

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2024-107

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** February 13, 2024

**Committee(s) of Reference:** R, F

**Date of Analysis:** February 15, 2024

**Type of Action:** Appropriation; authorization to execute relocation funding agreement; Ordinance Code waiver; direct contracting authorization; designation of oversight agency

**Bill Summary:** The bill appropriates \$3.5 million from General Fund – Property Tax Revenues to provide a grant to Jacksonville University to offset a portion of the costs of the university leasing and renovating space in a downtown office building for use as the permanent home of the university’s law school. It authorizes the execution of a funding agreement between the City and JU regarding receipt and use of the relocation funds. A portion of Ordinance Code Chapter 118 – City Grants – is waived to permit funding to a non-profit organization outside of a competitive procurement process. The Office of Economic Development is designated as the City’s oversight agency for the grant.

**Background Information:** Jacksonville University opened its College of Law in August of 2022, the first new law school established in Florida in more than 20 years, and admitted its second class of students in August of 2023. The college is currently housed on one floor in the VyStar tower on Laura Street, but needs to expand as it incorporates a second and ultimately a third year class. The Office of Economic Development has negotiated an incentive of \$6.5 million payable in two tranches (\$3.5 million this year, \$3 million next year) to assist the college in leasing and renovating the former Atlantic Bank building at 121 West Forsyth Street, 2 blocks from the current location. The college will occupy more than 50,000 sq. ft. on 4 floors in the building, which was selected in part because of its proximity to the county and federal courthouses, attorney offices, and federal, state and local government offices.

**Policy Impact Area:** Downtown redevelopment

**Fiscal Impact:** The bill commits the City to paying \$6.5 million over 2 fiscal years.

**Analyst:** Clements