



## *Proclamation*

### **DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS JACKSON COUNTY OPIOID AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the disease of substance use disorder and overdose deaths pose a threat to the life, health, and well-being of Jackson County residents and family units; and

**WHEREAS**, twenty-four (24) Jackson County residents lost their lives to medication and drug overdoses in 2024 alone with 21 of those deaths from opioids; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson County has a higher rate of medication and drug overdose deaths, and opioid-related deaths, when compared to the state rate, and three (3) of the four (4) surrounding counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic has contributed to a rise in serious and costly health consequences; and a significant number and rate of hospitalizations associated with drug withdrawal in newborns and a high number of children in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of behavioral health services, treatment facilities, and harm reduction measures in the region leave residents and families without access to resources for help; and

**WHEREAS**, substance use disorder and overdose deaths cause pain, suffering, and loss to individuals, families, and communities, across all demographics and regardless of socioeconomic status, that can never be measured.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County that September is Jackson County Opioid Awareness Month.

**ADOPTED** the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2025.

Attest:

By:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Mark A. Letson, Chairman