

JASPER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Budget Meeting-11/20/2025

The Jasper City Council of the City of Jasper met in-person on Thursday, November 20th, 2025.

Members present:

Mayor Kim Lape; Council members: Deb Plahn, Tim Houg, Stacie Smith;

Employees present: Clerk-Treas: Renae Thode, Deputy Clerk/Treas.: Maggie Erickson;

Building and Grounds: Kevin Gum

Pipestone Star: Kyle Kuphal;

Community members: Kim Drew, Trinidad Garcia, Mark and Cindy Jamison, & Kurt Jandl.

Mayor Kim Lape called the Budget Meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance;

Agenda Approval: was not approved

Budget Review: Lape began by stating we started with a preliminary of 15%. Lape asked the city/public works if they had anything they would like added to the budget. Gum stated that he spoke to Brian and that they were in need of a new skid steer. Renae let council know it was approximately \$60k for a new one. Kevin was unsure what was wrong with the skid steer. He then said the plow truck needs replaces. Said the entire bed of the plow truck is rusting out and it had numerous large holes and will keep getting worse. Mentioned the age being likely from the 80s. The cost to replace would be about \$70k. Kevin found comparable vehicles around that price range.

Ambulance - Kim Drew then began and said they finished their licensure this year and are good until 2027. Capital equipment – Kim said there was no need unless something broke down. Kim said the heart monitor may need to be replaced in about 4 years, but that she usually writes a grant for that. Training hours – due for refreshing in 2027. Must have 40hrs of training and EMTS 20hrs, in 2027. Nothing else unless there is a required training that pops up.

Fire Dept – Renae spoke for Kipper as he was not able to make it to the meeting. Kip said they will need funding for repairing the shed near the EMS building, but he was unsure if that was a FD finance issue or a city finance issue. It was mentioned that it is a city building. Also, that the EMS building needed new siding. Kip relayed that it would be about \$20k and that they had hired someone for grant writing and were expecting to get quite a bit.

Lape then went ahead to look at the proposed budget numbers. Renae explained that she added Convergint to 2026, however it would actually be on 2025 because they had already sent the first invoice. Lape went ahead to ask if we should add the skid steer to this budget. Kevin said the skid steer can be put off, but the plow should be added in. Lape said lawyer fees were a bit higher in 25 than budgeted for. Lape said the Splash Pad should be near nothing moving

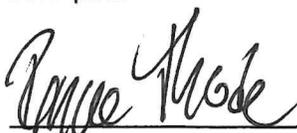
forward because it is complete and should consist only of utilities and maintenance. Renae asked if anything was ordered for winterizing the splash pad, as that would be a maintenance cost. Kevin was unsure of the cost. Renae also added Bollig to 2026. She was unsure if the City would have to pay the \$30k left on their contract. There is also a \$5k charge for their efforts in looking for grants (annual fee). Explained Bollig will not charge us the \$30k until they are able to secure funding. Renae said Paid Leave has not given the premiums yet, but let them know it should be minimal. Health Insurance was reviewed. Trinidad Garcia, former City Clerk, said they had done a proposed budget before she left and it was only proposed because they were waiting on certain numbers, such as insurance. She said they were at 10.32% for the levy and that it hadn't changed yet. Said that receipts were at \$6881 and disbursement at \$800, meaning the city is short \$200 and that they should balance so either something has to be cut or you will run short. Mentioned adding the other expenses to the budget (snow plow). Said Capital expenses generally weren't put towards the budget and were taken from Money Market to cover the expenses. Kim Lape said Insurance isn't helping matters. Trinidad said they typically give something to compare it to when health insurance is renewed. Renae said that they met with insurance and they said it had gone up 12.4% and provided the insurance information packet that had a list of comparisons to council during the last regular council meeting. Trinidad said that the year prior it had gone up 9%. Lape said cameras were a big blow. Smith said it could be taken out of money market. Trinidad said that when she left the money market was at \$268k and that the rest is allocated to buckets. Said to keep in mind that if you keep taking from money market, you will be left with nothing. Lape asked where to start cutting. Lape asked Renae when her and Kevin planned on marrying (for insurance purposes). Renae said July but there was consideration to do it sooner. Stacie asked if other towns only pay half of their employees' insurance and said we should start considering. Stacie said she felt like they had gotten everyone up in pay quite well this year. Plahn agreed. Lape asked about page 6 and why there was a big jump, Renae explained it had convergent. Kim said to remove the plow truck and council agreed, moving it to 2027. Lape said it seems like the cameras and Bollig seemed to have thrown it out of whack. Lape asked if we wanted to pull the funds from Money Market for the camera system, Plahn asked how much was in that account. Renae said there was \$733,228.00. Lape asked if it had to be set tonight. Renae let them know that the final meeting was set for the 9th to finalize the budget and levy. Lape said she did not feel comfortable doing it tonight, council did not respond. Lape noticed Kurt Jandl had come in late and asked if he had anything to add to the plate. Kurt did not. Lape asked if there was any indication of what would happen if we pulled the camera funds from money market account and what the levy would go down to. Trinidad asked if it was worth getting additional quotes for the cameras. Lape said it was a done deal because it was signed. Trinidad reminded council that they turned down a bid for \$10k from Midwest Alarm a while back and that spending \$40k on cameras was not of the best interest the money for the city and said it was honestly ridiculous. Houg said it was actually down \$11k from the original bid. Trinidad asked how many quotes were gotten. Smith said they tried to get quite a few and only 2 companies got back to them. Lape suggested the papers are redon to remove Bollig and other stuff. Renae said Bollig would remain, but convergint would be

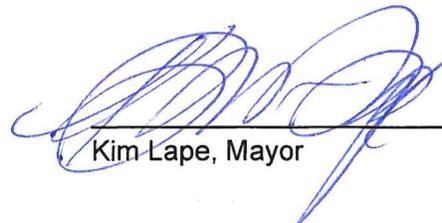
removed. Renae also pointed out that the 2025 budget is also well over for its budget. Lape asked why it was so bad and Plahn said it is because of the insurance. Plahn also said that they had bumped everyone up in wages big time. Lape said there is no way around it, but to consider that insurance would go down due to marriage, and Plahn said that it would go right back up the next year. Lape said she can't find anything to cut. Plahn said they should look at other towns and see what they do for insurance. Smith agreed and said it is getting too costly. Lape mentioned Blue Cross Blue Shield. Smith suggested paying just half of the premiums and said that was huge and many companies do not do that. Smith said it is getting too expensive for one company to cover all of the time. Trinidad mentioned that when they were looking for lawyers and talking to other cities, they had also asked about benefits covered and asked Plahn if she still had that information. Plahn gave an affirmative response. Trinidad said it was a handful of cities that were asked. Plahn said some had an HAS account for them, but didn't think they paid all of the insurance for them. Plahn said she had the emails someplace and that it wouldn't hurt to reach out again. Plahn said she was fine with reaching out again but thinks the office and other council members need to stick their heads out and look for them too. Lape asked what the levy was last year. Trinidad said it was at 4.5 or 4.7. Lape asked if any other towns set their levy's yet. Kyle said no and that they were set for December. Lape said they had already signed for the insurance for 2026. Lape then said she thinks it needs to be tabled. No council members responded. Lape asked for confirmation on the rules about not being able to go up or down on the levy. Said you can't go up, but can go down. Verbal "mmhmm" from a councilmember. Lape again asked to table it to have further discussion. No council member responded. Lape continued that we do not have to come up with it tonight. Houg said it was set for the next meeting. Renae said we need a meeting between now and then and said it is finalized on the 9th. Lape asked council what they think. Houg said they can not do it tonight. Lape said the next week is a holiday and suggested Dec. 2nd and that she can not do Dec. 4th. Houg said he was open, Plahn was as well, Smith said Wednesdays work better for her. Plahn suggested December 3rd at 6:30pm. Lape said they were tabling the Budget Review and Levy Review until December 3rd at 6:30pm. **Motioned by Smith/Plahn 2nd.**

Upcoming Meetings:

- Budget Meeting: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, 6::30 pm
- TNT meeting, Tuesday, December 9th, 6:30pm
- Council Meeting, Tuesday December 9th, 7:00pm

Plahn motioned to adjourn, Houg seconded all ayes, carried; regular meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.


 Renae Thode Clerk-Treas. 12/9/25
 Date


 Kim Lape, Mayor 12-9-25
 Date