

EXHIBIT A

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN JONES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI AND
THE CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI**

**FOR THE 2024 EDWARD BYRNE
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)**

This agreement made this 4th day of May, 2026, by and between the County of Jones acting by and through its governing body, the Jones County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter called County) and the City of Laurel acting by and through its governing body, the Laurel City Council (hereinafter called City), both of Jones County, State of Mississippi.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the City and County desire to promote and improve their capacity to prevent and control crime with the use of funds provided through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG Program); and

WHEREAS, the JAG Program considers the City and the County to be “disparate” according to their definition that disparity exists when both a county and a municipality within that county qualify for a direct award, but the award amount for the municipality exceeds 150 percent of the county’s award; and

WHEREAS, the jurisdictions identified as disparate must negotiate and agree on the allocation amount awarded within the annual JAG Program allocations chart; and

WHEREAS, the calculated amounts on the JAG allocations chart are based on a formula and how much each jurisdiction would be eligible for if no disparity was identified; and

WHEREAS, the JAG Program requires that disparate entities submit a Joint Application for award funds when both the county and a municipality within that county qualify for a direct award, but the award amount for the municipality exceeds 150 percent of the county’s award; and

WHEREAS, the JAG Program award amount granted to the City and County, as detailed by the Joint Application Award for FY2024, is \$27,739; and

WHEREAS, each of the parties, in performing their governmental functions or in paying for the performance of governmental functions hereunder, shall make that performance or those payments from current revenues legally available to them; and

WHEREAS, the City and County find that the performance of this agreement is in the best interests of all parties, that the undertaking will benefit the public, and that the division of costs fairly compensates the performing party for the services or functions required of it under this agreement; and

WHEREAS, the County agrees that the City the amount of \$17,092 from the JAG award for the City of Laurel Police Department Public Safety Project Plan of purchasing a canine for the department; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto believe that promoting greater crime control and prevention will be benefited from use of the JAG Program funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and County agree as follows:

1. The County agrees to pay the City a total of seventeen thousand ninety-two dollars (\$17,092) of the total JAG funds award of \$27,739 with the remaining \$10,647 going to

the County.


2. The City agrees to use \$17,092 for the City of Laurel Police Department Public Safety Project upon completion of the project.
3. Nothing in the performance of this Agreement shall impose any liability for claims against the City and County other than claims for which liability may be imposed by the laws of the State of Mississippi.
4. Each party to this Agreement will be responsible for its own actions in providing services under this Agreement and shall not be liable for any civil liability that may arise from the furnishing of the services by the other parties.
5. The parties to this Agreement do not intend for any third party to obtain a right by virtue of this agreement.
6. By entering into this Agreement, the parties do not intend to create any obligations express or implied other than those set out herein; further, this Agreement shall not create any rights in any party not a signatory hereto.
7. The parties agree that Jones County shall be the "lead agency" and shall be the reporting entity for the purposes of the JAG Program in accordance with the JAG FY2024 Local Solicitation as detailed by the U.S. Department of Justice. Jones County shall be responsible for monitoring the award, submitting the reports, and other duties as may be required in order to carry out this grant. Each party agrees to follow the requirements of 2 CFR 200.313 related to the equipment purchased.
8. The parties agree to comply with all provisions, covenants and obligations of the JAG Program. In this respect, no party shall amend, alter or change the manner it uses the funds it receives from the manner the party represented the funds would be used in making its application for funding, without first obtaining proper authorization from JAG Program grant administration.
9. Methods of Termination: This Agreement may be terminated by the mutual agreement of the parties upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Mayor of the City and the President of the Board of Supervisors.
10. Amendments: Neither this Agreement nor any of its terms may be changed or modified, waived, or terminated except by an instrument in writing, approved by the governing body of each party, with such approval spread upon its official minutes, and signed by each parties' authorized representative.

WITNESS the signature of the parties hereto after first being approved by the respective governing authorities with the effective date to be the latest date shown below.

City of Laurel

Johnny Magee, Mayor

County of Jones


Phil Dickerson, President
Board of Supervisors

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into by and between the City of Laurel, Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as "City" and Laurel Main Street, hereinafter referred to as "Program Applicant" is as follows:

WHEREAS, the City is applying for a Mississippi Main Street Revitalization Grant (MMSRG) for and on behalf of the Program Applicant;

WHEREAS, the City and Program Applicant are required to enter into a written agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the relationship of the City and Program Applicant;

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are acknowledged, the City and Program Applicant agrees as follows:

1. The City's responsibilities shall be the following:
 - a. The City agrees to abide by all rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the MMSRG Program.
 - b. The City will maintain files and adequate bookkeeping records related to the project.
 - c. Maintain accurate financial records, including invoices, receipts, and disbursement documentation, in accordance with audit requirements.
 - d. Process payments and reimbursements in a timely manner, contingent upon receipt of proper documentation from the Program Applicant.
 - e. Provide oversight of the project to ensure activities are completed in accordance with the approved scope of work and budget developed by the Program Applicant.
 - f. Designate a primary point of contact for coordination with the Program Applicant.

2. The Program Applicant's responsibilities shall be the following:
 - a. The Program Applicant agrees to abide by all rules, regulations, terms, and conditions of the MMSRG Program.
 - b. The Program Applicant will maintain files and adequate bookkeeping records related to the project.
 - c. Serve as the lead entity for project development, including defining the project scope, budget, and supporting documentation for the grant application.
 - d. Carry out the day-to-day implementation and management of the project in accordance with the approved scope, timeline, and budget.
 - e. Comply with all MMSRG program requirements, including procurement standards, documentation, and reporting.
 - f. Maintain complete and organized project records, including contracts, invoices, proof of payment, and other required documentation, and submit these to the City as requested.
 - g. Provide regular progress updates (at minimum monthly or as otherwise agreed) to the City.
 - h. Ensure all project activities are completed within the grant period and meet all required deadlines.
 - i. Be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and sustainability of any project improvements, if applicable.

j. Designate a primary point of contact to coordinate with the City.

3. Both parties agree to:

- a. Maintain regular communication throughout the project.
- b. Participate in scheduled check-ins or meetings as needed.
- c. Promptly notify the other party of any issues that may impact project timelines, budget, or compliance.

Terms of this agreement shall be effective and binding upon approval and award of a grant to the City by the Mississippi Development Authority of the State of Mississippi and remain in effect until project completion and closeout.

Either party may terminate this Agreement with written notice, provided that all financial obligations and compliance requirements are satisfied. This Agreement represents the full understanding between the parties and may only be amended in writing and signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement this the _____ day of _____, 2026.

JOHNNY MAGEE
MAYOR, CITY OF LAUREL

CAROLINE BURKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAUREL MAIN STREET