CITY OF BLAIR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 10, 2026

MEMO TO: City Council and Mayor

FROM: Aaron Barrow, Deputy City Administrator

RE: Ordinance - Downtown Public Right-of-Way Maintenance Responsibilities (§10-2414)

SUMMARY:

Council is asked to consider an ordinance adding Sec. 10-2414 to Chapter 10, Article 24 of the Blair Municipal Code to clarify maintenance, repair, upkeep, and snow and ice removal responsibilities within the defined Downtown Business District, rather than throughout the City.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

The City adopted Resolution No. 2003-21 on May 27, 2003, recognizing the downtown area; however, no explicit maintenance responsibilities were established at that time.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The revised ordinance applies only to the downtown area bounded by Front Street (north), Lincoln Street (south), 19th Street (west), and 15th Street (east), including those boundary streets and the connecting portions of Washington Street (U.S. Highway 30) and 16th, 17th, and 18th Streets. Within this area, the City would maintain City-controlled travel lanes, on-street parking lanes, and off-street parking areas within City-controlled right-of-way available for general public parking. The ordinance does not assign City maintenance of private or exclusively used parking areas.

Existing sidewalk obligations of adjacent property owners remain unchanged. Responsibilities for boulevards, tree lawns, alleys, and trails continue under applicable Code provisions and agreements. The draft preserves NDOT jurisdiction and maintenance obligations concerning Washington Street (U.S. Highway 30), as well as permittee restoration duties. It does not change maintenance responsibilities outside the downtown district.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs for qualifying downtown right-of-way and public parking maintenance would be managed through existing operations, subject to actual conditions, workload, and available budget resources. No specific fiscal estimate has been prepared.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the ordinance adding Sec. 10-2414, Maintenance Responsibilities Within the Downtown Public Right-of-Way, to Chapter 10, Article 24 of the Blair Municipal Code.