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State Treasury rating says city of Jackson is under 'fiscal stress'

By Larry Hook | Jackson Citizen Patriot

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The state Department of Treasury's fiscal stress indicator test put the cities of Jackson and Leslie on opposite ends.

Leslie earned a score of 1 for a three-year period from 2006 to 2008, while Jackson was given a score of 8.

Units of government were rated on a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being the best score possible. No city achieved a 0 rating for the three-year period.

Jackson's score of 8 indicates the city is under "fiscal stress."

Mayor Jerry Ludwig said Jackson does have high unemployment and a lot of foreclosures, but it still has a rainy day fund and hasn't had to cut services to a bare minimum or go into receivership like other municipalities.

"You can read facts and figures any way you want to," Ludwig said. "Financially speaking, the city is in relatively good shape."

Leslie was one of nine Michigan cities out of 272 surveyed to earn a score of 1.

"I think it says a lot about our City Council, our staff and our community," Leslie City Manager Brian Reed said.

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