THE JOPLIN GLOBE

POVERTY SIMULATION RETURNS TO JOPLIN. A3 | SPORTS: BRACKETS SET FOR FOOTBALL

joplinglobe.com WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026 $3.00

Joplin council approves new pay plan for city employees

JOHN HACKER
JHACKER@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

It took about seven minutes during a Joplin City Council special meeting Monday to approve a pay plan witho wage increases for most city employees, including police and firefighters.

The council voted 6-2 with one absent to approve the plan that called for a 2% cost-of-living increase for general employees, covered police employees and seasonal employees.

Council members Brian Cowles and Mary Price voted against the plan. Council Member Ryan Jackson was absent.

The plan also creates a new position for a transit operations supervisor for the city's public transportation systems.

The council, at an Oct. 12 work session, informally approved the implementation of the police and fire sales tax plan, which includes a 12% increase for general employees and part-time or seasonal positions.

Council members also learned at that meeting that the city of Joplin is experiencing brain drain, also called capital flight, as employees leave for job opportunities they perceive to be more attractive or higher paying.

Michelle Ducre, director of human resources and risk management for the city, said at the Oct. 12 meeting that it is growing increasingly difficult to retain those hired for city jobs.

She said that annually about 65 employees leave before their probationary period ends.

Additionally, long-term or experienced professional employees such as engineers and city planners are being lost to other employers because of wages.

That, Ducre said, hurts the city because "we are losing significant institutional knowledge."

Employment agencies often do not refer workers to city jobs "because the city's wages are too low, they say," Ducre also told the council.

Specialized employees such as street workers or health department professionals leave because they can make $25 per hour elsewhere.

The city also is losing police officers, firefighters and dispatchers because of lower wage ranges.

"This constant turnover is exhausting," Ducre said.

The new pay plans will go into effect 30 days after the Police and Firemen's Pension Plan becomes what is considered to be fully funded, which is defined as 120%.

Joplin City Manager Nick Edwards said city officials expect the pension plan to be fully funded in the next two or three months.

"So that would leave about 10 months of our budget for those raises to be in in effect," Edwards said. "So it's a two-month delay, thereabouts."

At that time, a 23.03% increase will be given to police and fire covered employees, according to previous salary discussions.

The council bill also approves raises for council employees including the city manager, city attorney, city clerk, municipal judge and the public defender in the same amount as what general employees receive.

In a statement, Price said she voted "no" because she was concerned that the city would not have enough money for all the raises, especially if a comprehensive salary study Edwards said was scheduled to begin sometime before the end of the year

See **PLAN** on A2

Photo courtesy Joshua Franklin

The Joplin Eagle Pride Marching Band has a community concert set for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Joplin High School practice turf field, 2104 Indiana Ave.

'WE HAVE TO GO BIG'

Joplin High School Band to perform final 'Infinite Blue' show for community

KIMBERLY BARKER
NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

Joplin High School's Eagle Pride Marching Band is set to play its final performance of their award-winning "Infinite Blue" show for the community on Wednesday.

The free performance is slated for 7:30 p.m. at the Joplin High School practice turf field, 2104 Indiana Ave. The public is welcome.

The Eagle Pride Marching Band won first place for "Infinite Blue" during the Parkview Valhalla Marching Band Competition in Springfield on Oct. 3, placing first in both the preliminaries and finals. They also won Outstanding Percussion, Outstanding Auxiliary, Outstanding Drum Major

See **BAND** on A2

Joplin Eagle Pride Marching Band to hold mattress fundraiser Nov. 14

FROM STAFF REPORTS
NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

Joplin High School's Eagle Pride Marching Band will hold its second annual mattress fundraiser from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at the high school, 2104 Indiana Ave.

On that day, the high school will be transformed into a full mattress showroom.

Shoppers will find more than 30 mattress styles to try, available in all sizes and price ranges. The sale will also feature adjustable bases, premium pillows, bed frames, CordaRoy's Convertible Chairs and mattress protectors.

Top brands such as Simmons Beautyrest Black, Purple, Helix, and Southerland will be available.

All products come with full factory warranties, are made to order, and will arrive within two to three weeks. Delivery also is available.

Every purchase benefits the Joplin High School Band.

For more information , visit **https://www.facebook.com/events/1069205842179289/**.

Custom Fundraising Solutions, the company behind The Mattress Fundraiser, introduced this program in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2005.

Today, CFS operates nearly 80 locations and partners with more than 3,000 schools nationwide. Their model has already returned over $70 million to schools.

Spiva announces exhibits, events through December

FROM STAFF REPORTS
NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

The George A. Spiva Center for the Arts has announced exhibits and programming for October through December.

They are free for Spiva members and exhibiting artists.

Spiva Center for the Arts is inside the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex, 212 W. 7th St., in Joplin. The telephone number is 417-623-0183.

Spiva is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

- **The 79th Joy Spiva Cragin Membership Show** runs through Dec. 18.

The Membership Show highlights members' work. More than 100 area artists provide pieces of several mediums, including ceramics, watercolor, wood, oils, metal, photography and mixed media. Awards are presented for both 2D and 3D work in adults and youth categories.

- **Andy Thomas: The Artful Journey** runs through Dec. 31

Presented by Sharon and Lance Beshore and Leggett & Platt, it also is free for Spiva members and exhibiting artists.

Thomas, of Carthage, is known as "The Storyteller," transporting viewers into the heart of the moment, whether depicting a family gathering, a wildlife encounter or scenes from the American West and Civil War, according to Spiva.

See **SPIVA** on A2

Photo courtesy Spiva

The George A. Spiva Center for the Arts has announced exhibits and programming for October through December, including a show by Carthage artist Andy Thomas.

Vol. 131, No. 61

INDEX: News to Go, **A3** | Weather, **A3** | Celebration of Life, **A2** | Opinion, **A5** | Family Fun, **B4** | Sports, **B1** | Classified, **B5**