



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Agenda Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Tuesday, January 28, 2025

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

### 3. ELECTION OF A CHAIR

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MIN-24:115** MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING (WORKING SESSION) ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024

**Attachments:** [Minutes](#)

**MIN-24:116** MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024

**Attachments:** [Finance Minutes 1231024.pdf](#)

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### *RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED*

**RES-25:003** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS

**Sponsors:** Grants, Police Department and Finance

**RES-25:004** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2025 SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH GRANT FROM THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION

**Sponsors:** Grants and Parks & Recreation

**RES-25:008** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO-YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE SANITATION AUTOMATED TRUCKS, ONE FRONT LOAD SANITATION TRUCK AND ONE REAR LOAD SANITATION TRUCK

**Sponsors:** Sanitation and Finance

Attachments: [final Proposal 5 sanitation updated 1-15-2025.pdf](#)

**RES-25:009** A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF POLICE PACKAGE CHEVROLET TAHOES AND UPFITTING EQUIPMENT

Sponsors: Police Department and Finance

Attachments: [Tahoe Invoices.pdf](#)

**6. PENDING ITEMS**

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**



# City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Text File

File Number: MIN-24:115

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**Agenda Date:**

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**In Control:** Finance & Administration Council Committee

**File Type:** Minutes

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE MEETING (WORKING SESSION) ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Monday, December 30, 2024

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### SPECIAL CALLED WORKING SESSION

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 6 - Joe Hafner; Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

**Absent** 1 - David McClain

#### 3. OTHER BUSINESS

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, today we'll be kind of going through doing an overview of the 2025 Budget. Just to be clear, there's going to be no motions or votes taken on the budget today. This is merely informational session and the chance for people to ask questions and get some answers and go from there. And then tomorrow in our Finance meeting is when we'll actually, you know, see if there's a motion or not to forward to full council. Mayor, I'll turn it over to you, I don't know, I know last year y'all had a little PowerPoint presentation y'all did. I'll turn it over to you, and then committee, we'll kind of hold our questions until they kind of do their overview and then we can go in and ask questions. Or if we have a chance, we'll do it as they go through. Just try to hold them until they do their presentation because they may cover them. We're kind of an informal here. Alright mayor.*

[COM-24:063](#)

WORKING SESSION OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ON THE CITY OF JONESBORO 2025 BUDGET: QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION (No motions or votes to be taken)

**Sponsors:** Mayor's Office and Finance

**Attachments:** [2025 Budget Draft.pdf](#)  
[Jonesboro Budget 2025 Presentation Overview.pdf](#)  
[Handout E911 Budget Working Session 12302024.pdf](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, alright thank you Mr. Chairman and if I may, I'd just like to give a brief overview. I believe you all got your book and, in your book, I'm not going to read it to you, but it was obviously my statement for year moving forward on this year's budget. Which is a balanced budget, we're very pleased with that. There was one item that I did leave out of the letter, and it wasn't intentional, but I do want to include at this time that through the year, matter of fact, over the last three or four years, we've seen a major increase in usage of our health insurance plan. And with*

*that, then that comes the possibility of increased premiums, so it's always been a challenge as far as we are concerned. I was in the insurance business for over 40 years, so I'm very familiar with how it works and the internal working of insurance companies but more importantly the premium. And we had actually come to this year, our premium and Steve can correct me if I'm wrong, but it was approximately about \$6,500,000 in premium that the city paid for health insurance approximately over 500 employees participate from individual to family programs. Our usage was over \$9,000,000 in claims. So, I think you can do the math pretty quickly, what situation that might put the city into when it comes up for renewal notice. Now we're not uncommon throughout Northeast Arkansas, but the state, this is a common occurrence going on statewide and countrywide. So, in the process we were negotiating our renewal premium. Now the last two years, our renewal premium was almost 20% and we were able to negotiate a premium increase of a little around 5% the last two years. This year we came in at 48% increase on the initial request. Now again this affects all of our city employees and personnel, so with that we were able to negotiate a 24% increase down from a 48% increase. And upon discussion I challenged the finance team to look and see where we could internally make adjustments. I'm very pleased again to say that for this year we have requested in the budget not to have a premium increase for our city employees. That is a big benefit because, again, we're looking at non-uniformed and uniformed personnel. They depend on their employee benefits for offsetting, sometimes, city pay that we cannot afford. So, I wanted to make that addition to tonight's presentation.*

*The other thing is as well, we worked really hard, and I want council, I know you all understand, but truly we work on this six to eight months out of the year from department to department. We see requests that might be coming our way, how we can negotiate for the upcoming year. We're also looking at trends across the state, and you're seeing that now the trends are leveling out. Ever since covid we had an increase, obviously, the past couple years after covid, but now they're leveling out statewide. And so, we're also having to do the same thing. We looked at what we have in request, and we had many more request, obviously, than we do dollar bills to pay for. What we're presenting to you, as we do every year, is a balanced budget. It does have a 3% increase for city employees, as well, for their salary increase. We were able to procure that as well, in this. So, I hope you're pleased with what you have. Steve does have presentation, I've got to say that Ms. Christy and Teresa and Paige, listen folks they don't work just 40 hours a week. They work 70 and 80 hours a week, especially the last several months, and y'all know that we had an additional four-week period there that we had a little hiccup so to speak and we had to continue. Any delays, we worked through all that, but I can't say enough about the finance team. Steve, I'll turn the floor over to you at this point, and I know that you all have a presentation you'd like to make to the council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your time. Chairman Joe Hafner said, your welcome.*

*Finance Department Director Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, good afternoon. I'll just go ahead and hand out a couple of these chairman, if that's okay. Good afternoon, I will recap some of the items in our budget. We kind of took a little bit different approach, but just somewhat a little bit more unique. You'll recall that we passed out or emailed out the, what we call a commitment sheet early on and that was basically the first 12 pages or so of our review. We thought that would be a good primer for how we're going to proceed through, I think I've lost my screen here. We thought that would be a good primer for how we proceed through the budgeting process again giving that we were delayed a few weeks relative to our runoff election for mayor. So, what we have for you today is, and again, the detail of the budget, the first 13 or 14 pages, again, include the mayor's introduction letter, as well as the summary financial*

*information following that. And it goes through 13 pages roughly, the various detail. The department detail... is that going to shine up here? Ok thank you. The department detail are on the pages or tabs in the budget binder following those first, two or three tabs there that you have in the summary. What we want to do is just simply provide an overview of that information. This overview is going to be very consistent with what we've done in previous years. I did for forsake of time leave out a few of the slides that will slip back in there tomorrow for that overview that will come to Finance Committee. We thought it would be more advantageous to just use our time to go through some of our bullet points and to focus on that. While they're trying to gear that up, I'll go ahead and get started.*

*So, as you've noticed, in the budget there are roughly \$88,000,000 of total appropriations. \$74,000,000 of that is in our O&M expenditure category. The thing that was very significant this year, we ended the year with a 3.8% decrease in revenues for sales tax over what was budgeted. We've been monitoring that all year. Fortunately, the last year of the month, or the last month of the year, that did rebound about \$70,000, and we were able to end the year only down slightly \$118,000 compared to our \$43,000,000 plus in sales tax revenue... \$49,000,000 in sales tax revenue. We wanted to approach our budgeting process with the idea that we think that it's realistic to just simply repeat that budget revenue stream for this particular budget cycle, and that's what we've done. We held our... you'll notice in some of the summary pages. It indicates a zero change in budget, year over year, and that was intentional just to let that sale tax revenue to repeat itself going forward. So, we've got that in there. We looked at salary and benefits enhancements relative to what was projected in the budget and mayor has already alluded to some of that. There is a 2% annual step increase in salaries for each employee, there is a 1% cost of living adjustment as well for all employees. The overall increase will be 3% cost of living adjustment for any employee who's not eligible for a step. In the end all employees will receive a 3% increase in their current salaries for 2025.*

*The other remaining item and the mayor has already alluded to this. We were staring at that 24%, 25% increase in health insurance premiums. Let Mrs. April get caught up there, are you good? So, we'll get caught up on this page here. We're going to sync up here. I may not be driving your screen April or am I doing that? City Clerk April Leggett said I'm doing that. Director Steve Purtee said, you are. Go to page one or the second, there you go, sorry. Your page two, my page one. Just to kind of catch up here on the salary benefits enhancements, that potential \$1,500,000 increase. Again, it was alluded to that, that's about a 24% or 25% increase. We averted that through the creation of our captive or administrator program, which we provided through our self-insurance program so we're very pleased with that. We're anxiously awaiting some of the first results of that, be about the first quarter. We'll kind of see what the track activity is relative for that program.*

*Personnel requests is always common. Our directors do such good job in reviewing their departments, relative to what their needs are. We don't limit them, we ask them to submit everything that is within their scope of what they need for their departments. Maybe even what might be on their wish list as well. We did have 88 requests for position consideration, in our budget request and these came in the September time frame. We can't begin just analyzing and working through that at that time. Those 88 positions considered represented about 53 new hires or new head count rather, excuse me. And so, we looked at that with the idea that, a. what was a review and a status update with the director's relative to their department, b. what might reasonably be deferred, and then c. what is exactly needed and could be handled in our budget. With a balanced budget obviously, you are limited somewhat relative to how you are able to*

*absorb some of that activity. So, through all of that effort and exercise and working with our directors we determine that we could affect about 47 of those position requests. You can see that it includes 25 net new positions and then 22 positions were a re-grade or promotion. Positions already existed, we were just wanting to re-analyze those positions on behalf of the directors to make sure that those employees were properly slotted, who were holding down those particular job grades. And again, as we indicated that a 3% overall COLA increase for all employees not eligible for a step and I think we've already referred to that.*

*Now on this page here. What we want to do is break down that 47 which turns out to be a net of 25 new employee head count. Our headcount currently is about 630. That will venture up to about 655, 654 or something like that, once this budget is implemented. What we wanted to do is kind of look at each of these, we've done a little bit more work relative to this overview of our personnel changes to give a glimpse into, not only what the summary is but some of the details behind these, so we'll just kind of go down through each of these, relative to the particular department.*

*You can see the first one here are 12 positions relative to our Parks Department, and I'll have the directors come up and give a little brief overview of their respected departments for these first three or so areas here. But in that review, there, we determined that we would need 12 positions for Parks. And these are all directly relating to implementation of our Master Park Plan, and with that, I think Danny will give some background on that as well. That includes eight additional parks personnel and then four park rangers, who are specifically dedicated for public safety in our parks.*

*The next 11 positions relate to our Jets Departments and our E-911 Center. Obviously, there's been a proposal for an expansion of a route and services for our Jets system. We are also needing to implement our trolleys and expand our paratransit fleet. Director Lee will give us an update on that here shortly. And then this last bullet here in this one, is four additional employees to adequately staff our E-911 Center. Director Sturch shared with us quite a bit of increase in call volume relative to his center and overtime cost are escalated in that area as well. We were just trying to find some ways to help reduce that. And then, you know, this council already approved investment in the consoles or the carousels within his office. And so, that infrastructure is already there, it just needs head count and staffing to implement that so this will take care of some of that.*

*The final area here, we did have four departments that were asking for increases in head count, we have two department civilian staff for both JFD and JPD. Relative to providing personnel for their specialized fleet and equipment maintenance. We certainly see this as an opportunity to, specifically in our Fire Department, to be able to do some of that maintenance in-house that will absorb some of that external cost that we're having, and seeing that how it's escalating as well, in getting that equipment back on the road.*

*Additionally, because of the efforts of our Code Enforcement and the activities just relating to all the properties of our Building Maintenance, we're requesting that those two departments each have staff additions also.*

*And then the final piece here, to kind of round out this 27 total head count, reducing by two, to give us a net of 25. That relates to just cleaning up the books a little bit. In our Administrative Assistant position is open in the mayor's office, he's asking that we just remove that from our head count, and then also in our Communications Department*

*we're going to kind of take a little bit different approach. You'll see later in this analysis that we're looking at additional professional services expense relative to maintaining or managing our website and that social media piece of that. So therefore, we were in a position to absorb another open position at that same time.*

*So, if you're okay with it, Chairman Hafner, I'm going to ask Danny and then Lee and then Ronnie Sturch to come up and just give a overview of what they're asking for relative to their departments.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, ok. One thing I would like Danny to cover is, when I was looking at this earlier and looking at the head count. I don't see where these eight additional park people are reflected in the budget that we have. I mean, I show like 36 people and that's only like one more than we had last year. Director Steve Purtee said, yeah, they are not in that detail, there is a specific line item. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I saw the \$400,000. Director Steve Purtee said, in that budget it does, it has not been translated into the head count of the department at this time. We will manage that financially through this account that you're referencing and then as the head count comes on then we'll make that transition as well into that detail.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Steve, I guess I need to ask you to make sure I'm reading this correctly. In that 3%, that included all personnel, like Sanitation, Permits Department and all? Director Steve Purtee said, yes sir. All full-time personnel.*

*Parks Department Director Danny Kapales approached the podium and said, good afternoon. Alright, so looking at the staff, I know that's the main subject ahead of us. When you look at the eight additional parks personnel, it is broken down into, obviously, different positions in different areas in my department. I'll start with this first one. That would be an assistant director position. And when you look into the Master Park Plan, it was recommended that we divide the assistant director position into two different positions. One that deals with operations, grounds and maintenance and one that deals with programs, activities, events, things of that sort. As you know, Parks and Rec deals with a lot of different items, so trying to bring in two professionals that really have higher level of skill in those two different areas, as opposed to having one person that has, maybe, a modern amount of skill level in both areas. This would make our Parks Department that much better and make it much, much easier to manage those different events with those higher level of skill level.*

*The other one was the community center manager. We've been operating our community centers, basically, with all part-time employees. And then myself or somebody else, deals with managing that part-time staff. And so, with this, you know, you start dealing with weekends, evenings, daytime, making sure that part-time staffs there on scheduling. Making sure that all those rooms are filled up, rental wise, and activities. I don't think we're running efficiently when we start dealing with our community center and all the rentals that we could possibly be operating with and utilizing our staff the most efficiently. So, by bringing somebody in that's actually going to be able to look at our community centers and manage those activities, and manage those rooms, and make sure those rooms are full all the time, and make sure that we have different events. Not just in the time periods that we are open for free play, but also during the daytime and try to bring different clubs and different things. Just activities across the city that can be in those community centers every day. That person will be able to handle that and be able to manage that with that focus on the community centers. So, that's what we're looking at as a community center manager. That will be able to operate those much more efficiently.*



*Go down to Miracle League. We've got somebody here for adaptive recreational management coordinator. Right now, we run Miracle League, which does a great job, but that's during a really short part of the year, on an outdoor activity. By bringing in somebody full-time that's going to look at our adaptive play, as you know, we're expanding our playgrounds currently. We're looking at all our community centers. There's some gaps where we can have indoor activity during the winter time and indoor activities in the summer time, and we start bringing in more recreational play for those children and adults that utilized the Miracle League during the spring and fall. It will increase those opportunities for folks that need that type of opportunity, and that's why we're looking at an adaptive play recreational coordinator.*

*The other positions we're looking at is more on our maintenance side. We're looking at four maintenance employees that just spread across the board. Whether it be Joe Mack Campbell Park, Craighead Forrest Park, urban parks, or softball. As you know, we continue to increase our, whether it's activity within our game's, tournaments or it's just if you to our parks, you see more activity within our parks. So, increasing our staff just to help maintain and keep those parks clean is a true need. And that was also within the Master Park Plan. It's just getting our staff more on a full-time basis as opposed to a part-time. I'll be honest with you, it's getting harder and harder to find part-time employees, to be able to be around, get them trained and keep them for very long. So, trying to get more established full-time employees in our department so that we know we have people trained that can go out and have their schedule and take care of our parks is a great need.*

*And then the last thing is the parks rangers. You know, that's... I shouldn't have to explain that one too much. That one I think everyone of y'all have talked about over the years and know that that's a great need. Our parks are being used day and night, and currently there's activity in every one of them. By having somebody that's in uniform, that knows how to de-escalate situations if they do happen to occur, that has that training, is going to just make our parks, first off it will make them safer. It'll appear to be safer. People will have much more respect for what's happening within our parks. We'll be able to see things happening before we have to wait for a camera, you know, and it's great to have the cameras up, but unfortunately, we do see those things afterward. So, having somebody there that can catch it firsthand is going to make a big difference. Having somebody patrol, just like Chief had officers out all Christmas, out patrolling. I think that deterred so much potential crime and activity. Such a great opportunity, great plan. I think it's the same thing with these park rangers. It's just having people be out and patrol our park systems, it's going to help deter possible activity that we do not want in our park system. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, the only question I have is, on the cameras, is the park systems included in the 9-1-1 area so they're watching the parks? Director Danny Kapales said, yes sir. The cameras are being added on, officers are able to see the... I say that. Chief can probably explain that better than I can, because I'm not as up on the camera system. But I do, all the time, call in the Police Department on video from the camera system which is within our parks.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, question. Thank you for your presentation. Director Danny Kapales said, yes sir. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I just want to make sure I got the numbers right. You said, one assistant director? Director Danny Kapales said, currently I have one assistant director. This would be adding another assistant director. So, operations for one and programs activities and events for the other. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, and then you said staff for maintenance and that's just one? Director Danny Kapales said, no it'll be four*

*additional maintenance staff and a crew leader. So that's five. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, ok so I was adding wrong. Director Danny Kapales said, yeah, no I think I might not have even said crew leader, so that's five maintenance employees.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so my follow-up question is, I realize that we've been having a lot of problems, and when I say we I'm talking about all across the country; with hiring because of part-time and trying to get them... just having workers. So, what's the plan on... is the problem with the part-time workers? Are we not retaining them because they're not full-time? Or I guess, what's the plan on making certain that we get these positions filled to maintain our parks? Director Danny Kapales said, yeah. First off, these are full-time positions, so this will give us an opportunity to look within Jonesboro first off, and maybe bring in some professionals that are working within other areas in Jonesboro that are in other business. Bring them in and put them in our park system. As far as trying to help with our part-time staff. Some of this is we're going to re-do some of our numbers in our part-time staff, by bringing in these full-time people. Which will help us where we currently are with hiring part-time... Hopefully, that will balance us out a little bit on the numbers we're currently able to bring in and we won't have that gap. We'll be filling that gap in with professionals from around town.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, and my last question on this as far as Parks is concerned. I was interested when you were talking about the adaptive play coordinator, and I know we have those sub-committee meetings with Public Services. So those presentations are really good, but I haven't heard much about the adaptive play. And I'm asking because those numbers are good to know. Because just running a business or being an entrepreneur myself, I'm thinking ok how can I double up on some of this, and why do I need this when I have an events coordinator. And then trying to understand what's the difference between that and adaptive play coordinator. Director Danny Kapales said, absolutely. So, when you look at the adaptive play or... there's different terms you can use, but with an adaptive play coordinator. It's going to be really, somebody that's really focused on understanding therapeutic play. Understanding that the skill level that's needed to change the style of play for children and adults with special needs. And our numbers have went up in the last year. We've got a young lady right now that's a full-time student, she works a couple other jobs and she's working this job part-time that is just phenomenal. She does a great job. We're honestly probably going to lose her. Maybe making this full-time we may be able to retain her, but currently if we don't change this, she will be taking a full-time job somewhere else and moving on. But she's already increased our numbers, we were in low to mid 100s and we're well over 200 now with children and adults that are participating in the program, routinely, every time she has a season. And those numbers, when you start thinking about children and adults with disabilities, that's a large number. And those aren't just folks in Jonesboro, there's people driving two hours to come here on Saturdays to have an opportunity and a place to participate. That's why we need somebody that says actually full-time in that position, because if we're able to increase that with somebody that's working 20 hours a week right now, by having somebody that's making us a full-time job that that's their focus. I see those numbers being 350, 400, 500 and it's year-round, and its activity and its people looking at Jonesboro as being the leader when it comes to this type of programming. That are driving here from Memphis, driving here from Southeast Missouri, driving here from Little Rock for this type of activity and play. That's where, I don't want to say economic impact when it comes to this type, but it is. It really is, when you start bringing people into town, you are changing that. But in turn, it takes every one of our children and adults here, you're giving them more activity and fun. Where they get to meet other*

*families and other children and adults that have some of the same needs. And they make new lifelong friends in that same opportunity.*

*Councilmember John Street said, Danny, who'd the park rangers answer to? Director Danny Kapales said, I think that's a discussion that we're going to continue once we get through this. But I don't think we have that finalized in our full discussion.*

*Councilmember John Street said, but they're going to be out there enforcing park regulations? Director Danny Kapales said, yes sir. There's going to be somebody that has training on how to de-escalate and what the next steps are, once they're in place. Councilmember John Street said, ok. While we're talking about that. Where are we on... and I've asked for this a thousand times, and I'll ask for it a million times. A gate to the entrance. We're spending all this money on the parks, I can't understand why we can't spend so few dollars to put up something that will close the park at 10 o'clock. Because the police can run around it 500 times, I've done it myself, and you can't get them all out. I want to see that gate. Director Danny Kapales said, I appreciate that. Councilmember John Street said, it's not that expensive. It will protect our investment in that asset. So, what's the plan to get the automatic gate that will open at 6 am and close at 10 pm? Director Danny Kapales said, I will say that part of that is looking at the front. The house that's there at the front. And we're looking at an overall securing the front end with redoing the house into, basically, a welcome center. You know the thought would be, it would be a welcome center, we'd also potentially have a police substation, a place for officers to be on that side of town, because there's not a good rest spot for the officers or a place to stop, also an office space for my staff out there. Because currently my superintendent doesn't have a space. That would become a... we could clean up that whole front entrance, which as you know, used to be the back entrance, and change it to where it's actually a beautified front end. Because I don't want to do in and put chain link gate or something of that sort that doesn't look right. It needs to be nice. It needs to be quality for the park when we do that. Councilmember John Street said, I'll agree with you on that, but hey, we need to get busy and doing it. And we need to open the back gate up, I've preached about that too. If we could put a gate there that requires no additional involvement by a human being. It can open and close. We also need one on the RV park or the ATV park over there. Because there's always somebody sitting in that. You can ask anybody in the PD. They run in there, I don't know, all times day and night. People are running their ATVs in the park after hours over there. So, I think that needs to be gated off too and that'll keep the various activity from going on in there. But I'm never going to give up on it. I'm going to wear you out until we have something on those gates. Director Danny Kapales said, yes sir.*

*Jets Department Director Lee Wells approached the podium and said, good evening, everyone. So, we're looking at with our positions, we've got seven new staff members. One of the first things we're going to do is to separate our CDL drivers from our regular drivers. Right now, we just have drivers. We don't have a distinction between CDL and non-CDL drivers, so what we're doing is increasing our CDL drivers by three which will give us that flexibility to be able to expand our service, implement those trolleys. And then we're also adding two non-CDL drivers. Full-time positions. Those are going to be able to assist with our expanding paratransit to allow us to have that distinction between the two classes of drivers, and then also to be able cover everything that we have going on with our business and to be able to continue to grow that as needed.*

*We're also looking at, what we call, a route coordinator position. That route coordinator position is someone that runs dispatch, but they also are overseeing, kind of, the routes, to ensure that those routes are being run correctly, day to day. They're also... because our staffing, right now, only allows them to be in dispatch, by adding that one additional person, we'll have that additional body to be able to go out to oversee those*

*drivers and those routes, to be able to ride-a-longs with them to ensure the safety, to be able to ensure that the routes are being completed correctly.*

*And then we are also adding a mechanics assistant. That's with our increasing fleet. This is going to be able to allow us to have those extra bodies to be able to work on those vehicles, now that we have expanded our fleet. Just the trolleys alone are bringing a whole different category of work that's needing to be done. So, by increasing our fleet to where we are, and then adding these new items, this additional help is going to allow us to be able to better service those vehicles, to keep them running at all times.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess it's not so much the personnel but on the stops. Where are we about closing those in and putting something over there. I passed by there the other day by Tech Electric and the stop right there. And a little old lady there was about to freeze to death. I mean, is there something that started off all those little places like that were they'll be able to cover, there be able to stand inside instead of just out there getting wet. Director Lee Wells said, yeah, I know you continue to hear us talk about the grant opportunity that we had with the shelters. You know, we are hoping to be able to implement that right off the back this coming year. To be able to get that in the motion to be able to bring those shelters out. With the shelters that we currently have, we have actually added a couple of additional shelters in some places. But this is going to allow us to continue to make those improvements, to cover those shelters, that are not currently sheltered. And then even make improvements to the ones we have. I know you've seen some of them are missing some the plexi and things like that. That's what we're hoping to get all finalized to be able to make that a better location for those customers to come and wait for the stops. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the question is, are we just waiting for grant or we don't have money to just put them out there? Director Lee Wells said, it's just a process of waiting on that to be finalized, as far as finding the grant... has been effectively awarded, it's just a matter of finding those vendors to be able to come out. We do have some that are in place that are interested in it. We just have to get that out, get that information out, allow that to get out to bid for that process to be completed in order for us to start rolling on those. And as I said with us having some vendors already interested then hopefully that process will be expedited once that's closed up and ready to run on it. And just also, as a reminder that there will still be some openness, but it does cover the overhead, obviously, of those passengers that are waiting on the bus stops. We still have to have some of it open to be able to get in and out and be able to see for ADA purposes so.*

*Councilmember Ann Williams said, question. I'm going to mention this, that ironically, the enclosed shelters, even though that protects people in the wintertime or rain, in the summer they're very hot. I discovered, you're inside a plastic vinyl box without any air circulating and so actually it's kind of a drawback. I've seen people standing, in hot weather, standing outside the shelter when there is an enclosed shelter, because it's too hot inside that shelter because there is no air. Director Lee Wells said, yes. And that is actually something that we've taken into account and, that's one of the reasons on some of the delays. Is trying to get exactly what we're looking for, for that. Some of the vendors we've spoken with that those shelters, the enclosure, instead of doing a solid plastic, what we're looking at is doing a vented steel. That will help maintain the life of that shelter by having something more durable than plastic, but also, by having that vented material that's still keeping the weather out but allowing the wind to be able to come through, so it doesn't become just a hot box. Councilmember Ann Williams said, yeah that is what it is.*

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I wanted to follow up on something. So, I don't want to get in the we's, because we're talking about the budget itself. When it comes to those enclosed and those shelters and things, I heard about the grant, so we have the grant that awarded. I'm assuming you know the numbers of shelters that are needed or that can be allotted to those. Is that... have we talked about that? The ones that are not enclosed. For instance, the one he was referring to, is that in the budget? Is that according, what the plan on that? To have all these stops done, number one? Number two, I saw that you have the route expansion, and we talked about that in Public Services, which is great. So, I'm assuming, once we create these routes and these expansions, this is where we're asking for additional personnel to help drive these routes or whatever is that correct? Director Lee Wells said, yes. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, ok. Director Lee Wells said, and then, as far as the number of shelters. The grant originally was designed, I believe on 47 shelters. Which would be an upgrade to some and then some additional as well. Now, obviously, when it comes time to build those, we will find out exactly how many we can do. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, we don't know that now? Director Lee Wells said, we know what we're planning is, but, you know, once that dollar figure comes in that it might fluctuate somewhat. But there are other opportunities that we're looking at to be able to continue to add those sheltered stops where needed. And then even looking at other options for smaller shelters in areas where maybe we can get a covering but there's not a need for the full shelter. And those are opportunities that we're looking at in the future with the Grants Department.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have a question to follow up on something that came up previously about the bus passes. I was surprised, I didn't realize that the only place to buy them is that at the Collector's office. Is that correct? Director Lee Wells said, that is correct. Councilmember Ann Williams said, is there some way to have a system where they can be purchased other places? Because it might be difficult for some people to get to the Collector's office to purchase one if they live on the other side of town. Is there a means to have other distribution and places where they can be sold or passed out even? Director Lee Wells said, having the ability to do that is an option. Where we were originally, it was not feasible to do that. But with some of the upgrades that we've made, and some of the additional upgrades that we're hoping to make, that will become an easier process to do. We also have some hopeful future partnerships that we can look at, which may also expand on that ability. It's just, you know, we're laying that groundwork for this to become something fantastic. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I could see some potential if they could be sold like at the library, or at ASU. Some means of distribution at ASU, where there is potentially a lot of riders, potentially. Director Lee Wells said, yeah. And we have also been partnering with A-State on working on getting them the ability to have the passes there. So, like for example, the international students, we have set up communication with that department in order to be able to accommodate them to where if they have international students that are needing passes, we can actually get them the passes to be able to take care of those students. Without those students trying to have to navigate to City Hall just to get those. So, we are working on those with what limited ability we have with future plans to be able to make that better.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, how do you... this kind of maybe a weird question. But how do you keep up within your reporting ridership? And on the passes, how does that handle, as far as for purpose of grants and federal funds? The ridership versus individual payment for ride. Director Lee Wells said, so our ridership is all tracked by our payment collection system, and that payment collection system does have the ability to differentiate the different types of payments. So, when I show, for example, when I show my large-scale report that shows our ridership that's all ridership. That

*includes all passes, all different rider types. We can break that down to show that, this rider used a one-day pass or a 31-day pass or that this rider was a senior adult, or this rider was a A-State student. But when we look at it holistically, we're just looking at a total ridership. But the system does actually distinguish what type of payment was used in order for us to be able to track that ridership. Councilmember Ann Williams said, apart from revenue, it seems that if you had it being able to report the number of trips, ridership, isn't that beneficial for purpose of the federal funds or grant? Director Lee Wells said, yes, we actually have to report that. It's a part of our national transit data base we report the ridership and that's why we collect that data, it's for that. Well, one of the main reasons why we do that is for that, in order for us to be able to show how our service is being utilized. Councilmember Ann Williams said, so that's a motivating factor, isn't it? In trying to get as many passes in the hands as many people as possible. Director Lee Wells said, yes. And again, that's one of the main reasons why we've reached out to some of these organizations. You know, A-State is not the only one we work with. We also work with a lot of non-profit organizations on being able to assist them. Just as an example, the Project Care is one. But we do work with them on being able to help them with being able to have those passes so when they have riders that are needing them, we can assist them on getting it to them. There's a lot of different organizations that we do work with to be able to provide those, and that's one of the reasons why we're looking at making those upgrades. That software upgrade, for example, that we made this year was one of the first steps in us being able to add more accessibility to our pass sales and then also to our ridership. Councilmember Ann Williams said, that's a pretty strong incentive to having that capability, I would think. Director Lee Wells said, yes, absolutely.*

*Councilmember John Street said, I was going to ask. Lee with the increased vehicles and then, hopefully, expanded routes and increased ridership, is there any more input on some reliable system through an app or whatever, to help people know for sure the bus is coming, when pickups are? Is that factored in the budget anywhere? Money for software app. Director Lee Wells said, we do have some budgeted in for software upgrades, and of course, we are always looking at other alternatives. We did recently find a company that does assist with the data we have now, for utilizing that data to be able to public face it to be able to assist with knowing where the vehicles are. There are steps that we are taking, it's just again, laying that groundwork. I keep going back and referring to it, but that initial software upgrade was one of the first steps, and it did make a big impact on our ability to be able to get this information out, and to be able to make our transit system more accessible by everyone. Councilmember John Street said, and I think that would be a big help. I know nothing happens instantly, but it's something I believe people would utilize more if they really could count on it more or knew they could get to work at a certain time. Instead of standing there waiting on the vehicle that may or may not show up. Director Lee Wells said, yup, absolutely. Councilmember John Street said, no but it's expanding really well and I'm very pleased with Jets and its expansion. Director Lee Wells said, thank you.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, next. E911. E911 Director Ronnie Sturch approached the podium and said, thank you mayor, chairman and members. I appreciate you allowing me to come before you. I'm not one... I don't want to bore you with numbers, but I think numbers are the only way I can present the need that... the reason we're asking for additional personnel. If I may, just pass these out. Y'all pardon my handwriting on there, my scribbling. What I want to present and what I've done is went out to the state 9-1-1 board. I got the top 11 9-1-1 centers in the state of Arkansas, based on call volume, and that's what you're looking at now. I would like to say, our call volume has increased tremendously. We went from 66,000 9-1-1 calls to last year over to 70,994, you might as well say 71,000 calls. So, we saw an increase just last year alone in over*

*5,000 9-1-1 calls, almost, coming into our center. We also saw an increase of a little over 3,000, what we call dispatch calls for service, where we dispatch police, fire, EMS. We saw an increase in that. So, when you look at that, we've had an increase of over 7,000 almost 8,000 calls that we have to handle in that center.*

*Now, if you look at the page that I presented to you. You will see out of that top 11 9-1-1 centers in the state of Arkansas, we rank third in the state, in the total number of call volume in our 9-1-1 center. We're third in the state. We're fifth in population, but we're third in the state in the number of 9-1-1 calls handled in our center. Another number that really is even more significant than that, if you look at it, is that we have 11,000... and this is a number that staggered me, but we have 11,463 9-1-1 calls that came into our center that are what's called abandoned 9-1-1 calls. What that means is we have almost 12,000 calls last year that came into our center, 9-1-1 calls, that did not get answered. That's stunning. That's a 1,000 calls a month almost. Now, I'm going to qualify that, and I don't want that to sound like we just got a lot of calls that's not getting answered. I want to qualify that a little. That includes just what we call pocket dials. 9-1-1 calls that hang up before we ever answer the phone. So, if there... I want to qualify that a little. I don't want to go out here and tell the public that we have 12,000 9-1-1 calls not getting answered, ok. But the fact is, we have 12,000 9-1-1 calls coming into our center that don't get answered. Now, we always... when I say that I always want to qualify it, that all those calls do get responded to. We call them back. It goes into a queue, we see it, that it was there, it came in, we've got that number. We always follow up back up with that caller to make sure, hey saw you called 9-1-1, do you have an emergency, wanted to make sure. A lot of times it will be that we have... on the best of days we have one call taker and three dispatchers. On the best of days. Well, we have one call taker that means, the dispatchers are having to answer some 9-1-1 calls too. Well, if there's an accident out here somewhere on the interstate or somewhere, everyone that passes that accident is going to call 9-1-1. So, we've had situations where we've had 25, 30 9-1-1 calls come into that center in a matter of one minute. Well, there's no way we can answer that amount of calls, so that's part of that. But we always follow back up with them to make sure. But 12,000 calls to me, 1,000 calls a month not getting answered is way too many calls, 9-1-1 calls.*

*Councilmember Ann Williams said, also some phones... I had this experience with a new phone... where if you hold down buttons on the side simultaneously it automatically calls 9-1-1, and so you do it inadvertently. I guess that's what you were talking about as far as phone. And then, they did call back. They called and said do you have an emergency, and I said that was an accident and they said... they told me how to disable that feature. Director Ronnie Sturch said, good, they're supposed to call you back. If they don't let me know. So, I wanted you to be aware of that number.*

*Now, again, we ranked third in the number of calls into our 9-1-1 center. Third in the state. The more important number is we rank second in the number of call volume, or the call volume into our center in terms of 9-1-1 calls answered per dispatcher. In other words, if you look at how many 9-1-1 calls come in and divide it by the number of dispatchers we have, we're second in the state call volume. Only second to the city of Little Rock. They're the only 9-1-1 center that handles more calls than we handle in our 9-1-1 center.*

*Now, with that said, if you look at the numbers. Again, look at that page, and I'm going to try to real quick and go through this and let you look at it. But look at the call volume of all these 11 cities, that come into our 9-1-1 center. But I want you to look at that number of dispatchers. If you look at the number of dispatchers, we rank 10th. We've got those 11 and nine cities are higher than us, actually only 10 centers because*

*one is we're tied for number 10. So, there's only one center in the state of Arkansas that has less dispatchers than Jonesboro, and that is the city of Fayetteville. But look at their call volume, it's just a little over half of what our call volume is, ok.*

*Councilmember John Street said, does these numbers reflect county? Director Ronnie Sturch said, no sir. They do not reflect county. Councilmember John Street said, they have their own... they answer their own calls too, right? Director Ronnie Sturch said, now it reflects county for us. Yes sir, it does reflect all of Craighead County. Councilmember John Street said, does all these other cities include the county as well? Director John Street said, no sir. And that's the thing, they're answering county, but they have another dispatch center that handles their county calls. Councilmember John Street said, is the county still providing their own dispatch? Director Ronnie Sturch said, for most of these cities, yes sir. Councilmember John Street said, I mean ours. Director Ronnie Sturch said, oh, yes sir, we do, I'm sorry. We do handle the county calls. All Craighead County. Councilmember John Street said, is the county looking at increasing dispatchers as well? Director Ronnie Sturch said, well, that would be part of the 9-1-1 board. They pay their prorated share, of whatever we have in dispatchers, based on population. Which goes along, kind of, with based on call volume. So, no matter the number of dispatchers they're pretty much paying their prorated share. I hope that answers your question. Councilmember John Street said, yeah that's fine. Thank you.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I just don't think... I mean since you've been over this 9-1-1, I think personally that you've done a great job, seriously. But at the same time, I have wondered about the dispatchers. Because I'm looking at this page, but even though you have a lot of call volume for Jonesboro. It's just growing, and I think that's one reason that you have this second highest call. But I think... are you getting two more people? Are you getting four more people? Are you getting any people? Director Ronnie Sturch said, we hope. That's y'all's call. I want to present the need and show you, and these numbers show you what the need is. I don't want you to feel like I'm up here just asking for more people just to have more staff. Our numbers... I'm going to be honest with you, we cannot continue to operate as a 9-1-1 center unless, with a number of people. They are stressed to the max. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I understand that, but I was going back to this personnel pay change and I didn't see any more personnel. Director Ronnie Sturch said, yes sir. I think in this budget, correct me, we're getting four more positions. Yes sir. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm looking at it yeah. Ok, ok I see it now yeah. Director Ronnie Sturch said, this budget does increase four more positions. Yes sir. But I wanted to present the need, I can sit here and go through a lot of more numbers with you and a lot of things. But I think if you look at these numbers it, kind of, you know, I hope it shows you the need. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well, I think you showed us. The same time, you know, we call them butt calls. You know, you're probably getting a lot of butt calls too. Director Ronnie Sturch said, yes sir we do. Absolutely.*

*Finance Department Director Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, well congratulations, you just sat through three budget sessions with directors, that in fact, Mayor Copenhaver and I were discussing that, that would be a great presentation for each of these three. Because they're the line share of the changes that are being requested. Basically, you just heard what they've shared with us during our budget sessions relative to that and a few other things that they had on their agenda's.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I'm just excited that this 3% raise is going across the board. Because I've talked about it and asked about Sanitation, I've talk*



about the Permits Department, and Police Department. I know it seems like a lot of money but in this day, this society, that's still not enough money. Director Steve Purtee said, Dr. Coleman, you're reminding me that, you know, the step program, the Salary Administration Plan was developed in 2016. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I don't like it, I've never liked it, so... Director Steve Purtee said, and unfortunately, we held those ranges at their current levels of 2016 all the way until 2021. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, well I guess to make a statement, God I hate that. Director Steve Purtee said, you're sounding good, go right ahead. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I think really seriously, Steve that you done a great job, especially since I've been on the council. And I think the mayor is backing up what you're doing. But I just always have to be honest with what I say to anybody. You know the step program to me is full of crap, it's always been full of crap. Because it doesn't really keep up with society, it doesn't keep up with the market of what's going on. I think the city, this city, as a whole is doing a great job and I think what you're doing now, even with the 3% raise, is a good thing. But I also have to be honest when people talk to me in the streets about, especially... I keep going back to Sanitation, you know, what if we didn't have what we got in Sanitation? What if we didn't have the technology in our Technology Department? Because those people can go someplace else to make a lot more money. So, I think the value of those people need to be exploited and talked about from the council standpoint and also the city standpoint. Because, I mean, what we're paying is peanuts, you know, compare to what you're doing. So that's not a negative. I'm pleased and glad that we're doing something. Because I did text the mayor and he did get back with me on it. A couple of departments that I think should get... I don't know which department so much far as individuals, but as for the whole department. Because once again, repeating it and I'll stop after this, when you look at what Sanitation does, you look at the crap the Permits Department have to take off some of these people that's out there, you know. I'm just glad we've got good personnel. Director Steve Purtee said, we agree. We certainly do, and I think that we've, kind of, had the best of both worlds for the last four years, relative to not only implementing the step program, but also implementing cost of living adjustments along with that. And doing that has helped tremendously in getting our salary ranges more competitive. And then when you layer on top of that the specific attention that we've given to JPD and JFD, relative to their market positioning, and retention efforts in those regards, and all of those things that kind of... Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I think you're doing pretty good, because this COLA here for that department, I won't call it department, they work pretty good to keep this cool. Director Steve Purtee said, and they're included as well.

So, what we'd like to do is just go ahead. This is just kind of an overview of appropriation funding that, again, is included in our budget packet. Again, this is primarily looking at the Capital Improvement budget, relative to the Capital Improvement fund, as well, which is 12a, 12b, and then the depreciation fund, which is page 13 in your binders. But, very specifically, the infrastructure improvement, there's a \$4,000,000 budget appropriation in this pack and then we dive into that detail here, relative to how that's broken down into several departments. \$700, 000 of that is specifically for our Parks master plan implementation. And Joe as you're pointing out, we are actually considering \$400,000 of that as being personnel cost, relative to implementing that plan, and based on the recommendation of that plan relative to head counts and how to maintain our parks. In a sense, we're, again, using both sides of that fund relative to know only Capital Improvements but also personnel cost as well. If you dig into the detail, in the Park's Administration plan, you'll see that \$400,000 as a line item represented in that budget. And that was, again, that was intentional and that was the purpose of that.

*In addition to that, we have what our recurring \$600,000 for parks infrastructure investment. And again, we kind of utilize your group, the City Council, as our board for appropriating that as we move forward, relative to specific contracts, programs, projects, those types of things.*

*Additionally, we've got \$1,000,000 in miscellaneous, streets and sidewalks combined. A \$1,000,000 for our pavement management program. Again, that's street overlays. And then, new to this budget, is \$500,000 miscellaneous drainage improvement. Again, getting our Engineering Department a little more opportunity to take care of some drainage needs that we were hopeful that in this 2024 budget cycle they would have been included in the Investment Bond, in ARPA funding, those types of things. But we did manage to work through the year, got us to this point, and now we're appropriating specifically for that again, as we had in the past. And then the remainder of this is \$500,000 for, excuse me, \$400,000 for railroad. Industrial railroad maintenance, which is an ongoing cost for us. And then our economic development as well, \$171,250 that allows the JEDC to assist in improving industrial sites.*

*Our Capital Improvement fund, again, this is page 12b. It has \$19,200,000 in total funding. We had activities during 2024 of \$12,000,000. Which was a net position after re-appropriating another \$500,000. And then this leaves us with a remaining balance of \$7,200,000. We're hopeful that we'll add another \$4,000,000, relative to the budget, that'll give us \$11,000,000 in funding. And then Jeremy and his department are continuing to seek and grant opportunities that will provide additional funding. Relative to that, we have a little A&P work as well, our Advertising and Promotion fund. They are contributing a small amount again for 2025 as well.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, Steve, I'm going to ask a few questions here. Director Steve Purtee said, sure. Chairman Joe Hafner said, they're really not questions but maybe some request. So, we talked about the \$4,000,000 appropriation, that's \$900,000 in general fund and \$3,100,000 in street fund. One thing I would like to see on this, and I know it won't be entirely possible to do right now, is just to see some more detail on how we think that \$300,000, on the Master Park Plan, what it's going to be spent on. The various parks improvements, you know, the new park. Just a little more detail for us.*

*And kind of the same thing on the items under the street fund. Like, do we have some streets identified for the \$500,000. One question I have is, where's the money for the Flint to Short Street, the side path to finish that connection, where's that budgeted? What streets are we looking at for the \$1,000,000, you know, just more details on those projects.*

*But then the bigger point I want to make here is, we've had several items in the Capital Improvement carryover fund that have been on there for two or three years. I'll just like some status updates on them. And we talk about them from time to time. You know, like the University Heights trail, you know, where does that stand? The EDA DRA Cares Act, there's \$90,000 on there that's been there for two or three years. I don't even remember what that is. At Craighead Forest, the 50-spot parking lot for \$381,000. To overlay back half of Loop Road \$167,000. Community centers gym floor touch-ups. Like Parker Park parking expanded, I know that was something approved just a few months ago, you know, after the pool got finished. But I would just like an update on... more detail on the budgeted projects for this year. But also, just a status update on the projects that have been out there on the Capital Improvement carry over fund for a couple of years. And I know things are, you know, some stuff's being done. I think on University Heights trail, as far as right-of-way requirements and things like that, but*

*just an update on those items would be appreciated by me, I think a few others I've talked to. Director Steve Purtee said, we'll work that up. That's a great... that will be a great presentation in itself, and we'll be glad to get that together.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, and I'll go ahead and say it now. In looking at the grants tab, some of this stuff is pretty obvious of what it is. Like University Heights trail \$200,000, but some of these other ones. It seems like time goes on and I forget what they were originally for. And I think the State Street for all to \$2,300,000 is out by Parker Park, but I don't remember entirely. Or it might be Johnson. Director Steve Purtee said, sure. Chairman Joe Hafner said, if there was just some way to give us, like, hey here's what these are for, that would be appreciated by me too. Because I'm getting older, and I tend to forget stuff.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I do have one question. Maybe this should be later, but where are we with the bond issue that we were going to apply for? Director Steve Purtee said, we specifically left it out of this budget, with the intention that it will be presented entirely by itself. You'll recall last year, we tried to do a combination, and it wasn't well received, so we would like to reserve that and bring that back very specific to the revenue bond issuance, the projects relating to that, the amendment of the budget that will be necessary. Is that going to be a reflection of trimming an expense or utilizing reserves that's when that revenue comes off of franchise fees. Those are all kind of dovetailed together and I think... Chairman Joe Hafner said, yeah and I think to there... I mean part of the issue was that was going to come back in front of the committee and council, late this year, but then the runoff happened and it through stuff back a little bit. But obviously, as we've mentioned before, some works being done by bond council, just some little due diligence items. So hopefully that will get back in front of Finance, I'm hoping January. Because I think there's several items that we need to get done that they can really help get done or get the ball moving on. I'm going to keep asking about them all the time.*

*Director Steve Purtee said, we agree. The final piece on this, depreciation fund. You can see we're appropriating about \$4,000,000, again, just to upgrade our fleet. The request was, is we would upgrade 78 vehicles, fleet units. That, as we indicated earlier, I think mayor indicated in his letter, all told, our requests bumped about \$10,000,000. Obviously, we had to pair that back a little bit. We've done a detailed analysis of all of the fixed assets reports for the department's conditions of their current fleet and their proposed replacement schedule, and we utilized that to determine that we'll appropriate for 37 fleet unit replacements. And 25 of these will be specific for JPD in upgrading their fleet, and then the remainder of that will be peppered throughout the other departments. You can see that detail on page 13 of the budget binder relative to that depreciation fund detail. The other thing on this page here. One item that was a particular note, relative to the equipment side of the depreciation fund, is our JFD was requesting a \$2,500,000 new fire ladder apparatus, fire truck, ladder truck. That's about a \$2,500,000 purchase. Through the normal program that they had, that's about a 40 plus month waiting period, to get that unit. So, we're just proposing that we just try to bite that apple in about four bites over the next four years. Unless they come up with a different program, that something that we'd have to approach differently and maybe fund a little sooner, but we think this is an appropriate way to do that. You'll see that the City Water and Light reimbursement of that is still their standard \$500,000 annually, which we very much appreciate and that's in the budget as well for this next budget cycle.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess the other question I have is, are we going to develop more fire stations that would add to this budget? Director Steve*

*Purtee said, I know that later in this proposal we'll see that the Fire Department is requesting \$50,000 to spend to receive a long-term strategic plan. My guess is that long-term strategic plan will be that planning document, similar to our Parks mater plan, that will assist us in determining what... I'm speaking for Chief Hamrick in that regards. I'm sure we'll have more information on that as we move forwards relative to that.*

*Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question. I hear your terms, so I just need layman's understanding. You said the \$2,500,000, 40 month waiting period, for the Fire Department truck, the apparatus. Director Steve Purtee said, right. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so you're saying appropriating so much each year for four years. Is that what you're saying? Director Steve Purtee said, rather than appropriate the full amount of those reserves today. They're just going to sit in the depreciation fund for three plus years. We would do it in increments of \$625,000 for the four budget cycles.*

*The last bullet on here is again just kind of detailing some of the equipment purchases that are for other departments that are in the depreciation fund. We did want to bring back around the finalization, if you will, of the ARPA fund. It will now be termed as a revenue replacement fund in our restricted fund category. The government allowed, and our Grants Department reported this three years ago, relative to when the federal government first initiated the opportunity to replace revenue up to \$10,000,000 for the larger cities. Which we qualified for that. They had the foresight of just going ahead and marking that in the government reporting and we've just been supporting that along the way. The other thing that we are allowed to do is take the interest earnings off of the original ARPA fund, and we are not, we haven't been reporting that as revenue. We only reported the revenue stream of the two distributions by the federal government. But we've been utilizing that to, again, support a rescue plan appropriation over the last several years through this body here and the City Council as well. So, tha*

**Filed**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

**Absent:** 1 - David McClain



# City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Text File

File Number: MIN-24:116

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**Agenda Date:**

**Version:** 1

**Status:** To Be Introduced

**In Control:** Finance & Administration Council Committee

**File Type:** Minutes

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING  
ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

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Tuesday, December 31, 2024

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 5 - Joe Hafner; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-24:114](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

**Attachments:** [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, we're going to change up the order somewhat.*

#### RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-24:171](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 616 EAST OAK, PARCEL #01-144191-17500, OWNED BY JOYCE SCARBOROUGH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1. 616 E Oak Notice of Violation.pdf](#)

[2. 616 E Oak Billing Request.pdf](#)

[3. 616 E Oak Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)

[4. 616 E Oak Council Notice.pdf](#)

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter

**be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:172](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH ROAD, PARCEL #01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1. 1617 Rich Road Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[2. 1617 Rich Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[3. 1617 Rich Rd Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[4. 1617 Rich Rd Council Notice.pdf](#)

*Councilmember Ann Williams said, I have a question. What is the... this has come up before, about the fact, when there's property owners that whose property is subject to liens multiple times. Not just the same an incident in the same property over and over, but different properties they own. They have been issued multiple liens. What's been determined as what we can do about that? I know Brian has come here with information on that, as far as research he's done on multiple cases. Is there some policy or is something... I feel like if they're multiple offenders they're using, I mean, if there's multiple offenses by the same property owner over and over, I feel as though they're using the city as a pretty cheap landscape service. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I mean, there's nothing in our ordinance that allows us to do anything about that other than to place a lien on the property. I'm not sure that there would be anything in state law that would allow us to. Councilmember Ann Williams said, is there anything that would prohibit us from doing it? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, what do you mean prohibit us? Councilmember Ann Williams said, prevent us from... City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I don't know. I would have to do some research on state law. Chairman Joe Hafner said, are you asking what action we can take? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, yeah. The only action that I know of under state law is to place a lien on the property, and I know the tax collector collects that lien. Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, and my understanding also is once we get to a certain threshold on that property then we may be able to refer it over to our land bank. But it's not cumulative on all the properties that they own. It has to be specific to that property. Councilmember Ann Williams said, ok. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I mean you could eventually do a foreclosure action like we have done with Ice House that's still on appeal. But the problem is it has to be in... I mean \$275 is not worth the cost involved in doing a foreclosure action. You'd have to get up to a pretty significant amount. Councilmember Ann Williams said, yeah, I feel like it's a burden on the city to provide, basically, a service to the property owner. And if the ability that they have, for example, mowing go for a long period of time, they end up maybe having it done two or three times a season by the city. And then that's pretty cheap, you know, to pay that amount throughout the whole mowing season to pay that, and if they're out of state, it's like, well that's not bad. Tony Thomas said, you know currently our cost, our lien reflects our cost. Which is what state law requires. So, if those cost escalate, based upon who's providing the mowing, then we're able to increase the penalty associated with those. We're in cost recovery, we're not into the business of, I guess you can say, making funding related to these. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, we're not assessing a fine against them. Councilmember Ann Williams said, right. And we're not doing it for the purpose of any revenue or income. We're*

doing it as a deterrent, and perhaps it needs to higher amount or some increased penalty for it to be an actual deterrent to those that are violating. Tony Thomas said, I think, as Carol indicated, there's not a fine or this is not a penalty. This is a cost recovery, so by state law we're only able to recover our cost. And I think we've done a much better job at documenting our cost and capturing the cost associated with each one of these transactions. Which is work on our side as well. So, we can recover cost, but it's not necessarily a penalty when you truly look at it. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, so could they, in addition, be given a ticket, yes, if you can find them. If you can find them to give them a ticket, you can give them a ticket and bring them into District Court. But if they're out of state and you can't force them into the state of Arkansas. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I imagine a lot of these are out of state.

Councilmember David McClain said, do we know how many or how much we've recovered? As far as how many... you don't have to give it to me know, Steve. You can shoot me an email. Oh, you already have that? Finance Department Director Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, you remind me councilmember, we did research this a couple of meetings back. We will end this calendar year with \$57,000 in mowing fee recoveries. Now this is not necessarily lien recovery, this is just us mowing and invoicing a property owner and then they paid. \$57,000, it was up about 20% over last year. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, and I do know that in years past the collectors did not collect this for us. They've since started telling people, you can't pay your personal property taxes until you pay this lien you owe the city. And so, if it's not a huge amount, a lot of people go ahead and pay that when they're having to pay their property taxes. Councilmember Ann Williams said, that was voluntary by the county collector, right? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, well, it was a debate. But yes, there is a state law that provides for them to do that. This collector has willingly been, yes, participating in that program.

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:173](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1620 CINDY CIRCLE, PARCEL #01-143242-27600, OWNED BY JAMES LEMAR DIXON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1. 1620 Cindy Cir Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[2. 1620 Cindy Cir Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[3. 1620 Cindy Cir Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[4. 1620 Cindy Cir Council Notice.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, now, it would be interesting for us to know kind of how many of these property owners are in state versus out-of-state. I mean, that would be a piece of good information to know. Councilmember Ann Williams said, perhaps, how many different properties one particular owner has spread out over, you know, if they have more than one property within the city. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I really think you have to look at them as individual properties though. You can't stack them up. Councilmember John Street said, I don't think so either. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, on some of them, if you look at the address that the notice of violation was sent



*to, you'll know whether they're in state or out-of-state. If we were able to find that on the tax record. Some of them may just say the property in question, but on some of them it will give an address that's different from the property that we mowed. So, you can look at the letters that are attached. That might answer some of your questions.*

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:174](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1809 MAGNOLIA ROAD , PARCEL #01-144054-01200, OWNED BY NEWCO LAND DEV LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:** [1. 1809 Magnolia Rd Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[2. 1809 Magnolia Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[3. 1809 Magnolia Rd Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[4. 1809 Magnolia Road Council Notice.pdf](#)

*City Attorney Carol Duncan said, this one is an example. If you look at the address it's Wooster, Arkansas.*

*Councilmember Brian Emison said, Mr. Chairman, the only thing I can think of, and this would be in a very limited basis that we can do this, is that if you had a bank that actually had a mortgage on a property. I mean in a lot of the mortgage and the promissory note language that you say that you will keep the property unencumbered from any additional liens or garnishments, or levees or anything else. So, we could technically petition the bank to see if they wanted to free up and unencumber their mortgage to be able to collect that and it be tossed onto their overall balance of their promissory note at the bank. Whether a bank necessarily wants to play ball with us or not. But it could be another way of collecting this instead of having to wait until the property sells. If we wanted to go down that road. Chairman Joe Hafner said, the bank may do that once, but if you have repeat offenders, it may be a one and done. Councilmember Brian Emison said, right. Chairman Joe Hafner said, I mean, that's a good thought.*

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:175](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2411 BONNIE JEAN PL, PARCEL #01-144333-14200, OWNED BY MARIA AGUILAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:**     [1. 2411 Bonnie Jean Place Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[2. 2411 Bonnie Jean Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[3. 2411 Bonnie Jean Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[4. 2411 Bonnie Jean Pl Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:176](#)     RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2612 CRAWFORD DRIVE, PARCEL #01-144273-02300, OWNED BY RANDY & ALEY CRAWFORD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:**     Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:**     [1. 2612 Crawford Dr Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[2. 2612 Crawford Dr Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[3. 2612 Crawford Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[4. 2612 Crawford Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:177](#)     RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3119 RHONDA, PARCEL #01-144312-07100, OWNED BY LEIGH ANN ROBINSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:**     Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:**     [1. 3119 Rhonda Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
[2. 3119 Rhonda Billing Request.pdf](#)  
[3. 3119 Rhonda Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
[4. 3119 Rhonda Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:178](#)     RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3500 FAIRVIEW, PARCEL #01-144281-43900, OWNED BY BRAYDEN L & BEHTANY PAIGE MOHLKE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Sponsors:**     Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:**     [1. 3500 Fairview Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [2. 3500 Fairview Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [3. 3500 Fairview Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [4. 3500 Fairview Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:179](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3717 GLITTERMAN DRIVE, PARCEL #01-144343-23200, OWNED BY NEXPOINT SFR SPE 2 LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

**Sponsors:**        Code Enforcement and Finance

**Attachments:**     [1. 3717 Glitterman Dr Notice of Violation.pdf](#)  
                              [2. 3717 Glitterman Dr Billing Request.pdf](#)  
                              [3. 3717 Glitterman Dr Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)  
                              [4. 3717 Glitterman Dr Council Notice.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:182](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH JAIL FEES BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

**Sponsors:**        Mayor's Office, Police Department and Finance

**Attachments:**     [INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT CITIES AND CRAIGHEAD COUNT](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, I guess my first question on this is have we reviewed enough information from the county that we feel like this is a reasonable rate for the prisoners that we take out there? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, yes, and Tony and Brian and Chief and I, you know, over the last year we had re-evaluated, and obviously in last year's budget we saw a reflection off of that evaluation. This is current evaluation; we met with Marvin two weeks ago and all the mayors agreed upon that we felt that the fees at that point in time. Now, again, these are set fees and if they're not that, then will be adjusted accordingly by the county should they not anticipate these fees, but that's relevance of \$2,200,000 the year before and which is down from the previous assessment.*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, I know we have one of the Justices of the Peace here, so please come and state your name and address for the record please. Garrett Barnes, 518 W. Jefferson Avenue, approached the podium and said, I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and have a happy New Year. Mayor Copenhaver, you mentioned that the other cities as mayors were involved in those talks a couple of weeks ago. This is the*

*first inner local agreement with the county and the city that I'm aware of, but this next year there may be others being written at the moment in those respective cities throughout Craighead County. As a JP that serves a district entirely within the city limits of Jonesboro. My foremost priority is that the city of Jonesboro is dealt a proportionate hand when it comes to the jail or anything else that deals with inner governmentally with the city of Jonesboro. Do you all have full confidence that this fee structure is proportionate to that of the other cities within Craighead County? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, that's what it was presented to us. Garrett Barnes said, ok. How could you... could you give me a quick rundown on how this was calculated? Was it based on the perceived projected number of occupants? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, you would know as a JP. Y'all deal with that. Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas approached the podium and said, you know, consistent with a number of other agreements that we have with the county and outside entities in the city, this agreement is based upon the previous occupancy in the jail. They have ramped up their ability to give us an accurate head count and data related to who's housed at the detention center, and then based upon... it's not a fiscal year thing, but I'm going to say based upon. for instance, October to October, so we are looking at a 12-month period. We're looking at that head count, and we're getting an average number from the previous year. And I think that's consistent with what we do for 9-1-1. That's consistent for some of the other inner local agreements that we have currently with the county.*

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:183](#)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**Sponsors:** Finance and Mayor's Office

**Attachments:** [2025 Budget Draft.pdf](#)

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, I'm not going to ask Steve to go through the whole presentation that he did yesterday. We know that there's some additional detail for capital improvement and projects such as that that we've requested, so hopefully we have those pretty soon.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, Steve, I watched y'all yesterday, and so I had a question. I know we're getting ready to add quite a few positions. I think it's like 26. Finance Department Director Steve Purtee approached the podium and said, 25 net. Councilmember David McClain said, so one of the things that you said was that we remain flat. Our revenue remained flat for 2024. So, going forward, what's our plan around... if everything is going to remain flat, next year the year after, are we going to continue... do you think we'll continue to add? Are we going to look at adding 25 more next year? I mean, because if you start thinking about it, that's going to be a lot of people, I mean a lot of money. If things are remaining flat. Director Steve Purtee said, the budget projection, Councilmember McClain, you know, we projected 3.7% increase in sales tax revenues for the 2024 budget. It came in basically flat. We were off the year over year target by three tenths of 1%, about \$118,000. So that leaves us about \$1,500,000 shy of that budget projection. We really don't have any factors, otherwise,*

*that would indicate that that won't rebound. It rebounded in a couple months of the year. For that reason, we projected those year over year budgets to be flat at the current rates. That's why you'll see in the presentation later on that, basically, when you do a comparison of previous budget for sales tax, city, county, and state aid, all of those have zero changes year over year budget.*

*As we talked about the November financials, will be released tomorrow. Basically, they are even as far as surplus relative to revenues versus expenses. Where we were a little bit under our budget projections in revenue, we are better than our budget projections for expenses. So, the net of that is zero. In theory, for the first 11 months we are exactly on budget in that surplus. Moving forward, certainly, as we did every month this year, we monitor sales tax results and those distributions making sure that we see what that activity is. And then with that, we would make the necessary adjustments relative to what it takes to balance that if it becomes unbearable. Again, we remind ourselves that we have about, call it \$22,000,000, in unappropriated reserves. We don't want to spend that on budget short falls, but certainly, that's probably what it's there for as well. That as well as projects.*

*Councilmember David McClain said, have we thought about, and this is just an exercise, I don't know if we've ever gone through as a city, but maybe having an outside consultant come in and look at positions we have and find if we have any duplicates? Where maybe we can either change a role or... just so we don't have, maybe, people doing the same thing. Director Steve Purtee said, specifically in this budget cycle, there are 25 net positions. We indicated that half of those are implementing our Master Parks Plan. And then roughly the other half is relative to key departments that have seen growth in activities, relative to equipment available for routing increases for Jets, such as that. And then our E911 services. So, when you add those two by themselves together that pretty much takes care of the net increase in head count.*

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, if I can, and then let me interject here a little bit as well. Of course, in 2016 we re-evaluated, you as council re-evaluated, positions for everybody in the city hall. With that, what we have done, and we've done it every year, but concurrently, we are looking at the first quarter of this year, re-evaluating our departments to streamline their departments. So, in other words, coordinate if an individual can do two jobs versus one. That's what we're going to be doing. So, the first quarter of this year, when it comes to all departments, all of the department heads have been challenged by me. We're going to be re-evaluating their department's structure, okay? Because, obviously, we hope that we have the continued increase in revenues, but if we don't have that, this is one way to do that. Now, the request was for over almost 60 positions. We narrowed it down to 25 net, from the 27, I think, we totally did, and we eliminated two other positions. But, in our entire footprint, description of name, job titles and descriptions, Dewayne is re-evaluating. We're going to be getting rid of many positions that we have that we're not filling, okay? And so, we're going to streamline that, but we're going to stay on top of it as we do every month. It's hard for us to predict the future, but we anticipate that our revenue stream will be around the 3.8% that we had last year. That's where we're budgeting for this year, okay?*

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, I'll just add that I do like the fact that we're... we've always talked about we have a lot of plans, and we don't implement them, they just go on a shelf. So, I do like the idea that we're implementing items from the Master Parks Plan. I think you got to have the personnel in place before you can start expanding the services that the parks offer. I strongly support those editions. I mean, the E911*

center, I mean, that's long overdue. And then the expansion of the Jets is something that we've talked about for a while. Steve said those take up 23 positions right there, so. I think Councilmember McClain raises a great point, that we always have to keep in mind our revenue and watch our current expenses. You can't just keep growing with the same revenue base. But I think in this case that these are key positions that make a lot of sense, and I strongly support them.

Councilmember David McClain said, and if I could ask one more question. I'm going to follow up with the park rangers. I know we talked about the park rangers. Are they there to arrest somebody if something takes place? Can they arrest somebody? Or is it more, I'm getting your information and I'm calling the police? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, they can't arrest anybody for sure, because they're not going to be law enforcement. We will have to work on an ordinance that will come to council to amend our ordinances to provide what authority they do have. So, once it's determined who they're going to report to directly, we'll know more about what they can do. I mean, I think there's a way to pass an ordinance that gives them some authority to write a ticket. Sort of like Code Enforcement has the authority to write a ticket. We just need to look at what exactly we want them to have the authority to do, and then draft an ordinance that provides for that authority. That will have to happen before they can be put in place. Councilmember David McClain said, ok got it. So, it's up to us if we want them to be law enforcement? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, well, if you want them to be law enforcement it's going to cost you more money, because they're civilian employees right now. But they can be more like Code Enforcement, I mean not exactly Code Enforcement. But similar to Code Enforcement, where we give them some authority under our code, that they can either write a ticket or ask someone to leave the park, or whatever it is we want them to be able to do to enforce park rules some way. They will be limited to park rules, I would think. But we just need to draft something that kind of puts those guidelines in place. And if they are allowed to write a ticket, we would also want to set what we want that fine to be on that ticket to give the court some guidance. So, that would all come back to council, I would assume. Pretty early in the year.

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

[RES-24:184](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE CITY SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN BY INCLUDING UPDATED PAY RANGES, JOB TITLES AND GRADES

**Sponsors:** Finance and Mayor's Office

**Attachments:** [Revised Pay Grades & Salaries effective January 2025.pdf](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, so, just to make sure I understand this correctly. This adds the new positions such as the park rangers, and it also reflects the 3% increase in pay for either the 2% step, 1% COLA or the 3% COLA.

**A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman

**5. PENDING ITEMS**

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Chairman Joe Hafner said, as we close the last meeting of 2024, let's look forward to a very productive and safe 2025, and everybody be safe tonight.*

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by David McClain, seconded by Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

**Aye:** 4 - Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

**Absent:** 2 - Charles Coleman and Anthony Coleman



# City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Text File

**File Number: RES-25:003**

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**Agenda Date:**

**Version: 1**

**Status:** To Be Introduced

**In Control:** Finance & Administration Council Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro has been awarded \$39,180 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); and  
WHEREAS, the grant requires zero local match; and  
WHEREAS, grant funds will be used to purchase laptop computers, printers and scanners for Jonesboro Police Department vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: The City of Jonesboro accepts grant funds to purchase laptop computers, printers and scanners for Jonesboro Police Department vehicles.

SECTION 2: The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized by the City Council for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, to execute all necessary documents to accept the grant.

SECTION 3: The Grants and Community Development Department is hereby authorized by the City Council to submit all necessary documents for this grant.





# City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Text File

**File Number: RES-25:004**

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**Agenda Date:**

**Version: 1**

**Status:** To Be Introduced

**In Control:** Finance & Administration Council Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2025 SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH GRANT FROM THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas recognizes the importance of providing public recreational facilities for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro recently adopted a Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan that prioritizes capital investments to ensure park spaces are inclusive for residents of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas seeks grant funding from the Blue and You Foundation in the amount of \$209,318 to be utilized in the construction and installation of new inclusive playground equipment at the University Lions Playground at Northside Park; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS THAT:

SECTION 1: The Jonesboro City Council supports the submission of the FY2025 Social Determinants of Health Grant from the Blue and You Foundation.

SECTION 2: The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized by the City Council for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas to execute all necessary documents to effectuate the application.

SECTION 3: The Grants and Community Development Department is hereby authorized by the City Council for the City of Jonesboro to submit all necessary documents for this grant.

SECTION 4: The City Council does hereby authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute all agreements and contracts regarding any future grant award.



# City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Text File

**File Number: RES-25:008**

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**Agenda Date:**

**Version: 1**

**Status:** To Be Introduced

**In Control:** Finance & Administration Council Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO-YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE SANITATION AUTOMATED TRUCKS, ONE FRONT LOAD SANITATION TRUCK AND ONE REAR LOAD SANITATION TRUCK

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro continues to see a need and desires to maintain the current rotation of heavy equipment for use in the Sanitation Department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas passed the 2025 Budget in RES-24:183, which included the lease obligations for three side load Sanitation trucks, one rear load Sanitation truck, and one front load Sanitation truck; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas desires to enter a two-year lease contract with Arvest Bank for three Mack Automated Side Load Trucks, one Mack Front Load Truck and one Freightliner Rear Load Truck from River City Hydraulics, Inc. The financing proposal for the trucks is attached hereto.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: The Mayor, Harold Copenhaver and City Clerk, April Leggett, are hereby authorized by the City Council for the City of Jonesboro to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the agreement.



January 15, 2024

City of Jonesboro,

This is the financing proposal for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. This is for your consideration and is a firm quote subject to credit approval.

Customer: City of Jonesboro  
Equipment: Sanitation Trucks  
Tax-Exempt Rate: 4.89%  
Expiration date: March 15, 2025

Truck	Price/Fin Amt	Term	Payment
2025 Mack ASL (3 units)	\$426,049.77	25 months	8,797
2025 Mack FEL	\$408,650.02	25 months	8,234
2025 RL	\$241,518.52	25 months	5,135

With this proposal there are no processing fee and no prepayment penalty.

The financing will be 24 monthly payments as estimated above with a buy back payment due on the 25<sup>th</sup> month of (FEL 245,000, ASL 250,000 (per unit), REL 138,000,) there are ASL

This is a "triple Net Lease" where the borrower is responsible of license & tax, maintenance, and Insurance.

Financing documentations will be provided by Arvest Bank and will be subject to review and approval by Arvest Bank.

Sincerely,

Joey Parker

Arvest Bank  
Vice President/Commercial Lender  
500 Broadway Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
Cell: 501-837-9776  
[jparker5@arvest.com](mailto:jparker5@arvest.com)





# City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Text File

File Number: RES-25:009

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**Agenda Date:**

**Version:** 1

**Status:** To Be Introduced

**In Control:** Finance & Administration Council Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

### A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF POLICE PACKAGE CHEVROLET TAHOES AND UPFITTING EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, Resolution 24-183 approved the FY2025 Budget which includes allocations for the purchase of public safety vehicles and associated equipment, including 2 police package Chevrolet Tahoes; and

WHEREAS, the State Procurement Program did not award a contract for the State Bid priced Chevrolet Tahoes; and

WHEREAS, thorough research has been conducted by police administration and the vehicles identified are priced fairly in comparison to market.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS THAT:

SECTION 1: City Council approves the purchase of 2 Chevrolet Tahoe vehicles and associated equipment from Superior Auto Group of Siloam Springs, AR for \$64,980.12 each.

SECTION 2: The City Council in accordance with the terms of A.C.A Section 14-58-303 hereby waive the requirement of competitive bidding and direct the purchasing agent to purchase the above-described vehicles and equipment for the price set forth above.

# Superior

Automotive Group

SOLD TO: CITY OF JONESBORO  
 ADDRESS 300 S CHURCH  
 JONESBORO AR 72403

No.

DATE 01/20/2025

PHONE

	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	MODEL OR SERIES	YEAR	STOCK NO.	SERIAL NO.
CAR SOLD	CHEVROLET	UV	BLACK	TAHOE	2024	V316539	1GNSKLED3RR316539
TRADE-IN							
TRADE-IN							
TRADE-IN							

CUST # 191885	PRICE OF CAR OR TRUCK	63730.12
	ACC.	N/A
	MISC.	N/A
		N/A
	TAX-LICENSE-TITLE & TRANSFER	N/A
	VEHICLE SERVICE CONTRACT	N/A
	TOTAL CASH DELIVERED PRICE	63730.12
	FINANCE CHARGES	N/A
	INSURANCE CHARGES (COLL & COMP)	N/A
	CREDIT LIFE	N/A
	A & H INS.	N/A
	TOTAL DELIVERED PRICE	63730.12
	ACCT/REC BAL.	
	CASH ON DEPOSIT	N/A
	CASH PAID ON DELIVERY	N/A
	TRADE IN \$	N/A
	LESS BALANCE OWED \$	N/A
	TO	N/A
		N/A
	# N/A PAYMENTS @ \$ 63730.12	63730.12
	TOTAL CREDITS	N/A
	SOLD BY JEFFERY A LEE	



  

To Avoid Penalty  
 Sales Tax Must Be Paid  
 or Transfer Made Within  
 30 Days From Date of Sale

SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE  
 \*A SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE IS NOT AN OFFICIAL FEE. A SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW BUT MAY BE CHARGED TO THE CUSTOMER FOR PERFORMING SERVICES AND HANDLING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CLOSING OF A SALE OR LEASE. THE SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE MAY RESULT IN A PROFIT TO THE DEALER. THE SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE PAYMENT FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS. THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BY LAW.\*

**DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES**

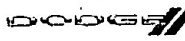
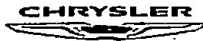
Any warranties on the products sold hereby are those made by the manufacturer(s) of those products. The above named Dealership, hereby expressly disclaims all warranties, either expressed or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, and the said dealership neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to assume for it any liability in connection with the sale of said products.

By  AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE  PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE

# SUPERIOR

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Fleet and Commercial Sales



Attn: JONESBORO PD

1/20/2025

JV

Vehicle

Parts only  
Emergency Equipment Parts

Black Tahoe

Qty	Description	Price Total
1	HAVIS PKG-VSX-1800-TAH-PM VSX CONSOLE W CUPHOLDER	\$ 738.83
1	C-APW-1390 13" 9" DEEP ACC POCKET	\$ 37.13
1	C-ARM-1001 ARM REST	\$ 214.65
1	C-AP-0645-L LOCKING ACCESSORY POCKET	\$ 121.50
1	STINGER 75430	\$ 189.99
1	FST/RST INNER EDGE KIT AND C399 C399K6 CCTL7 CV2V SA315P	\$ 3,050.00
1	2ND SA315P SPEAKER	\$ 258.06
1	SAK70 SPEAKER BRKT	\$ 32.34
1	CEXAMP EXT AMP	\$ 235.62
6	ION GRILL LIGHTS	\$ 660.00
2	LINSV2B MIRROR LIGHTS W BRKT	\$ 420.00
1	HG2 BW 62 IN RUNNING BOARD LIGHTS	\$ 685.00
2	ION 1/4 WINDOW LIGHTS	\$ 220.00
1	REAR PILLAR LIGHTS RPWS54	\$ 1,100.00
		\$ -
		\$ -

Included in Invoice Total PARTS \$ 7,963.12

Jeremy Mcallister/John Vest  
Superior Automotive Group  
Fleet and Upfitting  
304 S Lincoln St  
Lowell AR 72745  
Cell: JM: 479-616-4348 JV 479-549-8335

Sign: X \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Superior

Automotive Group

SOLD TO: CITY OF JONESBORO  
 ADDRESS 300 S CHURCH  
 JONESBORO AR 72403

No.

DATE 01/20/2025

PHONE

	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	MODEL OR SERIES	YEAR	STOCK NO.	SERIAL NO.
CAR SOLD	CHEVROLET	UV	SUMMIT WHITE	TAHOE	2024	V398756	1GNSKLED3RR398756
TRADE-IN							
TRADE-IN							
TRADE-IN							

CUST # 191885

PRICE OF CAR OR TRUCK 66230.12

ACC. N/A

MISC. N/A

N/A

TAX-LICENSE -TITLE &amp; TRANSFER N/A

VEHICLE SERVICE CONTRACT N/A

TOTAL CASH DELIVERED PRICE 66230.12

FINANCE CHARGES N/A

INSURANCE CHARGES (COLL &amp; COMP) N/A

CREDIT LIFE N/A

A &amp; H INS. N/A

TOTAL DELIVERED PRICE 66230.12

ACCT/REC BAL.

CASH ON DEPOSIT N/A

CASH PAID ON DELIVERY N/A

TRADE IN \$ N/A

LESS BALANCE OWED \$ N/A

TO N/A

N/A

# N/A PAYMENTS @ \$ 66230.12 66230.12

TOTAL CREDITS N/A

SOLD BY JEFFERY A LEE

To Avoid Penalty

Sales Tax Must Be Paid

or Transfer Made Within

30 Days From Date of Sale

## SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE

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## DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

Any warranties on the products sold hereby are those made by the manufacturer(s) of those products. The above named Dealership, hereby expressly disclaims all warranties, either expressed or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, and the said dealership neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to assume for it any liability in connection with the sale of said products.

By

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

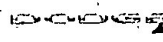
PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE

15346\*1\*FI

# SUPERIOR

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Fleet and Commercial Sales



Attn: JONESBORO PD

1/17/2025

JV

## Vehicle

### 2024 TAHOE CHIEF VEHICLE Emergency Equipment Upfit

*white tahoe up fit.*

Qty	Description	Price Total
1	HAVIS PKG-VSX-1800-TAH-PM VSX CONSOLE W CUPHOLDER	\$ 738.83
1	C-APW-1390 13" 9" DEEP ACC POCKET	\$ 37.13
1	C-ARM-1001 ARM REST	\$ 214.65
1	C-AP-0645-L LOCKING ACCESSORY POCKET	\$ 121.50
1	STINGER 75430	\$ 189.99
1	FST/RST INNER EDGE KIT AND C399 C399K6 CCTL7 CV2V SA315P	\$ 3,050.00
1	2ND SA315P SPEAKER	\$ 258.06
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1	CEXAMP EXT AMP	\$ 235.62
6	ION GRILL LIGHTS	\$ 660.00
2	LINSV2B MIRROR LIGHTS W BRKT	\$ 420.00
1	HG2 BW 62 IN RUNNING BOARD LIGHTS	\$ 685.00
2	ION 1/4 WINDOW LIGHTS	\$ 220.00
1	REAR PILLAR LIGHTS RPWSS4	\$ 1,100.00
1	FUSE BLOCK	\$ 25.00
		\$ -
		\$ -
	Freight	\$ 150.00
		\$ -
	Shop Supplies	\$ 125.00
		\$ -
	Installation Labor	\$ 2,200.00

*Included in invoice*

Total Upfit \$ 10,463.12

Jeremy Mcallister/John Vest  
Superior Automotive Group  
Fleet and Upfitting  
304 S Lincoln St  
Lowell AR 72745  
Cell: JM 479-616-4348 JV 479-549-8335

Sign: X \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_