389 public safety radios
- We continue to strive in expanding AVL features. This project continues to encounter roadblocks.
- YTD we project the expenditures to be \$145k
- Revisit with CFO for consideration of reduction

2430: Equipment (overview 45,46,47,48,54,56)

- (2430 – NA for 48) Turnout Jackets and Pants: We need around 30 sets per year at a cost of \$90,000. We try to replace 20% of our gear every year. This eliminates expired/outdated as well as damaged gear.
- Updating the older equipment, hose and nozzles across the fleet for standardization. Replacing equipment that was end of life (
- SCBA Cylinder Replacement plan. Diversified at 20% per annum across all budgets. (\$60k/yr)
- Battery Replacements for Power tools on apparatus. (specialty tools that are battery powered: extrication tools, ventilation fans, saws, etc.)
- Replace damaged equipment; end of service life equipment (rescue air bags, life safety rope, gas monitor/filters/cartridges; calibration gases; etc)
- Funding to purchase Acute or Immediately needed Emergency Equipment to aid in mitigation of a Natural Disasters, Pandemics, or Major incidents.
- Enhance Security at 9-1-1 Center Facility. Enhance Security at Radio Site Towers. Replace EoL UPS Batteries
- Radio Site Towers: \$30,000
- 9-1-1 Center: \$43,000
- UPS Batteries: \$15,000
- 3 HVAC Units: (Need PW estimate)(server, radio/equipment room/911 center)
- Also for other equipment, such as Public Safety IT Hardware/Software/Tools/Computers/Monitors/ect
- Enhancing physical security challenges
- Staff has reviewed the recommendations of the chairman and co-chairman and support some reduction and will follow up with CFO

2440/2450 Office Equipment (48)

- 2440
 - Computers, Printers, Scanners, Monitors, Tools, Chairs, Software for Admin & IT staff.
 - QA/QI and ATAC need outfitting with computers, phones, ect.
 - Depending on market price and fluctuations and acute need should an issue arise.
 - \$8,000 for 48
- 2450:
 - CAD Computers, Monitors and Chairs in use 24/7 - Industry Standard To Replace 24/7 Computers every 3 years.
 - \$9,000 Per Year, Rolling Replacement for 3 CAD Computers.
 - \$4,000 Per Year, Rolling Replacement for 2 24/7 Dispatch chairs.
 - Also to replace headsets, batteries, PTT adapters, adapter bases, ect.

2440: Office equipment (45,46,47,54,56)

- Desks, chairs, bedding; tables; cookware, silverware, etc.
- Difficult to project what acute needs arise during the course of the year for all of our stations.

2610 Travel and Training

- Anticipate a need to send 12 people per year to recruit school at \$1000 each.
- We anticipate the same 12 per year to EMT school at a cost of \$1,750 each.
- We anticipate 6 people per year to Paramedic School at a cost of \$9000 each. (includes class, books, required school uniforms, and 2 test attempts)
- Personnel are required to recertify their EMS certification at a cost of \$25 EMT (\$29 after Oct 1, 2025) \$26 AEMT (\$30 after Oct 1, 2025) and \$32 Paramedic (\$36 after Oct 1, 2025.)plus \$35/pp for fingerprinting and background check.
- budget 3 people per year to attend EMS condensed recertification course \$700 each.
- Personnel required to maintain CPR, Advanced Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support at 33% of personnel/ pp/year.
- Personnel are encouraged to take Advanced Medical Life Support, Prehospital trauma life support, and other National Association of EMT courses at a cost of \$25 per student per course. We average 30 personnel/yr
- Budgeted 3 personnel per year for Critical Care Paramedic at a cost \$3000 each (includes class, lodging, and per diem in Gainesville, Florida)

2610 Cont

- 4 Cadavers per year at a cost of \$20,000. This allows for advanced procedures training to keep personnel current in required advanced skills such as intubation, RSI, surgical cricothyrotomy, chest decompression, intraosseous catheterization etc.
- Officer Development for all department officers \$15,000 per year
- Fire Investigator Initial and Continuing Education Training \$3000 per year (covers all personnel who have investigative responsibility)
- Technical Rescue for South Carolina Rescue Task Force 1 members (3) \$2000/year
- 6 personnel per year for ARFF \$7000
- Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector initial, continuing education, and recertification classes \$7500
- Station Training Supplies (books, mannequins, training aids): \$5000
- Training Center and Portable Training Aids \$20,000 (includes purchasing replacement lumber, tar paper, siding, drywall, screws, nails etc.)
- Emergency Management Training for TEEX, EMI, conferences, SCEMD, etc \$15,000.
- \$5000 for propane, training foam, etc.

2610 – 911 comms

- Minimal cost of \$2,000 per new employee to bring to minimum certification level. 11 openings = \$22,000
- Ongoing certifications (avg \$475 per certification)
- Annual recertifications (avg \$35 per recert)
- Annual recertifications (avg \$35 per recert)
- Additional per Diem and hotel costs

2645 - Uniforms

- 48

- \$500 per FT employee, per year.
- 22 FT Staff = \$11,000
- \$250 per PT employee, per year.
- 6 PT Staff = \$1,500

- 45,46,47,54,56

- Clothing Allowance Breakdown:
- Full Time Personnel \$500/person x 128 replacements = \$64,000
- Part Time and Volunteer \$250/person x 36 = \$9,000
- Incidental Uniform Items \$100/person x 50 = \$5,000
- Footwear \$150/person x 30 = (\$4,500)
- Uniform T-shirts 2 per person = \$8000/year

2670 – Membership and Dues

- 48 – 911 comms

- APCO Membership Dues = \$1,500
- Dues = \$1,500
- Memberships required to reduce certification costs significantly. Required for path towards accreditation of 9-1-1 Center.

- 47 CRR

- This for membership and dues. International Association of Arson Investigators, SC dues for the state chapter for IAAI. Department membership for NFPA. Membership for International Code Council, and South Carolina Fire Marshals Association.

2670 Membership and dues

- SC Emergency Managers association
- SC EMS association
- ARFF Association
- NFPA membership
- SC Fire Chief Association
- BC Fire Chiefs Association

5095 Building Repairs

- **48- 911 comms**

- Porch/Entryway rotten and falling off of building.
- Kitchen Renovation, 20+ years old.
- Repair Center floor (ripped up and frayed carpet, exposed concrete)
- Bathroom/Locker Room Renovation.
- Harden/Upfit Entrance to meet security requirements

- **56 - ESO**

- The building needs many upgrades this is part of the MB Khan planning initiative.
- This building has numerous rooms, possesses highly sensitive electrical/equipment/communication rooms housing the Emergency Operations Center, 911 communications center, Community Risk Reduction (Codes) offices and Administrative offices of all areas of the 45,46,47,48,54, and 56 budgets.
- Scheduling repairs and control of who has access to sensitive equipment rooms requires planning & background vetting procedures.
- Most projects are evaluated and prioritized to spread repair and upgrade cost over time.

5095 Cont

- **54 - CPFD**

- This budget initially was for 1 stations, and a second station was added to the 54 Line.
- The 2 stations are newer and have encountered minimal maintenance and repairs.
- The budget is approaching 100%. Both buildings will slowly need repairs and PM as it ages.
- The current budget was able to keep us at a minimal repair status and will not be able to replace items that are coming out of warranty.

- **46 – Fire/Rescue**

- 10 Fire Stations and 1 training center are repaired from this budget.
- Older stations are antiquated and were not built for current and future operations.
- Roof repairs, septic and line replacements, electrical upgrades, HVAC replacements, water well repairs, stucco work, with general maintenance and upgrades needed.
- Furniture, bedding, and appliances are replaced as needed from this line.
- Large projects and essentials are evaluated and prioritized based off the immediate needs and the major repairs are pushed out to maintain over time.

5095 cont

- 45 - Levy

- This Budget Line covers 2 antiquated Stations.
- An evaluation of the building was done and repairs needed to make the station suitable for increasing the staff from 1 firefighter to a crew of 4 and additional response units.
- We prioritized the repairs to minimize further degradation, and plan repairs each year to stabilize the condition until a station replacement plan is solidified.
- We have repaired a leaky roof, bathroom flooring, insulation between the first-floor apparatus bay and living quarters, and some of the doors and door openers.
- Several costly items such as HVAC, Septic, Electrical are needed as well as some aesthetic rehabilitation.

June 16, 2025

Dear Jasper County Council members,

As you know, the facility at 403 Russell Street, Ridgeland, SC is owned by Jasper County. This facility houses the Jasper County Visitors Center, the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce and the Jasper County Museum.

The Atax request in question was presented to you as a request for the Jasper County Museum. That was incorrect. It was submitted and reviewed by the Atax committee as a request for the Jasper County Visitors Center/Chamber of Commerce. This request is made to support a portion of wages for the employee who oversees the visitors center. The majority of this salary is paid for by the chamber and this request is a supplement to make the wages where they need to be for a person in that position, since they oversee the visitors center as well. Therefore, we are re-asking for your approval based on the correct information.

Per the State of South Carolina Department of Revenue Ruling #98-22, Use of Accommodations Tax Funds, "Operations of Visitor Information Center" is listed as one of 8 "Tourism Related Expenditure's". Therefore, this request is in complete compliance with the Atax laws set forth by the state.

The need for a visitors center is tremendous to any area, especially for Jasper County with the close proximity to I-95 having 7 exits; 4 of those exits being extremely strong stopping points for travelers. We are strategically placed on a high pass through traffic corridor which allows us to capture economic potential with every traveler. The visitors center has the potential to convert these passersby into engaged visitors, increasing direct spend and length of stay. This facility calculates the following in visitors

- Foot Traffic – 200/month = 2,400/year
- Phone inquiries – 400/month = 4,800/year
- Web engagement – 3,000/month = 36,000/year

TOTAL annual visitors – 43,200/year

- If just 5% convert to lodging that is 2,160 bookings; avg cost \$150/night, 1-night stay = approximately \$324,000 in lodging revenue
- Approximate food/retail revenue = \$216,000
- Total Visitor spending = \$540,000

That translates to the visitors center supporting over half a million dollars in annual tourism-driven spending. And that is just on the Visitors side of what we do.

I would like to point out here that 100% of everything we do out of this facility is for the good of Jasper County. Whether that be for the businesses, marketing, tourism, history, etc. Our job is to make sure Jasper County is “on the map” so to speak.

Most citizens do not realize all the many other things that take place through us. Just to name a few:

- If you see billboards for Hardeeville, Ridgeland or Jasper County, that is us.
- If you hear radio spots for Hardeeville, Ridgeland or Jasper County, including events such as Hardeeville Festival on Main, Gopher Hill, Holiday Festival of Lights, etc., that is us.
- If any Digital ads pop up on your phone or social media or webpages advertising the same above, that is us.
- If you see any print media ads in publications such as, the Lowcountry Guidebook, South Carolina Living, Southeast USA today Travel Guide, Atlanta Braves Official Program, USA Today National Parks, and USA Today Hunt and Fish Guide, that is us.
- We support local business by always giving referrals to the local businesses; retail, services, food, convenience, etc. We establish and support “shop local” campaigns.
- We offer ground breakings, ribbon cuttings, business after hours, coffee with colleagues, lunch and learn seminars, etc. for business exposure and networking.
- In addition, the businesses are listed in our Resource guide distributed throughout South Carolina at all welcome centers. The businesses are also listed on our website with links to their own websites. We promote through social media as well with special “spotlights”.

I could go on and on about all we do, however, in conclusion, based on the information provided above I ask that you reconsider your decision to approve this Atax request.

I would end by pointing out that the Atax committee of six members appointed by you the council, received and reviewed this request and voted unanimously to recommend that the Jasper County Council approve this request. Thank you in advance for your reconsideration.

Sincerely,

Kendall Malphrus

Executive Director, Jasper County Chamber of Commerce