



ORDINANCE 2026-001

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Council deems it necessary to provide legal counsel for the Village, or any department or official thereof, for a period of two years commencing March 1, 2026 and provide compensation for such counsel.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER, THE STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1.

That legal counsel shall be provided for this Village and the person selected as such counsel shall be known as the "Solicitor of the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio".

Such solicitor shall be selected by a majority vote of those elected to the Village Council and shall serve for a period of two years commencing March 1, 2026.

SECTION 2.

The salary of the Solicitor shall be based on the following schedule:

- A. Four Thousand Four Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$4,400.00) per year payable monthly, for general legal counsel normally associated with municipal government functions, including duties such as:
 1. Support of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio.
 2. Review and approval of legal notices, bid forms, and other legal documents of general government functions.
 3. Preparation of ordinances and resolutions that may be requested by the legislative body.
 4. Such other duties as are consistent with the Office of Village Solicitor.
- B. In addition, an allowance shall be made to compensate the Village Solicitor for the following:
 1. For legal work in the preparation of utility easements, utility rates and regulations, collection of delinquent accounts and such other legal assistance that may be requested by the Village Administrator in the performance of administrative duties in the area of municipally owned utilities of the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio.
 2. For prosecuting or defending civil action for or against the Village in municipal, state and federal courts.
 3. For legal work in the collection of delinquent tax accounts and such other legal assistance that may be requested by the Tax Administrator in the performance of administrative duties in the area of municipal income tax.
 4. For legal work related to buying, selling, mortgaging, entering into land contracts, easements and/or other real estate transactions related to real estate owned or to be purchased by the Village, including title examinations, preparation of deeds, notes, mortgages and all documents necessary to complete said real estate transactions.
 5. The Solicitor shall be compensated at the rate of \$185.00 per hour for time required, as outlined in this paragraph B, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses, which would include copies and expenses advanced, other than



ORDINANCE 2026-001

normal office maintenance costs. The legal work of the Solicitor's associate attorney shall be compensated at the rate of \$155.00 per hour. Monthly statements itemizing costs shall be submitted by the 15th of each month.

SECTION 3.

The Solicitor shall be an attorney at law, admitted to practice in the courts of Ohio. It shall be the duty of said Solicitor to act as attorney and counsel for the Village and the officers thereof in their official capacity, and, as such attorney, to prosecute and defend all actions by or against the Village or any department and render legal opinions to the Council and to any department or officer of the Village upon request in writing.

SECTION 4.

The Village shall hire Attorney Michael A. Burton, to serve as the Solicitor of the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

SECTION 5.

That Council hereby declares this to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, such an emergency arising out of the need to secure legal counsel for the village. Wherefore, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its adoption by Council and approved by the Mayor.

Adopted on this date:

February 9, 2026


Jesse Fark, Mayor

Attest:


Beverly A. Wren, Fiscal Officer

Acceptance:

Michael A. Burton
103 S. Blackhoof Street
Post Office Box 1957
Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1957
Phone (419) 738-9274
Email: mburton@jauertburton.com

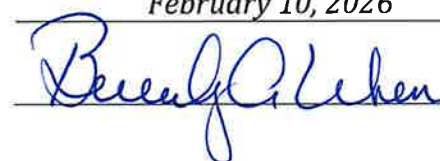
CERTIFICATE OF FISCAL OFFICER AS TO POSTING

I certify that the above Ordinance 2026-001 has been posted as required by law. Posted on the Village Website, and Social Media Page.

Date of Posting:

February 10, 2026

Signed:





ORDINANCE 2026-001

normal office maintenance costs. The legal work of the Solicitor's associate attorney shall be compensated at the rate of \$155.00 per hour. Monthly statements itemizing costs shall be submitted by the 15th of each month.

SECTION 3.

The Solicitor shall be an attorney at law, admitted to practice in the courts of Ohio. It shall be the duty of said Solicitor to act as attorney and counsel for the Village and the officers thereof in their official capacity, and, as such attorney, to prosecute and defend all actions by or against the Village or any department and render legal opinions to the Council and to any department or officer of the Village upon request in writing.

SECTION 4.

The Village shall hire Attorney Michael A. Burton, to serve as the Solicitor of the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

SECTION 5.

That Council hereby declares this to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, such an emergency arising out of the need to secure legal counsel for the village. Wherefore, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its adoption by Council and approved by the Mayor.

Adopted on this date:

February 9, 2026


Jesse Fark, Mayor

Attest:


Beverly A. Wren, Fiscal Officer

Acceptance:



Michael A. Burton
103 S. Blackhoof Street
Post Office Box 1957
Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1957
Phone (419) 738-9274
Email: mburton@jauertburton.com

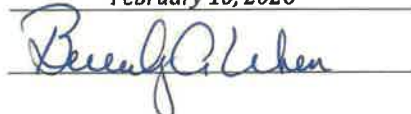
CERTIFICATE OF FISCAL OFFICER AS TO POSTING

I certify that the above Ordinance 2026-001 has been posted as required by law. Posted on the Village Website, and Social Media Page.

Date of Posting:

February 10, 2026

Signed:





Jauert & Burton LLP
Attorneys at Law

Michael A. Burton
Adam D. Johnson
Olivia C. Arnett
Douglas S. Jauert
(Inactive)

Michael A. Burton
Direct Phone: 419-738-9274
Facsimile: 419-738-3403
E-Mail: mburton@jauertburton.com
Website: www.jauertburton.com

December 8, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Village of Jackson Center
c/o Drew Sosby
122 East Pike Street
P.O. Box 819
Jackson Center, Ohio 45334

In Re: Proposal for 2026-2027 Village Solicitor Position

Dear Council Members, Mayor, and Mr. Sosby:

Thank you for your continued consideration concerning the Village Solicitor position in Jackson Center. I have greatly enjoyed my over twenty-five years of service to the Village, and I am very interested in continuing as the Village Solicitor for 2026 and 2027. Commencing March 1, 2026, I propose the following:

1. \$4,400.00 per year, \$366.67 per month, as set forth in Section 2(A) of said Ordinance (This represents a 4.8% increase from the present level established in March, 2024);
2. Additional compensation for all legal work set forth under Section 2(B)(5) of the Ordinance payable at a rate of \$185.00 per hour (This is an increase of 5.7% from the present level established in March, 2024);
3. The legal work of our associate attorney shall be payable at a rate of \$155.00 per hour (This language is included with Section 2(B)(5) of the Ordinance and is a 6.9% increase from year 2024); and
4. All other items of the 2024 Ordinance to remain the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to re-propose. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very sincerely,

Michael A. Burton

MAB/kek

Attachment

S:\JACKSON-CENTER\2025 Correspondence\2025-12-08 (Village Solicitor) letter.docx