CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM:
Council Bill No. 2026-005 – AN ORDINANCE submitting to the electors of the City of Joplin, Missouri, at a General Municipal Election, to be held on April 7, 2026, proposed Charter Amendment No. 2, changing the term "emergency" ordinance to "expedited" ordinance.

MEETING DATE
January 20, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT
Legal Department

ATTACHMENTS
Council Bill No. 2026-005

REVIEWED BY
City Attorney Peter Edwards; City Clerk Holly Nagy; and City Manager Nicholas Edwards.

SUMMARY
This Council Bill amends the City Charter, Section 2.12, to change the term "emergency" ordinance to "expedited" ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The City Council appointed a nine (9) member Charter Review Commission by Resolution No. 2025-009 on September 15, 2025, charging the Commission with reviewing certain sections of the City's Charter. The Charter Commission met several times over the last several months and presented their findings to the City Council on January 5, 2026. The City Council has approved placing two (2) of the Commission's recommendations on the April 7, 2026 ballot.

Charter Amendment No. 2 is Council Bill No. 2026-005. This Council Bill submits the question of whether or not the Charter should be amended to change the term "emergency" ordinance to "expedited" ordinance. There has been confusion about the term emergency and whether a true emergency exists when these bills are brought to Council. The Commission, as well as staff, believe that the word "expedited" better defines the ordinances brought to Council for approval in a single reading under this section.

FUNDING SOURCE
N/A

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends this Council Bill be approved on emergency basis.