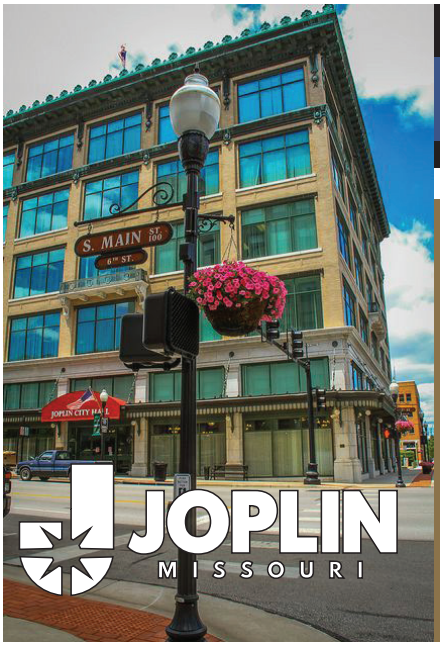


S.A.F.E.R. – JOPLIN

Dear Joplin Citizen,

On August 2, 2022 Joplin voters will be asked whether they support a property tax to support and grow public safety services in our community. The question is titled "Proposition Public Safety" on the ballot. We encourage you to review this information to learn more about this important community issue. For more details, please visit the City's website at www.joplinmo.org/elections .

Thank you---Joplin City Council

What is Proposition Public Safety?

Propostion Public Safety is a matter of status quo vs. improvement. It provides a stable platform for current and future challenges.

It is an effort to improve funding for Police and Fire services within the community through a proposed property tax. The proposed tax will levy a $1.00 tax for every $100 of assessed value on all real and personal property, leading to a **S.A.F.E.R** community.

An investment into public safety will strengthen the community for the future.



S.A.F.E.R. – Service

As of this publication, the Police Department has 21 openings but needs an additional 22 officers over that number to meet nationally recognized law enforcement standards. Employment trends show law enforcement careers as less desirable which means more competition among cities to attract new officers.

Similarly, careers within the Fire Service are not as attractive when compared to the opportunities in the private sector. The City will need to add additional firefighters, new stations, and new fire trucks to reduce response times, maintain ISO rating, meet NFPA standards and provide the infrastructure that allows for economic development.

The Police Department is faced with a critical shortage of officers to patrol and enforce the laws within the City.

- Recent Resource Study shows the need for 22 additional officers.
- Declining availability of applicants nationwide.
- Since 2012 the Joplin Police Department has lost 163 officers including 35 to retirement.
- Status quo v improvement.
- Provides a stable platform for current and future challenges.

- Since 2012, the Joplin Fire Department has lost a total of 73 firefighters to other fire departments and private sector jobs with an additional 27 retirements, for a total loss of 100 firefighters.
- Cost of Training, Benefits, and equipment per firefighter in their first year is $78,000.





S.A.F.E.R. – JOPLIN

s.A.F.E.R. Accountability

Serving the businesses and citizens of Joplin is a point of pride for the City's public safety professionals. The private sector cannot provide these critical services which places the accountability and responsibility on a precious few dedicated men and women serving in the City's Police and Fire Departments.





S.A.F.E.R. – Financial

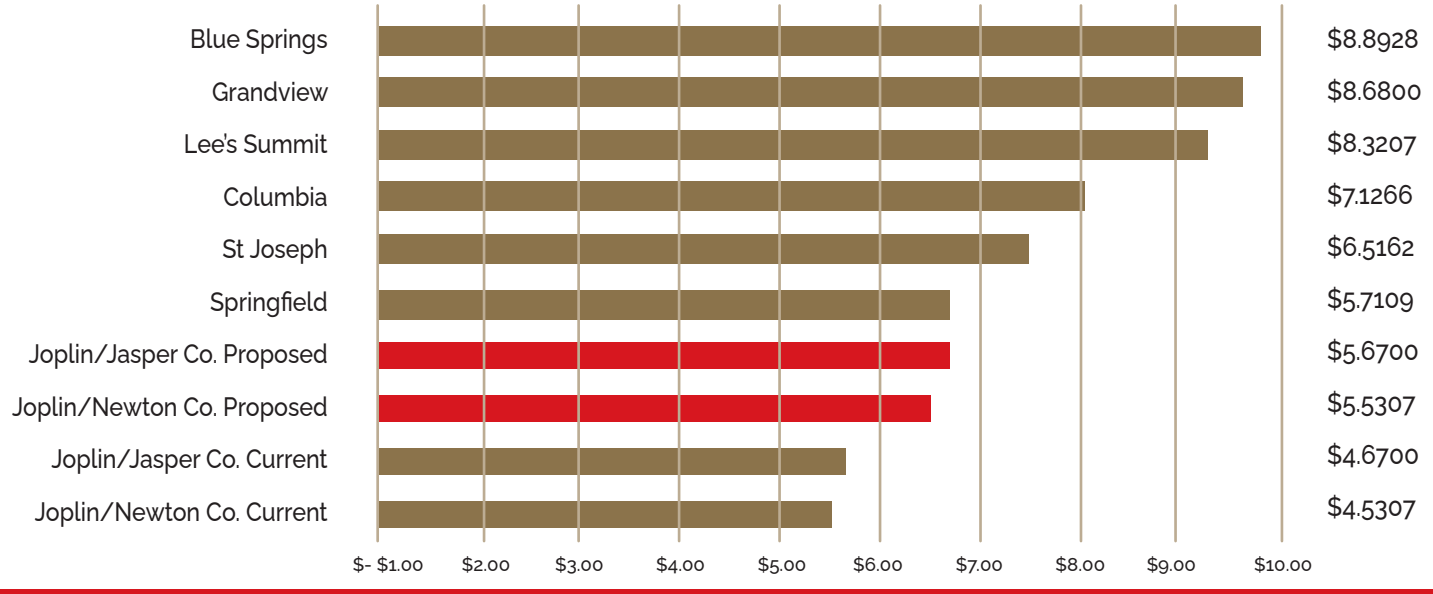


City services are predominately funded through local taxes generated with a combination of sales and property tax. The City of Joplin is near the top of comparable cities for sales tax but, Joplin is among the lowest for property tax.

The absence of property tax revenue limits Joplin's ability to fund necessary services and exposes the City to financial risk by being overly reliant on sales tax.



TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATE COMPARISON



S.A.F.E.R. – JOPLIN

Funds from Proposition Public Safety will address the identified areas of need listed below:

(estimated year one costs)

Police

Additional Police Staffing	$2,200,000
Up to 22 Officers	
Additional Support Staffing	$155,000
Re-hire Tier 1 at same level	$695,000
Est Cost of Salary Increase	$1,850,000
Grand Total	**$4,900,000**

Fire

Additional Fire Staffing	$1,700,000
Up to 15 for Additional Centrally Located Station, 3 for Station 6, Deputy Fire Marshal	
Re-hire Tier 1 at same level	$395,000
Est Cost Salary Increase	$1,715,000
Grand Total	**$3,810,000**

S.A.F.E.R. – Economic Development



- A vibrant community with a high quality of life must have strong public safety services.
- The City of Joplin's ability to protect people, property, and property value is vital for those looking to invest or relocate to the Joplin community.
- As the City grows, it provides additional opportunities for existing businesses, reducing the burden on existing taxpayers









S.A.F.E.R. – Recruitment & Retention

The key to attracting and retaining public safety personnel is competitive pay and positive working conditions.

- Currently, starting pay for a Police Officer and Fire Fighter is approximately $37,000 and $34,000 respectively.
- Without an improvement, those looking to start public safety careers may never do so because of better opportunities in the private sector.
- To retain existing professionals, the City must continue to enhance pay and opportunities so that these dedicated employees continue their essential service.





Proposition Public Safety – FAQs

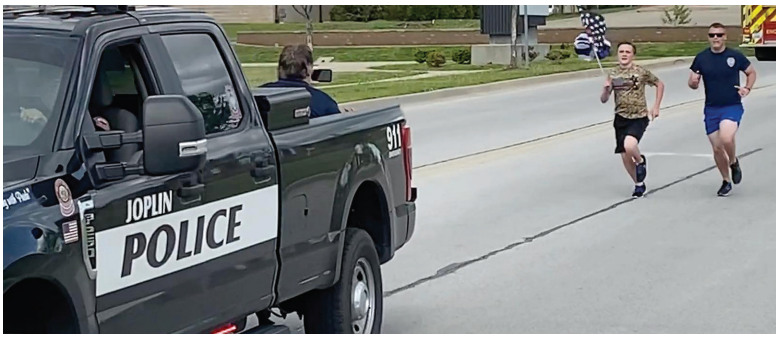
Q **How do we know that the tax revenues will go to Public Safety needs, such as more officers and firefighters, needed equipment and facilities?**

A The ballot language specifically says that the tax is levied for "municipal public safety purposes". See below for the full ballot question.

Proposition Public Safety

Shall the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, be authorized to levy and impose annually for municipal public safety purposes upon all subjects and objects of taxation within its corporate limits a tax which shall not exceed the maximum rate of one dollar on the one hundred dollars assessed valuation?





Q **How can I figure out how much this tax liability will be for my house and my vehicle?**

A The calculation is written as **(A x B) / C x D = Tax Liability**

The tables below show examples. The first one is for residential real property, and the bottom table shows an example for personal property.

APPRAISED VALUE OF RESIDENCE (A)	ASSESSMENT RATIO FOR RESIDENTIAL (B)	PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION (C)	PROPERTY TAX RATE (D)	TAX LIABILITY PER YEAR (A X B)/C X D
$150,000	19%	$100	$1.00	$285.00

APPRAISED VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY (A)	ASSESSMENT RATIO FOR PERSONAL (B)	PER $100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION (C)	PROPERTY TAX RATE (D)	TAX LIABILITY PER YEAR (A X B)/C X D
$30,000	33%	$100	$1.00	$100.00

ANNUAL COST	$385.00
MONTHLY AMOUNT	$32.08

Q Why is this initiative using a property tax instead of a sales tax?

A sales tax fluctuates based on goods bought in Joplin. In past years, the sales tax revenues have remained relatively flat and have not kept up with the increasing cost of services, limiting growth to personnel and ability to provide service to citizens.

A property tax is a more consistent source of revenue that can be used for necessary resources needed to continue and improve public safety services. This can include payroll for new and existing employees as well as support for ongoing and new police and fire services to protect our citizens.

Sale Tax returns can be unpredictable due to economy

The City's sales tax rate is at 3.125%, which is close to the total a municipality can assess. The City's tax rate is added to the state's and counties' sales tax bringing Joplin/Jasper County to 8.725% and Joplin/Newton County's to 8.975%, both of which are near the top of other sales tax rates in the state.

Property Tax relates to the cost of services

The City's property tax rate is $0.1746, which is one of the lowest in the state for a municipality. The revenues from the City's collection are used to fund services from the Health Department, Parks and Recreation and Solid Waste (Recycling). Other jurisdictions also assess a property tax, including Joplin Schools, Jasper/Newton County, the State, County 911, etc. which brings the total property tax rate to $4.67 for Joplin/Jasper County and $4.53 for Joplin/Newton County.







Proposition Public Safety – FAQs continued

Q **Isn't this what Prop B was addressing?**

Why didn't this get fixed by Prop B that we voted for in 2019?

A Prop B is dedicated to fully funding retirement benefits and securing the transition of police and firefighters' pensions to a more cost-effective retirement plan. Prop B revenues can only be used for three things and does include a sunset date:

- Provided secure benefits to members (retirees, future retirees, and their eligible dependents) of the closed police and fire pension plan, ensuring every last member receives their full benefit;
- Moved the current police and fire employees who chose to migrate to Missouri LAGERS, (Local Government Employees Retirement System); and
- Reduced the Police and Fire LAGERS contribution rate as a percentage of payroll.

This tax will continue until the earlier of 12 years or when the police and fire pension plan reaches 120% funded status. The pension plan, by way of Prop B, is projected to reach 120% funded status well ahead of the 12 years!

Q **We voted for the Use Tax in November, so why can't these dollars be used for Police and Fire funding?**

A The Public Safety portion of Use Tax revenues is projected to receive approximately $592,000.









S.A.F.E.R. – JOPLIN Q & A

Q **How do we know the City won't be back asking for more money for public safety?**

A This is a long-term plan that brought several representatives from the Police and Fire Departments, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 27, and the Joplin Professional Firefighters Local 59 together to meet with City administration to address concerns and develop a long-term solution.

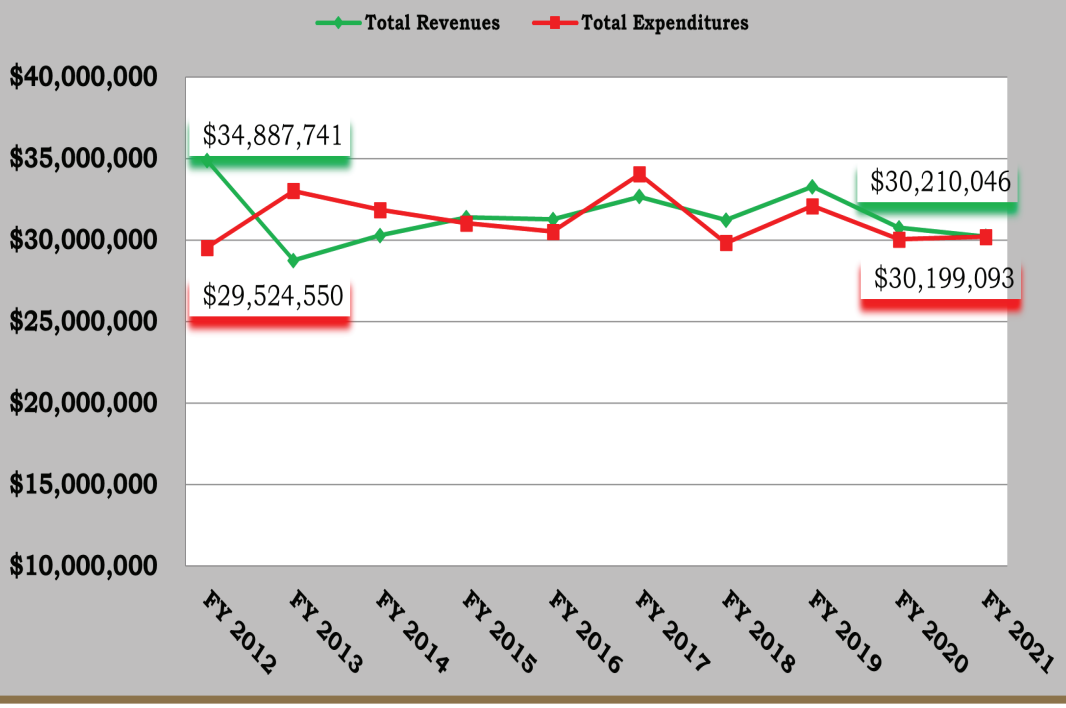
The City and both unions came to an agreement and each organization has a signed contract as a resolution to the issues the departments have been facing.







General Fund
Total Revenues vs. Total Expenditures



For many years, General Fund expenditures nearly equal and in some years exceed general fund revenues. As shown in this chart, General Fund revenue growth has not kept pace with normal inflationary increases, forcing the City to reduce or hold expenditures, over multiple years, while continuing to replace critical equipment, such as police vehicles and fire apparatus, and granting small wage increases. The General Fund represents much of police and fire services, as well as other general government services. As illustrated in this chart, it is increasingly difficult to provide the needed level of services to the community, residents, and visitors.

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S★A★F★E★R★ – JOPLIN

Service

Accountability

Financial

Economic development

Recruitment & retention

JOPLIN





Paid for by City of Joplin / Nick Edwards, City Manager