

**CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM

Council Bill 2022-512 – Authorizing submitting Proposition Public Safety to the voters of the City of Joplin on August 2, 2022, to impose a general property tax at a rate of one dollar per \$100 of assessed valuation

MEETING DATE

May 16, 2022

ORIGINATING DEPT

Finance

ATTACHMENTS

CB 2022-512 Ordinance

REVIEWED BY

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

SUMMARY

This Council Bill authorizes submitting Proposition Public Safety to the voters of the City of Joplin on August 2, 2022, to impose a general property tax at a rate of one dollar per \$100 of assessed valuation.

BACKGROUND

In October of 2021, the City Council heard the results of the Fire Resource Allocation Study. This study indicated the Fire Department is in need of a central city location, as well as additional personnel to bring the staffing at Station #6 to four and a deputy fire marshal.

In April of 2022, the City Council heard the results of the Police Resource Allocation Study. This study indicated the Police Department needs an additional 22 officers to increase the sworn personnel from 110 to 132. Additionally, the study indicated the City needs to make every effort to fully staff the police department to its' 110 authorized level. In order to attract and retain quality police officers, the study indicated that pay is one area that needs improved.

As a result of these studies, a plan has been presented to do the following items:

Police Department:

- Increase the police department staffing level by adding 22 officers
- Add up to 3 additional support staff
- Adopt a New Pay Plan that increases starting Police Officer pay by \$10,000.00
- Make provisions for Tier 1 Public Safety personnel to retire, retain their rank and pay while starting a new retirement under LAGERS
- Increase pay for Dispatchers

Fire Department:

- Add up to 15 additional staff for a new central city fire station
- Add 3 additional staff to bring Station #6 minimum staffing to four
- Add 1 Deputy Fire Marshal
- Adopt a New Pay Plan that increases starting Firefighter/EMT pay by \$10,000.00
- Make provisions for Tier 1 Public Safety personnel to retire, retain their rank and pay while starting a new retirement under LAGERS

This plan requires additional funding resources in the form of a general property tax. The City is authorized to submit to the voters of Joplin to impose up to one dollar per \$100 of assessed valuation. This tax will be used for public safety purposes, along with a portion of the public safety allotment of the use tax proceeds. This tax will require a simple majority to be successful.

It is anticipated this property tax will generate approximately \$9,000,000.00 in real and personal property tax revenue to support the public safety plan. Furthermore, with approval of this tax on August 2nd, the tax will go into effect in the current year with collections beginning in December.

FUNDING SOURCE

This item is not applicable for this ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

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