



Major upgrades to
billing system
underway

JTRAN boosted
with over \$13.7M
in federal grant

JPD: CRIME
continues to
trend downward

CITY OF JACKSON

NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition 2024

Ward 2 Special Election Details

The City Council has declared the Ward 2 City Council seat vacant after the resignation of Angelique Lee. This will require a Special Election to be held on Oct. 1, 2024.

Interested candidates must pick up a qualifying application packet from the Municipal Clerk's office at City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The qualifying deadline is 5 p.m. September 11. Voter registration is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. August 26-30, and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 31. The deadline is noon Saturday, August 31.

The clerk's office will be open for absentee voting from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 21 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 28. The last day to vote by absentee ballot is Saturday, September 28 at noon.

City Holds Third Annual Jackson Film Camp

This summer Jackson youth escaped the sweltering heat with an in-depth study of the film industry as part of the City of Jackson's annual "Jackson Film Camp."

Sixteen students aged 13 to 18 learned the ins and outs of the film making process from experts in the industry during daily sessions at the Arts Center of Mississippi in downtown Jackson.

The behind the scenes look at film production provided a great opportunity to learn valuable skills that can be used in the real world as Jackson emerges as a promising film production and development haven.

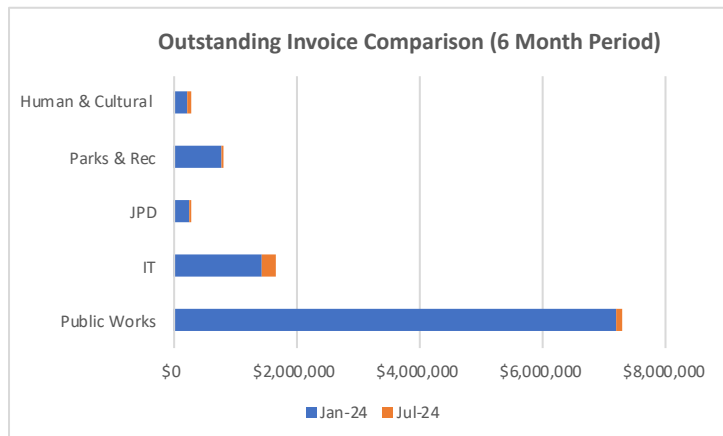


Jackson youth took detailed notes from film experts on the inner workings of the film industry as part of the City of Jackson's third annual "Jackson Film Camp." The intensive behind the scenes look at film production provided campers a great opportunity to learn valuable skills that can be used in the real world as Jackson emerges as a promising film production and development haven.

Billing System Overhaul Key to Economic Future

City has made remarkable progress on outstanding invoices

For the last year, the City of Jackson has partnered with representatives from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government to streamline its payment and billing system. The necessary upgrades were long overdue and a major shift forward from the outdated system that has been in place for years.



This graph illustrates how far the City of Jackson has come in the last six months to overhaul its billing system. From January to July of this year, the city has expedited millions of dollars of payments across departments.

Department alone, the city of Jackson has expedited over \$7.1 million, a 99 percent decrease from where we were.

“With the help of the Kennedy School of Government, we have heeded the concerns of vendors - who we rely upon - to overhaul our payment system,” said Mayor Lumumba. “We listened and set out to make the process more modern, efficient and responsive to our mutual needs.”

The next step is to develop an online invoicing solution that focuses on management and accountability.

“We have come a long ways and are proud of where we are, but we have a ways to go to provide a sustainable working solution for the City of Jackson,” said Brent Westergren, government innovation fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Since significant upgrades have been made and department heads and staff have been thoroughly trained, the City of Jackson has seen substantial progress in paying vendors on time and making the billing process more reliable and less of a headache for all involved.

Since the launch of this citywide initiative, the total number of outstanding invoices has gone from 470 to 180. In the Public Works

COJ Department	Invoice Amount (January 2024)	Invoice Amount (July 2024)	Percent Change
Public Works	\$7,200,000	\$78,000	-98.9 percent
IT	\$1,430,000	\$231,000	-83.8 percent
JPD	\$250,000	\$35,000	-86 percent
Parks & Rec	\$770,000	\$21,000	-97.3 percent
Human & Cultural	\$244,000	\$65,000	-73.4 percent

The city has reduced unpaid, outstanding invoices by a substantial amount. In the Public Works department, for example, there has been a **nearly 99 percent decrease** from six months ago.

Jackson secures over \$13.7 million in federal grant

The City of Jackson is excited to announce the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Authority will allocate over \$13.7 million in grant awards to the city's public transportation system (JTRAN) for low and no emission bus and bus facilities.



The city received over \$13.7 million in federal grant funding from the Federal Transit Authority through the Biden/Harris presidential administration. The money will be used to bolster the fleet of JTRAN with diesel-electric hybrid buses. The multi-million allocation by the president comes on top of hundreds of millions of dollars devoted to Jackson to stabilize its antiquated water system.

Since he took office, Mayor Lumumba has made it a priority to transform the City of Jackson into a multimodal city where multiple avenues for transportation exist, such as an upgraded public transportation network, as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths.

In 2022, the FTA announced over \$8.7 million in federal grant funding to Jackson to implement findings from the city's comprehensive "Connect JXN Transit Plan". Since then, JTRAN has established an updated and more convenient route system with onboard announcements for stops and modern technology, such as a phone app for riders and a fresh, easy-to-navigate website. These upgrades make the rider experience more accessible and convenient to residents.

The funding will supplement the city's current fleet of diesel-electric hybrid buses with additional environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient vehicles, while also reducing air pollution, runtimes and saving the city money on fuel costs. The funding comes less than two years after the FTA granted over \$8.7 million to the City of Jackson for widespread improvements.

"We are very excited about this opportunity and thankful to the Biden/Harris administration and Congressman Bennie Thompson for making this funding a reality," said Mayor Lumumba. "This is particularly important to JTRAN and the city of Jackson as we continue to re-envision the role of transportation to our communities."

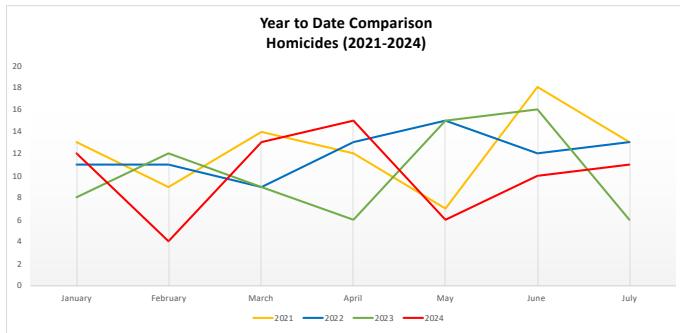


The Lumumba administration recently met with four interns with the Thomas Consulting Group to help encourage and inspire them to become the next generation of brilliant leaders in service to others. Over the years, Mayor Lumumba has been very proactive in the promotion of Jackson youth to achieve their dreams.

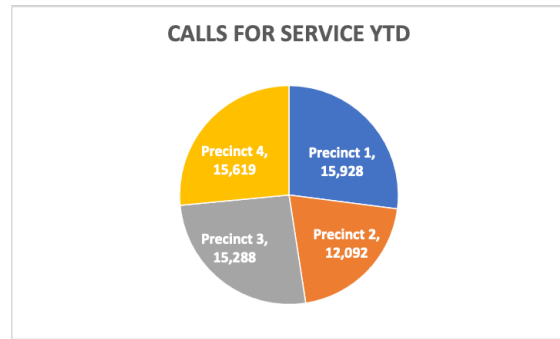
Confronting Crime in Jackson

Crime continues downward trend

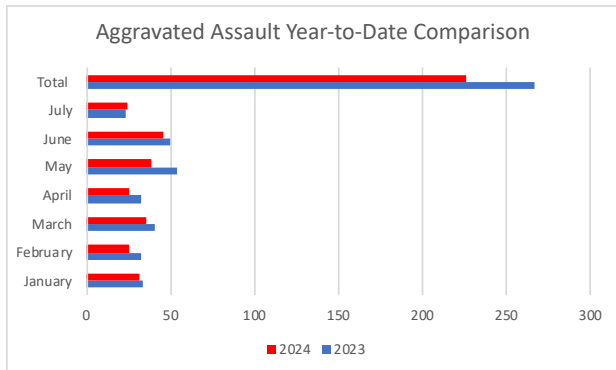
An illustration of data collected by JPD shows a comprehensive decrease in nearly all crime statistics from last year to now. While there is still a lot to do, these decreasing trends show an effective crime-fighting strategy that deserves recognition.



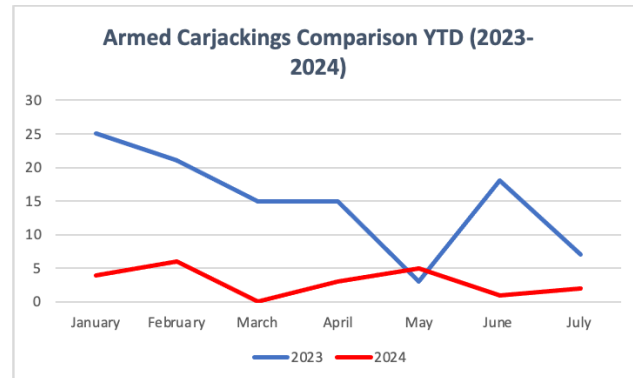
The homicide rate in Jackson is down over **16 percent** from 2021 and **14 percent** from 2022. 2024 numbers remain steady with 2023.



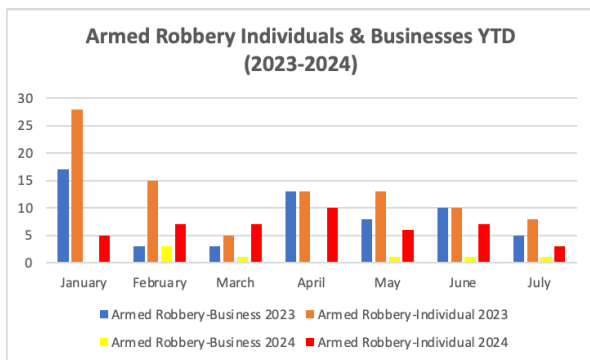
YTD, JPD has received nearly **60,000 calls for service** - more than any agency in the state.



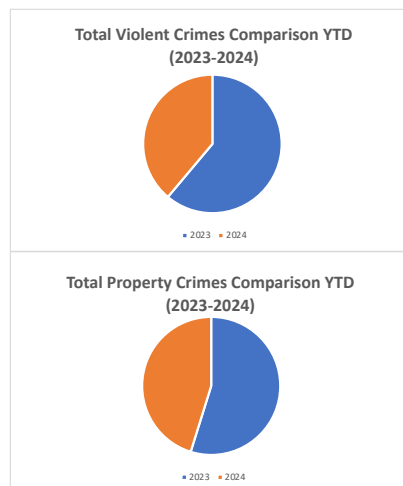
Aggravated assaults have **decreased 18 percent** from this time last year.



Armed carjackings have **decreased over 77 percent** from this time last year.



Armed robbery of businesses has **decreased by 42 percent**. Armed robbery of individuals has also **decreased by 42 percent** from this time last year.



Overall, there has been an **over 36 percent decrease** in violent crime.

Overall, there has been a **18 percent decrease** in property crimes from last year.