



## OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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### FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING #8 MINUTES

**August 8, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber, City Hall

**In attendance:** Committee Members Arias (Chair), Howland (Vice Chair), Salem, Diamond, J. Carlucci, Lahnen and Pittman; Council President Carrico; Council Members Amaro, Boylan, Peluso, White, Freeman, and Carlucci

**Also:** Kim Taylor, Brian Parks, Phillip Peterson - Council Auditor's Office; Mary Staffopoulos - OGC; Mike Weinstein - Mayor's Office; Angela Moyer - Budget Office; Colleen Hampsey - Council Research

**Meeting Convened:** 9:01 a.m.

Chairman Arias convened the meeting, and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. He reviewed the rules of procedures for the budget hearings. Ms. Taylor reported that after the first budget hearing, the budget stands with a \$18.2 million deficit.

#### Mayor's Office

Ms. Taylor, Council Auditor, reviewed the budget for the Executive Office of the Mayor and Public Affairs. There were no recommendations from the Auditor.

There was discussion about the automobile allowance listed in the Mayor's proposed expenditures (\$7,200). The allowance would be provided to the CAO and Deputy CAO. Council Member Lahnen recalled that the allowance was removed from last year's budget. Council Member Salem indicated support for a mileage reimbursement policy instead of an auto allowance.

**Motion** (Lahnen/Diamond): to remove the auto allowance. **Approved unanimously.**

The committee talked about salary growth reflected in the Mayor's Office budget.

**Motion** (Howland/Diamond): to cut \$150,553 from the part-time salary line.

**Motion** (Salem/Daimond): to amend the above motion to cut \$300,000 from the total salary line.

**Approved 6-1** (CM Pittman in opposition)

**Motion** (Howland/Salem) to approve the motion as amended. **Approved 6-1** (CM Pittman in opposition)

#### Advisory Boards & Commissions

Includes the Civil Service Board, Construction Trades Qualifying Board (CTQB), and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Taylor reviewed the Advisory Boards and Commissions' budget. There were no recommendations from the Auditor.

#### Medical Examiner

Ms. Taylor reviewed the Medical Examiner's budget. Council Member Pittman talked about the new ME facility, and asked about the salaries for the additional staff there, when opened. There were no recommendations from the Auditor.

#### Health Administrator

Council Member Pittman asked about funds for syphilis screenings, removed from the budget the at previous meeting. Ms. Taylor reviewed the Health Department's budget. There were no recommendations from the Auditor. Council Member Arias asked about services provided by the Health Department potentially duplicated by services in the Mayor's proposed health initiatives. Council Member J. Carlucci said the Health Department should be first in line to provide services, as compared to nonprofit organizations. Council President Carrico mentioned the need for more access to services, particularly for minority groups. Council Member Peluso highlighted health disparities in the city, based on health zone.

**Motion** (Arias/Salem): to move the Health Department budget below the line pending a report on duplicative services. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Public Libraries

Ms. Taylor reviewed the Library's budget. Tim Rogers, Library Director, was in attendance to answer questions. There was discussion about library usage, and the proposed cost for materials.

**Motion** (Diamond/Howland to remove funds (\$500,000) for materials.

**Motion** (Lahnen/Diamond) to amend the above motion to reduce the materials expenditure to \$250,000.

**Approved unanimously.**

**Motion** (Pittman) to restore the full materials request and move it below the line. (Failed, lack of a second)

**Motion** (Diamond/Howland) to approve the motion (to reduce the materials expenditure to \$250,000) as amended. **Approved unanimously.**

Auditor recommendation: amending Schedule AF to remove the three capital outlay carryforwards totaling \$362,615. The Department expects to encumber \$355,344 for library materials fully in the current year and the other two items totaling \$7,271 are being routed back to Council under Ord. 2024-161-E Council Digitization Project. This will have no impact on Special Council Contingency.

**Motion** (Salem/Howland): to approve the Auditor's recommendation. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Library Conference Facility Trust

There was discussion about the rate charged for renting conference spaces in the libraries, and how that rate has not increased in many years.

Auditor's recommendation: an increase of \$60,000 for Rental of City Facilities to better align with recent actuals. This would be offset by an equal decrease of \$60,000 for Transfers from Other Funds, resulting in a net change of \$0 to total budgeted revenues. This would have a positive impact of \$60,000 on Special Council Contingency.

**Motion** (Salem/Howland) to approve the Auditor's recommendation. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Information Technologies

Ms. Taylor reviewed the IT budget. Ms. Kendrick, Director of Technology Solutions, was in attendance to speak on behalf of the department and fielded questions about the office work-from-home policy.

Auditor recommendation: correcting the internal service allocation to address an adjustment to the billing that was not supported and to reallocate portion budgeted to be charged the Housing and Finance Authority since they do not use the Technology Solutions Department.

**Motion** (Lahnen/J. Carlucci): to approve the Auditor's recommendation. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Radio Communication Fund

No recommendations from the Auditor.

#### Technology System Refresh

No recommendations from the Auditor.

#### IT System Development

Auditor recommendation: amend schedule A4 in the Budget Ordinance (Ord 2025-504) to reflect the proposed budget amount as shown on the next page. This will have no impact on the Special Council Contingency.

**Motion** (Lahnen/J. Carlucci): to approve the Auditor's recommendation. **Approved unanimously.**

The meeting was on recess from 11:07 am to 11:22 am.

#### Neighborhoods

Joshua Hicks, Affordable Housing Administrator, spoke about various Neighborhoods Department programs. There was discussion about eviction assistance and the role of the Homelessness Initiatives Commission. No recommendations from the Auditor.

**Motion** (Diamond/Howland): to remove \$1 million for the litter campaign, \$5.25 million for various grants and aids, including \$2 million for Local Capital Stack Development Funding, \$2 million for COJ Downpayment Assistance, \$750,000 for Attainable Housing Utility Tap-in Funding, and \$500,000 for Emergency Rental and Eviction Diversion. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Mosquito Control – State Fund

No recommendations from the Auditor.

#### Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority

Ms. Taylor reviewed the JHFA budget. Council Member Salem commented on the funds provided for affordable housing.

Auditor recommendation 1: Amend the Jacksonville Housing and Finance Authority budget (Schedule N of the Budget Ordinance) to: Correct rounding issues with the amounts; Remove the line and funding for Funds Available for Program Loans since it is not part of the administrative budget; Adjust note on the bottom to state that this only reflects the Administrative Budget of JHFA; Remove the allocation for Technology Solutions charges of \$1,463 since this area no longer uses the City's services. This negative impact of this was addressed during the Information Technologies Fund (53101); Remove the line and funding for all revenues besides Bond Issuer Fees since they are not part of the administrative budget. Correct the Bond Issuer Fees revenue line to be \$391,221 to equal the updated administrative budget for JHFA.

**Motion** (Salem/Howland): to approve recommendation #1. **Approved unanimously.**

Auditor recommendation 2: Strike language in Section 7.2 of the Budget Ordinance referencing the portion of Housing and Community Development Division staff costs that are covered by JHFA.

**Motion** Salem/Howland) to approve recommendation #2. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Police and Fire Pension Fund

Ms. Taylor reviewed the PFPF budget. Mr. Johnson, PFPF Director, was in attendance and answered questions about when the fund will be fully funded (2056).

Auditor's recommendations: removing and replacing Schedule AB and AC with REVISED Schedule AB and REVISED Schedule AC based on the following recommendations:

- decreasing "Personnel" by \$224,996 on Schedule AC in order to reflect the pension costs and other employee provided benefits costs as determined by the City's Budget Office. This will be offset by decreasing "Trust Fund Revenues" by \$224,996 on Revised Schedule AB in order to balance the budget.
- decreasing "Operating Expenses" by \$12,456 on Schedule AC in order to accurately reflect the internal service allocations as determined by the budget office. This will be offset by decreasing the "Trust Fund Revenues" by \$12,456 on Revised Schedule AB in order to balance the budget.
- removing the "FY 2024-2025" amounts from the schedule, adding a subtotal for administrative costs and making other formatting changes as depicted on Revised Schedule AB and AC based on all of the recommendations.

Additional recommendation related to amendment section 9.4 (iii) of the Budget Ordinance to reflect the required contribution per the actuary as \$201,499,077.

**Motion** (Lahnen/J. Carlucci) to approve the Auditor's recommendations. **Approved unanimously.**

Lunch recess 12:00 pm to 12:32 pm.

#### Finance Department (includes Drivers Ed)

Ms. Taylor reviewed the Finance Department budget. No recommendations from the Auditor.

The committee talked about fees for lobbyists. Council Member Lahnen requested a comprehensive list of lobbyists for the City and independent agencies. Council Member Howland asked for more information about subcontractors.

**Motion** (Diamond/Lahnen): to remove \$300,000 in lobbyist fees.

**Motion** (Howland/Lahnen): to amend the motion to remove \$150,00 in lobbyist fees.

**Approved unanimously.**

**Motion** (Howland/Lahnen): to approve the motion as amended. **Approved unanimously.**

#### Driver Education Safety Trust

No recommendations from the Auditor.

#### General Employees and Correctional Officers Pension Plans (includes DC Plans)

No recommendations from the Auditor.

#### Correctional Officer Pension Fund

No recommendations from the Auditor.

#### General Employees Survivor and Disability Fund

No recommendations from the Auditor.

Public Safety Survivor and Disability Fund

No recommendations from the Auditor.

Risk Management - Self Insurance and Insured Programs

No recommendations from the Auditor.

Planning and Development

Ms. Taylor reviewed the budget for the Planning and Development Department. No recommendations from the Auditor.

**Motion** (Lahnen/Salem): to move the \$650,000 in service enhancements below the line.

**Motion** (Salem/Howland) to amend the motion to remove the items in the service enhancement line (State of the Food Report, zoning consultant fees, sidewalk inventory). **Approved unanimously.**

**Motion** (Salem/Howland): to approve the motion as amended. **Approved unanimously.**

Planning Dept. Concurrency Management System

Auditor recommendation: recommend the revenues in Concurrency Management (Fund 10101) be moved from the Public Works Development Services Division (Center 143003) to the Planning and Development Transportation Planning Division (Center 144002) to place the revenues in the appropriate cost center. This will have no impact on Special Council Contingency.

**Motion** (Howland/Diamond): to approve the Auditor's recommendation. **Approved unanimously.**

Military Affairs & Veterans

No recommendations from the Auditor.

Jax Human Rights Commission

No recommendations from the Auditor.

Auditor Recommendations on Schedule B3

1. Increase the Pension Costs and Pension Costs – PSDC/FRS to account for a formula issue with pulling this calculation to the schedule. (Increases annual cost by \$2.2 million in FY 2026/27 and then by about \$8.5 million per year for the other out years).

**Motion** (Lahnen/Howland): to approve recommendation #1. **Approved unanimously.**

2. Increase the Debt Management for FY 2026/27 through FY 2028/29 by \$5.3 million, \$4.4 million and \$6.2 million for the respective years, and then a decrease for FY 2029/30 by \$51.5 million, which are all to account for a formula issue in the calculation.

**Motion** (Lahnen/Howland): to approve recommendation #2. **Approved unanimously.**

Direct Contracts

*Agape Community Health Center – Intergovernmental transfer to State of Florida*

Technical Amendments: Authorize funds not distributed to the State as part of City's Federally Qualified Health Center Low-Income Pool requirement be disbursed directly to Agape for uncompensated care for uninsured and indigent patients and authorize execution of related agreement(s); Reflect total funding not to exceed \$121,724 between both activities.

Attach revised Exhibit 33 (Term Sheet) to reflect intended use of funds not disbursed to the State

**Motion** (Diamond/Lahnen) to approve technical amendments. **Approved unanimously.**

*Angel Kids Foundation*

Technical Amendment: Attach Revised Exhibit 25 (Term Sheet) to correct budget.

**Motion** (Diamond/Lahnen): to approve technical amendment. **Approved unanimously.**

*Edward Waters University – Living, Learning & Community Center*

There was discussion about the funding source for this project, and whether there is a public purpose to this investment of public funds.

**Motion** (Carrico/Salem): to remove the funding (\$8.7 million) for this item. **Approved unanimously.**

*Family Support Services of Northeast Florida – Center of Hope Kennedy Community Center*

**Motion** (Salem/Lahnen) to move all Jax Journey Forward contracts (\$2 million) below the line.

**Approved unanimously.**

*Florida State College of Jacksonville – Fire Academy of the South Burn Building*

The committee discussed the term sheet for this project, to be revised prior to the 6<sup>th</sup> budget meeting.

Taylor Mejia-Rogers spoke on behalf of FSCJ.

Committee recess 2:41 pm to 2:54 pm.

*Gateway Community Services – Alcohol Trust Detoxification and Stabilization*

Technical Amendments: Strike Section 12.8 and remove Exhibit 8 because authorization to direct contract with Gateway Community Services for alcoholic rehabilitation is already provided pursuant to Section 111.205, *Ordinance Code*.

**Motion** (Lahnen/J. Carlucci): to approve technical amendments. **Approved unanimously.**

*Gateway Community Services – Project Save Lives*

Council Member Salem said all opioid related program should be funded through the opioid settlement proceeds, administered by the Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Committee.

**Motion** (Salem/Lahnen): to remove the \$500,000 for Project Save Lives. **Approved unanimously.**

*I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless - Homelessness Continuum of Care/Urban Rest Stop*

Technical Amendments: Attach revised Exhibit 3 (Term Sheet) to correct budget schedule.

**Motion** (Lahnen/J. Carlucci): to approve the technical amendments. **Approved unanimously.**

*I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless – Mental Health Offender Program*

Technical Amendments: Attach Revised Exhibit 6 (Term Sheet) to correct budget.

**Motion** (Salem/Diamond): to approve the technical amendments. **Approved unanimously.**

*In the World International – OutEast Community Center*

**Motion** (Howland/Diamond): to remove the \$300,000 for this item. **Approved unanimously.**

*Jacksonville Area Legal Aid – Civil Legal Services Program*

There was discussion about the services provided by JALA. Jim Kowalski, JALA, spoke on behalf of the organization.

**Motion** (Diamond/Lahnen): to reduce the funding by half (to \$250,000). **Approved unanimously.**

*Jacksonville Historical Society – Old St. Luke’s Hospital Restoration*

Dr. Bliss, Historical Society, spoke on behalf of this item. There was discussion about the impact of the project and alternative funding sources. The term sheet for this item will be revised and revisited at a later meeting.

*Jacksonville Symphony Association – Core Performers*

Mr. Libman, CEO, spoke on behalf of the Symphony funding request.

**Motion** (Diamond/Howland) to remove funds for this item.

**Motion** (Lahnen/Howland): to amend the motion and to move funding below the line. **Motion withdrawn.** There was discussion about moving this item to the CIP. This item will be revisited at a later meeting

*Jacksonville Urban League – Community and Veterans Empowerment Center*

Dr. Danford, Urban League, spoke on behalf of this item. There was discussion about another veteran center project in the planning stages.

**Motion** (Diamond/Lahnen): to remove funding for this item. **Approved 6-1** (Pittman in opposition).

*JaxCareConnect – We Care Jacksonville*

Council Member Boylan spoke in strong support of JaxCareConnect and shared the extensive work of the CQLI special committee in this field.

**Motion** (Salem/Diamond): to reduce funding to \$500,000 and eliminate the funds for safety net providers (items 17-22). **Approved 5-2** (Pittman and Lahnen in opposition)

**Motion** (Lahnen/Pittman): to retain \$45,000 for each safety net provider. **Failed 2-5** (Pittman and Lahnen in support).

*L Marks – JAX Hub Global – Center for Financial Innovation in Jacksonville*

Ed Randolph, OED, spoke on behalf of this item.

**Motion** (Diamond/Salem): to remove funding for this project. **Approved 5-2.** (Pittman and Lahnen in opposition)

*Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville – Sculpture Acquisition*

There was discussion about this item and alternative funding sources.

**Motion** (Diamond/Lahnen): to remove the funding for this item.

**Motion** (Arias/Lahnen): to use TDC funds for this project. **Approved 6-1** (Diamond in opposition)

**Motion** (Salem/J. Carlucci): to approve the motion as amended. **Approved unanimously.**

*Volunteers in Medicine – West Jacksonville Clinic*

Technical Amendments: Attach revised Exhibit 4 (Term Sheet) to correct Program Costs

**Motion** (Diamond/Salem): to approve technical amendments. **Approved unanimously.**

Ms. Taylor said the sub-total budget is now at +\$1,988,240.

**Meeting adjourned:** 4:53 p.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 8.13.25 5:00 pm