



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

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2025

MARY JO SPINO  
COUNTY CLERK

DH 4:05pm

January 9, 2025

Budget Veto Message

0#5902

Frank White, Jr., Jackson County Executive

To the Honorable Members of the Jackson County Legislature,

The budget is the most important document we create as leaders. It sets our priorities, shapes our future, and reflects our values as a community. Unfortunately, the amendments made to this budget betray those values, and I cannot in good conscience allow them to become law. These cuts, including over \$2 million from public safety and the loss of 60 critical corrections positions, jeopardize the safety and well-being of every resident.

**1. Public Safety and Essential Services at Risk**

This budget cuts **over \$2 million from public safety personnel**, including **60 positions in the Department of Corrections**, directly jeopardizing the safety and security of our communities. Over the past few years, we have worked tirelessly to rebuild this critical department, not just by planning a new jail, but by strengthening operations to ensure safety and professionalism. These cuts threaten to undo that progress and further strain an already understaffed department. Public safety is not a luxury—it is a promise we make to every resident, and it is one we must keep.

Beyond public safety, this budget eliminates **all arts funding**, depriving our community of programs that inspire creativity and enrich lives. It also defunds key positions in areas like **customer service for assessments**, creating delays and frustrations for taxpayers. Cuts like these will impact thousands of residents who rely on timely assistance every year. These are not strategic adjustments—they are short-sighted and harmful to the people we serve.

**2. Harm to County Associates and Operations**

The amendments defund multiple positions, forcing the **termination of hardworking county associates** who dedicate their lives to serving our residents. These individuals are not simply numbers on a ledger—they are the backbone of our government. Terminating these roles will weaken our ability to deliver the essential services that residents depend on every day.

Even more troubling, this budget seeks to restructure the government in a way that would **defund the entire budget office**, crippling our ability to plan, manage, and oversee county finances. The amendments also make such severe cuts to the **County Counselor's Office** that they would render it



impossible for the office to fulfill its legal duties. What good is allocating funds for contractual legal services if a simple majority of the legislature refuses to award contracts unless they get to handpick who receives them? These changes are reckless, unsustainable, and undermine the very foundation of our government.

### **3. Legislative Overreach**

The legislature has attempted to **move county departments under its direct control**, despite lacking the legal authority to do so. This overreach threatens the separation of powers and undermines the effective operation of our government. It sets a dangerous precedent that cannot stand.

Equally concerning, none of these amendments were **publicly discussed** or vetted with the departments they impact prior to being introduced. In fact, these sweeping changes were **introduced and perfected on the same day**, leaving no time for analysis or thoughtful deliberation. This lack of transparency is not just poor governance; it is a disservice to the people of Jackson County who expect accountability and open government.

### **4. Misaligned Priorities**

While slashing critical services and public safety funding, this budget includes the **largest increase in the legislature's budget in Jackson County history**. Leadership is about putting the needs of others ahead of your own, not expanding your own office at the expense of the people you are supposed to serve.

This decision sends the wrong message to our residents. It says that their safety, their services, and their well-being are less important than bureaucratic growth. That is not the leadership our residents expect or deserve.

### **5. Legal and Fiscal Irresponsibility**

This budget fails to meet the **state's legal requirement for a comprehensive annual budget**, leaving critical gaps that threaten our ability to govern effectively. The legislature's amendments introduce a pattern of legally questionable actions that expose the county to costly litigation and long-term financial instability. This is reckless, and it is unfair to the residents who trust us to be responsible stewards of their resources.

### **A Call for Collaboration**

A budget is more than a financial plan — it is a reflection of our values. This budget, as amended, does not reflect the values of Jackson County. It prioritizes political gamesmanship over public safety, economic stability, and the well-being of our residents. As your County Executive, I cannot and will not accept a budget that fails to serve the people of Jackson County.

I urge this legislature to come back to the table and work with my administration to craft a budget that:

- Restores funding for public safety and essential services.
- Respects the separation of powers and adheres to legal requirements.
- Reflects the shared aspirations and priorities of the people we are privileged to serve.

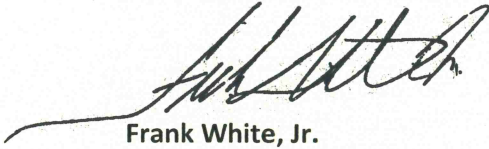


### **Closing Statement**

To the residents of Jackson County: you deserve better. You deserve a government that puts your safety, your services, and your future first. This budget does not meet that standard, and I cannot in good conscience sign it into law.

This veto is not the end of the process—it is a call to action. Let us use this moment to come together, set aside politics, and create a budget that moves Jackson County forward. Together, I know we can deliver the responsible, effective, and compassionate governance that every resident deserves.

Sincerely,

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

**Frank White, Jr.**

Jackson County Executive

**VETOED**

**JAN 09 2025**

Floor Amendment  
December 30, 2024

**IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI**

**AN ORDINANCE** to adopt the annual budget and set forth appropriations for the various spending agencies and the principal subdivisions thereof, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5902**, December 2, 2024

**INTRODUCED BY** Jalen Anderson, County Legislator

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, that the following amounts are appropriated for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, for the spending agencies included within the categories designated below:

<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>General Fund - 001</b>	
County Administration	\$18,457,717
County Legislature	5,403,816
County Operations	14,082,365
County Public Safety	59,865,910
Courts	48,501,464
Facilities Management	12,713,470
Internal Services	25,388,208
Total	184,412,950
 <b>County Improvement Fund - 013</b>	
County Administration	2,118,000
County Operations	1,425,796
County Public Safety	327,000
Facilities Management	6,960,807
Parks + Rec	3,415,000
Total	14,246,603
 <b>Health Fund - 002</b>	
County Administration	91,313
County Legislature	3,000,000
County Public Health	19,188,257
County Public Safety	9,783,802
Courts	669,464
Facilities Management	449,829
Internal Services	4,998,300
Total	38,180,965

**Park Fund - 003**

County Administration	250,000
Parks + Rec	16,699,498
Internal Services	3,863,467
Total	20,812,965

**Special Road & Bridge Fund – 004**

County Operations	13,713,095
Facilities Management	252,465
Internal Services	3,879,038
Total	17,844,598

**Sewer Fund – 005**

County Public Health	45,360
Total	45,360

**Convention & Sports Complex Fund – 007**

Internal Services	6,500,000
Total	6,500,000

**Anti-Crime Sales Tax Fund - 008**

County Public Safety	36,888,217
Courts	5,030,212
Total	41,918,429

**Grant Fund - 010**

Internal Services	47,000
Total	47,000

**Prosecuting Attorney Training Fund - 026**

County Public Safety	10,000
Total	10,000

**Law Enforcement Training Fund - 028**

County Public Safety	20,000
Parks + Rec	5,000
Total	25,000

**E-911 System Fund - 031**

County Administration	129,943
County Public Safety	9,592,417
Total	9,722,360

**Senior Services Fund – 035**

County Administration	7,000,000
Total	7,000,000

**Inmate Security Fund - 036**

County Public Safety	208,224
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	Total	208,224
<b>Domestic Abuse Fund - 041</b>		
County Administration		175,000
Total		175,000
<b>Recorder's Technology Fund - 042</b>		
County Operations		184,019
Total		184,019
<b>Homeless Assistance Fund - 043</b>		
County Legislature		341,759
Total		341,759
<b>Recorder's Fee Fund - 044</b>		
County Operations		326,000
Total		326,000
<b>Assessment Fund – 045</b>		
County Administration		267,000
County Operations		7,392,277
Facilities Management		566,778
Total		8,266,055
<b>Rock Island Railroad Capital Project Fund - 011</b>		
Internal Services		295,979
Total		295,979
<b>Sports Complex Sales Tax Capital Project Fund - 019</b>		
Internal Services		47,949,251
Total		47,949,251
<b>New Detention Center Capital Project Fund - 024</b>		
Internal Services		1,867,032
Total		1,867,032
<b>Obligations to US Gov't Fund - 070</b>		
Internal Services		642,694
Total		642,694
<b>Sports Complex Sales Tax Debt Service Fund - 072</b>		
Internal Services		68,873,250
Total		68,873,250
<b>Special Obligation Bond Debt Service Fund - 073</b>		
Internal Services		27,636,345
Total		27,636,345
<b>Park Enterprise Fund - 300</b>		
Parks + Rec		8,168,448
Internal Services		838,341

Total	9,006,789
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>506,498,627</b>

Said funds are appropriated to each agency in accordance with the 2025 "Estimated Revenues, Recommended Appropriations, and Fund Balances - Fiscal Year 2025" as set out in the County Executive's 2025 Proposed Budget for Jackson County, in the detail and for the purposes contained and set forth therein, which is submitted to and approved by the Legislature and incorporated herein, as modified by the document attached hereto and labeled "2025 Budget Amendments."

Effective Date: This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its signature by the County Executive.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bryan Covinsky  
Bryan Covinsky (Dec 31, 2024 10:57 CST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counselor

I hereby certify that the attached ordinance, Ordinance No. 5902 introduced on December 2, 2024, was duly passed on December 31, 2024 by the Jackson County Legislature. The votes thereon were as follows:

Yeas 5

Nays 4

Abstaining 0

Absent 0

This Ordinance is hereby transmitted to the County Executive for his signature.

12.31.2024  
Date

Mary Jo Spino  
Mary Jo Spino Clerk of Legislature

I hereby approve the attached Ordinance No. 5902.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RETURNED UNSIGNED BY CE  
1/9/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank White, Jr.  
County Executive

**VETOED**  
JAN 09 2025



# 2025 Budget Amendments

Ordinance #5902  
Floor Amendment  
December 30, 2024

Fund	Org #	Department	Account #	Account Name	From	To
001 - General Fund						
CC1001		County Executive	55010	Regular Salaries	323,000	
			55040	FICA Taxes	24,710	
			56021	Lobbyist Services	117,500	
CC1101		County Counselor's Office	55010	Regular Salaries	611,904	
			55040	FICA Taxes	46,811	
			56020	Legal Services	400,000	
CC0112		Legislature as a Whole	56020	Legal Services		250,000
			56662	Software maintenance		75,000
			56790	Other Contracual Services		30,000
CC0301		Legislative Auditor's Office	55010	Regular Salaries		15,000
			55040	FICA Taxes		1,148
CC0302		Legislative Compliance	55010	Regular Salaries		45,000
			55040	Fica Taxes		3,443
CC201		Legislature-County Clerk	55010	Regular Salaries		60,000
			55025	Part Time Salaries		5,000
			55040	FICA Taxes		4,973
CC0101		First District At-Large	55020	Seasonal Salaries		18,100
			55040	FICA Taxes		1,385
CC0120		Second District At Large	55020	Seasonal Salaries		9,122
			55040	FICA Taxes		698

2025 Budget Amendments

CC1202	Human Resources	55010	Regular Salaries	157,418
		55040	FICA Taxes	12,043
		55050	Pension Contributions	4,012
CC1401	Budget Office	55060	Insurance Benefits	55,975
		55066	Life Insurance Benefit	416
		55090	Salary Adjustments	1,671
		55150	Long Term Disability	558
		55010	Regular Salaries	260,577
		55040	FICA Taxes	20,233
		55050	Pension Contribution	33,246
		55060	Insurance Benefits	82,997
		55061	Dental & Vision	300
		55062	HSA Contribution	156
CC1404	Finance	55066	Life Insurance Benefit	156
		55090	Salary Adjustments	3,909
		55094	Salary Savings	27,000
		55150	Long Term Disability	1,303
		56230	Printing	7,000
		56540	Maint & Repair - Office Equip	250
		56641	Copier	1,000
		56662	Rental/Maintenance	45,500
		56710	Software Maintenance	45,500
		56710	Dues & Memberships	450
CC1404	Finance	56756	Training Expense	5,211
		57010	Office Supplies	500
		57020	Reference Books/Publications	400
CC1404	Finance	55010	Regular Salaries	162,770
		55040	FICA Taxes	12,639

# 2025 Budget Amendments

Ordinance #5902  
Floor Amendment  
December 30, 2024

CC2701	55050	Pension Contributions	9,544	
	55060	Insurance Benefits	66,135	
	55066	Life Insurance Benefit	416	
	55090	Salary Adjustments	2,441	
	55150	Long Term Disability	814	
	55010	Regular Salaries	2,155,509	
	55025	Part Time salaries	27,040	
	55040	FICA Taxes	164,897	
	55050	Pension Contributions	103,766	
	55060	Insurance Benefits	288,953	
CC0112	55066	Life Insurance Benefits	8,762	
	55150	Long Term Disability	10,898	
	55010	Regular Salaries	260,577	Legislature as a Whole
	55040	FICA Taxes	20,233	
	55050	Pension Contribution	33,246	
	55060	Insurance Benefits	82,997	
	55061	Dental & Vision	300	
	55062	HSA Contribution	156	
	55066	Life Insurance Benefit	3,909	
	55090	Salary Adjustments	27,000	
	55094	Salary Savings	1,303	
	55150	Long Term Disability	7,000	
	56230	Printing	250	
	56540	Maint & Repair - Office Equip	1,000	
	56641	Copier	45,500	
	56662	Rental/Maintenance		
		Software Maintenance		
	56710	Dues & Memberships	450	

2025 Budget Amendments

		Ordinance #5902 Floor Amendment December 30, 2024
9999	56756 Training Expense	5,211
	57010 Office Supplies	500
	57020 Reference	400
	Books/Publications	
	32810 Undesignated Fund Balance	4,251,733
TOTAL		<u>5,260,634</u>
		<u>5,260,634</u>



**2025 Budget Amendments**

Ordinance #5902  
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2025 Budget Amendments

Ordinance #5902  
Floor Amendment  
December 30, 2024

002 - Health Fund				
PG1021	Jackson County Arts Commission	56789	Outside Agency Fundin	250,000
9999		32810	Undesignated Fund Balance	250,000
			TOTAL	250,000
003 - Park Fund				



2025 Budget Amendments

Ordinance #5902  
Floor Amendment  
December 30, 2024

9999	Fund Balance	52810	Undesignated Fund Balance	4,259,431
TOTAL				<u>4,259,431</u>

048 - Sheriff's Revolving Fund

050 - American Rescue Plan Fund



