SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Harold Towell, Bryan Alexander, Cindy Bracy, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Matt Minnich, presiding. Absent council members Randy May and Faron Parr. The purpose of the session was to review the 2027 budget with each department.

Clerk- Melissa Elliott, clerk, was at conference and unable to present her budget for 2027. She had requested one less 2nd deputy position for 2027. The clerk's election stipend was also removed as a municipal election is not eligible.
Auditor- Emily Franks, auditor, presented her budget for 2027. She then reviewed her three-year plan of capital expenditures for the office. In 2027, she requested True Roll Software to help monitor property tax deductions in the amount of $15,000 and a new Property Tax Software between $207,000-$277,000. The current software went live in 2005 pay 2006. In 2028, 3 computers would need replaced, two from 2019 and one from 2022, and 2029 ArchaSearch to digitize and backup all minutes and property transfer records for $50,000.
Treasurer- Jonelle Foreman, treasurer, was present for any questions. There were no significant changes or discussions. She requested a new main officer copier in 2027 for $4,500.
Recorder- Angela Byrum, recorder, was present for any questions. There were no significant changes or discussions.
Sheriff- Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, presented his 2027 budget. The significant changes to the County General-Sheriff budget was an increase to $20,300 to part-time deputies to eliminate overtime, and an increase to $61,000 in other compensation to cover holiday pay. He also requested an increase in his County General-Jail Other Compensation to $167,300 referencing the same reason. Council members questioned if medical & hospital or jail meal contract could be lowered due to a decrease in population. Mr. Newton explained they never knew what would be needed for medical as one inmate could cost a significant amount. As to the meal, it does cost more per meal with a lower population. The only items listed in the three-year plan were 3 vehicles annually for an estimated $200,000 yearly.
Surveyor- Brad Daniels, surveyor, was present for any questions. There were no significant changes or discussions. Mr. Daniels noted a new truck annually in his three-year plan. A new computer in 2028 and two in 2029 with a new excavator listed in 2029 for $200,000 out of Backhoe Repair & Replacement Fund.
Coroner- Brayden Fields, Coroner, presented his budget for 2027. He requested a chief deputy position be added to the budget to cover when he is out of town or if something were to happen to him. It would be another line item in the budget at 75 percent of his salary. He stated this is a formality and most counties in the state of Indiana have a chief deputy. Council members asked that the request be entered into the budget at 75% of the elected official salary.
Assessor- Robin Alberson, assessor, presented her 2027 budget. She explained the only significant increase was related to the Aerial Photography for their flyover. They would like to switch to a new company for a more detailed photography. The company would allow the county to pay the cost over two years to keep the budget more consistent.
Prosecutor- Wes Schemenaur, prosecutor, presented his budget for 2027. He explained his request for an increase in wages of the deputy prosecutor to $51,000 to attract a 3rd year law student back to the county. The potential employee would continue in the summer intern position in 2027 for 8 weeks July-September after taking the bar exam in July. Once the results are received, estimated to be mid-September she could look at taking on the deputy prosecutor role. Mr. Schemenaur also discussed $51,000 in renovations to his office to update the carpet and create a new ADA compliant countertop. Lastly, other items listed in the three-year plan included scanners $4,800, computer monitors $1,500, cell phones $2,400, Copier $10,000 in 2024, 4 new computers for $5,200 in 2028 and 2 laptops for $3,000 in 2029.
Extension Office- Allison Keen and Justin Curley, presented their 2027 budget. Purdue has rolled out a new funding model based on population which saw a decrease of $131,335 down to $100,000. They will also internalize expenses such as mileage and computer costs. However, they asked the county to consider funding an intern specifically for Jay County for an additional $20,000. Cindy Bracy spoke in favor of the intern, adding she would like to see it added to the budget.
Veteran Service Office- Cliff Moser, veteran service officer, to discuss his 2027, there were no changes or discussions. He requested a new computer with program updates for $2,700 in 2028, and a new printer/copier/scanner for $2,250 in 2029.
Building & Planning- John Hemmelgarn, administrator, and Pati McLaughlin, administrative assistant, presented their 2027 budget. There were no significant changes or discussions. Items for their three-year plan included a new printer/copier/scanner for $3,500, updated computer software for $1,000 and a new department vehicle for $60,000.
Commissioners- Duane Monroe, commissioner president, was there to answer any questions on their 2027 budget. They put in an increase to health insurance, worker's compensation insurance, and liability insurance for 2027. The Jay County Humane Society had requested a 6% increase to their contract for 2027, however the commissioners agreed to put a 2% increase in their budget. Harold Towell voiced issue with giving a larger increase to the contract than county employees. He also was not in favor of the $50,000 requested in the infrastructure budget for the Jay County Fairgrounds.
Retirement Center- Duane Monroe was present for any questions on the 2027 budget. The total budget for 2027 was $28,000 with $14,000 allotted for Utilities-Gas. Mr. Monroe explained they did a summer fill and pre-paid for winter at a lower rate.
Courthouse- No one was present for the courthouse department. The main increases were to the utility accounts. In the three-year plan, a new roof for annex #2 for $44,476, Courthouse marble floor repair for $27,515, Room Heat/AC repair for $30,000 and Compania panel & access for $60,000 in 2027. A new roof on the courthouse in 2028 for an estimated $776,250 and Heat/AC Repair for $30,000. Lastly, Heat/AC repair for $30,000 in 2029.
Superior Court- No one was present for the Superior Court department. The department requested a new recording system for the courtroom in the amount of $46,881. The translator account was also increased to $8,000 due to an increased need in the department.
Public Defender- Brandon Murphy, chief public defender, presented his budget for 2027. The main increase was an additional $12,000 for Guardian Ad Litem cases as public defenders are no longer allowed to cover those cases.
Circuit Court- No one was present for the Circuit Court department. There were no significant changes or discussions.
Probation Department- No one was present for the probation department. There were no significant changes or discussions.
Emergency Management- Samantha Rhodehamel, director, presented her 2027 budget. There were no significant changes or discussions. She requested a new laptop for $1,000 in 2027 and in 2028 a new laptop for $1,000 and a copier for $7,000.
Cemetery- No one was present for the cemetery department. The department lowered their overall budget by $3,000.
Community Corrections- No one was present for the Community Corrections department. The department will be short roughly $125,000 due to cuts in the state grant. It was suggested to help cover funds in county general for employee benefits, cum cap development for items such as monitoring equipment and $25,000 in opioid unrestricted funds to cover most of the shortfall. Michael Brewster voiced concerns over using opioid monies for the project, citing better uses for the funding.

Highway- Robert Howell, Superintendent and Stephanie Klarer- Asst. Superintendent/ERC, came to present their 2027 budget. They requested part time-clerical be increased to $3,500, an additional truck driver for $53,664 plus benefits and an additional heavy equipment operator for $55,120 plus benefits. Ms. Klarer read a list of surrounding counties with average number of miles per driver and their PASER ratings. Matt Minnich asked if the department could only receive one new position, which would be more beneficial to the department. They both stated the heavy equipment operator would be the most useful to the department and could help as both a driver or to help with culverts and road cuts.
JEMS- Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, was there to present his 2027 budget. There were no significant changes to the budget. Mr. Barnett requested the shift supervisor pay be looked at for a larger increase over the paramedics. There is currently a $1.34 an hour difference between the two classifications. Bryan Alexander questioned if the cost of overtime was related to lack of employees, if the wages were too low and employees are working to meet the money they need or if it was cheaper to pay the overtime. Mr. Barnett indicated they needed to staff the shift which falls to shift supervisors to cover.
Health- No one was present for the Health Department. Emily Franks, auditor, suggested the health insurance account be lowered since one full time position had been eliminated. The council requested the change be made to that fund and increase or decrease in any other fund as necessary.

With no further business, Michael Brewster made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cindy Bracy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

AYE	NAY

ATTEST: _____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026 at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Bryan Alexander, Faron Parr, Cindy Bracy, auditor Emily Franks, county attorney Wes Schemenaur and Matt Minnich, president presiding. Absent Randy May, Harold Towell and Michael Brewster. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the minutes from August 12, 2026. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ADDITIONALS

JEMS
1151.32800.00000.0000 Education Training/Expense $11,567.79
The additional appropriation was presented for training institution fees. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ARP-2021 CLFRF
8950.31480.00000.0000 Professional Services- Ritter $3,200.00
The additional appropriation was presented for Ritter Strategic Invoice# 202368. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve both additional appropriations as presented. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

TRANSFERS
1000.24200.00000.0622 Co. General- Retirement Ctr (Meals) to (Utilities-Gas) 1000.39900.00000.0622. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the transfer as presented. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

REMC ABATEMENTS
A few points that needed to be reaffirmed, and SB-1 signed regarding the REMC real estate abatement approved at the August 12th council meeting. The personal property abatement requested was also not considered and needed addressed by the council. Cindy Bracy made a motion to table the abatements and forward it to the Tax Abatement Advisory Committee for review. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT-HODSON ENERGY
Hodson Energy has informed the county they will not be moving forward on their solar project in Jay County. The company cited not being able to sell their energy to the grid as the reason for the request to terminate the agreement. Faron Parr made a motion to terminate the abatement agreement with Hodson Energy. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIT CHANGE PROPOSED HEARING
The proposed hearing notice for the LIT rate change was presented to council for their approval. A hearing will be held on September 30th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the increase of the LIT Public Safety rate to .35% and the decrease of the levy

freeze rate to .10% for 2027. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the hearing notice as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Yvette Weiland, director and Gary Hendershot, deputy director, came before the council to discuss their department and budget for 2027. Mr. Hendershot discussed how home detention works, including the starting cost of $280 to get their ankle monitor, paperwork fee and drug test, then $20 a day. They operate at about 25-30% of the jail population while those in their program are working and paying court costs and child support. Those in the program are also required to take various classes, including 30 hours of evidence-based classes. The juvenile program was also discussed with their daily cost of $25 per day compared to those in facilities at $350-$500 a day not including the transportation required by the sheriff's department.

Bryan Alexander noted the return on investment to the community and was told by state lawmakers the funding will be coming back in subsequent state budgets. He was in favor of covering the gap in funding for one year but was not sure what fund. Emily Franks explained the department was currently short a little over $120,000 with $60,000 of the shortfall accounted for in the county general and cum cap development budget. Cindy Bracy asked how many people were helped last year and whether previous budgets were covered by the state. Mr. Hendershot explained there were 35 individuals in 2025 representing 4,000 days or $188,700 in savings not counting medical expenses. Ms. Weiland added it had been self-supporting through the state grant in conjunction with the state fees reimbursed for those in the program. However, since COVID a lot are qualifying for time cuts that make their program not as utilized. As an example, they received 3,000 a month, which is now down to $700 a month. They have been using their cash reserves to get to this point. Bryan Alexander then asked if they would be sustainable even if the state grant was restored. Ms. Weiland stated they would not be due to the decrease in participation.

Cindy Bracy spoke in favor of the program and agreed they should fund it for one year while looking for solutions. Mr. Hendershot informed the council other counties, such as Wells, had created an indigent fund to cover those who didn't want to, or could not pay to increase participation. Faron Parr spoke in favor of the program and asked if for the shortfall to be paid for out of EDIT instead of County General. He then made a motion to take the entire shortfall out of EDIT. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

2027 BUDGET

Auditor- The department requested $15,000 be added to the Contractual Services account for TrueRoll. Emily Franks requested the county fund the program for one year. It would either pay for itself, or the contract would be terminated. The council agreed to the addition in the budget for one year.

Coroner- The department requested an additional $10,000 be added for body bags, and the new position of chief deputy coroner. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the part-time chief deputy coroner salary at the Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele recommendation of $10,424 for 2027. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Prosecutor- The department request to increase the Deputy Prosecutor salary to $51,000 was discussed. The department also request an increase in equipment repair to $10,000 to cover new phones, scanners and monitors. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the increase in salary to $51,000. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Extension Office: The department request for an additional $20,000 for the intern was discussed. Cindy Bracy again spoke in favor of the intern, making a motion to approve the additional $20,000 for 2027. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Election Board: The clerk requested an additional $7,000 in computer election programming for An Island, LLC. Melissa Elliott, clerk, explained that the application provides real-time election night results and a place where candidates can submit a short bio about themselves. Cindy Bracy questioned how many people utilized the application. Mrs. Elliott would need to see how many views it received but knew only six candidates had added a bio for 2026. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the $7,000 additional to her budget. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Cindy Bracy voting against the motion.

Drainage Board: It was decided to include the same increase given to the commissioners to the drainage board members and attorney.

Commissioners: The software and licensing account requested of $263,000 was broken down by expenses. This included $127,292 as the conversion fee for a new property tax software. Emily Franks, auditor, expressed concerns with the current software and its ability to keep up to date with the changes pushed down by the state. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the full request of $263,000. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Courthouse: The additional money requested for repairs & maintenance and repair building & structures for a new roof on annex #2 for $44,476, Courthouse marble floor repair for $27,515, Room Heat/AC repair for $30,000 and Compania panel & access for $60,000 in 2027 was moved to Cum Cap Development and Infrastructure funds. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the expenses moved to other funds. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Superior Court: The increase to translator for $8,000 was added and the new recording equipment cost was moved to Cum Cap Dev (1138). Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sheriff/Jail: The increase of other compensation per department request from $117,300 to $167,300 was discussed. Emily Franks, auditor, noted the department expended $166,616 in other compensation in 2025 and had already spent $75,029 in the account. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the increase in other compensation to $167,300. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JEMS: The group health insurance was increased to $150,000, which will be needed if the two open paramedic positions are filled. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the increase. Faron Parr seconded the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Health: The health department group health insurance budget was increased for fund 1159 Health and lowered in fund 1161 Local Public Health Services. The council had no issues with the change.

Highway: The group health insurance and worker's compensation insurance increased to $240,000 and $65,000. Bob Howell explained the benefits of an additional heavy equipment operator including better efficiency, help with increased workload and bridge maintenance. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the addition of a third heavy equipment operator for the department. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Statewide 911: The department requested to increase the other compensation account to $50,000. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the request. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Reassessment: The council agreed to fund the aerial photography over two years and lowered the amount to $40,300. **Infrastructure:** The repair building & structures was increased to $115,000 to include ADA Compliance Repairs, Resurfacing of Marble Floor in Courthouse, New Roof on Annex#2, and renovations to the prosecutor's office. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

2027 WAGE INCREASES

Matt Minnich, president, presented wage increase scenarios to the council including the following. He recommended the scenario of 2.5% or 75% of the midpoint, whichever is higher. The scenario would cost comparable to the previously proposed 1.0% or 100% of the midpoint. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve 2.5% or 75% of the midpoint scenario. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

50% of the difference to WIS Mid:
2.0%/50% = $239,254.97
2.5%/50% = $278,526.25
3.0%/50% = $314,500.58

75% of the difference to WIS Mid:
2.0%/75% = $290,224.80
2.5%/75% = $321,761.83
3.0%/75% = $350,923.77

100% of the difference to WIS Mid:
0.0%/100% = $320,556.21
1.0%/100% = $331,424.67
2.0%/100% = $350,936.21
2.5%/100% = $377,480.98
3.0%/100% = $404,649.79

With no further business for the council, Bryan Alexander made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

AYE	NAY

ATTEST: _____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR

SEPTEMBER 17TH , 2026

The Jay County Council and Commissioners met in joint session on Thursday, September 17th, 2026 at 5:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Bryan Alexander, Harold Towell, Faron Parr, Cindy Bracy, Matt Minnich from the council, Chad Aker, and Doug Horn representing the commissioners, and auditor Emily Franks. Absent council members Randy May, Michael Brewster and commissioner Duane Monroe. They met in joint session to discuss a fiscal sustainability plan and bonding options with Jason Semler from Baker Tilly.

Jason Semler, principal, Baker Tilly, presented council and commissioners with a draft fiscal sustainability plan from 2024 to 2031. The report evaluated the following operating funds: General, Reassessment, Health, Statewide 911, Emergency Medical Services, LIT Emergency Medical Services, LIT Public Safety (County), Highway, MVH Restricted, Local Road & Street, LIT Economic Development, Cum Bridge, Cum Cap Development, Jay County Lease Payments, Infrastructure, Economic Development Payments-Sun Chief Solar Farm, and Rainy Day. Chad Aker asked that the Premier Ethanol TIF district fund be included in the final draft of the plan. Mr. Semler also briefly reviewed the assumptions and data collection used for the projections in the plan. The minimum cash balance for each fund was discussed with the minimum reserve being two months. However, at least six months is recommended in case there was ever an issue with property tax settlement.

Rainy Day fund was briefly discussed with Mr. Semler recommending money be moved to rainy day fund with excess funds. However, if the county pulled money out consistently from Rainy Day, it would not be recommended to move the funds. He noted the county had flexibility in their options for financing due to current operating balances. The LIT income tax structure had the full 1.2% county rate represented in the plan. Although due to the current cash balances, Mr. Semler believed the county could potentially adopt a lower rate. The plan could be altered to show the impact of a lower rate. Property Tax Caps and Circuit Breaker impacts were reviewed through 2031,

as the tax rate increases the estimated circuit breaker losses will also increase. The hit is anticipated to grow from 5.5%-5.7% in 2028-2029 to 11.25%-11.5% in 2030-2031. Once going through the operating funds, those with a property tax rate see a decrease in revenue due to circuit breaker losses in those years. However, Mr. Semler acknowledged a lot could happen to legislation in the next several years.

Mr. Semler explained some property tax revenue could be moved from 1159 Health Department to another fund. Statewide 911 was reported to be healthy, which is usually seen to be negative. Emily Franks reported the dispatchers had been moved out to match disbursements to the revenue. The EMS fund 1151 was noted to be overspending revenue. The budget has since been reduced and updated figures would be remitted to Baker Tilly along with LIT-EMS. The LIT Economic Development, EMS, and Public Safety funds showed the county would no longer be collecting revenue in 2030 forward. The highway fund was noted as a point of concern with an estimated negative cash balance. He recommended the county look for any expenses that could be moved to 1173-MVH Restricted or 1169 Local Road and Street. As a note, the county cannot bond for bridges or roads payable by property taxes. If the county has a bridge replacement plan it can be added to the fiscal sustainability plan.

Lastly, illustrative financing for a proposed $5.5 million dollar bond was presented which after allowance for underwriting and contingencies would be estimated at $5,725,000. The bond was assumed to be dated March 2027; it would require the county to start the process in the next couple of months. The first payment would be due no later than 2028. The benefits to the debt being taken through the referendum process were discussed such as not being subject to property tax caps. Bryan Alexander requested the circuit breaker increase if the rate was to be increased by the .05 cents. He stated the countywide radios, public safety building and maintenance on the jail could all potentially be included in the bond. There would be an overlap in 2028 between the jail bond and the proposed bond. The double payment could be eliminated by paying cash on hand for 2028. He further added the county could use cash on hand to keep the tax rate lower for a few years. However, the county might consider borrowing due to the uncertainty of property tax legislation. Mr. Semler agreed to check to see if the referendum did not go through, would the county be able to finance the bond through other means

With no further business, Faron Parr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Matt Minnich seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

AYE	NAY
Matt Minnich	
Michael Brewster	
Bryan Alexander	
Harold Towell	

ATTEST: Emily Franks
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

The Jay County Council met in session on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Bryan Alexander, Harold Towell, Faron Parr, auditor Emily Franks, county attorney Wes Schemenaur and Matt Minnich, president presiding. Absent Randy May, Michael Brewster. Council member Cindy Bracy attended the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING- MODIFICATION OF LIT RATES

A public hearing was held for the modification of LIT rates. The change was advertised to lower the levy freeze rate by .1%, which in turn would lower the overall certified shares rate to 1.15%. The .10% would be added to the LIT-Public Safety rate to .35%. The hearing was opened for public comment, with no members from the public wishing to speak, the meeting was closed for public comment. Ordinance 2026-15 modifying local income tax rates was presented for vote. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-15 as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2026-11 to Request Department of Local Government and Finance approval to lower the levy freeze rate as required by statute. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-11 as presented. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The public hearing for the LIT rates was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING- 2027 BUDGET

Emily Franks, auditor, read the budget as advertised to taxpayers: Jay County Solid Waste Budget as a non-binding unit was read first at $292,317. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the budget with no changes for the adoption meeting. Bryan Alexander seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The county budget was then read as follows: General Fund $12,392,543, Reassessment Fund $126,776, Referendum Debt (Jail Lease) $735,000, Highway $5,283,436, Local Road & Street $400,000, Cumulative Bridge $1,782,000, Health $425,877, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) $1,246,700, Sheriff Continuing Education $5,150, Emergency Telephone System (Statewide 911) $302,855, Cumulative Capital Development $500,000, LIT Economic Development $483,865, LIT-Public Safety $1,566,100, Surveyor Perpetuation Fund $2,500, Co Elected Officials Training $4,500, Deferral (County User Fee) $9,161, Adult Probation Fees $61,602, County Corrections $14,000, Jury Fees $27,500, Backhoe Repair & Replacement $94,039, Infrastructure $445,750, Community Corrections Project Income $46,700, County Plat Book $23,782, Local Public Health Services $192,499, County Disclosure Fees $3,950, LIT-EMS $897,384, Emergency Planning/Right to Know $14,000 for a total of $27,087,669. Ms. Franks explained the budget had been advertised high in county general and EMS due to

outstanding items on the budget. The meeting was opened to public comment, with no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

Animal Control

The council started on outstanding items in the budget with the first being the animal control account for 2027. A 6% increase was requested by the Jay County Humane Society with the commissioners originally requesting a 2% increase to the budget. After a recent commissioner meeting with the Jay County Humane Society, they voted 2-1 to increase the request to 6%. Mindy Weaver, treasurer, and Linda Conn, director, came before council to discuss and answer any questions. They explained for the 2026 budget they will receive $75,176 but will spend an estimated $146,246 to cover the unincorporated areas of Jay County. In 2027, they are requesting $79,654 with a total estimated cost of $150,644. This would start to lower the amount the society is supplementing for services.

The council asked a series of questions. The society responded with the following, 51% of their animals come from the unincorporated areas with 77% of those currently housed coming from unincorporated areas. Dogs are mostly picked up from the unincorporated areas and cats primarily come from the city of Portland. The county's portion is larger due to cost differences between dogs and cats and transportation costs geographically. Mrs. Weaver reported at least 66 times between April 8th, 2026-September 21st, 2026 they had been dispatched by the sheriff's office. She added response can sometimes be delayed as the animal control vehicle must be picked up from the facility and travel time to get to the location. When directly questioned about the City of Portland contract and costs, the society explained they would only discuss items related to the county.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the raise for county employees versus the increase in the contract for 2027. Council members Cindy Bracy and Harold Towell voiced opposition in giving a larger raise to the contract versus the 2.5% / 75% to midpoint employee raises. Mrs. Weaver understood their position, explaining the $4,000 increase to the contract was not the same cost as the 2.5% wage increase. Faron Parr voiced his support for the presented budget. Mr. Towell questioned if the organization would be willing to go below 6%. Mrs. Weaver asked to be allowed time for their board members to step out and discuss a 3% increase for 2027.

Upon returning to the meeting, they agreed to a 3% increase. Bryan Alexander voiced his concerns about the society not telling county council or commissioners the compensation received from the City of Portland believing it to be disingenuous. Cindy Bracy then made a motion to lower the animal control account to a 3% increase. The motion died for lack of 2nd. Matt Minnich explained the current budget numbers had a 6% increase included. Cindy Bracy made a new motion to lower the animal control line to 3% ($77,400). Harold Towell seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Faron Parr voting against the motion.

JEMS- Civilian Pole E

As previously discussed, Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele reviewed updated job descriptions and classifications of three EMS shift supervisors. They did not recommend a classification be added to the scale but for the council to look at the requested increase per hour. The department requested shift supervisors be compensated at $31.50 an hour, which falls higher than the midpoint but is still within the range. Ms. Franks explained there were two additional positions in that classification, Jail Commander and 911 Director. While overtime above the 8 hours a week fluctuated the base increase with benefits would be $21,210.42 for EMS and $10,877.02 for the sheriff, totaling $32,087.44. Bryan Alexander made a motion to approve the increase for Civilian Pole E to $31.50 an hour in 2027. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Surveyor

Brad Daniels requested council review the wage increase for him and his first deputy. The first deputy was frozen in 2026 due to the difference in first deputy pay between elected officials' overall compensation or base compensation amongst departments. At the current 2.5% she would receive around a 1.7% increase for 2027. Mr. Daniels requested he receive a 3% raise to get a 2.5% raise for his first deputy. Cindy Bracy made a motion to increase the surveyor wage 3% for 2027. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Bryan Alexander made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cindy Bracy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

AYE	NAY

ATTEST: _____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR