

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

All members were present except Legislators Reed and Boulio.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one present wished to address the Board.

READING OF MINUTES OF LAST SESSION, IF REQUESTED

The minutes of the January Organizational Session stand approved in the absence of objection or correction.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

The thank you note was received from Jim and Cindy Lawrence for the Board's donation in memory of Jim's mother Norma Lawrence.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Finance & Rules Committee reported favorably on resolutions referred from other jurisdictional committees.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND OTHER

The County Treasurer provided a report on Investments and Cash In Banks as of December 31, 2025.

The County Administrator provided a report on Budget Transfers for the month of January, 2026.

LOCAL LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS

Chairman Johnson advised that because of bad weather last week the Finance & Rules Committee meeting was cancelled and their resolutions were rolled into the Board Session agenda. Because of that, it is necessary to waive Standing Rules 35 and 60 to permit the introduction of Resolution Nos. 40 through 46 . Such motion was made by Legislator Jareo seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried.

Resolution No. 40

Adopting the 2026 Strategic Priorities for the Finance and Rules Committee

By Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators recognizes the importance of setting clear, ambitious priorities to guide the work of its standing committees and ensure effective service delivery and resource management, and

Whereas, The Finance and Rules Committee has reviewed and recommended its priorities for 2026 to provide a strategic focus for its efforts while allowing flexibility to address emerging issues, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the following 2026 strategic priorities for the Finance and Rules Committee:

1. Regular updates for budget, audit, and labor negotiations.
2. Launch occupancy tax registry for short term rentals.
3. Develop new industrial park to recruit supply-chain manufacturers of Micron.
4. Develop New York State Legislative agenda and advocacy plan, including visit to Albany.
5. Enhance relationships and build partnerships with municipalities, including the City of Watertown.
6. Support employee engagement initiatives including employee appreciation policy and employee engagement survey.
7. Support implementation of health insurance efficiencies including dependent audit.
8. Adopt County Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy.
9. Launch annual management exempt and management confidential performance reviews.
10. Meet with and align priorities with county-appointees to authorities and agencies.

Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 41

Adopting 2026 Jefferson County Legislative Priorities for New York State

By Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Whereas, Counties are municipal corporations and are recognized as political subdivisions of the State of New York and as such the State has the authority to delegate and impose mandates to the County, and

Whereas, New York State provides approximately \$53M in budgeted revenue to Jefferson County on an annual basis, and

Whereas, Despite this funding level, of Jefferson County's 2026 tax levy of \$63.3M, approximately 94% is represented by unfunded state mandates for which the county has little to no control, and

Whereas, State mandates can place both an administrative and financial strain on local taxpayers, and

Whereas, Because of this often-intertwined relationship, it is important for taxpayers to have a voice of advocacy through their county government that fosters a continued dialogue on the local administrative and financial effects of State policy, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County legislative advocacy strategy includes an organized visit to Albany to meet with, deliver, and advocate for adopted Legislative Priorities to elected state officials.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That The Jefferson County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the 2026 Jefferson County Legislative Priorities for New York State:

- Passage of S.1004A / A.5567A to reform CPL §730, modernizing the competency restoration process;
- Make All Municipalities Whole in the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Region that Have Been Impacted by the State's Lack of Payment;
- Restoration of Local Land Use and Taxation Authority for Green Energy Production and Transmission Projects;

and be it further

Resolved, That, in addition to the Jefferson County Legislative Priorities, The Board of Legislators urges support of the following:

- Protect Local Taxpayers from Federal Cost Shifts and Preserve the Medicaid Cap;
- Grant Counties Sales Tax Permanency;
- Extend Design-Build Authority to Counties;

- Expansion of the County Infrastructure Grant Program;
- Set the base state aid formula allocation for each community college to 100% of the prior year or increase \$100 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, whichever is greater;
- Establish an Extended Producer Responsibility program for solar panels to ensure the responsible recycling and reuse of materials, reducing the environmental impact of solar infrastructure and require developers to address end-of-useful life remediation;
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to Pause Implementation and Reverse the Freshwater Wetlands Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 664);
- Increase Local Government Procurement Thresholds (GML 103(16));
- Increase the Mandated Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Budget Allocation for County Jails;
- Adoption of Smart Renewable Energy Siting Practices with Strong Local Input and Agricultural Protections;
- Increase the Salary Cap for Retired Public Employees Seeking County Employment;
- The Governor and New York State Legislature to Become True Partners in Addressing Homelessness by Focusing on Rent Allowance and Standard of Need that Includes the Restoration of 50/50 Cost Sharing for Safety Net Programs, and Provide Actual Brick and Mortar Solutions by Making Permanent Housing the Central Focus;
- Opposing the Implementation of the All-Electric Building Act;
- Supporting A6359/S5931 “Postponing the Implementation and Enforcement of the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulations by the Department of Environmental Conservation”;
- Support for Airport Capital Funding and Economic Development by Securing a New Round of Upstate Airport Funding;
- Supporting Increased Annual NYSDOT Aviation Capital Grant Program Funding.

and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, and Assemblyman William Barclay.

Seconded by Legislator: Michael A. Montigelli

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 42

Authorizing Digital or Electronic Copies of Records to be the Official Copy and Adoption of New York State Archives Digital Imaging Guidelines

By Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

Whereas, The digitization of records significantly enhances operational efficiency by facilitating rapid information retrieval and sharing, reduces ongoing costs associated with physical storage and supplies, and provides greater security against loss or damage through electronic backup and

disaster recovery capabilities, and

Whereas, Departments are moving toward the scanning of and electronic filing of documents, however paper copies are also kept of these records which results in the redundant storage of documents, taking up limited space on our networks and physical space in our Records Storage Center and Offices, and

Whereas, Jefferson County desires to establish a Policy for the conversion of physical records and files maintained by County offices to a digital format and to designate these converted records as the official copy of record and maintain such records in digital format for the legally prescribed retention period of the record, and

Whereas, Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, Part 188.20, 8 NYCRR, Jefferson County is required to establish guidelines for the digitization of local government records.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, By the Board of Legislators, that the NYS Archives Digital Imaging Guidelines, containing the minimum legal digitization requirements for local government records, are hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally converting physical records to a digital format, and be it further

Resolved, That the digital record is the official copy of the record, and be it further

Resolved, That all records converted to a digital format will continue to be retained for the minimum retention period described in the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), which was adopted by the Board on October 6th, 2020, Resolution No. 187.

Seconded by Legislator: Karen J. Freeman

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 43

Authorizing The Chief Elected Official Local Agreement with Lewis County Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

By Legislator: Michael A. Montigelli

Whereas, The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Public Law 113-128 requires that Chief Elected Officials of Jefferson and Lewis County enter into an agreement outlining the sharing of funds and the responsibilities of each County and said agreement be signed by the Chief Elected Officer of each County and approved by the County Boards.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into a Chief Elected Official Local Agreement with Lewis County for a term of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to sign the above referenced agreement on behalf of the County of Jefferson, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to the form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Anthony J. Doldo

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 44

Authorizing an Agreement with Schneider Geospatial, LLC for a Property Information Portal and Map Viewer

By Legislator: Daniel R. McBride

Whereas, The County's current web-based property information portal and map viewer has reached end of life, and

Whereas, The Real Property Tax Services Director has explored options and recommends the County contract with Schneider Geospatial, LLC, to provide development and maintenance of a property information portal to include a map viewer, featuring land assessment, taxation, computer assisted mass appraisal, and digital map data utilizing existing real estate and GIS datasets, and

Whereas, The term of the agreement is January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027, and the cost of providing the service will be \$7,800 for 2025, \$9,390 for 2026, and \$9,860 for 2027.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Board of Legislators hereby authorizes an agreement with Schneider Geospatial, LLC for development and maintenance of a web-based property information portal and map viewer for the term of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027, at the cost of \$7,800 for 2025, \$9,390 for 2026, and \$9,860 for 2027, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Schneider Geospatial, LLC on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 45

Establishing and Abolishing Deputy Sheriff Positions

By Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators and Sheriff are committed to maintaining staffing levels to ensure public safety and effective patrol coverage throughout the county, and

Whereas, The process of hiring, training, and certifying a Deputy Sheriff is a time-intensive process, requiring successful completion of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy followed by an extensive officer field training program, and

Whereas, The training process includes approximately six months for the basic academy and an additional four-to-five month field training period, resulting in an approximate eleven-month period from date of hire to solo patrol capabilities, and

Whereas, The Sheriff has identified an opportunity to hire a recruit immediately to ensure enrollment in an upcoming law enforcement academy beginning in March, rather than waiting for an anticipated vacancy which would result in a missed training cycle and a significant gap in patrol coverage, and

Whereas, To facilitate this timing without permanently increasing the budgeted and authorized headcount of the department, the Sheriff has requested the creation of one Deputy Sheriff position, with the stipulation that the next resulting vacancy within the Deputy Sheriff classification will be abolished, and

Whereas, 2026 budgeted funds will remain unspent due to current and future vacancies and will be available to fund the position.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby establishes the position of Deputy Sheriff be created in the Sheriff's Office (31100067), and be it further

Resolved, That the next position to become vacant in the classification of Deputy Sheriff shall be abolished upon vacancy.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 46

Endorsing the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy of the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency

By Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Whereas, The Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") is a public benefit corporation established pursuant to Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York to promote economic welfare and prosperity within Jefferson County, and

Whereas, Pursuant to Section 874 of the General Municipal Law, the Agency is required to establish a Uniform Tax Exemption Policy ("UTEPP") to provide guidelines for the granting of

real property, sales and use tax, and mortgage recording tax abatements, and

Whereas, Since New York's adoption of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2019, state policies have systematically dismantled local control over land use and taxation of renewable energy projects, and

Whereas, The Agency has proposed a 2025 update to its UTEP to clarify guidelines for industrial and non-industrial projects, specifically incorporating new standards for renewable energy projects to align with current economic conditions and development goals.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, The Board of Legislators have reviewed the changes to the UTEP and consider such changes to be aligned with Board goals for land use and taxation, including but not limited to changes in, PILOT durations, local control, taxpayer benefit, and consideration of active and prime farmland, and be it further

Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators hereby endorses the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency Uniform Tax Exemption Policy and Guidelines in the form presented to the Board.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 47

Adopting the 2026 Strategic Priorities for the General Services Committee

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators recognizes the importance of setting clear, ambitious priorities to guide the work of its standing committees and ensure effective service delivery and resource management, and

Whereas, The General Services Committee has reviewed and recommended its priorities for 2026 to provide a strategic focus for its efforts while allowing flexibility to address emerging issues, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the following 2026 strategic priorities for the General Services Committee:

1. Support Airport Capital Projects including old terminal renovation, restaurant opening, and parking lot improvements.
2. Support physical plant improvements including the Human Services Building upgrades.
3. Address land use, permitting, and taxation policies regarding clean energy development.

4. Work towards new State standards for Dog Control.
5. Develop a strategy for brownfield redevelopment and blight removal, with special focus on partnership with the City of Watertown.
6. Upgrade and modernize GIS infrastructure across departments, including Real Property, Planning, IT, Dispatch, and Highway.
7. Develop fleet management plan.
8. Launch Bus Transportation System.

Resolved, That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 48

Authorizing Agreements in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Terminal Gateway Project, SEQR Determination, and Amending the 2026 County Budget and Capital Plan

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Resolution No. 351 of 2022, Resolution No. 263 of 2023, and Resolution No. 240 of 2025, The Board of Legislators authorized agreements with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for grants related to the terminal construction project, and

Whereas, An environmental review was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), determining that the project qualifies as a Type II Action under SEQR as the replacement, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in-kind, on the same site, and

Whereas, The County has completed the bidding process for Phase 2 for construction of the airport restaurant and evaluated bid responses, and

Whereas, The following low bidders for Base Bid plus Alternative 1 are recommended for award: Black Horse Group, LLC for general construction in the amount of \$2,056,446, Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors Inc. for plumbing construction in the amount of \$348,386, Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors Inc. for mechanical construction in the amount of \$225,058, and Northern Pioneer Contractors Inc. for electrical construction in the amount of \$321,400, and

Whereas, The County is anticipating additional expenses on the project for furniture, fire suppression upgrades, and contingencies at a cost not to exceed \$280,710, and

Whereas, McFarland Johnson will provide Construction Observation and Grant Administration services during the project at a cost not to exceed \$368,000, and

Whereas, Jefferson County anticipates receiving Clean Energy Tax Credits with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in relation to the Terminal Construction to be realized later in 2026, and

Whereas, Budgeted grant funding is anticipated from the FAA IJJA AIG in Federal Fiscal Year 2026 to be reappropriated to the Passenger Terminal Reconstruction and Expansion project in the amount of \$1,474,804, and

Whereas, A NYSDOT matching grant on the FAA IJJA AIG is anticipated in the amount of \$38,810 with a County local match of \$38,811, bringing the total local share for Jefferson County to \$531,196, and

Whereas, Funds are available in the Airport Terminal Capital Account totaling \$1,400,000, and

Whereas, The 2026 Capital Plan for the Master Plan Update, Omni Directional Lights (ODALS) and General Aviation Apron Construction Phase projects are now anticipated to be accomplished in 2027; therefore, local funds can be allocated to the Terminal Gateway Project in the amount of \$194,000.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into agreements with Black Horse Group, LLC for general construction in the amount of \$2,056,446, Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors Inc. for plumbing construction in the amount of \$348,386, Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors Inc. for mechanical construction in the amount of \$225,058, and Northern Pioneer Contractors, Inc. for electrical construction in the amount of \$321,400, and

Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with McFarland Johnson to provide Construction Observation and Grant Administration Services for the project at a cost not to exceed \$368,000, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreements on behalf of the County, including any changes orders as recommended by the Direct of Aviation and County Administrator, not to exceed the funding available, subject to review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Decrease

Expenditure		
20561000 02097	Airfield Lighting	\$ 113,000
20561000 02081	Apron Improvements	1,576,614
20561000 020992	Airport Layout Plan	18,000

Increase

Expenditure		
20561000 02088	Airport Terminal	\$2,200,000

Fund Balance		
010000000 30599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 492,386
Transfers		
01995000 09006	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	\$ 492,386
20900600 95031	Transfer from General Fund	492,386

and be it further

Resolved, That the six-year capital plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Bartlett-Bearup, Calarco, Cantwell, Potter, Doldo, Montigelli, Nabywaniec, Freeman, Grant, McBride, Jareo, Ferris, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 49

Authorizing a Software Agreement in Relation to the Watertown International Airport Safety Management System Manual and Implementation Plan

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, By Resolution No. 164 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized agreements with McFarland Johnson, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the development of a Safety Management System (SMS) Manual and Implementation, as required by 14 CFR Part 139, and

Whereas, The contract with McFarland Johnson includes the development and execution of an FAA-approved implementation plan which includes the acquisition of the software, to be provided by Aerosimple LLC, for a period of up to three (3) years at a cost of \$60,000, and

Whereas, The software includes tools to assist in Airfield Operations, Safety Management, Work Order Management, Asset & Property Management, Mobile Accessibility, Compliance and Reporting and Analytics.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with Aerosimple LLC for software, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and

content.

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 50

Authorizing an Agreement in Relation to the Acquisition of Snow Removal Equipment at the Watertown International Airport

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Jefferson County anticipates a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the acquisition of snow removal equipment up to \$760,000 and \$20,000 respectively, and

Whereas, An environmental review was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), determining that the project qualifies as a Type II Action under SEQR for the purchase or sale of furnishings, equipment, or supplies, including surplus government property, other than land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials, and

Whereas, Jefferson County has committed funds for the local share of the project costs in the amount of \$20,000, and

Whereas, The County's selected airport consultant, McFarland Johnson, will complete a grant application and specification and bidding for the acquisition of the snow removal equipment at a cost not to exceed \$36,188, and

Whereas, The County is expected to incur up to \$10,000 in reimbursable administrative expenses in relation to the project, and

Whereas, This project is appropriated in the 2026 Budget and approved in the 2026 County Capital Plan.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into agreements with Federal Aviation Administration, New York State Department of Transportation, and McFarland Johnson for said grant and acquisition, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement on behalf of the County, including any change orders as recommended by the County Administrator, not to exceed the funding available, subject to review of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 51

**Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Homeland Security and
Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation to the State Fiscal Year 2025 Next
Generation 911 Grant Program**

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Jefferson County has been awarded State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY 2025) Next Generation 911 (NG911) Grant in the amount of \$1,515,197 for the period of September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2030, and

Whereas, Next Generation 911 consists of upgrading current analog systems in favor of digital systems, and

Whereas, Upgrades will allow for GPS identification of callers and proper 911 center call routing leading to more efficient and accurate handling of emergencies and potential public safety response times, and

Whereas, The County must enter into an agreement with New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to receive the grant funds to enhance public safety operation and transition to NG911, and

Whereas, The grant will fund the development and implementation of NG911 in Jefferson County.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement for a term of September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2030, on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents as may be required to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services relative to the Next Generation 911 Grant, within available appropriations, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control, and Quotations, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue

01341000 93397 State Aid Fire & Emergency Management \$1,515,197

Expenditure

Resolution No. 53

Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal Aid and State “Marchiselli” Program Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project (Noble Street over West Creek) and Appropriating Funds Therefor and Amending the 2025 County Budget and Capital Plan

By Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Whereas, A Project for Noble Street over West Creek, PIN 775377 (the “Project”) is eligible for Funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ration of 80% federal funds and 20% non-federal funds, and

Whereas, By Resolution Nos. 209 of 2019, 290 and 295 of 2021, 363 of 2022, and 167 and 168 of 2024, Jefferson County approved the above project by making a commitment for the cost of the Right of Way Acquisition Phase for \$45,305, the Preliminary Design Phases I-IV, Right of Way Acquisition Phase and Design Phases V-VI of the project authorizing \$310,000 to cover additional Phases, \$177,000 for the Final Design Phase, and \$3,360,000 for the Construction Phase, and a separate contract for the Bridge NY \$2,064,000 funding for construction, and

Whereas, Jefferson County desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-federal share of the additional costs of Construction and Design Phases V-VI of the Project, and

Whereas, The County has allocated a total of \$500,000 to this project through the Adopted 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2024 County Budgets.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the Jefferson County Treasurer to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the additional costs of Construction and Design Phases V-VI, and be it further

Resolved, That the sum of \$893,750 is hereby appropriated from Account 20511300 02094 and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase of the Project, and be it further

Resolved, That in the event the full federal and non-federal share of the costs of the project exceed the amount appropriated above, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators shall convene to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the Chairman of the Board of Legislators thereof, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications, or reimbursement requests for Federal and State Aid, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and substance, on behalf of the County of Jefferson with NYSDOT in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the municipality’s first instance funding of project costs, and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible

Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefor that are not federal or state-aid eligible, and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and be it further

Resolved, That the Resolution shall take effect immediately, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2025 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Decrease

Expenditure		
20511300 02864	A041 Overton Rd	\$ 44,690

Increase

Revenue		
20900600 94592	Federal Aid Bridges	\$714,999
20900600 93592	State Aid Bridges	134,061

Expenditure		
20511300 02904	K019 Evans Mills	\$893,750

and be it further

Resolved, That the six-year capital plan is amended accordingly.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Potter, Jareo, Ferris, Grant, Cantwell, McBride, Montigelli, Calarco, Doldo, Freeman, Nabywaniec, Bartlett-Bearup, Johnson

Absent: Boulio, Reed

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 54

Authorizing Agreements and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation to Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative Funding

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, In May 2019, New York State launched the Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to harden waterfront infrastructure and strengthen regional economics in flood prone regions, and

Whereas, Resolution No. 74 of 2020 amended the County budget related to REDI funding to receive \$7,690,250 from New York State for three road projects (CR 6 Tibbets Point, CR 125 Point Salubrious, CR 57 Point Peninsula), requiring a local match of \$404,750, and

Whereas, Two road projects (CR 6 Tibbets Point and CR 57 Point Peninsula) have remaining balances upon completion, and

Whereas, A funding modification was submitted to REDI to transfer grant funds to the Town of Clayton for their project in the amount of \$1,000,000, and

Whereas, One road project (CR 125 Point Salubrious) has an increased project cost to complete the project, and

Whereas, The excess funds remaining in two projects (CR 6 Tibbets Point and CR 57 Point Peninsula) need to be transferred to the remaining road project (CR 125 Point Salubrious), and

Whereas, An Engineering Consultant Agreement with Lu Engineers was signed in March of 2020 for design services in the amount of \$290,000 for which the current expenditures stand at \$199,406.64, and

Whereas, Jefferson County would like to authorize and amend the extension of said agreement with Lu Engineers to continue design services for CR 125.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreements and all necessary documents to effectuate and complete the projects, subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Decrease

Fund Balance		
20000000 30599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 35,384.73
Revenue		
20900600 93591	State Aid – Highway Capital	\$ 950,000.00
Expenditure		
20511200 02750	CR 6 Tibbets Point	\$ 397,813.33
20511200 02761	CR 57 Point Peninsula	4,404,435.00

Increase

Expenditure
20511200 02730 CR 125 Point Salubrious \$3,816,863.60

Seconded by Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Cantwell, Jareo, Grant, McBride, Doldo, Nabywaniec, Calarco, Ferris, Bartlett-Bearup, Freeman, Montigelli, Potter, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 55

Amending Resolution 195 of 2023 Authorizing 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Agreements Between Jefferson County and Its Towns Relative to Road and Bridge Maintenance Services; Construction and Reconstruction of Roads; and Sanding, Snow and Ice Removal to include Villages

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Resolution No. 195 of 2023 authorized intergovernmental agreements between Jefferson County and its Towns relative to road and bridge maintenance services; construction and reconstruction of roads; and sanding, snow and ice removal, and

Whereas, The Board of Legislators has established policies governing the use of local municipal highway and public works departments to further the County programs, and

Whereas, Jefferson County now desires to authorize intergovernmental agreements to include its Towns and Villages to perform the aforementioned services, and

Whereas, In the interest of budgetary and operational stability, the County desires to enter into a five-year agreement for the period 2023-2027 with the Towns and Villages for the provision of services needed to implement the aforesaid County programs.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That, Pursuant to Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law, the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized to execute agreements with the Towns and Villages for this purpose, subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further,

Resolved, That under the same provisions currently in effect, the base per mile reimbursement for snow removal for all Towns shall be \$7,000 in 2023, then shall be increased by the CPI-W annually with a minimum increase of 2% and a maximum of 4%, based on the average of the monthly rates for the preceding October through September period, and be it further

Resolved, That the base rate of \$3.50 per gallon for fuel shall be subject to a \$100 per mile change for every \$0.50 increase or decrease in OGS diesel fuel prices, while the base salt price of \$80 per ton shall be subject to a \$100 per mile change for every \$10 per ton increase or decrease in the price of salt, and be it further

Resolved, That summer rental rates for tandem-axle dump trucks shall be \$60 per hour, single-axle trucks shall be \$30 per hour, and all other equipment shall be reimbursed at the established DOT rates.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 56

Authorizing an Agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation for the 2024-2025 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program and with the ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence for Management, Operation, and Maintenance of the Coordinated Public Transportation System and Amending the 2026 Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution No. 292 of 2021, the County adopted the Jefferson County Coordinated Transportation Plan which describes development and implementation of a Countywide public transportation system in coordination with the City of Watertown's CitiBus system, and

Whereas, Pursuant to Section 5311, Title 49 United States Code and by Resolution No. 310 of 2022, Jefferson County submitted a grant request for funds to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for capital funds to provide mobility management services for rural Jefferson County, and

Whereas, Jefferson County and the State of New York have entered into continuing agreements which authorize the undertaking of the Project and reimbursement of the federal and applicable state shares, and

Whereas, The NYSDOT has recommended the award of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 funds to Jefferson County for the 2024–2025 program year in support of rural public transportation operations and capital mobility management activities, and

Whereas, The County has received formal notification of the award in the total amount of \$1,123,080 in federal funds, including \$285,962 for capital and mobility management activities and \$837,118 for operating assistance to support the County's core and specialized employment services transportation programs, and

Whereas, NYSDOT serves as the direct recipient of Section 5311 funding from FTA and will contract with Jefferson County to administer the funds for eligible program expenses, and

Whereas, The County issued a Request for Proposals to identify qualified vendors to provide mobility management services subject to Federal Transit Administration’s Section 5311 funding, and

Whereas, Resolution No. 48 of 2025 authorized an agreement with Volunteer Transportation Center (VTC) to assist the County with mobility management services for a fee not to exceed \$215,015, funded by 5311 funds, and

Whereas, Funds for the mobility management services require appropriation to fund the authorized contract extensions through 2026, and

Whereas, Jefferson County issued a Request for Proposal to contract for Management, Operation, and Maintenance of the Coordinated Public Transportation System, and

Whereas, The ARC of Jefferson-St. Lawrence was deemed to be the vendor of best value in response to the Request for Proposals.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant agreement and all necessary documents with the New York State Department of Transportation for the 2024–2025 FTA Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program, subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with the New York State Department of Transportation relative to FTA Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program, within available appropriations, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control and Quotations, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chair of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with The ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence for Management, Operation, and Maintenance of the Coordinated Public Transportation System for the initial term of two years, with the option of three additional one year terms for an amount not to exceed \$464,804 for 2026 and not to exceed \$869,480 for 2027 on behalf of the County, subject to the review of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue		
01563000 91789	Sale of Advertising Items	\$ 10,712
01563000 93594	St Aid Bus Transportation	199,438
01563000 94594	Fed Aid Bus Transportation	432,923
Expenditure		
01563000 04416	Professional Fees-External	\$643,073

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Potter, Montigelli, Bartlett-Bearup, Cantwell, Grant, Nabywaniec, McBride, Calarco, Jareo, Doldo, Ferris, Freeman, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 57

Authorizing Grant Agreement, State Environmental Quality Review Act Determination, and Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation to a 2025 Community Development Block Grant Award from the New York State Office of Community Renewal

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Jefferson County has recently been notified by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) that its 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application has been approved, and

Whereas, The \$750,000 award (581HR301-25) will be used to continue an owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program to benefit income eligible homeowners throughout Jefferson County, and

Whereas, A Grant Agreement between the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) and the County is necessary to access the funds, and

Whereas, Jefferson County has evaluated the CDBG action under the project classification guidelines of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), and

Whereas, The 2025 County Budget requires an amendment for revenue and expenditure line items associated with the CDBG award and program.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chair of the Board of Legislators is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement, subject to the approval of the County Attorney, with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation in accordance with HTFC and OCR guidelines, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with the New York State Office of Community Renewal relative to the Community Development Block Grants within available appropriations, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control and Quotations, and be it further

Resolved, That the County has determined that this CDBG project is a Type II Action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and requires no further State environmental review, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2025 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue
30866800 94911 Federal Aid – CDBG \$750,000

Expenditure
30866800 04014 CDBG Housing Rehab \$750,000

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Cantwell, Jareo, Potter, Freeman, Doldo, Montigelli, Calarco, Grant, Nabywaniec,
 Ferris, Bartlett-Bearup, McBride, Johnson

Absent: Boulio, Reed

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 58

Amending the 2025 County Budget in Relation to the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, By Resolution No. 88 of 2024, Jefferson County, acting as lead County on behalf of the North Country HOME Consortium, was authorized to submit applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for HOME Investment Partnership Program Grants for Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 to assist in providing affordable housing resources within the Consortium area, and

Whereas, Jefferson County, as Lead County of the Consortium, has been awarded a 2025 HOME Grant in the amount of \$938,996.80 for the purpose outlined above.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby authorizes the Chairman of Board to execute any and all documents as may be required to fulfill the requirements of this grant award subject to the review of the County as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development relative to the HOME Investment Partnership Program Grants within appropriated funds, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control and Quotations, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2025 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue
30866800 94995 Fed Aid HOME Program \$938,996.80

Expenditure
30898900 04001 HOME Program \$938,996.80

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Nabywaniec, Jareo, McBride, Montigelli, Doldo, Grant, Bartlett-Bearup,
 Calarco, Freeman, Cantwell, Potter, Ferris, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 59

Amending the 2026 County Budget to Reappropriate New York State Septic System Replacement Program Funds

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, By Resolution No. 169 of 2024, Jefferson County accepted funds to assist landowners located in the priority areas in the County through the State Septic System Replacement Fund established by the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017, and

Whereas, Jefferson County has a grant award balance for the New York State Septic System Replacement Program, and

Whereas, It is necessary to reappropriate these funds in order to provide for the continuation of the program in 2026.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Fund Balance		
01000000 30599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$204,472.03

Expense		
01802000 04025	Septic System Replacement	\$204,472.03

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Grant, Calarco, Monigelli, Bartlett-Berarup, Freeman, Jareo, Doldo, Nabywaniec,
 Cantwell, Ferris, McBride, Potter, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution 60

Authorizing Agreements in Connection with New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program and Amending the 2026 Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Jefferson County submitted its annual application for the Snowmobile Trails Grant Aid Program through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in cooperation with the Winona Forest Recreation Association, Barnes Corners Sno-Pals Snowmobile Club, Pulaski-Boylston Snowmobile Club, Thousand Islands Snowmobile Club, and Missing Link Snowmobile Club, and

Whereas, The County has been notified of receipt of an award of \$156,609 through the 2025-2026 Program year, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County does hereby accept the above-referenced funding and authorizes the Chair of the Board of Legislators to execute such grant agreements and other documents as may be required to receive the funding from the State of New York, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chair of the Board is further authorized to execute any and all future agreements with the Winona Forest Recreation Association, Barnes Corners Sno-Pals, Pulaski-Boylston, Thousand Islands, and Missing Link snowmobile clubs for organizations to conduct snowmobile trail development and maintenance for the 2025 -2026 Program Year, consistent with the referenced grant application and grant program requirements, upon the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation relative to the annual Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid Program funding applications, within available appropriations, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control and Quotations, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget be amended as follows:

Increase

Expenditure

01802000 04681	Snowmobile Trail Maintenance	\$156,609
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Revenue

01802000 93889 St Aid Snowmobile Trail \$156,609

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Grant, Jareo, Montigelli, Cantwell, Ferris, Potter, Bartlett-Bearup, Doldo,
 McBride, Nabywaniec, Freeman, Calarco, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 61

**Amending the 2025 Budget in Relation to an Agreement with Volunteer Transportation for
Mobility Management Services**

By Legislator: Philip N. Reed, Sr.

Whereas, Pursuant to Section 5311, Title 49 United States Code and by Resolution No. 310 of 2022, Jefferson County submitted a grant request for funds to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for capital funds to provide mobility management services for rural Jefferson County, and

Whereas, By Resolution No. 48 of 2025 the Board of Legislators authorized an agreement with Volunteer Transportation Center for mobility management services on behalf of the County, and

Whereas, Volunteer Transportation Center has been performing Mobility Management Services on behalf of the County since fiscal year 2023, and

Whereas, The County has now officially received formal notification of the award of 5311 funds in the total amount of \$1,123,080, including \$285,962 for capital and mobility management activities and \$837,118 for operating assistance to support the County’s core and specialized employment services transportation programs, and

Whereas, The newly awarded funds require appropriation to support mobility management expenses for fiscal years 2023 through 2025.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the 2025 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue		
01563000 93594	St Aid Bus Transportation	\$ 26,631.50
01563000 94594	Fed Aid Bus Transportation	213,051.50

Expenditure
01563000 04416 Professional Fees-External \$ 239,683.00

Seconded by Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Cantwell, Potter, Bartlett-Bearup, Nabywaniec, Freeman, Calarco, Montigelli,
 McBride, Ferris, Grant, Doldo, Johnson

Absent: Boulio, Reed

Resolution passed

Resolution No. 62

**Authorizing an Agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
in Relation to the Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring Program Grant Funding**

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, By Resolution No. 74 of 2011, The Board of Legislators authorized agreement with New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to receive funding with respect to Leandra's Law Implementation, and

Whereas, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Governor's Traffic Safety Committee has transitioned the Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring project to formula-based funding.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts said grant award in the amount of \$18,693.73 and enters into an agreement with the Division of Criminal Justice Services for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and be it further

Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby authorizes the Chairman of Board to execute any and all documents as may be required to fulfill the requirements of the grant award subject to the review of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services relative to the Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring Program Grant in the Probation Department, within appropriated funds, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control and Quotations.

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 63

Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Division of Criminal Justice to Provide Funding for Certified Pretrial Services and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, Jefferson County has been awarded a Pretrial Services grant from DCJS in the amount of \$333,033 for the period of November 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026, and

Whereas, The Pretrial Services grant is to be used to offset costs associated with the provision of certified pretrial services including, but not limited to, screening, assessment, supervision, and reporting as provided in the New York State Enacted SFY 2025-26 Budget.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Jefferson County hereby accepts said grant award in the amount of \$333,033, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents as may be required to fulfill the requirements of this grant award on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with the Division of Criminal Justice relative to the Pretrial Services Grant for the Probation Department, within available appropriations, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control, and Quotations, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase

Revenue

01314000 93312	State Aid – Pretrial Services	\$123,033
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Expenditure

01314000 01100	Personal Services	\$ 4,191
01314000 01300	Overtime	1,857
01314000 04102	Office Furnishing	6,000
01314000 04112	Membership & Dues	285
01314000 04111	Trackable Items	49,500
01314000 04120	Computer Subscriptions	20,000
01314000 04313	Travel	15,000
01314000 04510	Medical Supplies	5,000
01314000 04514	Uniforms & Clothing	6,000
01314000 04585	Operating Supplies	5,200
01314000 04613	Training	5,000

01314000 04624 Incidental

\$ 5,000

Seconded by Legislator: Steel E. Potter

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Jareo, Ferris, Bartlett-Bearup, Grant, Calarco, Cantwell, McBride, Nabywaniec,
Potter, Montigelli, Doldo, Freeman, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 64

Authorizing an Agreement with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services for Quality Improvement for Family Court Representation

By Legislator: Robert D. Ferris

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Defender's Office has been awarded a New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services Quality Improvement for Family Court Representation grant in the amount of \$750,000 for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, and

Whereas, The Quality Improvement for Family Court Representation initiative is designed to reduce caseloads of current Public Defenders and implement a multi-disciplinary model of representation provided to clients in Family Court child welfare proceedings, and

Whereas, Said grant will be used for Quality Improvement for Family Court Representation by providing salary and fringe for a full-time Assistant Public Defender and a full-time Paralegal.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts said grant award, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the County as may be required to fulfill the requirements of this grant award, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents as may be required to execute any and all future amendments and agreements with New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services relative to the Quality Improvement for Family Court Representation grant, within appropriated funds, per Purchasing Policy 4.01 – Policy, Control, and Quotations.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 65

Adopting the 2026 Strategic Priorities for the Health and Human Services Committee

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, The Jefferson County Board of Legislators recognizes the importance of setting clear, ambitious priorities to guide the work of its standing committees and ensure effective service delivery and resource management.

Whereas, The Health and Human Services Committee has reviewed and recommended its priorities for 2026 to provide a strategic focus for its efforts while allowing flexibility to address emerging issues, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the following 2026 strategic priorities for the Health and Human Services Committee:

1. Improve security conditions at Human Services Building in concert with capital improvements.
2. Continue to track and support homeless initiatives.
3. Conduct and begin executing results of a comprehensive housing study.
4. Execute customer service training across forward-facing county offices.
5. Solve medical examiner vacancy and reduce coroner transportation costs.
6. Launch Lead Rental Registry program for the City of Watertown.
7. Support Public Health Department in its pursuit of public health accreditation.
8. Support the Department of Social Services efforts to improve performance metrics.

Resolved, That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 66

Authorizing an Agreement for the Provision of Caregiver Services Program to Provide for Music Therapy for Older Adults Receiving Respite Services

By Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

Whereas, By Resolution No. 207 of 2024 and Resolution No. 53 of 2025 the Board of Legislators approved a contract for the provision of music therapy with Memcara for the CareSuite Program under Homemaker Services for caregivers of older adults and Respite Haven Program for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, and

Whereas, Music therapy is structured to promote memory recall, stimulate imagination and encourage physical movement and interaction for seniors experiencing memory loss, cognitive decline, dementia and Alzheimer's, and

Whereas, The Office for the Aging Director recommends that this contract be renewed for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators be and is hereby authorized to execute such agreement with Memcara for music therapy, at a cost not to exceed \$10,800 on behalf of Jefferson County for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content

Seconded by Legislator: Karen J. Freeman

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 67

Authorizing an Agreement with G.R.O. Energy Solutions, LLC of Jefferson County for Provision of Home Modification Program Services

By Legislator: Karen J. Freeman

Whereas, The Jefferson County Office for the Aging works for the establishment and expansion of programs and services which assist older adults in the areas of their most urgent need, and

Whereas, There exists a demand for handyman services to support the Home Modification Program, which can aid older adults in maintaining independence in the home, and

Whereas, G.R.O. Energy Solutions, LLC has proposed to provide handyman services for a rate of \$97 per hour, plus materials.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with G.R.O. Energy Solutions, LLC for handyman services for the Home Modification Program at a cost of \$97 per hour plus cost of materials, for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, subject to approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 68

Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Legal Services for the Elderly of Jefferson County

By Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

Whereas, By Resolution No. 66 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized an agreement for the provision of legal services for persons 60 years of age or older for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, and

Whereas, The Director of the Office for the Aging recommends renewal of the agreement for provision of said legal services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 annually.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, Jefferson County enter into an agreement with Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York for legal services for the elderly, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval by the County as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 69

Authorizing an Agreement for Provision of Personal Emergency Response Systems Funding with the Henry Keep Home

By Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Whereas, By Resolution No. 65 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized an agreement to provide Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) with funding through Henry Keep Home for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, and

Whereas, The Henry Keep Home is willing to continue funding at the rate of \$1700 per month, so as to provide PERS to up to 100 eligible individuals monthly, representing an increase of 50 additionally served older adults per month.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County enter into an agreement with the Henry Keep Home for Personal Emergency Response Systems for the period of January 1, 2026,

through December 31, 2027, at the funding rate of \$1700 per month, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 70

Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Personal Care Services to Elderly of Jefferson County

By Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

Whereas, By Resolution No. 63 of 2024, The Board of Legislators authorized agreements for personal care services to the elderly of Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Office for the Aging (OFA) is eligible to receive State and Federal funds for the purpose of providing needed programs and services to elderly residents of Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The OFA and The Board of Legislators desire to contract for the provision of personal care services to the elderly for 2026 and 2027.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, Jefferson County enter into agreements for 2026 and 2027 with the below listed parties for the provision of personal care services to elderly residents of Jefferson County for such consideration as follows:

Personal Care Services

Homemakers of Western, NY, Inc. aka Caregivers, Buffalo, NY at the blended rate of \$33.00 per hour for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for the provision of housekeeper/chore, personal care and respite for persons 60 years of age or older,

US Care Systems, Utica, NY at a rate of \$36.00 per hour for PC1 and \$37.00 per hour for PC2 for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for the provision of housekeeper/chore, personal care and respite services for persons 60 years of age or older,

Seniors Helping Seniors, Watertown, NY at a blended hourly rate of \$37.75 per hour for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, for the provision of housekeeping/chore, personal care and caregiver respite services for persons 60 years of age or older, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute said agreements on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 71

Authorizing Agreements for Provision of Transportation Services to Elderly of Jefferson County

By Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

Whereas, The Jefferson County Office for the Aging works for the establishment and expansion of programs and services which assist older persons in the areas of their most urgent needs, and

Whereas, The Office for the Aging is eligible to receive State and Federal funds for the purpose of providing needed programs and services to elderly residents of Jefferson County, and

Whereas, The Office for the Aging and the Board of Legislators desire to contract for the provision of certain programs and services to the elderly.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That pursuant to Section 95-a of the General Municipal Law, Jefferson County enter into agreements for various periods with the below listed parties for the provision of such programs and services to elderly residents of Jefferson County and for such consideration as follows:

Transportation Services:

The Volunteer Transportation Center of Jefferson County, for the provision of transportation services for persons 60 years of age or older; for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for consideration for services not to exceed \$55,000 annually,

Wilna-Champion Transportation Center, Inc., Carthage, New York for the provision of transportation services for persons 60 years of age or older; for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for consideration for services not to exceed \$20,000 annually,

Paynter Senior Center, Inc., Clayton, New York for the provision of transportation services for persons 60 years of age or older; for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for consideration for services not to exceed \$10,800 annually, and be it further

Resolved, That the Chairman of the Board is hereby authorized to execute said agreements on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Karen J. Freeman

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 72

Authorizing an Amended Agreement with the Home Care Association of New York State and Iroquois Healthcare Association Related to Additional Funding for the Community Medicine and Paramedicine Programs

By Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

Whereas, By Resolution No. 254 of 2022, Resolution No. 108 of 2023, Resolution Nos. 71, 72, and 283 of 2024, and Resolution No. 139 of 2025, The Board of Legislators authorized and amended agreements with the Home Care Association of New York State and Iroquois Healthcare Association for Jefferson County to pilot a community medicine and paramedicine program with grant funds received from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service has been notified of additional funding in the amount of \$145,000 to cover expenses January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, and

Whereas, The 2026 funding was budgeted as part of the 2026 County Budget.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts the funding award and the Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute an amended agreement with the New York State Home Care Association and the Iroquois Healthcare Association for the Community Medicine and Paramedicine Program for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and content.

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 73

Authorizing an Agreement in Connection with New York State Department of Health County Emergency Medical Services Support Grant and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has identified that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) systems of care are in crisis statewide due to rising costs and high demand for increasingly complex services, yet are without the resources, flexibility, or statutory authority to address these issues independently nor easily develop county-wide or publicly funded EMS programs, and

Whereas, The goal of the County Emergency Medical Services Support Grant is to strengthen current EMS systems of care throughout New York State, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) has applied for and received a one-time funding award in the amount of \$499,997 from the NYSDOH to strengthen EMS systems of care in Jefferson County for the period of July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, and

Whereas, The JCPHS will utilize funding to work with ambulance agencies throughout Jefferson County to strengthen the current system by establishing an Advanced Life Support intercept and specialty response program based at Samaritan Medical Center to serve the entire county, and bariatric emergency response capacities, geographically based at Guilfoyle Emergency Medical Services, Thousand Island Emergency Rescue Squad, Carthage Area Rescue Squad, and South Jefferson Rescue Squad, which together will serve the entire county, and

Whereas, The JCPHS will additionally facilitate application of a county-wide Certificate of Need (CON) so that agencies can receive payment for the ALS intercept and bariatric emergency response calls, as well as all other mutual aid responses, which are all unbillable without the CON, and

Whereas, \$300,000 of the funding was planned for and budgeted as part of the 2026 County Budget.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts said funding and authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Legislators to execute such agreement on behalf of Jefferson County, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, and be it further

Resolved, That the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue		
01405000 93452	State Aid PH – Other Grants	\$199,997
Expenditures		
01405700 04416	Professional Fees	\$ 63,797
01405700 02100	Equipment	136,200

Seconded by Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

Clerk Piche noted that this resolution received a negative recommendation from the Health & Human Services Committee.

Legislator Ferris said after talking to Town Supervisors and ambulance providers in his district, he would be voting no on this resolution.

Legislator Cantwell did not want to see the County get into the ambulance service, and because of the lack of paramedics in the system currently he did not want to see another agency pulling from that small pool, so he is opposed to the resolution.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Freeman, Bartlett-Bearup, Jareo, Montigelli, Johnson

Nays: Grant, Doldo, Nabywaniec, Calarco, Potter, Ferris, McBride, Cantwell

Absent: Boulio, Reed

Resolution defeated.

Resolution No. 74

Authorizing Funding in Connection with New York State Department of Health Local Health Department Performance Incentive Initiative and Amending the 2026 County Budget in Relation Thereto

By Legislator: Frances A. Calarco

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service Preventive Services unit has been recognized by the New York State Department of Health for public health emergency preparedness related to extreme weather and climate, and

Whereas, The Jefferson County Public Health Service is eligible to receive an incentive award for this achievement, and

Whereas, The Department plans to use the funds to support costs associated with New York State Public Health Law Article 6 eligible services for disease prevention and population health activities.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That Jefferson County hereby accepts the incentive award funding, and the 2026 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Increase:

Revenue		
01405000 93401	State Aid Public Health	\$23,084

Expenditure:		
01405100 04416	Professional Fees	\$ 8,084
01405100 04510	Medical Supplies	5,000
01405100 04585	Operating Supplies	10,000

Seconded by Legislator: Corey Y. Grant

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Freeman, Doldo, Potter, Ferris, Calarco, Bartlett-Bearup, Grant, Montigelli, McBride, Cantwell, Nabywaniec, Jareo, Johnson

Absent: Reed, Boulio

Resolution passed.

Resolution No. 75

Expressing Support for the New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide Program and Urging Further Reforms to New York State Civil Service Law

By Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

Whereas, In May 2024, New York State Civil Service launched an expanded program, New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide Program (NY HELPS) to streamline the appointment process and allow State agencies to hire diverse, qualified permanent employees quickly and without examinations, and

Whereas, As a result of the persistent hiring challenges of public employers, the Program temporarily waives the requirement for civil service exams for specific titles allowing agencies to quickly fill critical positions to address staffing shortages and facilitate the appointment of qualified permanent employees based on qualifications and interviews, and

Whereas, Jefferson County received approval to utilize the Program in late Fall of 2025 for the titles of Caseworker, Social Welfare Examiner, and Community Service Worker to address critical personnel needs within the Department of Social Services (DSS), and

Whereas, Since such approval DSS has received a total of 200 applications for the three titles and has been able to hire seven Caseworkers, sixteen Social Welfare Examiners, and seven Community Service Workers, with more hires expected in January, and

Whereas, The Program has allowed the County the flexibility to evaluate all applications and individuals based on the best qualifications and skill set for the positions, instead of being restricted to a few applicants on a civil service list, and

Whereas, These critical positions that Jefferson County has struggled to fill for years are now planned to be filled within the first quarter of 2026.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Jefferson County Board of Legislators expresses its support for the NY HELPS Program and urges New York State to further examine Civil Service Law and enact permanent and additional reforms to enable agencies to use best practices in hiring well qualified and talented employees who may otherwise have been stalled or discouraged through current process and practices, and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be sent to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Scott Gray, and Assemblyman Will Barclay.

Seconded by Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

All members present voted aye.

Resolution No. 76

**Appointing Member to the Jefferson County Public Health Service
Professional Advisory Committee**

By Legislator: Robert W. Cantwell, III

Resolved, That the following individual be and is hereby appointed as a member of the Professional Advisory Committee for term to expire as indicated below:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
New Appointment Jennifer Bleam	12/31/2029

Seconded by Legislator: Tina M. Bartlett-Bearup

All members present voted aye.

There being no further business of the Board, on a motion by Legislator Ferris seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Piche
Clerk of the Board