



**FRANK WHITE, JR.**  
Jackson County Executive

November 15, 2018

Members of the Jackson County Legislature  
Jackson County Courthouse  
415 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

**RECEIVED**

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MARY JO SPINO  
COUNTY CLERK

MS 4:20

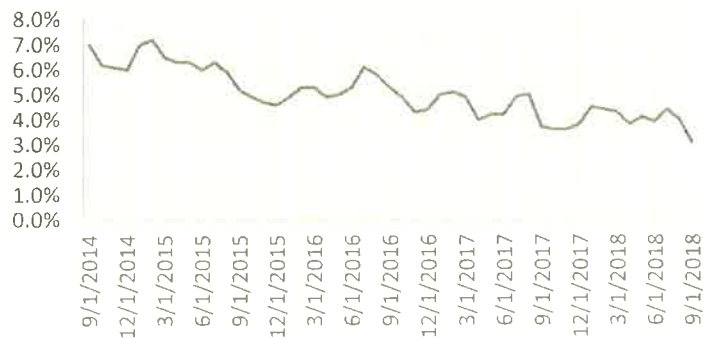
Honorable Members of the County Legislature:

I offer for your approval, as summarized in the final table below, the proposed balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2019. I am recommending appropriations of \$392,817,221<sup>1</sup> in accordance with Article III, Section 12 of the Jackson County Charter and applicable state statutes. This budget is based, in part, upon the assumption that the cumulative property tax rate for Jackson County will remain at its current levels in 2019.

### IMPROVING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

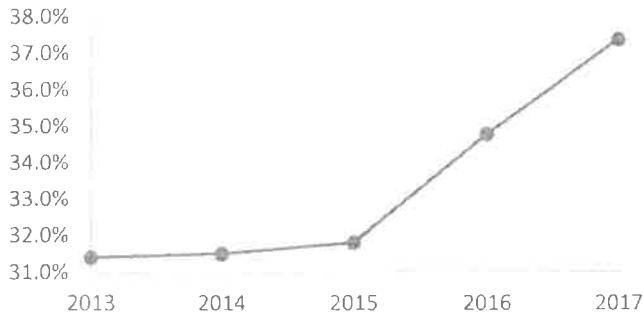
Jackson County continues to grow and develop, which is evidenced by our continually improving unemployment rates and significant increase in the total market value of property in the county. In fact, the most recent monthly unemployment rate released showed a county unemployment rate of just 3.1%, the lowest monthly rate the County has recorded in 18 years.

Jackson County Unemployment Rate



## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Available Fund Balance as % of Operating Revenue



Jackson County citizens have particular reason to be proud of the sound financial management of their tax dollars. The County's fiscal management practices recently led the credit rating agency Moody's to conclude that the County's "credit position is very strong," specifically noting Jackson County's "very healthy economy and tax base," our "strong" financial position, and relatively "light debt burden." To highlight the County's improving financial position, the report paid

particular attention to recent improvements in available fund balances as they relate to operating revenues. According to Moody's, in the last two years the County has increased our percentage of available fund balances by almost six percent.<sup>111</sup>

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

It should be noted that the decisions that led to Jackson County's strong and continually improving financial condition were not easy, nor without cost. In particular, I was proud to support the County Legislature's recent unanimous decision to recapture prior year voluntary rollbacks of our property tax levies. With full understanding of the potential negative implications of this decision, these elected leaders came together and took this action because it was necessary to fulfill our obligations to the citizens of Jackson County.

Revenue realized from the recapturing of the voluntary rollbacks, will be placed in a special fund that will help ensure that the funds are used appropriately, effectively and in a transparent manner. Furthermore, I will support the enactment of code provisions that ensure these funds are used only for purposes that are jointly agreed to by the Legislature and administration. Purposes including, but not limited to, the building of a new adult correctional center, safety and security improvements to the downtown courthouse, and funding to support the implementation of a market-rate compensation plan for County Associates.

## LONG TERM PLANNING

The history of Jackson County, like many municipalities, includes numerous examples of short-term fixes to address long term problems. The citizens of Jackson County need and quite frankly deserve that we break this pattern of successive, single-year fixes that often have been implemented without a long-term view. I would like to request the support, involvement and leadership of the Jackson County Legislature in the development of a Countywide Business Plan. The Countywide Business Plan will serve as our five-year financial, capital and strategic plan to achieve the goals of the County Legislature.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

	2017 Adopted Budget	2018 Adopted Budget	2019 Recommended Budget
	\$ 92,246,360	\$ 95,325,707	\$ 153,169,525
<b>SPECIAL REVENUE:</b>			
002 Health	26,538,928	27,234,912	26,021,729
003 Park	16,764,058	16,321,977	15,574,940
004 Special Road and Bridge	28,417,825	28,649,260	15,273,501
005 Sewer	128,301	124,512	124,507
007 Convention and Sports Complex	6,861,711	6,861,701	6,861,140
008 Anti-Crime Sales Tax	25,845,447	27,066,605	26,629,317
028 Law Enforcement Training	51,426	44,442	19,010
031 911 System	2,220,335	2,352,533	2,401,577
036 Inmate Security	141,000	146,000	146,000
041 Domestic Abuse	182,421	219,092	152,601
042 Recorder's Technology	252,961	172,229	122,919
043 Homeless Assistance	361,614	439,306	452,231
044 Recorders Fees	267,924	336,223	260,753
045 Assessment	8,337,842	7,924,791	6,971,882
049 Collector's Maintenance	1,016,824	921,329	-
400 County Urban Road System	593,343	329,244	-
	117,981,960	119,144,156	101,012,107
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS:</b>			
014 Special Obligation	2,360,363	321,266	228,629
013 County Improvement	864,728	827,222	39,000,000
015 Public Building Corporation	864,728	827,222	-
019 Sports Complex Sales Tax	25,800,000	25,800,000	25,800,000
	29,890,097	27,775,710	65,028,629
<b>DEBT SERVICE:</b>			
067 Sports Complex/Park	3,377,000	3,377,000	3,377,000
069 Public Building Corporation	1,124,000	510,250	509,750
070 Obligations to U.S. Government	642,693	642,693	642,694
072 Sports Complex Sales Tax	48,042,250	49,234,250	50,187,750
073 Special Obligation Bond Debt Ser	11,734,741	12,330,491	12,330,498
	64,920,684	66,094,684	67,047,692
<b>ENTERPRISE:</b>			
300 Park Enterprise	5,663,490	6,392,465	6,090,741
<b>Total - Appropriated Funds</b>	<b>310,702,591</b>	<b>314,732,721</b>	<b>392,348,694</b>
<b>NON-APPROPRIATED:</b>			
029 Prosec Attny Bad Check Collection	146,649	136,893	10,141
030 Delinquent Sales Tax	122,106	124,240	250,066
047 Federal Forfeiture	-	-	-
048 Sheriff Revolving	198,312	208,519	208,320
<b>Total - Non-Appropriated Funds</b>	<b>467,067</b>	<b>469,652</b>	<b>468,527</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$311,169,658</b>	<b>\$315,202,373</b>	<b>\$392,817,221</b>

The challenges we face require strong leadership and collaboration. I am committed to working together to ensure that we will deliver the services our community deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank White, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Frank White, Jr.  
County Executive

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<sup>i</sup> The appropriation amount includes “Operating Transfers” between funds of \$78,515,652. Most notably, \$39,000,000 of General Fund Revenue that has been placed in a newly created “County Improvement Capital Fund.”

<sup>ii</sup> Source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>iii</sup> Source: Moody’s Jackson County, MO, Annual Comment, September 17, 2018.