

St. Joseph County Council
Additional Appropriation Notification
March 9, 2026

Additional Appropriation - Requested	\$1,400,000.00
Additional Appropriation - Approved	\$0.00
Fund Name	General Fund
Fund Number	1000
Account Number and Name	See attached
Public Hearing Date	March 24, 2026
Public Hearing Time	6:00 PM EST
Public Hearing Location	St. Joseph County Council St. Joseph County Building 4th Floor - County Council Chambers 227 W. Jefferson Boulevard South Bend, IN 46601
County Council & Commissioners Signatures	See attached ordinance
	
St. Joseph County Auditor	
3/9/2026	
Date	
jmurphy@sjcindiana.gov	
Email Address	
574-298-0348	
Telephone Number	

16-26
BVA

Saint Joseph County, Indiana
Form D - Appropriation/(Budget Reduction)

Department Name - General Services
Fund Names - General Fund

Reviews: _____
Department _____
Auditor John Murphy 2/26/2026
Auditor Kathryn Bishop 2/26/2026
Auditor Abby Doyle 2/26/2026
Committee Approval (optional) _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Fund.Acct.Obj.Loc	Account Name	Amount
1000.16807.00000.0040	One-Time Stipend	1,136,100.00
1000.14800.00000.0040	FICA (7.65%)	107,100.00
1000.14810.00000.0040	PERF (11.2%)	156,800.00
Total		1,400,000.00

Salary Amendment

Position Name		Position Name	
Current Salary	\$0.00	Current Salary	\$0.00
Proposed Salary	\$0.00	Proposed Salary	\$0.00
Position Name		Position Name	
Current Salary	\$0.00	Current Salary	\$0.00
Proposed Salary	\$0.00	Proposed Salary	\$0.00

Justification

Per Bill No. 14-26, this is a one-time stipend to full-time and part-time employees as it relates to the ordinance. The Auditor's office estimates the following cost:
 Full-Time Employees 1,014 X \$1,00 = \$1,014,000
 Part-Time Employees 87 X \$500 = \$43,500
 FICA = \$80,900
 PERF = \$113,600
 Total Estimate = \$1,252,000
Any funds not used will remain in the General Fund.

Bill No. 14-26

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL TO APPROPRIATE
GENERAL FUND DOLLARS FOR A ONE-TIME STIPEND FOR
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Council has endeavored to pass balanced budgets, especially following the constraints of Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 1; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor's Office and Board of Commissioners have been collaborative partners in achieving these fiscal goals; and

WHEREAS, the Cash Reserves Policy establishes a fiscal safety net ensuring the resources within our General Fund, Rainy Day Fund, Health Insurance Fund, Liability Insurance Funds, and County Police Pension Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, years of planning and careful execution of our budgetary goals have resulted in cash reserves exceeding the goals of the St. Joseph County Cash Reserve Policy; and

WHEREAS, we collectively acknowledge the financial sacrifice our St. Joseph County government employees as they continue serving our public despite our measured decision to withhold raises in the 2026 budget year; and

WHEREAS, even with our belief these decisions have been prudent and necessary, we also believe St. Joseph County government employees perform critical services in a remarkable fashion and are deserving of recognition for their continued commitment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

Employees of St. Joseph County, Indiana shall receive a stipend in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) in alignment with the eligibility criteria, payment terms, and funding source as described below.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Must have been actively employed as of December 31, 2025
2. Must still be in active status at the time of this ordinance's passage, including:
 - a. Full-time employees
 - b. Part-time employees, adjusted to fifty percent (50%) of the stipend amount

3. Excluded positions are:

- a. Elected officials
- b. Temporary, seasonal employees
- c. Consultants and independent contractors
 - i. For the purposes of this ordinance, attorneys representing the Board of Commissioners, Council, various departments, boards, or commissions and receiving compensation through the County's payroll system while maintaining their own independent legal practice are still considered consultants, excluding them from eligibility for this stipend
- d. Judges and magistrates, whose compensation is established pursuant to state law and judicial administration
- e. All members of the County Prosecutor's staff who received a one-time bonus, approved by the County Council December 2025

Payment Terms

- 1. Method: The stipend shall be paid as a separate, one-time payment through the County's regular payroll system
- 2. Payment Date: The payment shall be made on or before April 30, 2026
- 3. Tax Treatment: This stipend is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local taxes and withholdings
- 4. Non-pensionable: This payment shall not be considered part of base salary for pension calculation purposes

Funding Source

Funds for this stipend shall be appropriated from Fund: 1000 General Fund, which carries a sufficient cash balance to support this stipend while adhering to the County's established Cash Reserve Policy, at a total budgeted cost of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00).

This stipend is one-time and non-recurring. This ordinance does not amend the salary ordinance and creates no expectation of future compensation.

Presented on_____, 20____, by, ##### Members, County Council, St. Joseph Council

Passed and adopted by the County Council of St. Joseph County, Indiana,
on_____, 20_____.

President of the County Council

Attest:

County Auditor

Presented by me to the Board of Commissioners of St. Joseph County, Indiana,
on_____, 20____, at the hour of_____.

County Auditor

This Ordinance (or Statutory Resolution; approved or vetoed) and signed by the Board of
Commissioners of St. Joseph County, Indiana, on_____, 20_____.

Board of Commissioners

1st READING
PUBLIC HEARING
2nd READING
NOT APPROVED
REFERRED
PASSED

FILED
FEB 13 2026
COUNTY COUNCIL
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY INDIANA