CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2026-003 – Calling an Election on April 7, 2026 to submit a half-cent public safety sales tax to replace the current half-cent general sales tax to fund and close the Policemen's and Firemen's pension plan

MEETING DATE
January 20, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT
Finance

ATTACHMENTS
CB 2026-003 Ordinance

REVIEWED BY
Department Head: Leslie Haase; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nick Edwards

SUMMARY
This Council Bill calls an election on April 7, 2026 to submit to qualified voters a question as to whether to continue a one-half of one percent sales tax for the purpose of improving public safety to replace upon its expiration the one-half of one percent general sales tax previously approved by the voters on November 5, 2019 to fund and close the Policemen's and Firemen's Pension Plan.

BACKGROUND
On November 5, 2019, the voters of the City approved the imposition of a one-half percent (1/2%) general sales tax for the purpose of providing revenues to fund and close the Policemen's and Firemen's Pension Plan to new hires and migrate new hires to the Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS) with the provision that the 2019 Sales Tax will expire upon the Pension Plan reaching a fully-funded one hundred twenty percent (120%) status as determined by an independent actuarial study or twelve (12) years after enactment, whichever is earlier.

The Pension Plan is currently projected to reach a fully-funded one hundred twenty percent (120%) status in early 2027, which means the 2019 Sales Tax will expire. Section 94.900 RSMo. was amended by the Missouri General Assembly and became effective on August 28, 2025, authorizing the City of Joplin to impose a one-half percent (1/2%) sales tax solely for the purpose of improving the public safety of the City with approval of the qualified voters of Joplin.

There is a need to improve public safety in Joplin, including equipment, facilities, staffing, and wages and benefits. This need can be met by replacing the half-cent 2019 General Sales Tax with a half-cent Public Safety Sales Tax effective upon the expiration of the 2019 General Sales Tax, so that the overall sales tax rate in Joplin will remain the same and not be increased. As

such, this council bill approves placing this item in the form of a ballot question before the qualified voters of Joplin on April 7, 2026. This item is an emergency, because election items must be certified by January 27, 2026 for the April election.

FUNDING SOURCE

This item is not applicable for this council bill.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of this council bill on an emergency basis.