JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL



COUNCIL MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg. 358 3rd Avenue, Ridgeland, SC 29936 Monday, March 4, 2024 MINUTES

Officials Present: Chairman L. Martin Sauls IV, Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins, Councilman John Kemp and Councilman Coy Garbade.

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Russell Wells, Rose Dobson-Elliott, Danny Lucas and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Sauls called the 5:04pm Council Meeting to order. Prior to reading the report of compliance The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.

- 2. Executive Session SECTION 30-4-70.
 - (a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:
 - (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body Appointed and Elected Officials' Salaries
 - (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim Tax Map # 087-00-05-008 and Tax Map # 087-00-05-009; Ord# O-2024-Moratorium Ordinance; Telfair Commercial Tract; Soul Freedom Marketing, LLC; Rivers Reach / Settings; The Baird Audit Group LLC; Tax Map 067-00-01-067; and Tax Map #'s 087-00-05-008 and 087-00-05-009; Tax Map #s 048-00-01-005 and 048-00-01-007
 - (5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body Prospect Update; Project Refurb; Project Peaches

ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS. PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE MAY BE VOTES BASED ON ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Motion to go into executive session with the removal of duplicate tax map numbers: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

3: Return to Open Session at 6:30PM

Motion to return to regular session: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

Action coming out of Executive Session – There were no motions coming out of Executive Session.

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation: The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Vice Chairwoman Clark.

5. Approval of the Consent Agenda Items:

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

6. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve with the change that Item # 19 is amended to read Chapter 26 Taxation: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

7. Jessica Daley - Needs Assessment Public Hearing

Ms. Daley was present to address the Needs Assessment Public Hearing. She gave a presentation and encouraged everyone that if they feel that they had been discriminated against, to please give them a call. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

8. Jessica Daley - Marsh Cove Fire Substation Project Closeout Public Hearing

Ms. Daley was present to address the Marsh Cove Fire Substation Project Closeout Public Hearing. She noted that this project would now be closed out from CDBG. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

9. Sheriff Hipp – Presenting information and data in reference to the Sheriff's Office accomplishment over the past 3 years.

Sheriff Hipp prepared a summary for Council of the 2021, 2022 and 2023 accomplishments covering the last 3 years. A copy of this information is attached to the minutes as <u>"Attachment A"</u>.

10. Sheriff Hipp – Presentation by Hardeeville Police Chief Sam Woodward to present Seargeant D. Riley with an accommodation award.

The City of Hardeeville Police Chief Sam Woodward presented Seargeant D. Riley with an accommodation award at this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

11. David Tedder – Consideration of Resolution #R-2024-06 Ratifying the letter of intent for the sale of 1.7 acres at Cypress Ridge Industrial Park.

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and review this request for the consideration of this resolution ratifying the letter of intent for the sale of 1.7 acres at Cypress Ridge Industrial Park.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

12. David Tedder – Consideration of Resolution #R-2024-07 Committing to Negotiate a Fee-In-Lieu Of *Ad Valorem* Taxes Agreement Between Jasper County and Project Peaches; Identifying the Project; and Other Matters Related Thereto (Inducement Resolution)

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and review this request for the consideration of this resolution committing to negotiate a Fee-In-Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes Agreement between Jasper County and Project Peaches; Identifying the Project; and other matters related thereto.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

13. David Tedder – Consideration of Resolution #R-2024-08 Providing for Acknowledgments Regarding Completion of Certain Infrastructure at the Development known as The Settings At Mackay's Point, and Providing for Certain Amendments to The Special Services Contract between Rivers Reach At Pocotaligo, LLC and Jasper County

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and gave a background overview of this request for the consideration of this resolution providing for acknowledgments regarding completion of certain infrastructure at the development known as The Settings at Mackay's Point, and providing for certain amendments to The Special Services Contract between Rivers Reach At Pocotaligo, LLC and Jasper County. He

Motion to approve: Councilman Garbade

Second: Councilman Kemp

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

14. Kimberly Burgess – Resolution #R-2024-09 declaring property surplus and authorizing its disposition. (Ambulance Chassis)

Ms. Burgess was present to represent and review this request for the consideration of this resolution declaring property surplus and authorizing its disposition.

Motion to approve: Councilman Adkins

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND ACTION ITEMS

15. John Wall – Public hearing and 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2024-04 Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes And Incentive Agreement By And Between Jasper County, South Carolina And Project Install To Provide For Payment Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes; Approving The Creation Of A Multicounty Park With Hampton County, South Carolina; Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Multicounty Park Agreement By And Between Jasper County, South Carolina And Hampton County, South Carolina; Authorizing Certain Infrastructure Credits And; And Other Related Matters. (Project Install) (1st reading 02.05.2024)

Mr. Wall was present to represent and review this request for consideration by Council. He noted that since this was the 2nd reading a public hearing had been scheduled for tonight. The public hearing was opened but there were no comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

16. David Tedder – Consideration of the 1st reading of an Ordinance authorizing the Execution and Delivery of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentive Agreement by and Between Jasper County, South Carolina and Project Peaches to Provide for Payment of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes; Authorizing Certain Infrastructure Credits and; and Other Related Matters.

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and review this request for consideration by Council. Mr. Tedder noted the public hearing for this ordinance was scheduled for the first meeting in April.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

17. David Tedder – Public hearing and consideration of the 2nd reading of Ordinance #O-2024-05 Extending a Temporary Moratorium on Applications, Administrative Processing and Permitting for Approval of Large Residential Subdivisions, Major Subdivisions, Commercial Development Projects and Signage Within the Euhaw Broad River Planning Area and Matters Related Thereto. (1st reading 02.26.2024)

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and review this request for consideration by Council to extend the temporary moratorium that was currently in place on applications, administrative processing and permitting for approval of large residential subdivisions, major subdivisions, commercial development projects and signage within the Euhaw Broad River planning area to be extended until 07.31.2024.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Garbade

Mr. Tedder noted that the public hearing should be held before the vote. The public hearing was opened. Mr. Tedder read a letter from Earl Fore for the record and Mr. Smittie Cooler spoke in person to thank Council for doing the moratorium. Since there were no other public hearing comments the public hearing was closed.

18. David Tedder – Consideration of the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances by repealing Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 6, Economic Development Alliance.

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and review this request for the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances by repealing Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 6, *Economic Development Alliance* for consideration by Council. He noted that Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 6, needed to be repealed.

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

19. David Tedder – Consideration of the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances by deleting existing Chapter 26, Taxation, Article I and Article II in their entirety, and adopting a new Article I and Article II in their stead. (BOA)

Mr. Tedder was present to represent, review and give an overview of this request for the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances by deleting existing Chapter 26, *Taxation*, Article I and Article II in their entirety, and adopting a new Article I and Article II in their stead.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

20. David Tedder – Consideration of the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances by repealing Chapter 28, *Utilities*, Articles II through IV in their entirety and replacing them with a new Article II. (BJWSA)

Mr. Tedder was present to represent and review this request for consideration by Council of an Ordinance to amend the Jasper County Code of Ordinances by repealing Chapter 28, *Utilities*, Articles II through IV in their entirety and replacing them with a new Article II.

Motion to approve: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second: Councilman Garbade

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

21. Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance 08-17 Any citizen of the County may sign to speak in person at the Council Meeting (before the Council Meeting's 6:30PM start time on the Sign-In Sheet on the Podium), to address Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes. Smittie Cooler signed in but did not stay for the rest of the meeting. Paul Dullan was present to discuss Rivers Reach.

22. Administrator's Report: Mr. Fulghum reviewed his information from his report he had Ms. Burgess give an update on Finance. She discussed the two bids for Sgt. Jasper Park for the replacement fencing. There were no Action Items requiring a vote from the Council in the Administrator's Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve: Councilman Garbade

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous The motion passed.

- 23. Lisa Wagner Approval of the 3rd reading of Ordinance #0-2024-02 to Amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property located at 951 Carolina Drive, bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 067-00-01-003 from the Rural Preservation Zone to the Industrial Development Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.
- 24. Danny Lucas Approval of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan RFP Recommendation. (Tabled at the 02.05.2024 meeting)
- 25. Kimberly Burgess Authorizing a \$48,000.00 grant match contribution to the Jasper County 250 Committee.
- 26. Kimberly Burgess Authorizing review / ratification of the emergency procurement of not to exceed \$41,000.00 for the purchase, installation, and disposal of three industrial dryers for the Detention Center.
- 27. Russell Wells Authorizing the acquisition of 800 mHz public safety radio frequency maintenance equipment (Formerly identified as a "Communications Service Monitor")
- 28. Approval of the Minutes 01.16.2024:

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

- **29. Council Members Comments:** Councilmember Comments were given but there were no comments that required action.
- 30. Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II. There was no need to return to the Executive Session for this meeting. For additional information on this meeting please visit our website for this meeting's agenda E-Packet or for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA

31. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Kemp

Second: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Wanda H. Giles Clerk to Council L. Martin Sauls IV

Chairman

Attachment "A"



Jasper County Sheriff's Office Donald L. Hipp, Sheriff

"Working together to make Jesper County a better and safer place to live "

12008 North Jacob Smart Boulevard P O Box 986 Ridgeland, SC 29938 O; (843) 726-7777 | F (843) 726-7778

JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The previous administration was awarded a grant for litter control in the amount 1. of \$9,500.00 and never used it. We were able to clean up trash from the middle of Tammy Lane with the grant. We were also able to purchase Automated License Plate Reader cameras and place them in two locations within the county that were having problems with different crimes. These cameras have greatly reduced the crime rate in these neighborhoods. These cameras cost \$2,500.00 each and will cost \$2,500.00 each year we keep them. Between December 13, 2021, and January 11, 2022, the cameras have read 51,412 License plates. Those plates 30,947 of them are what are called Unique plate reads. Unique plate reads are defined as plates that are read more than once, stolen vehicles, or vehicle related to a crime. Flock Safety cameras have been searched a total of 192 times in the same time frame by outside agencies. These searches were for vehicles related to crimes throughout the United States. The cameras have been instrumental in helping locate missing persons, such as Sheriff Brantley. One of the cameras also helped apprehend a suspect for the Hardeeville Police Department that shot a store clerk approximately 8 times.
- 2. We were able to secure a new \$797,000.00 body worn camera and taser contract where we were able to outfit all the officers within the department with new body cameras and tasers. This program also has mandatory videos the supervisors must review monthly for training and officer accountability purposes. Supervisors also could log into the system and watch an officer through the body camera while the officer is on scene.
- 3. Under this administration the Sheriff's Office was able to secure over a half of a million dollars in grants.

A \$277,000.00 grant was recently awarded that will fully fund two new School Resource Officers. The grant includes all the equipment to go with each position.

A \$86,000.00 grant was received that was used to help pay for a new body worn camera contract.

A grant for \$67,000.00 was received and was used to help pay for new bullet proof vest for the officers to bring all the department issued vest into compliance.

- 4. The Sheriff's Office implemented Project Reach Out in the schools. This is a mentoring program for students. The program assists challenged youth by providing a positive influence as well as encouragement and offers solutions to assist with handling tough battles and real-world experiences that face our students today. The program was started in February 2021 and has helped approximately 300 students since its inception.
- 5. The Sheriff's Office has leased two mobile Automated License Plate Readers that have been mounted on two separate patrol vehicles. These systems immediately notify the officer in the patrol vehicle if a vehicle surrounding them is listed as stolen, has no insurance, is connected to a wanted person, etc.
- 6. We were able to conduct a payroll study compared to the surrounding agencies and work with the Jasper County Council to raise the starting pay for officers from \$38,300.00 per year to \$46,868.00 per year. Upon being sworn into office the Sheriff's Office was 16 officers short. Since the pay increase, we're only 4 officers short not counting the recent grant for the 2 School Resource Officers.
- 7. Under the current administration, the Sheriff's Office was able to certify 4 School Resources Officers as DARE officers and DARE instructors.
- 8. Upon taking office the Sheriff's Office was over budget for overtime from the previous administration. The Sheriff's Office completely re-aligned the Sheriff's Office payroll through Human Resources and the APD program for better accountability of overtime. By doing so we have saved the county the following:

Between January 2020 and June 2020, the previous administration spent \$164,159.53 in overtime wages. Between January 2021 and June 2021, the current administration we have spent \$53,810.86 in overtime wages. This is a difference of \$110,348.67.

Between July 2020 and November 2020, the previous administration spent \$135,801.93 in overtime wages. Between July 2021 and November 2021 under

the current administration we have spent \$66,773.72 in overtime wages. This is a difference of \$69,028.21. This is a savings to the county of approximately \$179,376.88 for the year.

 In 2020 the previous administration collected approximately \$4,698.50 in court ordered sex offender registry fees.

In 2021, under the current administration the Sheriff's Officer collected approximately \$9,746.50 in court ordered sex offender registry fees.

Under the previous administration the Jasper County Sheriff's Office lost its access to upload the sex offenders into the state system through the internet. All the information had to be mailed to SLED for them to upload it. Under this administration the Sheriff's Office was able to correct the problem with SLED and can now unload all the sex offenders electronically.

- 10. The current administration has been working to correct the evidence storage issues with the Sheriff's Office evidence vault. I have upgraded the alarm system for the evidence vault and property rooms and added a full-time evidence and property custodian.
- 11. This administration has centralized all the records within the Sheriff's Office in one location for better record keeping and organization. With the prior administration records were stored between two separate locations with separate addresses.
- 12. In 2021, under the previous administration Jasper County experienced 4 homicides. In 2021, under my administration Jasper County experienced 3 homicides with all 3 being solved by arrest.
- 13. Under current administration, the Sheriff's Office Narcotics team has managed to build working relationships with the surrounding agencies to include Federal agencies. As Sheriff, I have also been able to purchase specialized equipment for the Narcotics Team that will help them conduct entries during the execution of Search Warrants without having to call in outside agencies.
- 14. We have been able to implement a new accounting program and procedures for better accountability for all funds within the Sheriff's Office.

- 15. We have also adjusted all the Sheriff's Office Seizure and Forfeiture accounts to be state and federal compliant.
- 16. The current administration worked to balance the 2020/2021 budget and managed to finish the fiscal year only 2% over budget. This was accomplished even though the previous administration controlled the first 6 months of the budget.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1. Replaced all the outdated shotguns within the department and was also able to equip every Deputy with a shotgun.
- 2. Replaced all the worn out 10-33 assault rifles with brand new ones and was able to outfit all the Deputies with a new rifle.
- 3. Purchased a drone that has night vision/infrared capability to assist with search and rescue operations and to conduct arial photographs of crime scenes.
- 4. Purchased a digital narcotics tester that will test narcotics through the packaging keeping the Deputy safe from possible exposure to harmful substances such as Fentanyl.
- 5. With the council's help we have replaced approximately 98% of worn-out patrol vehicles with new vehicles.
- 6. We signed a contract with AXON to add in-car cameras to all our patrol vehicles that will work in conjunction with our body camera, tasers, and signal side arm kits and have automated license plate readers built into them.
- 7. The Sheriff's Office was able to appoint a second Animal Control Officer.
- 8. The Sheriff's Office was able to create an IT position while staying under budget.
- 9. The Sheriff's Office was able to lease a new state-of-the-art Animal Control Vehicle.
- 10. The Sheriff's Office purchased an off-road utility vehicle to help with off-road search and rescue efforts while staying under budget.

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- 11. The Sheriff's Office purchased two (2) bloodhounds to help with finding lost individuals and fleeing suspects.
- 12. We were able to appoint an investigator and a volunteer (former investigator) to investigate cold cases.
- 13. The Sheriff's Office was able to outfit all officers with dress uniforms while staying under budget.
- 14. The Sheriff's Office was able to form a Color/Honor Guard to attend funerals and ceremonies.
- 15. Purchased two (2) interactive whiteboards for meeting and training purposes while staying under budget.
- 16. The Sheriff's Office added seventeen (17) Automated License Plate Readers throughout the county to assist in recovering lost individuals, wanted persons, and stolen vehicles. All the Automated License Plate Reader cameras (19 total) read over 300,000 license plates per month.
- 17. The Sheriff's Office was able to certify two (2) of the School Resource Officers with Active Shooter Assessment training so they can assist the schools, churches, and other businesses with setting up security measures to prevent active shooter situations in their facilities.
- 18. Held the Sheriff's Office first National Night Out event, which was a great success.
- 19. Continued the annual Trunk or Treat event which was a great success.
- 20. The Sheriff's Office was able to promote an officer to the Rank of Major.
- 21. The Sheriff's Office was awarded a new School Resource Officer grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety that fully funded two (2) new School Resource Officers, saving the county additional funds.
- 22. Received \$185,211.94 from the SC Department of Public Safety to help pay for the new in-car cameras.
- 23. Received \$101,271.10 from the SC Department of Public Safety to help pay for Body-Worn cameras.
- 24. Signed an agreement with the military's NCIS service to conduct more stringent background checks on applicants.

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- 25. The Sheriff's Office was able to replace all the office computers while staying under budget.
- 26. The Sheriff's Office was able to replace all the in-car computers while staying under budget.
- 27. The Sheriff's Office investigated one (1) homicide, one (1) manslaughter case, and one (1) hit-and-run fatality with all of them being solved by arrest.
- 28. The Sheriff's Office was able to have two (2) Evidence Custodians trained and certified by the International Association for Property and Evidence.
- 29. The Sheriff's Office able to have two (2) Deputies FAA trained and certified UAS Drone pilots.
- 30. Between responding to calls for service, the Deputies were able to issue more than \$1,123,843.00 in citations.
- 31. The Sheriff's Office was able to purchase a Live Scan digital fingerprint machine to print fingerprint cards for sex offenders and concealed weapons permit applications that's connected with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, while staying under budget.
- 32. The Sheriff's Office created the Multi-Agency VICE Unit partnering with the Hardeeville Police Department and Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office to investigate narcotics and violent crimes throughout Jasper County.
- 33. In 2022 the Sheriff's Office responded to 29,722 calls for service.
- 34. According to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's National Incident Based Reporting system the Sheriff's Office obtained a 40.91% clearance rate on the crimes that are required to be reported to SLED. This rate is up from the 2021 rate of 22.42%.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1. Created a Special Services Division to oversee the Animal Control Deputies, Airport Deputy, building upgrades, and hurricane preparedness.
- 2. Remodeled the Criminal Investigations Office adding offices for the VICE Unit, Special Services Lieutenant, and Animal Control.
- 3. Upgraded the vault in the main office with secure storage to securely store firearms and ammunition.

- 4. Remodeled the Patrol Office to add a small kitchen with a sink, countertops, cabinets, and a refrigerator.
- 5. Installed an electronic gate on the impound yard at the Criminal Investigation Division office.
- 6. Awarded a continuation of the School Resource Officer grant with an awarded amount of \$433,840.00.
- Awarded a new School Resource Officer grant for \$173,805.00 to add a second (new officer) SRO at Polaris Tech.
- 8. Awarded a Body Armor Assistance grant in the amount of \$15,415.00 to help pay for new body armor.
- 9. Partnered with Project Life Saver to help place tracking devices on people who suffer from cognitive disabilities and have to tendency to wander from home and get lost.
- 10. The Sheriff's Office responded the 32,249 calls for service.
- 11. According to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's National Incident Based Reporting system the Sheriff's Office obtained a 57.02% clearance rate on the crimes that are required to be reported to SLED. This rate is up from the 2022 rate of 40.91%.
- 12. The Sheriff's Office was able to appoint an experienced Intelligence Analyst at no cost to the department or county.