

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER

Topic: Intergovernmental Agreement with Jefferson Conservation District (JCD) for the Jefferson County Sustainable Lands and Safer Homes (SLASH)

Presented by: Matt Robbins, Interim Deputy Director, Parks & Conservation

Date: 4/29/2025

☐ For Information

☐ For Discussion/Board Direction

☒ Consent to
Place on Business/
Hearing Agenda

Issue:

Jefferson County Parks & Conservation proposes to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Jefferson Conservation District (JCD) for operational support for the Jefferson County Sustainable Lands and Safer Homes (SLASH) Biomass Recycling Program.

Background:

In 2022, the SLASH Program partnered with JCD, a Title 32 special district, to support residential slash drop-off days. At that time, all proceeds from the drop-off days were retained by JCD, and no financial exchange was required between the parties. The establishment of the Tincup Slash Yard in 2024 combined with a significant increase in biomass volume, from 6.9 million pounds in 2021 to 9.5 million pounds in 2024, exceeded the SLASH Program's processing and removal capacity. Additionally, in the last three years, the program has experienced an increase in drop-off days, from 44 to 122, an increase of 177%.

As wildfire events continue to escalate nationwide, the demand for residential fire mitigation grows here in Jefferson County. To remain responsive to this critical need, the SLASH Program needs to scale its efforts to meet the community's needs, provide uninterrupted services, and ensure public safety.

Discussion:

For the 2025 season, the SLASH Program plans to increase drop-off

opportunities by 15% compared to 2024, using existing staff resources. To address the anticipated need, staff proposes an IGA with JCD to help manage the growing demands of the program. The IGA will be renewed on a year-to-year basis for up to five years (initial term + four years) and includes an annual payment to support ongoing program operations, such as supplemented contract labor for material processing.

The total monetary exchange for 2025 will be \$76,600, funded by the existing Rescue Plan Project Fund (RPPF). Funding for 2026, and subsequent contract years, will be requested through the 1A budget consideration process and, if necessary, through the annual budget development cycle.

Fiscal Impact: ☒ **yes** ☐ **no**

The \$76,600 will come from Parks & Conservation's allocation of the Rescue Plan Project Fund that was approved in the 2025 budget.

- Year(s) of impact: 2025-2030
- Existing grant or project: N/A
- New grant or project: No (SLASH Program has been operational for ten years)
- Requested in adopted budget: Yes, included in 2025 RPPF budget
- Ongoing or one-time: Ongoing (up to five years)
- General Fund impact: No
- Staffing impact: None
- Match requirements: None
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: Yes; IGA with Jefferson Conservation District

SPA Review: Support, no concern. Brett Deady 4/21/2025
\$76,000 monetary exchange is coming from the 2025 Parks and Conservation Rescue Plan Project Fund budget.

County Attorney Review: Approved, Anthony Chambers, 4/21/25

Facilities Review: Support, no concern. Mark Danner, 4/14/25

BIT Review: No fiscal impact. Rebecca Hascall, 4/14/25

Fleet Review: Support, no concern. Janice Mayer, 4/15/25

County Human Resources Review (new FTE only): N/A

Recommendations:

That the Board of County Commissioners consider the recommendation made by Jefferson County Parks & Conservation staff to approve an IGA with JCD that provides an annual payment to support ongoing SLASH program operations and authorize execution of the IGA at a future hearing.

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