

## 2020 Budget Request Form – Douglas County, KS

### Summary and Community Partner Overview

Community Partner:	<b>Black Jack Battlefield Trust, Inc.</b>
2020 Request	\$9,737

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#### Community Partner Overview:

The Black Jack Battlefield Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that owns and operates the forty-acre Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park, site of the June 2, 1856, Battle of Black Jack, in which a Free State militia led by the abolitionist John Brown attacked and defeated a proslavery militia led by Henry Clay Pate in a three-hour engagement known as “the first regular battle between Free State and proslavery men in Kansas.” It was the opening battle in John Brown’s war on slavery and led to his raid on Harpers Ferry on October 16-18, 1859. As such, the Battle of Black Jack played a significant role in the lead-up to the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861. Its impact was felt nationally at the time, and a growing body of historians believes that Black Jack was the first true battle of the American Civil War.

The park also contains the Robert Hall Pearson Farmhouse and Farmstead. Pearson was an early pioneer of Douglas County, and fought in the battle alongside of John Brown. He later purchased the land that contained the battlefield, and in 1890 built a farmhouse overlooking where the fighting had been heaviest. The house has recently been preserved through a grant from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council.

In addition to the battlefield, house, and farmstead, the park encompasses a natural area of riparian and upland woods, wetlands, and an upland prairie restoration area. There are also several nature trails winding for several miles through the park.

The battlefield and park are on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and are part of the Black Jack Battlefield National Historic Landmark. The Trust is governed by a board of trustees that currently numbers 12 individuals. There are no paid employees; all work is performed by volunteers. Prior to 2015, the Trust had no consistent outside funding sources, and its day-to-day activities were funded exclusively through memberships and donations from interested individuals and organizations, and special projects were funded through grants. In 2015, the Trust received funding of \$10,000 from the Douglas County Commission through inclusion in the 2015 County Budget. In 2017 the Trust became a community partner with the county to receive funding of \$10,000 from the Douglas County Commission through inclusion in future county budgets.

Since it purchased the property in 2003 from the widow of a direct descendant of Robert Hall Pearson, the Trust has made significant advances in the experience that visitors to the site enjoy. Some examples are:

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- Beginning in 2006 with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle, the Trust has conducted annual commemoration activities the first week of June. These have included two reenactments of the battle, living history candlelight tours, and interactive guided tours of the battlefield. An entrance fee has been requested for the larger anniversary events.
- Beginning in 2007, the park was opened to visitors for self-guided tours from dawn to dusk, year-round.
- Also, in 2007, the Trust began offering guided tours of the battlefield at 1:00 p.m. on weekend afternoons from the first of May through mid-October. All tours are free and open to the public.
- Beginning in 2012, the Trust has collaborated with the Brown v. Board National Historic Site and Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area in their summer youth camps by providing a series of free programs at the battlefield for the camp attendees.
- Multiple interactive guided tours are scheduled on the Saturday and Sunday of Baldwin's Maple Leaf Festival. In addition, naturalists offer guided tours of the nature park.
- Guided tours of the battlefield are also available by special arrangement for schools, historical societies, senior organizations, and other interested groups. A fee is requested from non-school groups.
- A newly redesigned Battlefield Walking Tour Brochure was introduced in 2014 for distribution on site and at other selected venues.
- The entire Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park will continue to be open daily from dawn to dusk for public access and enjoyment.

The 2014 completion of the 2011 Heritage Conservational Council grant awarded for stabilization and renovation of the Pearson House enabled the Trust to again provide public access to the house during the park's 1:00 p.m. weekend guided tours and for the other scheduled tours and events that were held throughout the year. The second Heritage Conservational Council grant awarded in 2015 for finishing the interior surfaces of the Pearson House has again limited public access to the house, but the work is progressing nicely and when finished, the house will again have public access during events on the property. This intended to be sometime in 2017.

The Trust has plans to continue providing educational programming to area schoolchildren.

The Trust continues to seek out and implement ways to improve the visitor experience and bring the story of this nationally significant event in our shared history to the local community, the State of Kansas, and to the nation at large. One example is the Battle of Black Jack Traveling Exhibit. Produced with funding provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, the traveling exhibit had its public unveiling at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, in October 2009 as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of John Brown's Raid there. The traveling exhibit has been installed at numerous locations in Kansas and Missouri since its 2009 unveiling and is available for scheduling by interested venues for a small fee.

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The Trust has been able to carry out an impressive number of important activities in its first 14 years of existence without a stable source of funding. Having been made a community partner of the county in 2018 has provided a stable source of funding for ongoing and one-time expenses that otherwise would have consumed membership and donation funds that now can be utilized by the Trust to continue and expand what it has done in the past, and what it will be able to do in the future.

### **Service Overview - Metrics and/or data that describe the service impact:**

The Trust's performance measures are limited to tracking the number of individuals attending special events at Black Jack, such as, Park Day, Annual Anniversary Event, and the Maple Leaf Festival. These measures are only a small indicator of the number of individuals who visit the site. The Trust is open to the public each day for which we do not have staff to monitor those that walk the nature trails, conduct a self-guided tour of the Battlefield, etc.

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### Alignment to County Focus Areas and Collaboration:

Community Partner:	<b>Black Jack Battlefield Trust, Inc.</b>
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<b>Focus Area:</b>	
<p>The Trust has been in the process of preserving the prairie grasses, identifying the areas for continuing the preservation of the land and environmental resources. The Trust has met with local prairie preservation experts and, as funds are available, plan to make the necessary improvements to the landscape of Black Jack. The Black Jack property fits well with the focus of the Heritage Conservation and Land Management plans of Douglas County.</p>	

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double click on spreadsheet to open

### 2020 Budget Request Detail

calculated fields

Community Partner:	<b>Black Jack Battlefield Trust, Inc.</b>					
	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Actuals	2019 Adopted Budget	2019 Current Estimates	2020 Budget Request
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Unrestricted Fund Balance 1/1/xx	29,437	28,106	46,296		48,316	50,766
<b>Douglas County</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>9,737</b>
Grants						
Fundraisers						
Contributions	7,509	6,509	9,389	8,500	8,500	7,000
Other: Events/Item Sales	515	375	772	450	450	300
Douglas County Heritage Grant (Renovations to Pearson Historic Home)		12,636	(3,970)			
Interest	30	51	44	50	50	40
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>18,054</b>	<b>29,571</b>	<b>16,235</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>17,077</b>
<b>Total Revenues and Fund Balance</b>	<b>47,491</b>	<b>57,677</b>	<b>62,531</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>67,316</b>	<b>67,843</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Business Exp (Ann Rpt, Bank Fees, Sales Tax)	199	70	101	200	200	120
Contract Services (Acctg, Advertising)\	679	131	400	400	400	200
DCCF Endowment Contribution	800	0	640	200	200	200
Renovations to Pearson Historic House (Replace Roof-2018)	7,006	1,060	350	2,500	2,500	5,500
Facilities (Upkeep & Improvement of Site Facilities)	1,703	1,850	3,701	2,400	2,400	2,500
Site Maintenance (Upkeep & Improvements of Grounds/Equip)	1,556	2,589	2,867	2,000	2,000	5,200
Operations (Office Functions: Postage/Print/Website/PO Box)	450	683	504	450	450	400
Utilities (Phone/Electric)	1,656	469	1,486	1,650	1,650	600
Advertising/Marketing	960	408	0	500	500	200
Insurance (Liability/D&O)	2,339	2,384	2,469	2,700	2,700	2,500
Membership Dues (Chamber/Santa Fe Trail/AASLSH, etc)	312	215	381	300	300	300
Staff Development	0	287	0	300	300	0
Membership Retention, Recruitment/Outreach	520	0	0	300	300	200
Events	21	0	0	150	150	150
Merchandise to Sell	0	0	0	500	500	500
Printing of Walking Tour Brochures	0	0	0	0		600
Debt Payments	1,184	1,235	1,315	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>19,385</b>	<b>11,381</b>	<b>14,214</b>	<b>16,550</b>	<b>16,550</b>	<b>21,170</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance 12/31/xx</b>	<b>28,106</b>	<b>46,296</b>	<b>48,316</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>50,766</b>	<b>46,673</b>

-2.63%

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### Budget Request Analysis

Community Partner: **Black Jack Battlefield Trust, Inc.**

#### Analysis of Revenue Sources:

The Trust has historically relied on memberships and donations to fund operational and other ongoing expenses. County partner funding allows the Trust to shift the target of those funds. The Trust will continue to strive to increase memberships and donations, as such increases will be needed to keep pace with the ever-increasing needs of managing an historic site.

The funding of special projects not part of operating expenses has been and will continue to be the focus of grant seeking activities. One such project is to construct an all-weather environmentally responsible parking area on the property away from E 2000 Road. The Trust is currently raising funds for the project and has received over \$11,000 in donations. The board has worked and is working diligently to address sustainability and is continuing to develop long-term fundraising plans.

#### Analysis of beginning & ending fund balances, and dedicated or restricted cash reserves:

The beginning and ending fund balances contain all but the funds maintained in restricted accounts. The estimated ending 2018/beginning 2019 balances was less than 2017/2018 because of the use of funds in 2018 to replace the roof on the Robert H Pearson house. We will continue to increase direct public support in 2019 and 2020.

The Budget Request Form spreadsheet figures do not include restricted funds that are kept in special accounts separate from the operating account. These five accounts are listed below along with their current balances:

- Black Jack Gate Project - \$16,115
- Debt Retirement - \$14
- Event Account - \$15
- Black Jack Endowment-Douglas County Community Foundation - \$2,937

Parking Area Project - \$11,036

#### Analysis of expenditure changes:

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In 2019, the Trust plans to re-gravel the driveway for an estimated cost of \$1,200. Other expenses include painting the exterior of the Pearson house and repair of the water damage to the upstairs ceilings of the Pearson house for an estimate of \$3,000. Additionally, the rock bridge just east of the Pearson house is in need of repair for which \$2,000 has been allocated for basic filling and grading of the surface of the bridge.

Future long-term significant expenditures, for which grants will be identified as a funding resource include composite toilets, a parking lot, visitor center, and long-term water source.

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### Supplemental Request for Additional Funding

(This is in addition to the 2020 Request amount on page 1)

Community Partner:	<b>Black Jack Battlefield Trust, Inc.</b>	<b>\$000</b>
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#### Purpose for additional revenue from County:

Although the Trust could use supplemental funding from the County to help carry out its mission, our understanding is that the County budget will not allow for such funding. We therefore are not requesting supplemental funding for 2020. This is not to indicate that we will not be interested in doing so in the future if the County budget would allow it.

#### Impact if supplemental request is not funded:

N/A