## Former sheriff's office corporal, current deputy announce bids for county jailer

Robert

**Johnson** 

**Barry Howell** 

BY ALEXIS BARRETT, MELANIE ANTONITIS

Robert Johnson announced his

candidacy for Marshall County jailer on Tuesday.

Johnson cited over 20 years in law enforcement, from serving as a firstline supervisor for the Marshall County Sheriff's Office to working inside Western Kentucky Correctional Complex and Kentucky State Penitentiary, as among his qualifications for jailer.

Very few candidates can say they've supervised officers, worked inside secure correctional facilities, and managed compliance programs in both public and private sectors," Johnson said. "That experience matters when you're

responsible for people, security, and taxpayer dollars.

Johnson previously ran for the position in 2022, losing to incumbent Roger Ford.

Johnson emphasized his platform focuses include training and support for detention officers, expanded evidencebased programming to reduce repeat incarceration, and transparency and accountability in jail operations and finances, among other

"This race is significant for Mara time when voters are looking

closely at jail operations, transparency, and public safety," Johnson wrote. "A well-run jail is safer for staff, safer for inmates, and safer

for the community. Leadership sets the tone and experience makes the difference."

Barry Howell is also set to run for Marshall County jailer, officially filing for candidacy last month.

Howell has worked for Marshall County Sheriff's Office for 15 years, beginning in March 2010, according to his social media page. He has served as a court security officer and attended the Department of Criminal Justice training in March 2013 to complete police training.

"I've gained hundreds of hours of hands-on training

that have prepared me to handle challenges with confidence and professionalism. That training will carry over directly to the jail, where safety, respect, and structure will remain top priorities," Howell wrote in a social media post. "As I look ahead, I'm committed to continuing that service with honesty, compassion, and a strong sense of duty to make Marshall County an even safer, stronger place for everyone. This county's stronger when the jail's in order."

Election Day for next year's prishall County because it comes at mary is May 19, 2026. The general election is Nov. 3, 2026.

# Carr resigns from city council

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM

Council member Darryl Carr announced that he would resign from his position during the Dec. 15 Benton City Council meeting. Carr, who was serving his first term on the council, announced the resignation due to changes in his professional

"I think at this point it is probably better for the citizens of Benton, that I just, at this particular time, I can't serve them like I did when I was elected," said Carr. "It's going to be hard for me to be here for meetings now, and that's not fair to the citizens of Benton or the people of this body, this legislative body."

At the time of his election, Carr was employed as a major for the McCracken County Jail. He has since been promoted to chief deputy, which places him overseeing the facility.

Carr has made his career in law enforcement, and called his work as chief deputy of the McCracken County Jail his "bread and butter."

Mayor Rita Dotson shared special called meeting and the council members would discuss selecting a replacement for Carr. Dotson noted that she could only open and close the meeting, but could not participate in the selection process. Dotson said she intended to call that special meeting after Christmas.

The meeting opened with the first reading of an amendment

meeting, a concern was brought regarding a citizen that was interested in tapping on to the city sewer system but was not inside the city limits.

As the ordinance was written, homes outside the city limits were not allowed to tap on to the city sewer system. The original ordinance aimed to encourage individuals to annex into the city. The citizen who brought the concern was unable to annex into the city, as the home next to his would not annex, leaving him with no path for annexation.

The proposed amendment would allow the council discretion in extraordinary circumstances, similar to this scenario. The council expressed general favor for the proposed amendment, though no vote was taken. A vote is expected to follow the second reading at the next meeting.

The council then had the first reading of a proposed temporary sign ordinance. The ordinance was drafted in an effort that the council would hold a to place regulations on temporary signs prior to the 2026 election cycle. Previously, the city's existing ordinance did not have a method to enforce sign violations outside of the court system. The new ordinance would allow the council to adopt the planning and zoning property maintenance rules, which would allow the city to place fines for signs outside of the policy.

The proposed ordinance

to the sewer tap on ordinance, would allow signs to be posted following a discussion at the no more than 45 days before Nov. 17 meeting. During that an election, and signs must be collected within seven days after the election. Property owners would be given notice for exceeding these limits, and fines would begin after notice was given.

During the police report, Benton Police Chief Stephen Sanderson shared that the Marshall County Shop with a Cop event was set for Friday, Dec. 19. He described the event as "the best day to be a police officer."

The meeting then moved into Mayor/Council items. Council member Sylvia Jestes shared that following the Benton Christmas festivities, she had received some concerns regarding the lack of restroom facilities.

Many of the businesses do not offer public restrooms. Dotson shared that for any city-sponsored event, City Hall remains open with restroom facilities. Dotson also suggested the council consider renting portable restroom facilities for future events.

Jestes also shared that citizens who had watched the meetings online felt the council members were quiet, and the recommendation was made to place the microphones closer to the council members. It was also suggested to get a microphone for guests.

The council regularly meets at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, Jan. 20, due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Contact:** Gerry K. Gilbert, Office Manager (p)527-3162 (f)527-4567 features@tribunecourier.com **Classified Deadline:** Noon Tuesday

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0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**WALNUT COURT BENTON HOUSING** Now accepting applications for 1 bedroom units.

> handicapped or disabled. Phone COMMONTO

Must be 62,

(270) 527-3626

### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Marshall County Fiscal Court will hold a public hearing at ap proximately 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2025 in the Fiscal Courtroom, Marshall County Courthouse, Benton, Kentucky. The purpose for the hearing is to receive comments, either for or against, the county removing a portion of Warnick Road from the county maintenance system.

Anyone unable to attend may submit written comments prior to the hearing to: Kevin Spraggs, County Judge/Executive, Marshall County Courthouse, 1101 Main Street, Benton, KY 42025.

Kevin Spraggs, County Judge/Executive

### **NOTICE FOR BIDS**

The City of Benton, KY will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a police responder truck for Benton Police Department. Bids specifications are as follows

- Pursuit rated truck
- AWD/4WD
- 3.5L V6 EcoBoost Engine Black exterior Cloth bucket front seats with rear vinyl seats
- Deactivate rear doors/windows Black left LED spot lamp Must be available by March 31, 2026

Sealed bids will be accepted until 12:00 P.M. on Friday, January 2, 2026. Bids may be delivered to the City Clerk at Benton City

Hall, 1009 Main Street, Benton, KY 42025. The City of Benton reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any informalities or technicalities therein.

The City of Benton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provisions of services.

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer



0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

The Housing Authority of Benton (E.H.O.)

The Housing Authority of Benton is now accepting applications for 0 to 4 bedroom apartments in Benton and Calvert City.

For more information, call 527-3626

Working Families, handicapped & elderly receive first preference



0900 LEGALS

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Benton Salvage, located at 1573 Oak Level Road, Benton, KY, 42025, hereby gives notice to Justin Harper, Owner, of the 1992 Chevy 1500, VIN 1GCDC14K3NZ7139410. Vehicle will be sold January

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BENTON AGENCY PLANS

Pursuant to the Quality Housing & Work Responsibilities Act of 1998 and HUD's Public Agency Plans; Final Rule contained on he Federal Register (FR) 24 CFR part 903, and notice PIH 2008-41, the Housing Authority of Benton is soliciting comments from Marshall County citizens regarding the 5 Year Capital Fund Program- Five Year Action Plan. The Housing Authority is providng citizens and opportunity to comment on these plans.

This 5 year plan (2026 through 2030) is a part of the Housing Authorities' 5 Year Plan as submitted to HUD. These agency plans are available for review at 101 Walnut Court, Benton, Ky. 42025, between the hours of 9:00 AM and NOON, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

The public hearing will take place at 10:00 AM on 12/18/25 at the Housing Authority office. If you are unable to attend, written com-ments will be received until NOON on the last working day preeding the Public Hearing date.

Submit comments to: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BENTON, 101 Walnut Court, Benton, KY. 42025.

Pick up the phone and you lift the whole community.

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