

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2025-206

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

Date of Introduction: March 11, 2025

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

Date of Analysis: March 12, 2025

Type of Action: Appropriation

Bill Summary: This bill appropriates \$7,980,286 from recaptured fiscal year 2023-2024 General Fund/ General Service District balances to address negative cash balances in subfunds and to fund multiple projects. The appropriation includes \$3,000,000 for the University of North Florida (UNF) to establish an esports program arena, \$2,000,000 each for the renovation of two fire stations, and \$692,823 for the construction of a firefighter PPE wash facility. The bill amends the 2025-2029 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan to reflect the allocation of funds for fire station renovations and the PPE wash facility. It also waives Section 118.107 of the Ordinance Code to allow for a direct contract with UNF for the esports arena. The funds will be carried over to fiscal year 2025-26. Oversight of the UNF agreement will be provided by the Grants and Contract Compliance Division of the Finance Department.

Background Information: The legislation reallocates recaptured funds from fiscal year 2023-24 to address negative cash balances in the Special Events and Cecil Field Commerce Center subfunds, while also investing in workforce development through UNF's esports arena and supporting public safety infrastructure improvements. The esports arena aims to promote STEM career pathways and position Jacksonville in the growing esports industry. The fire station renovations will modernize facilities that were originally built for volunteer firefighters.

Policy Impact Area: Budget and Finance; workforce development; public safety

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$7,980,286 from the General Fund/General Service District recaptured funds.

Analyst: Jimenez