

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026

The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Randy May, Bryan Alexander, Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, Michael Brewster, Bryan Alexander, auditor Emily Franks, county attorney Wes Schemenaur and Matt Minnich, president presiding. Michael Brewster made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9th, 2026 meeting. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ADDITIONALS

COUNTY GENERAL

1000.42200.00000.0006	Surveyor- Equipment	\$15,467.88
1000.18500.00000.0068	Commissioner- Wages Repair & Maintenance	\$13,967.88
1000.41100.00000.0232	Circuit Court- Office Equipment	\$21,860.00
1000.18500.00000.0622	Retirement Center- Wages Repair & Maintenance	\$1,500.00
		-\$21,860.00

LIT- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1112.30300.00000.0000	4 th of July	\$9,000.00
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SHERIFF CONTINUING EDUCATION

1133.31280.00000.0000	Training	\$4,006.86
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DRUG FREE SHERIFF

4902.31300.00000.0000	Computer Maintenance	\$4,995.00
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FIREARMS FUND

4906.42200.00000.0000	Equipment	\$10,000.00
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Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, explained the additional appropriation is to purchase new tasers for the department.

ARP-2021 CLERK

8950.31480.00000.0000	Professional Services- REA	\$21,054.50
8950.31480.00000.0000	Professional Services- Ritter	\$15,654.50
		\$5,400.00

It was noted this should be the last invoice for the 68 acres from Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates (REA).

2026 Community Corrections Grant

9117.14806.00000.0000	Wages- Executive Director	\$158,440.00
9117.12700.00000.0000	Wages- Deputy Director	\$74,360.00
9117.11700.00000.0000	Employer Social Security	\$56,472.00
9117.11800.00000.0000	Employer PERF	\$10,008.65
9117.14900.00000.0000	Employer Health Insurance	\$14,653.18
		\$2,946.17

Faron Parr made a motion to approve all additional appropriations as presented. Michael Brewster seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

1ST DEPUTY WAGE SURVEYOR

Brad Daniels, surveyor, came before council to discuss the 2026 wage set for his 1st deputy and asked council reconsider freezing her wage.

The wage for the 1st deputy was frozen for the 2026 budget due to a potential pay liability between 1st deputies. The surveyor first deputy receives 75% of the total compensation of the surveyor while three other first deputies receive only 75% of the base pay of their elected official. Mr. Daniels explained the drainage mileage and cornerstone perpetuation stipends were not included in the base wage as a licensed surveyor would be required to make 1.5 times the base rate of those not licensed. Bryan Alexander asked if Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele could review the surveyor department again looking at comparables. He also asked the auditor to figure out what the base pay of the surveyor would need to be to give the position a 2% raise. Michael Brewster made a motion to table the matter until more information could be obtained. Randy May seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

COUNTYWIDE RADIO AGREEMENTS

Wes Schemenaur, county attorney, briefly spoke regarding agreements for the new countywide radio system. Barry Ritter, Ritter Strategic Services is working on a breakdown of price by entity. Once those numbers are received, he urged council and commissioners to start discussions and negotiations with entities as budget talks will start in June.

JAY COUNTY VISITOR & TOURISM COMMISSION

Bryan Alexander, commission president, explained Reda Miller and Bryan Alexander are the council appointments to the commission. They are not seeking disbursement of monies collected for 2025 at this time.

ARPA UPDATE

Emily Franks, auditor, gave a brief update on ARP monies. She has been working between Baker Tilly and State Board of Accounts to gather information and to make sure what paperwork is required. alert you to any potential roadblocks before officially taking next steps. We will need to have this information when I complete the annual reporting starting April 1 and due April 30th. My hope is to bring final options to your next meeting and have a signed resolution by both commissioners and council before any re-obligation.

PTRC Supplemental

Emily Franks, auditor, discussed with the council whether they would like to use additional PTRC Supplemental monies for this year's property taxes. The county received a total for 2025 of \$3,731,078 due to the large double filer, with the county receiving \$3,116,926 for 2026. Ms. Franks recommended the county use only the monies three years old as required by statute. Once the PTRC is removed with the upcoming LIT changes, taxes are expected to hit tax caps and increase circuit breaker impacts. Michael Brewster made a motion to only release the supplemental monies that are three years old totaling \$181,965 required by statute. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ceann Bales, executive director, gave a brief update on goals for the organization for 2026 to the council.

With no further business for the council, Michael Brewster made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

NAY

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ATTEST: *[Signature]*
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR