would like to give a 2% increase. Ms. Franks presented 2025 budget estimates with a brief overview of balances in different funds. Due to the short timeline between meetings, the projections include WIS recommendations with a 3% for other employees. She also explained the potential impact to the county regarding salary changes based on the recommendation of WIS midpoints, department requests, and personnel committee. Ms. Franks provided council with a copy of Ordinance 2016-11 which lays out specific steps regarding new position requests or amending existing positions. She asked the county to adhere or revise the ordinance moving forward. Mr. Minnich added he believed due to all the changes that have been made to the pay scale should be reviewed and bring divided levels within each classification back together. Council took no action on any of these matters.

Ms. Franks asked for direction on advertising an additional appropriation for the Ritter Strategic Services phase 2 study for the countywide radio project in the amount of \$178,500. While the council had discussed the project being paid for out of ARP monies, the first study was paid out of Economic Development Windfarm. Mrs. Bracy believed ARP funds would be best due to timeframe. Cindy Bracy made motion to pay for the Ritter Strategic Services phase 2 from ARP funds. Jeanne Houchins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further business for the council Faron Parr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave Haines seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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ATTEST: JAY COUNTY AUDITOR	

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024
The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:30 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County County Courthouse. Attending was Harold Towell, Faron Parr, Jeanne Houchins, Cindy Bracy, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Matt Minnich, presiding. Randy May and Dave Haines were absent. Dave Haines entered the meeting during Emergency Management.

Auditor- Emily Franks, auditor, presented her budget for 2025. The personnel committee had previously recommended the addition of another full-time deputy in her office. After discussion in her office, asked to amend her budget to eliminate the new full-time position and leave the \$30,000 in clerical. She is requesting the increase in her part time clerical from 3 days a week to 4 days a week and would like to see the position make the same as a COMOT A for 2025 of \$17.84 as the employee will take on more responsibility. Jeanne Houchins made a motion to approve the increase to 4 days a week at the COMOT A full time rate. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer- Jonelle Foreman, first deputy treasurer, was present for any questions. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Recorder- No one was present for the recorder's office. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Sheriff- Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, presented his 2025 budget. The significant changes or discussions.

Sheriff- Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, presented his 2025 budget. The significant changes were to eliminate cooks and to hire a company to handle all imnate meals. There is no firm contract yet, but he has estimates for the change. Mr. Newton also noted an increase of \$82,500 to add a second shift nurse to their quality correctional contract. A new transport van for \$85,000 and an additional \$12,000 to outfit was requested in addition to the two new deputy vehicles for 2025. Mr. Newton asked the vehicle be lowered to \$190,000. Jeanne Houchin made a motion to lower the request of \$245,000 to \$200,000 in 1170 for 2025. Faron Parr seconded the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Coroner- Brayden Fields, deputy Coroner, came to present their 2025 budget. He asked the price of calls be increased from \$250 to \$200. Mr. Fields explained the increase to the equipment account will be for a new computer and a contract with a recording company to document their nor the case moving to the formatio

Assessor- Robin Alberson, assessor, presented her 2025 budget. She explained the only significant increase was in her Reassessment budget for her fly over aerial that is completed every other year.

Prosecutor- Wes Schemenaur, prosecutor, presented his budget for 2025. The only significant change was to the Deferral fund related to the cell phone account. The cost increased from \$99 a month to \$149.

Extension Office- Allison Keen, director, presented her 2025 budget. There were no significant changes or discussions.

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Cindy Bracy suggested there should be nothing budgeted out of EDIT (LIT- Economic Development 1112) until next year. She noted the two incoming commissioners should make the decision after the first of the year through the additional appropriation process. Mr. Aker questioned what she was not in favor of specifically. Mrs. Bracy stated she was not in favor of the decision being made by two people and not being made in the way it was designated and set up. She added the county had not been following the ordinances and requested a hard reset down to zero. Following the response, Cindy Bracy made a motion to allocate no money for the LIT Economic Development. Harold Towell seconded the motion with Faron Parr and Jeanne Houchins voting against the motion. Math Minnich voted for the motion to break the tie, and the motion passed by majority vote. She noted

Courthouse- No one was present for the courthouse department. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Superior Court- No one was present from Superior Court. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Public Defender- Brandon Murphy, chief public defender, presented his amended budget for 2025 including the removal of one public defender and the increase above state minimum for the other public defenders.

Circuit Court- No one was present from Circuit Court. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Probation Department- No one was present for the Probation Department. There were no significant changes for discussions.

Emergency Management- Samantha Rhodehamel, director, presented her 2025 budget. The largest change was the increase of administrative assistant from COMOT A to COMOT B for 2025. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Council member, Dave Haines entered the meeting during Emergency Management's presentation.

Cemetery- No one was present for the cemetery department. There were no significant changes or discussions. **Retirement Center-** Cindy Bracy, JCCL ABOD President, explained there were very few changes to the budget aside from the removal of the other compensation account and wages for a financial coordinator. Those amounts were moved to fund a full-time director. They are anticipating the meals budget could decrease in the future through the use of Second Harvest, but the process has been slow moving. Lastly, after a discussion with the sheriff, they will look into the meal contract with the jail as a possibility. **Community Corrections-** No one was present for the Community Corrections department. There were no significant changes or

Community Corrections-discussions.

Highway- Robert Howell, Superintendent and Stephanie Klarer- Asst. Superintendent, came to present their 2025 budget. They explained they are going with the 3% increase in wages opposed to the original request of 5% and are requesting a third heavy equipment operator. Mr. Howell noted the Cum Bridge budget had increased as the Community Crossings grant that has been used for paving will go towards bridge projects. Mr. Minnich questioned if the match portion came out of the road paving account. Ms. Klarer stated they take it out of the account if needed. Mr. Howell added he would like to leave the money in the paving account to use for a paving project over a bridge. Mr. Parr questioned if the amount budgeted for calcium chloride would be enough for the year. Ms. Klarer explained they did spend less since the landowner has to pay for the full application. However, they might be close on the amount budgeted if their numbers increased. Mrs. Bracy questioned what the department was renting for the \$50,000 equipment rental. Mr. Howell informed them the account as used to rent a roller during road conversion. Mr. Minnich thanked the department for their work this year as he saw less pitch coming through.

JEMS- Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, was there to present his 2025 budget. Mr. Barnett noted an increase of building maintenance from \$5,000 to \$11,000 for 2025 to replace a 17-year-old furnace in the Portland base. Mrs. Bracy questioned where the department was collecting. Mr. Barnett stated they were collecting \$600,000 roughly 180 days out. The department is utilizing MedBill out of Indianapolis for claims.

Clerk- Jon Eads, clerk presented his 2025 budget. He has requested a \$200 increase in travel/mileage. There were no significant changes or discussions.

Surveyor- Brad Daniels, surveyor, came to the present his 2025 budget. There were no significant changes or discussions. **Health-** Health Butz, health environmentalist/supervisor, presented his 2025 budget. He explained the 1161 Health First Budget only received 50% of the funding for 2024 but will receive 100%, in 2025 of \$445,936. This included an addition of extra time for vital records assistant clerk, a new part time health environmentalist, and an increase to the school health liaison. He explained some of the programs including fall prevention and tobacco cessation supplies. The grant allows them to save up to 10% per year for future purchases. Mr. Butz would like to use the money for a new building or rental if they find adequate space.

Emily Franks, auditor, suggested the council look at increasing the LIT_ Public Safety rate in order to offset the cost of the three correction officers for the jail. She will update the figures based on the review and send them back out to the council members.

With no further business for the council Jeanne Houchins and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave Haines seconded the motion

ATTEST: JAY COUNTY AUDITOR	Hayen Storeday	Emply Brown Bay	Mar Mar	HAYE Toroll
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SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

The Jay Council met in session on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County County Courthouse. Attending was Harold Towell, Faron Parr, Cindy Bracy, Dave Haines, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Matt Minnich, presiding. Randy May and Jeanne Houchins were absent. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the minutes from August 14, 2024. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

COUNTY GENERAL

Superior Cover r Stipend t Appointed Doctors/Psychiatris

Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the two additional appropriations from county general. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIT- PUBLIC SAFETY
1170-005-40-0014 Vehicles

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, explained to the council the money will be used to replace the wrecked 2021 Dodge Durango. made a motion to approve the LIT Public Safety. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote Dave Haines

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

\$4,938.40 Stephanie Klarer, Asst Superintendent/ERC, explained the additional appropriation was to cover the increase of her new position. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional from the highway department. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote, with Harold Towell voting against the motion.

DOH SHERIFF GRANT

Medical & Hospital Medical & Hospital

8125-001-20-0040

ARP-2021 CLFRF 8950-001-30-0148 Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, explained the grant was to buy computer and workstation for their nurse. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the additional appropriations for DOH Sheriff Grant. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote

The proposed additional appropriation for ARP was for the second phase study of the Ritter Strategic Radio Study. Harold Towell questioned the sheriff on what was included in phase two. Mr. Newton confirmed it was for the inventory and pricing of the necessary equipment. Samantha Rhodehamel, EMA director, provided a written update to the council which was read aloud by Cindy Bracy. They plan to have the inventory portion wrapped up by the end of the week. Once inventory is complete, they will have a better idea on the price of radios. Ritter has obtained the required information from IPSC and Motorola and hope to have that completed in the next two weeks. Once mapping is complete, they will know what is needed related to towers and infrastructure for pricing. Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, stressed again the importance of getting a new system. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for Professional services of \$178,500. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

8950-001-30-0148 Professional Services (REA)

The proposed additional appropriation was to pay for the most recent invoice to Rundell Ernstberger & Associates (REA) related to the 68-acre development. Harold Towell questioned if there were anything detailing the progress other than the invoice provided for payment. He also asked if anyone had seen anything on the environmental studies completed. No council member responded they had received any information. Emily Franks, auditor, explained the invoice only lists which phase it comes out of and the total invoice was towards phase one, conceptual design which is now 83.73 percent complete.

Cindy Bracy stated she was tired of spending the money with only getting pretty pictures and is discovering that the county needs to do a lot to get it done. She expressed concern with finding a developer and wondering if they would then still draw up their own plan. Faron Parr questioned what she would like to do different. Cindy Bracy stated she would like to stop spending money on the design until there is a developer on the project. Mr. Parr believed the original idea was to create a design to attract a developer to the project. Harold Towell again noted the lack of communication with the council regarding the project citing not seeing a copy of the completed environmental survey. Matt Minnich offered to reach out to the commissioners to see if there is more information to share with the council as there will be more invoices in the future. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for REA professional Services. Dave Haines seconded the motion. Harold Towell and Cindy Bracy opposed the motion. Matt Minnich, president, voted for the motion to maintain the signed contract and the motion passed by majority vote

1000-011-10-0016 Extension Office (Clerical) to 1000-011-10-0015 (Wages- First Secretary) \$2,469.91 1000-011-10-0042 Extension Office (Wages- 2nd Secretary) to 1000-011-10-0015 (Wages- First Secretary) \$1,516.50 Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the two transfers from the extension office. Faron Parr seconded the motion a and the motion passed

1000-062-10-0055 Elections (Wages- Precinct Board) to 1000-062-10-0146 (Wages- Clerk Election Stipend) \$2500.00 Faron Parr made a motion to approve the transfer for elections. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous

1000-068-10-0018 Co. General Commissioners (Employer PERF) to 1000-068-30-0045 (Office Rent) \$2,700. 1000-622-10-0133 Co General Retirement Center (Financial Coor) to 1000-622-10-0081 (Wages- Co Home Superintendent) \$7,000. Dave Haines made a motion to approve the two additional appropriations. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with Harold Towell voting against the motion.

1170-005-10-0114 LIT Public Safety (Wages-Jailers) to 1170-005-40-0014 (Vehicles) for \$9,685. The transfer will be used to cover the purchase and outfitting of the recently wrecked car during the July pursuit. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the transfer in LIT Public Safety. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

1176-001-10-0074 Highway (Wages- Highway Clerk) to 1176-001-10-0147 (Wages- Asst. Superintendent/ERC) \$15,142.40. The transfi is to fund the new position created in August 2024. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the transfer. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Harold Towell abstaining. The transfer

SUN CHIEF SOLAR

Spencer Micali, Associate Project Manager and Zach Lasek, project manager, both from Scout Clean Energy, returned to the council for approval of an amended EDA which includes an amended SB-1. The analysis from PJM has been completed and they are waiting for the results to be published, tentatively September 15, 2024. In the current economic development agreement, the project is expected to begin by December 31, 2024 and be completed by December 31, 2025. Due to delays, they amended the SB-1 to start construction no later than December 31, 2026, and a completion date of no later than December 31, 2027. The timeline extension in the EDA does go beyond the proposed project schedule, beginning construction in the summer 2025 and reaching commercial operations by the summer 2026, but allows for any future unanticipated delays. The extension will ensure that this will be the only amendment.

The original economic development agreement had the first payment due after commercial operation. The new EDA will have the first payment due six months after the start of construction with no change for their current 10-year declining abatement with the additional megawatt payment. However, the EDA included amended SB-1 date changes, professional fees not to exceed \$10,000 and a change of notice of notice payments, The proposed next steps, they will take it to the commissioners on September 23, and go through the Planning Commission to get a formal notice in the mail to landowners and adjacent landowners. Harold Towell asked what would happen if the amendment was not approved. Mr. Micali stated they would have to start construction by the end of the year, which would be feasibly impossible. Mr. Towell then questioned if there was any way to change the amendment as they signed up with landowners with prices from four years ago. Mr. Schemenaur explained the county was getting a benefit from the first payment being due six months after the beginning of construction instead of after completion. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the amended EDA which included the amendments to the SB-1 abatement forms. Faron Paron seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote, with Harold Towell opposing the motion.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2024-10

The Jay County Council 2024 Salary Ordinance was amended as follows:

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Asst. Highway Superintendent/ERC	Chief Public Defender	Asst. Public Defender	Asst. Public Defender	Auditor- Stipend	1. Clerk- Election Stipend
1176-001-10-0147	1000-202-10-0048	1000-202-10-0090	1000-202-10-0139	1000-002-10-0145	1000-062-10-0146 Elected Official
Full Time Position	Full Time Position				Elected Official
\$27.89/hour	\$4,522.73/ per pay	\$2,615.38/per pay	\$3,269.23/per pay	\$2,500/year	\$2,500/year
Effective August 11, 2024	Effective July 1, 2024	Effective July 1, 2024	Effective July 1, 2024	Effective August 25, 2024	Effective August 25, 2024
	\$27.89/hour	ntendent/ERC 1176-001-10-0147 Full Time Position \$4,522.73/ per pay \$27.89/hour	1000-202-10-0090 Part Time Case Load \$2,615.38/per pay 1000-202-10-0048 Full Time Position \$4,522.73/ per pay 1176-001-10-0147 Full Time Position \$27.89/hour	1000-202-10-0139 Full Time Case Load \$3,269.23/per pay 1000-202-10-0090 Part Time Case Load \$2,615.38/per pay 1000-202-10-0048 Full Time Position \$4,522.73/ per pay 1176-001-10-0147 Full Time Position \$27.89/hour	1000-002-10-0145 Elected Official \$2,500/year 1000-202-10-0139 Full Time Case Load \$3,269.23/per pay 1000-202-10-0090 Part Time Case Load \$2,615.38/per pay 1000-202-10-0048 Full Time Position \$4,522.73/ per pay 1176-001-10-0147 Full Time Position \$27.89/hour

Dave Haines made a motion to approve ordinance 2024-10. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote, with Harold Towell abstaining.

Emily Franks, auditor, asked for clarification on three items related to the 2025 budget before submission to the state. The first was related to the public defender secretary. The department's resubmitted budget included an increase to the secretary (COMOT B) from \$38,774.20 to \$40,732 for 2025. Ms. Franks explained this change would take the position off scale, which is not recommended by Waggoner, Irwin & Scheele. Cindy Bracy made a motion to keep the position at the COMOT B rate. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous

The second clarification was in relation to the addition of a third full time heavy equipment operator. The personnel committee made a recommendation to not add the position for 2025, but the department maintained their request for the budget review on September 4th, 2024. After a lengthy discussion, including looking at the revenue and expenditures for the department. There was no motion to change the budget from the personnel committee recommendation to not add a third heavy equipment operator.

Lastly, the highway assistant superintendent/ERC position was discussed. The position was set to receive a 3% raise, with the road foreman receiving a 6.10% raise to the midpoint. This would have the road foreman only making .03 cents less an hour than the assistant superintendent. The department has requested to keep the current .85 cent gap in the positions, increasing it to \$29.54 an hour. Faron Parr made a motion to increase the position to \$29.54 an hour for 2025. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous

LIT RATE CHANGE

Emily Franks, auditor, informed the council regarding the potential LIT rate change for 2025. After updating the numbers from the September 4th, 2024 meeting, she recommends the reduction of the LIT Levy Freeze rate by .05%. The LIT_Public Safety rate would then need to be increased by at least .05%. There are several factors that will determine if the county can afford the three additional positions without increasing the rate by a full .10%. One of the factors would be if the county were to receive more revenue through an additional supplemental distribution. The other factor would be whether the jail remained fully staffed or if there were vacancies in positions. The council will need to decided at their October 9th meeting if they would like to increase the LIT Public Safety rate by .05% or .10%. This would also increase the rate for cities and towns and could be used towards the countywide radio project. Ms. Franks will prepare the advertisement for the public hearing on October 9th.

meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. With no further business for the council Faron Parr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave Haines seconded the motion and the

ATTEST: JAY COUNTY AUDITOR	They Shoughout	terila do	Control of the second	Mills Maria	Have Towl	
					NAI	JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, Randy May, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Matt Minnich, presiding. Randy May and Jeanne Houchins were absent. SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
The Jay County Council

- Clerk, Election
- Auditor, County Plat Book, Co Elected Officials

- Sheriff, Jail, E-911, County Corrections, LIT Public Safety Surveyor, Backhoe Repair & Replacement, Surveyor Corner Perpetuation
- Coroner
- 9.8 Assessor, Board of Appeals, Reassessment, Disclosure Fees
- Deferral
- 10. Prosecutor, Defer Extension Office
- Veterans Service Officer
 Building & Planning
 Commissioners, Drainage Board, LIT Economic Dev, Cum Cap Dev, Infrastructure, Solid Waste
 Courthouse
 Superior Court, Grand & Petit Jurors
 Public Defender
 Circuit Court, Grand & Petit Jurors
- 18. 19. Probation, Probation User Fees
- Emergency Management, LEPC Cemetery Commission
- 20. 21. 22. Retirement Center
- Community Corrections, Project Income Highway, Cum Bridge, Local Road & Street JEMS, LIT EMS
- Health, Local Public Health

The meeting was opened up for public comment, with no public comment, Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the 1st reading of the budget. The meeting was opened up for public comment. Harold Towell seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROPRIATION REDUCTION 1112-001-30-0027

\$140,000

A reduction of appropriation was presented for the amount of \$140,000. Matt Minnich explained the \$140,000 was requested by the commissioners in their 2024 for the JCDC Contract. They are not engaged in that contract and the money would go back into the fund. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the appropriation reduction of \$140,000. Harold Towell seconded the motion. Jeanne Houchins asked for them to explain the decision for the motion before a vote. Mr. Minnich stated to his knowledge the commissioners had decided to not engage in a contract with JCDC. He views the goal of the council as oversight of funds that are spent on behalf of the taxpayers. If they leave the \$140,000 in it would leave a blank check to be used on whatever without approval of the council. He added he is looking out for the taxpayer and if they have a project they would like to engage in, it would most likely be approved by council. In order to spend money, it has to be in the EDIT plan, go through EDIT Advisory, Council for appropriation, and Commissioners for approval. He hopes it will help maintain the robustness of the system.

Ms. Houchins questioned if they really believed commissioners would take the money and blow it. She believes they are as responsible for that money as the council to make sure the money is spent properly and added It will not be able to be spent properly if not in the account. Ms. Houchins questioned if they council was able to make the reduction to the budget. Emily Franks, auditor, explained the 2025 budget was unable to be changed due to advertising deadlines required by the state. The 2024 budget is allowed to be adjusted through additionals or reductions of appropriations as long as it is advertised. Ms. Houchins asked if the reduction would affect any of the existing obligations by the county. Ms. Franks confirmed there should still be money budgeted to cover the contract for ECI Regional Planning and Kleinpeter Consulting. The motion went for a vote with Cindy Bracy and Harold Towell voting for the motion and Randy May and Jeanne Houchins voting against the motion. Matt Minnich, president, broke the tie by voting for the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.

Cindy Bracy asked the council to consider paying the current part time director of the facility the same as the full-time rate as approved September 11, 2024, effective September 23, 2024. The increase to the part time director rate would be until the new director comes in or the part time director leaves. Emily Franks, explained the salary ordinance will need to be amended at the October 9th meeting to include the increase to the part time rate, if approved. Cindy Bracy made a motion to increase the part time rate to \$26.45 an hour effective September 23, 2024. Jeanne Houchins seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with Randy May voting for the motion and Harold Towell voting against the motion.

With no further business for the council, Harold Towell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

ATTEST: JAYCOUNTY AUDITOR	Mar men Change Brand Bra	
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