

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-317

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

Date of Introduction: April 26, 2022

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

Date of Analysis: April 28, 2022

Type of Action: Appropriations; authorizing fiscal year carry-over; authorization to execute agreements; Ordinance Code waivers; authorizing direct contracting; CIP amendment

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$8 million in debt service savings to the following projects:

- (1) \$2,500,000 to Jacksonville University for the newly established College of Law in downtown Jacksonville;
- (2) \$1,500,000 to the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office for unbudgeted election costs in fiscal year 2021-2022;
- (3) \$1,000,000 to fund an economic development agreement with Breeze Airways for initial marketing efforts to establish new/additional flight routes to/from Jacksonville International Airport;
- (4) \$975,000 to the Florida Theatre for elevator repairs and other capital repairs and maintenance;
- (5) \$450,000 for extension of and improvements to Catherine Street and adjacent areas to accommodate access to the newly relocated Fire Museum;
- (6) \$669,581 for future Downtown Preservation and Revitalization Program Loans payments to JWB Real Estate Capital, LLC for renovations and rehabilitation of the Thomas V. Porter House as authorized and approved by Ordinance 2022-30-E;
- (7) \$330,419 to the Special Council Reserve Contingency Fund for future appropriation by the City Council;
- (8) \$300,000 for a retention pond safety campaign;
- (9) \$250,000 for recycling education; and
- (10) \$25,000 to the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council, Inc. ("SPAR").

The appropriated funds are authorized to carry-over to FY23-24, except for the Supervisor of Elections appropriation which must be encumbered and expended in FY21-22. The bill authorizes execution of an agreement between the City and Jacksonville University regarding the establishment and funding of a law school in downtown Jacksonville. The bill authorizes execution of a grant agreement between the City and Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR). It waives provisions of Ordinance Code Chapter 118 – City Grants – to permit those agreements to be accomplished through direct contracting rather than a competitive process and invokes the exception to the Procurement Code that permits direct contracting with an organization named by legislation.

The 2022-26 Capital Improvement Plan is amended to include the appropriations for the Florida Theatre, Metropolitan Park Marina Fire Station, and Fire Museum/Catherine Street projects.

Background Information: The \$8 million being appropriated resulted from debt service cost savings achieved by refinancing bonds at lower interest rates during the fiscal year. The grant to Jacksonville University is the first half of the City's \$5 million commitment to JU to assist with the creation of a new law school in downtown. The Supervisor of Elections appropriation is necessitated by the additional cost incurred in this fiscal year for the two special countywide elections held to fill the at-large City Council seat vacated by the death of the late Tommy Hazouri. Breeze Airways, a new airline founded by one of the founders of JetBlue, will provide non-stop service

to 7 new markets from JIA - Columbus, Oh., Hartford, Conn., Las Vegas, Nev., New Orleans, La., Providence, R.I., Norfolk, Va., and Richmond, Va. The City's \$1 million will provide a financial incentive to Breeze to enter the Jacksonville market and will fund a marketing campaign to attract passengers to the new service.

Via Ordinance 2022-30-E the Council committed to providing three Downtown Preservation and Revitalization Program (DPRP) forgivable and deferred principal loans to JWB Real Estate Capital in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$669,581 to rehabilitate the Thomas Porter Mansion on North Julia Street for office and restaurant uses; this bill appropriates funds for those loans. The appropriation to SPAR will fund a planning and development study for the Springfield Historic District.

Policy Impact Area: Reappropriation of debt service savings to numerous alternative uses.

Fiscal Impact: The bill reappropriates \$8 million of debt service savings.

Analyst: Clements