Chippewa County
County Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
December 16, 2025
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 06:00 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

Members Present:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Members Absent:	Matthew Peterson
Others Present:	Andy Albarado, Leah Simington, Mitchell Biesen, Richelle Rizzo, Doug Clary, Lynda Schweikert, Paul Krumeneuer, Todd Pauls, Traci Bremness, Mark Holister, Matt Hansen, Fred, Tom Webb and Fred Hankel

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	Charles Bomar
Seconder:	Karen Lotts
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

5. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

Paul Krumeneuer informed the board that the ATV trails have been closed and he thanked the board.

Tom Webb from Congressman Van Orden's office thanked the board for their service and wished them Happy Holidays.

6. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell,

	David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

1. Approve the Minutes - Budget Hearing, November 6, 2025

2. Approve the Minutes - November 12, 2025

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - January 13, 2026

7. Public Hearing

Chippewa County Housing Authority Executive Director Richelle Rizzo presented to the board.

1. Open Public Hearing

   The public hearing was opened at 6:04 pm by Chair Hull.

2. Identification of Total Potential Funds.

3. Eligible CDBG Activities

   A. Housing
      (1) Rehabilitation
      (2) Homebuyer Assistance
      (3) Special Housing Projects

   B. Planning

   C. Economic Development

   D. Public Facilities

   E. Public Facilities for Economic Development

4. Presentation of Activities Proposed for CDBG Application, including Potential Residential Displacement.

5. Presentation of Identified Housing and Community Development Needs.

6. Identification of Housing and Community Development Needs by Public.

7. Update on the Status of the Existing CDBG Grant, Including Residential Displacement and Relocation Assistance Activities.

8. Citizen Input Regarding Proposed and other CDBG Activities.

9. Close Public Hearing

   The public hearing was closed at 6:16 pm by Chair Hull.

8. Reports

1. County Administrator Review and Update

2. Department Reports

   A. Monthly Statements of Claim Filed - Jaclyn Sadler

   County Clerk Jaclyn Sadler informed the board that no new claims had been filed since the last County Board meeting.

   B. Financial Update (3rd Quarter) - Leah Simington

   Finance Director Leah Simington provided the 3rd Quarter Financial Update to the board.

3. General Reports

9. Business Items

1. Res. 37-25: Resolution Authorizing Submission of the Application for Community Development Block Grant Funds on Behalf of the West Central Wisconsin Housing Region - Richelle Rizzo

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	Peter Gehring
Seconder:	Karen Lotts
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

2. Res. 38-25: Resolution to Approve the 2026 Work Plan of the Forest and Trails Division of the Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management and to Authorize the County Forest Administrator to Apply for a County Forest Administration Grant From the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Matt Hansen

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Charles Bomar
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

3. Res. 39-25: Resolution Authorizing the Creation of an Ad Hoc Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee to Study EMS Services in Chippewa County - Andy Albarado

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	George Rohmeyer, Jr.
Seconder:	Jason Bergeron
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

4. Policy Revisions for Use of Fund Balance/Non-Lapsing Accounts – Andy Albarado - First Reading

County Administrator Andy Albarado explained the policy revisions to the board.

10. County Board Chair Appointments

11. County Administrator Appointments

12. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 06:39 PM

Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	James Ericksen
Seconder:	David Kelly
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

Chippewa County
County Board of Supervisors
Budget Hearing
November 6, 2025
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 06:00 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

Members Present:
County Board Supervisor - District 19 Chuck Hull
County Board Supervisor - District 7 Jason Bergeron
County Board Supervisor - District 1 James Flater
County Board Supervisor - District 2 Pam Guthman
County Board Supervisor - District 3 Duane Shoebridge
County Board Supervisor - District 4 Peter Gehring
County Board Supervisor - District 5 Dennis Bachman
County Board Supervisor - District 6 Timothy Goettl
County Board Supervisor - District 8 James Ericksen
County Board Supervisor - District 9 Joel Seidlitz
County Board Supervisor - District 10 Matthew Peterson
County Board Supervisor - District 11 Karen Lotts
County Board Supervisor - District 12 Charles Bomar
County Board Supervisor - District 14 David Kelly
County Board Supervisor - District 15 Lee Hennick
County Board Supervisor - District 17 George Rohmeyer, Jr.
County Board Supervisor - District 20 James Meinen
County Board Supervisor - District 21 Kari Ives

Members Absent:
County Board Supervisor - District 13 Joseph Roshell
County Board Supervisor - District 16 Rocky Kempe
County Board Supervisor - District 18 Brian Flynn

Others Present: Andy Albarado, Jennifer Steinmetz, Chris Elstran, Andy Bauer, Bobbie Jaeger, Lynda Schweikert, Melanie McManus, Toni Hohlfelder, Todd Pauls, Traci Bremness and Jaclyn Sadler

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(18 - 0)**
Mover:	Charles Bomar
Seconder:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, George Rohmeyer, Jr., James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Joseph Roshell, Rocky Kempe, Brian Flynn

5. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard

(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

6. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(18 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, George Rohmeyer, Jr., James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Joseph Roshell, Rocky Kempe, Brian Flynn

1. Schedule Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7. Public Hearing - 2026 County Budget at 6:00 P.M.

Chair Hull opened the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

1. County Administrator 2026 Proposed Budget - Andy Albarado

County Administrator Andy Albarado presented the proposed 2026 budget.

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. Close Public Hearing

Chair Hull closed the public hearing at 6:24 pm.

8. Reports

1. County Administrator Review and Update

2. Department Reports

   A. Agenda Management Software and Website Update - Jaclyn Sadler

County Clerk Jaclyn Sadler walked the board through how to access agendas and minutes on the website and how to sign up for meeting notifications.

   B. 2025 Report of Highway Operations – Chris Elstran

Highway Commissioner, Chris Elstran, presented the 2025 Report of Highway Operations.

3. General Reports

9. Business Items

1. Res. 34-25: Resolution To Approve County Aid In 2026 For Bridges and Culverts - Chris Elstran

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(18 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	George Rohmeyer, Jr.
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Karen Lotts,

	Charles Bomar, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, George Rohmeyer, Jr., James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Joseph Roshell, Rocky Kempe, Brian Flynn

2. Res. 35-25: Resolution To Approve Funds For County Aid Construction and Maintenance During Calendar Year 2026 -Chris Elstran

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(18 - 0)**
Mover:	Charles Bomar
Seconder:	Matthew Peterson
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, George Rohmeyer, Jr., James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Joseph Roshell, Rocky Kempe, Brian Flynn

3. Approval of County Administrator 2026 Budget - Andy Albarado

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(18 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	George Rohmeyer, Jr.
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, George Rohmeyer, Jr., James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Joseph Roshell, Rocky Kempe, Brian Flynn

10. County Board Chair Appointments

11. County Administrator Appointments

12. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

13. Adjourn

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(18 - 0)**
Mover:	James Ericksen
Seconder:	David Kelly
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Matthew Peterson, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, George Rohmeyer, Jr., James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Joseph Roshell, Rocky Kempe, Brian Flynn

Chippewa County

County Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting
November 12, 2025
Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 302
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 06:01 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

Members Present:
County Board Supervisor - District 19 Chuck Hull
County Board Supervisor - District 7 Jason Bergeron
County Board Supervisor - District 1 James Flater
County Board Supervisor - District 2 Pam Guthman
County Board Supervisor - District 3 Duane Shoebridge
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County Board Supervisor - District 13 Joseph Roshell
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County Board Supervisor - District 15 Lee Hennick
County Board Supervisor - District 16 Rocky Kempe
County Board Supervisor - District 17 George Rohmeyer, Jr.
County Board Supervisor - District 18 Brian Flynn
County Board Supervisor - District 20 James Meinen
County Board Supervisor - District 21 Kari Ives

Members Absent:
County Board Supervisor - District 10 Matthew Peterson

Others Present: Andy Albarado, Leah Simington, Chris Elstran, Andy Bauer, Toni Hohlfelder, Doug Clary, Kristen Bruder, Todd Pauls, Traci Bremness, Jaclyn Sadler and Tim Mather

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	Charles Bomar
Seconder:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

5. Members of the Public Wishing to Be Heard
(Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker.)

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

6. Consent Agenda

(Unless separation of an item is requested, all items will be adopted under one motion.)

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**Passed (20 - 0)**
Mover:	Charles Bomar
Seconder:	Brian Flynn
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

1. Approve the Minutes - October 14, 2025

2. Schedule Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, December 9, 2025

3. AZO 10-25: Back Rezone - Eagle Point

4. AZO 11-25: Refuge Church Rezone - Town of Lafayette

7. Reports

1. County Administrator Review and Update

2. Department Reports

    A. Monthly Statements of Claim Filed with the County Clerk - Jaclyn Sadler

County Clerk, Jaclyn Sadler, informed the board there was one claim filed since the last regular County Board meeting.

    B. County Board Supervisor Election 2026 - Jaclyn Sadler

County Clerk, Jaclyn Sadler, reviewed the important dates/deadlines with the board for the Spring election.

3. General Reports

    A. West CAP Presentation - Tim Mather

Tim Mather, Executive Director of West CAP provided a report to the board on the services they provide to Chippewa County.

8. Business Items

1. Res. 36-25: Resolution to Approve the Chippewa County 2025 Tax Levy to be Collected in 2026 - Andy Albarado

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Pam Guthman
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None

Absent:	Matthew Peterson

2. Ord. 08-25: Ordinance to Amend Section 58-34(a) Regarding No Parking Zones - Second Reading - Chris Elstran

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(19 - 1)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Charles Bomar
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	David Kelly
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

3. Ord. 09-25: Ordinance to Amend Section 58-31(f) of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances Regarding Speed Zones - Second Reading - Chris Elstran

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	Jason Bergeron
Seconder:	James Flater
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

4. HR Policy Manual Revisions for Employee Benefits - Second Reading - Toni Hohlfelder

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	Peter Gehring
Seconder:	Kari Ives
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

5. HIPAA Policy Revisions - Second Reading - Toni Hohlfelder

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	David Kelly
Seconder:	Karen Lotts
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

9. County Board Chair Appointments

10. County Administrator Appointments

1. County Administrator Appointment - Health & Human Services Board

Motion:	Approved
Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	James Flater
Seconder:	Duane Shoebridge
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Nayes:	None
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

11. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

12. Adjourn

Result:	**(20 - 0)**
Mover:	James Ericksen
Seconder:	David Kelly
Ayes:	Chuck Hull, Jason Bergeron, James Flater, Pam Guthman, Duane Shoebridge, Peter Gehring, Dennis Bachman, Timothy Goettl, James Ericksen, Joel Seidlitz, Karen Lotts, Charles Bomar, Joseph Roshell, David Kelly, Lee Hennick, Rocky Kempe, George Rohmeyer, Jr., Brian Flynn, James Meinen, Kari Ives
Absent:	Matthew Peterson

The meeting adjourned at: 06:33 PM

Monthly Statements of Claim Filed with the County Clerk

County ordinance states the County Clerk shall report at the next session of the Board all statements of claim filed in the Clerk's Office since the last Board meeting. The ordinance language is included below for reference. Also attached for reference is the process for handling claims against the County.

Please note: This information is being provided as a report only. There will be no discussion or official action taken at this time regarding this matter. If you have additional questions, please contact the Corporation Counsel Division for assistance at 715-726-4595.

Ordinance Sec 2-60. Meetings of the County Board

(l) *Claims.*

(1) Any person having a demand or claim against the county shall make such demand or claim by following the procedure prescribed by Wis. Stats. § 59.64 and shall make out a statement thereof in writing pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.07 and file the statement with the clerk pursuant to Wis. Stat. §893.80 (1)(b).

(2) Such claims shall be referred to the Corporation Counsel. The County Clerk shall report at the next session of the Board all claims filed in the Clerk's Office since the last County Board meeting, as set out in Wis. Stat. §59.64.

(3) *Payment of claim against county.* The Executive Committee is authorized to settle claims not to exceed $10,000 as provided in Wis. Stats. §59.52(12)(a). The Corporation Counsel is authorized to settle claims not to exceed $500 as provided for in Wis. Stats. §59.52(12)(b). When any claim against the county is allowed by the Board, it shall be the duty of the clerk to prepare a warrant or order on the treasurer for payment of the claim, such warrant or order to be signed by the clerk and countersigned by the Administrator.

Claims Submitted to the County Clerk Since the Last County Board Meeting

County Board Meeting: December 9, 2025

Claimant	Date Filed	Amount of Claim	Type of Claim	Department Involved

Process for Handling Claims Against the County

WMMIC – Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company

- Chippewa County is part owner of the insurance company, Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (WMMIC), which provides liability protection to the county. This includes general liability, auto and public official's errors and omissions coverage along with actions such as employment practices, auto accidents, law enforcement liability, ministerial and discretionary acts completed by our employees and elected officials.
- Chippewa County has been a founding member since WMMIC was formed in 1988.

Deborah Blevins – Corporation Counsel Legal Assistant

- In addition to general duties with the Corporation Counsel office, Blevins manages the liability insurance for Chippewa County.
- Since 2019, Blevins has served as Chippewa County's official representative with WMMIC and also serves as a member of the WMMIC Claims Committee.
    - Attends WMMIC's quarterly meetings and yearly board meetings.
        - At the quarterly meetings, all members are present for each committee meeting (Claims, Underwriting, Finance, and Board of Directors), thereby affording everyone a clear understanding of what is happening within WMMIC.
- Processes and administers all claims (personal injury, vehicle, volunteer, etc.) for County (except workers comp)
- Drafts/Presents resolutions for allowance/disallowance of claims to Executive Committee and County Board
- Works with insurance carriers to recover funds for damages caused by third parties (prepare small claims actions).

Chippewa County Ordinance

Ordinance Sec 2-60(l)(3) Meetings of the County Board:

- *Payment of claim against county.* The Executive Committee is authorized to settle claims not to exceed $10,000 as provided in Wis. Stats. §59.52(12)(a). The Corporation Counsel is authorized to settle claims not to exceed $500 as provided for in Wis. Stats. §59.52(12)(b). When any claim against the county is allowed by the Board, it shall be the duty of the clerk to prepare a warrant or order on the treasurer for payment of the claim, such warrant or order to be signed by the clerk and countersigned by the Administrator.

Resolutions to Allow or Disallow a Claim

- When claims are brought to the Executive Committee/County Board for allowance or disallowance, the matter has been thoroughly investigated by Blevins and the WMMIC Claim Representative. Discussions on the matter have taken place and relevant state statutes have been reviewed with regard to liability, if any, for the County.
- Notices of claim are presented to the County Clerk who then forwards them to Blevins. From there Blevins enters the claim into the system for the insurance company who then assigns an adjuster. WMMIC will then research it and provide a recommendation.
- If the County Board approves disallowing a claim, that simply limits the amount of time the claimant has to file a lawsuit, it does not otherwise prohibit the claimant from filing a lawsuit. The timeline for filing a lawsuit reduces from the time allowed under the applicable statute of limitations for the particular claim down to 6 months.

Risk/Consequences of Not Following WMMIC’s Recommendation

If Chippewa County does not follow the recommendations of the Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (WMMIC), several concerns could arise:

- **Increased Financial Exposure**: Failure to comply with WMMIC's recommendations may leave the county vulnerable to costly lawsuits and liability claims. This could significantly increase the county’s financial burden, as WMMIC may not cover claims if the county is found to have neglected risk management advice.
- **Loss of Liability Coverage**: If Chippewa County repeatedly ignores WMMIC's advice, there is a risk that the county could lose its coverage or face higher premiums, affecting its ability to secure adequate insurance in the future.
- **Potential Legal Consequences**: Ignoring WMMIC's guidance could result in non-compliance with state laws or regulations, exposing the county to legal penalties or sanctions.
- **Strain on County Resources**: Without proper coverage or by facing more claims, the county’s resources could be diverted away from other important services to handle litigation or pay for damages out of pocket.

It is essential that Chippewa County maintain alignment with WMMIC’s recommendations to mitigate these risks and protect both the county and its employees.

Finance Update

January-September 2025 (Pre-Audited)

Leah Simington, Finance Director

Executive Committee – December 2, 2025

County Board – December 9, 2025

1

Definitions

Fund – A fiscal entity that is segregated for the purpose of accounting and budget reporting with a complete set of self balancing accounts to include assets, liabilities, equity/fund balance and revenues and expenditures/expenses

- General – to account for all financial resources used to fund general government operations not accounted for in another fund
- Special Revenue/Purpose – are used to account for the proceeds of a specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to specified purposes
- Debt Service – to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest
- Capital Projects – to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities or equipment
- Proprietary – the category of funds used to account for ongoing activities similar to those also found in the private sector. Uses the accrual basis of accounting
    - Enterprise – to account for operations that are financed and operated similar to private business with the intention that the cost of providing goods or services to the general public is to be financed or recovered primarily through user charges
    - Internal Service – to account for the cost of providing goods or services by one department or agency to another department or agency on a cost-reimbursement basis
- Fiduciary Funds – funds used to report assets held in a trust agency

2

Definitions (cont.)

Fund Balance/Net Assets – The difference between assets and liabilities

- If at the end of the year actual revenues exceed actual expenditures fund balance increases – it decreases if actual expenditures exceed actual revenues
- When budgeting fund balance – you are anticipating that expenditures will exceed revenue by the amount budgeted and the budget plan is to reduce the amount of fund balance available
  - Non-spendable fund balance – amounts that are not in spendable form, such as inventory and prepaid expense.
  - Restricted fund balance – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes by external providers, such as grant or bondholders as well as through legislation
  - Committed fund balance – amounts that are intended for specific purpose, as expressed by the governing body or authorized official
  - Unassigned fund balance – all amounts not contained in other categories

3

Definitions (cont.)

Lapsing Fund – The difference between revenues and expenditures is closed out to the fund balance and not carried forward to be used for a specific purpose

Non-Lapsing Fund – The difference between revenues and expenditures is carried forward to be used for a specific purpose

Contingency Fund – A line item in the budget that is for unplanned expenditures

4

January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results

2025 Pre-Audited Financial Results

5

January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

General Fund

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	**Description**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**% Collected**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**% Spent**	**Net Gain/(Loss)**
02	County Board	$ 184,985.00	$ 184,985.00	100.0%	$ 184,985.00	$ 146,472.98	79.2%	$ 38,512.02
03	General County	$ 407,260.00	$ (2,079,572.11)	-510.6%	$ 407,260.00	$ 335,776.11	82.4%	$ (2,415,348.22)
04	Department of Administration	$ 9,981,936.51	$ 7,818,092.38	78.3%	$ 9,981,936.51	$ 5,162,034.60	51.7%	$ 2,656,057.78
05	Insurances	$ 554,900.00	$ 424,108.50	76.4%	$ 554,900.00	$ 166,656.31	30.0%	$ 257,452.19
06	County Clerk	$ 1,398,956.00	$ 1,376,835.79	98.4%	$ 1,398,956.00	$ 1,294,158.29	92.5%	$ 82,677.50
10	County Treasurer	$ 473,029.00	$ 1,859,757.14	393.2%	$ 473,029.00	$ 339,719.12	71.8%	$ 1,520,038.02
11	Register of Deeds	$ 435,829.00	$ 344,308.27	79.0%	$ 435,829.00	$ 297,689.40	68.3%	$ 46,618.87
12	District Attorney	$ 959,058.00	$ 883,180.50	92.1%	$ 959,058.00	$ 633,134.09	66.0%	$ 250,046.41
14	Clerk of Courts	$ 1,763,734.00	$ 1,648,449.09	93.5%	$ 1,763,734.00	$ 1,236,581.71	70.1%	$ 411,867.38
18	Register in Probate	$ 261,158.00	$ 267,461.98	102.4%	$ 261,158.00	$ 179,684.99	68.8%	$ 87,776.99
20	Child Support	$ 997,031.00	$ 556,069.12	55.8%	$ 997,031.00	$ 649,553.66	65.1%	$ (93,484.54)
24	Sheriff	$ 11,541,227.00	$ 11,035,456.14	95.6%	$ 11,541,227.00	$ 8,186,826.45	70.9%	$ 2,848,629.69
27	Coroner	$ 166,265.00	$ 152,413.70	91.7%	$ 166,265.00	$ 95,226.73	57.3%	$ 57,186.97
42	Housing Authority	$ 1,150.00	$ 1,150.00	100.0%	$ 1,150.00	$ -	0.0%	$ 1,150.00
48	UW - Extension	$ 247,781.00	$ 279,665.56	112.9%	$ 247,781.00	$ 150,668.70	60.8%	$ 128,996.86
50/52	Land Conservation & Forest Mgm	$ 3,279,891.00	$ 1,204,147.95	36.7%	$ 3,279,891.00	$ 1,379,325.52	42.1%	$ (175,177.57)
53/54	Planning & Zoning	$ 1,341,605.00	$ 892,877.51	66.6%	$ 1,341,605.00	$ 1,058,434.63	78.9%	$ (165,557.12)
60	Veterans	$ 225,661.00	$ 225,661.00	100.0%	$ 225,661.00	$ 150,982.63	66.9%	$ 74,678.37
68	Public Health	$ 626,599.00	$ 557,001.77	88.9%	$ 626,599.00	$ 380,208.91	60.7%	$ 176,792.86
100	**General Fund**	**$ 34,848,055.51**	**$ 27,632,049.29**	**79.3%**	**$ 34,848,055.51**	**$ 21,843,134.83**	**62.7%**	**$ 5,788,914.46**

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited)Financial Summary:

General Fund (cont.)

Highlights Include:

- **General County**
  - State Shared Revenues arrive in 4th Quarter (2025 Budgeted = $3,364,089)
- **County Clerk**
  - The expenses show 92.5% utilized which is attributed to the annual Libraries allocation (2025 = $1,003,684)
- **County Treasurer**
  - Interest rates with State Investment Pool are at 4.35%
  - Schwab Investments (See table in the right corner.)
- **Child Support**
  - State Aid reimbursement revenues received quarterly
- **Land Conservation/Forest Management**
  - Expenses submitted for reimbursements will be received by year end
- **Planning & Zoning**
  - Expenses have been submitted for reimbursement

Revenues - You will notice that some departments show revenues at 100% because the tax levy allocation for their department is given at the beginning of the year for the whole year.

Schwab Investments Market Review

	01/01/2025	09/30/2025
Cost Value	$15,790,146.98	$15,884,739.19
Market Adjustment	(668,528.33)	(385,293.27)
Net Change in Market Adjustment		**$ 110,611.10**

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Special Revenue Funds

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	**Description**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**% Collected**	**Budget**	**Actual**	**% Spent**	**Net Gain/(Loss)**
204	**Public Health**	**$ 2,526,782.00**	**$ 1,796,515.69**	71.1%	**$ 2,526,782.00**	**$ 1,676,041.70**	66.3%	**$ 120,473.99**
205	**ADRC & Aging**	**$ 2,120,984.00**	**$ 1,285,484.38**	60.6%	**$ 2,120,984.00**	**$ 1,409,542.56**	66.5%	**$ (124,058.18)**
208	**Human Services**	**$ 7,544,225.00**	**$ 6,314,705.70**	83.7%	**$ 7,544,225.00**	**$ 5,815,183.30**	77.1%	**$ 499,522.40**
84	DHS-RWC	$ 3,500,986.00	$ 1,960,487.66	56.0%	$ 3,500,986.00	$ 2,468,642.70	70.5%	$ (508,155.04)
85	RWC-Comprehensive Comm Serv	$ 26,494,015.00	$ 16,536,311.17	62.4%	$ 26,494,015.00	$ 13,676,943.02	51.6%	$ 2,859,368.15
209	**Recovery & Wellness Consortium**	**$ 29,995,001.00**	**$ 18,496,798.83**	61.7%	**$ 29,995,001.00**	**$ 16,145,585.72**	53.8%	**$ 2,351,213.11**
212	**Crime Prevention Fund**	**$ 4,000.00**	**$ 4,899.27**	122.5%	**$ 4,000.00**	**$ 6,000.00**	150.0%	**$ (1,100.73)**
213	**Housing CDBG Revolving Loans**	**$ 2,036,150.00**	**$ 722,409.69**	35.5%	**$ 2,036,150.00**	**$ 841,871.61**	41.3%	**$ (119,461.92)**
215	**Jail Assessment**	**$ 56,505.00**	**$ 29,644.79**	52.5%	**$ 56,505.00**	**$ 50,868.49**	90.0%	**$ (21,223.70)**
220	**Land Records**	**$ 249,663.00**	**$ 106,512.00**	42.7%	**$ 249,663.00**	**$ -**	0.0%	**$ 106,512.00**
226	**County Economic Development**	**$ 338.00**	**$ 613.38**	181.5%	**$ 338.00**	**$ -**	0.0%	**$ 613.38**
250	**NMM Reclamation**	**$ -**	**$ 116,738.28**		**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 116,738.28**

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Special Revenue Funds (cont.)

Highlights Include:

- **Public Health**
  - GEARS payments received with a 1 month delay
- **Recovery Wellness Consortium**
  - Medicaid revenue reported with a 2-3 month delay
  - $5,000,000 advance received for Medicaid reconciliation
- **Jail Assessment**
  - Quarterly fees collected on fines below budgeted
- **Land Records**
  - Revenues low due to economy

RWC Working Capital Pool	
Buffalo	$ 83,567.46
Burnett	155,275.38
Dunn	222,189.00
Pepin	109,957.00
Pierce	209,512.00
Polk	294,141.03
Rusk	131,637.46
Washburn	187,059.03
9/30/2025	$ 1,393,338.36

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Special Revenue Funds - Sales Tax Review

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	Description	Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Net Gain/(Loss)
230	Sales Tax Property Tax Relief	$ 10,202,130.00	$ 5,395,945.92	52.9%	$ 10,202,130.00	$ 10,202,130.00	100.0%	$ (4,806,184.08)

2025 Sales Tax Review

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change from Previous Year	(2021-2025) 5 Yr Average
January Received in March	412,672.62	397,205.20	549,612.29	491,993.09	603,151.14	614,797.35	1.93%	531,351.81
February received in April	454,060.14	541,612.30	586,365.62	535,237.98	393,070.65	595,137.83	51.41%	530,284.88
March received in May	420,748.99	722,005.77	513,655.08	669,051.83	887,007.77	785,542.42	-11.44%	715,452.57
April received in June	453,068.14	744,469.84	837,971.82	811,205.87	661,570.40	626,545.43	-5.29%	736,352.67
May received in July	658,017.81	600,030.33	692,683.33	664,857.20	678,236.09	928,003.35	36.83%	712,762.06
June received in August	561,287.51	687,048.73	701,937.82	860,858.82	921,258.34	956,205.06	3.79%	825,461.75
Subtotal	**2,959,855.21**	**3,692,372.17**	**3,882,225.96**	**4,033,204.79**	**4,144,294.39**	**4,506,231.44**	**8.73%**	4,051,665.75
July received in September	543,813.92	725,584.05	770,343.17	760,741.12	665,158.21	722,270.10	8.59%	728,819.33
August received in October	641,477.88	690,160.64	692,751.23	689,572.44	827,285.63	827,285.63	0.00%	745,411.11
September received in November	468,174.47	721,266.32	793,515.55	888,055.72	857,493.68	857,493.68	0.00%	823,564.99
October received in December	574,830.83	712,929.94	798,530.04	707,188.24	699,713.63	699,713.63	0.00%	723,615.10
November received in January	532,374.54	527,166.32	541,553.35	462,544.38	862,805.36	862,805.36	0.00%	651,374.95
December received in February	500,998.70	702,937.65	825,979.69	1,029,171.19	722,989.80	722,989.80	0.00%	800,813.63
Subtotal	**3,261,670.34**	**4,080,044.92**	**4,422,673.03**	**4,537,273.09**	**4,635,446.31**	**4,692,558.20**	**1.23%**	**4,187,421.54**
Totals	**6,221,525.55**	**7,772,417.09**	**8,304,898.99**	**8,570,477.88**	**8,779,740.70**	**9,198,789.64**	**4.77%**	**7,929,812.04**
% change	**2.03%**	**24.93%**	**6.85%**	**3.20%**	**2.44%**	**4.77%**		

YTD Interest
$167,444.38

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Special Revenue Funds – **Opioid Abatement Account**

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	Description	Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Net Gain/(Loss)
233	Opioid Abatement Account	$ 110,000.00	$ 225,663.02	205.1%	$ 110,000.00	$ 70,411.54	64.0%	$ 155,251.48

Revenues:	
Opioid Abatement Revenues	$ 199,807.65
Interest Income	25,855.37
Total Revenues	**$ 225,663.02**

Expenses for Approved Programs/Projects:	
DHS RWC-Peer Support	$ 36,400.00
CJS-Reentry Services	3,461.29
PH-Overdose Fatality Review	10,944.25
SH-AODA Services	18,760.00
Staff Training & Misc Expenses	846.00
Total Expenses	**$ 70,411.54**

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Debt Service Funds

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	Description	Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Net Gain/(Loss)
306	Debt Service-Unfunded Liability	$ -	$ 32,050.57		$ -	$ -		$ 32,050.57
315	2019 CIP Bonds	$ 943,200.00	$ 943,200.00	100.0%	$ 943,200.00	$ 943,200.00	100.0%	$ -
316	2020 CIP Bonds	$ 252,850.00	$ 252,850.00	100.0%	$ 252,850.00	$ 252,850.00	100.0%	$ -
317	2022 CIP Bonds	$ 391,000.00	$ 391,000.00	100%	$ 391,000.00	$ 391,000.00	100.0%	$ -
318	2024 CIP Bonds	$ 643,084.00	$ 510,000.00	79.3%	$ 643,084.00	$ 634,583.33	98.7%	$ (124,583.33)

	Total Debt Service			Year-End
Payment Year	Principal	Interest	Total	Outstanding Principal
2025	$ 1,870,000	$ 360,134	$ 2,230,134	$ 8,510,000
2026	$ 1,880,000	$ 311,900	$ 2,191,900	$ 6,630,000
2027	$ 1,545,000	$ 243,125	$ 1,788,125	$ 5,085,000
2028	$ 1,425,000	$ 187,700	$ 1,612,700	$ 3,660,000
2029	$ 1,310,000	$ 137,275	$ 1,447,275	$ 2,350,000
2030	$ 1,115,000	$ 86,925	$ 1,201,925	$ 1,235,000
2031	$ 600,000	$ 46,750	$ 646,750	$ 635,000
2032	$ 635,000	$ 15,875	$ 650,875	$ -
Total	$ 13,880,000	$ 2,210,834	$ 16,090,834	

Long-Term Bond Financing Plan		
Year	Bonding Amount	Projects
2026	$7,500,000	Transportation Projects*
2028	$5,500,000	Transportation Projects*
2030	$6,500,000	Transportation Projects
2032	$3,500,000	Transportation Projects

*2026 & 2028 Borrowings include $4M for M Bridge & CTH T (Phase I)

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Capital Project Funds

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	Description	Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Net Gain/(Loss)
418	2025 CIP for Bonding	$ 1,750,000.00	$ 117,565.19	6.7%	$ 1,750,000.00	$ 1,365,000.00	78.0%	$ (1,247,434.81)

This is for the bond issuance in September 2024. These funds will be used in 2025 and 2026 budget.

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Internal Service Funds

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	Description	Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Net Gain/(Loss)
701	Highway	$ 20,797,673.00	$ 14,282,492.31	68.7%	$ 20,797,673.00	$ 14,256,176.76	68.5%	$ 26,315.55
702	Self-Funded Worker's Comp Insuranc	$ 993,046.00	$ 738,708.10	74.4%	$ 993,046.00	$ 378,379.56	38.1%	$ 360,328.54
703	Self-Funded Health Insurance	$ 8,704,280.00	$ 6,746,579.84	77.5%	$ 8,704,280.00	$ 7,970,857.84	91.6%	$ (1,224,278.00)
704	Self-Funded Liability Insurance	$ 401,000.00	$ 3,548.68	0.9%	$ 401,000.00	$ 425,481.81	106.1%	$ (421,933.13)
705	Section 125 Payroll Deduction	$ 326,000.00	$ 241,783.81	74.2%	$ 326,000.00	$ 175,214.59	53.7%	$ 66,569.22

Highlights Include:

- **Self-Funded Health Insurance**
  - Revenues are on track but the expenses for claims are high
- **Self-funded Liability Insurance**
  - Annual Insurance Allocation charges to departments will be processed in October/November
  - Paid annual WMMIC premiums $267,273 for Liability and Cyber Liability Premiums

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January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results:

Enterprise and Trust Agency Funds

		Revenue			Expense			Actuals
Fund	Description	Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent	Net Gain/(Loss)
602	Land Development	$ 280,000.00	$ -	0.0%	$ 280,000.00	$ 55,586.74	19.9%	$ (55,586.74)
804	Dog License Fund	$ 56,300.00	$ 481.65	0.9%	$ 56,300.00	$ 96.17	0.2%	$ 385.48

Highlights Include:

- **Land Development**
  - No sales of property
  - Expenses related to consulting fees for new possible business park and CCEDC

15

Questions, Comments, or Concerns

January – September 2025 (Pre-Audited) Financial Results

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CHIPPEWA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Chippewa County
Lead County - West Central Wisconsin Housing Region

Chippewa County Housing Authority (CCHA)
Grant Administrator

Public Hearing – 11/7/23

1

Purpose of Public Hearing

1. Inform the public of the opportunity for Chippewa County to apply for funding through the 2026 CDBG Small Cities Housing Program and gain input from the public on the needs of the West Central Wisconsin Housing Region and the proposed activities.
2. Report on the progress of the current 2024 Regional CDBG Housing Grant and gain input from the public on that progress.

2

Identification of Total Potential Funds

- The State of Wisconsin is accepting applications for the Regional CDBG Housing Program
- Chippewa County is eligible to apply as the lead county for the West Central Wisconsin Housing Region
- There is an estimated $20 million in the 2026 competition to be divided among the 7 regions
  - Based on a "fair share" allocation considering historical use of funds an availability of program income in the Region
- Application deadline is 12/9/2025

3

Eligible CDBG Activities

- CDBG funds are federal funds passed through the State of Wisconsin to small municipalities
  - Housing
    - Rehabilitation
    - Homebuyer Assistance
    - Special Housing Projects
  - Planning
  - Economic Development
  - Public Facilities
  - Public Facilities for Economic Development
  - Close/former Revolving Loan Funds
- This public hearing is to discuss the Housing programs

4

CDBG Housing Program

- Housing Rehabilitation
- Homebuyer Assistance
- Special Housing Projects
  - Acquisition, Demolition, and Relocation (as needed)
  - Emergency Assistance Program (as needed)

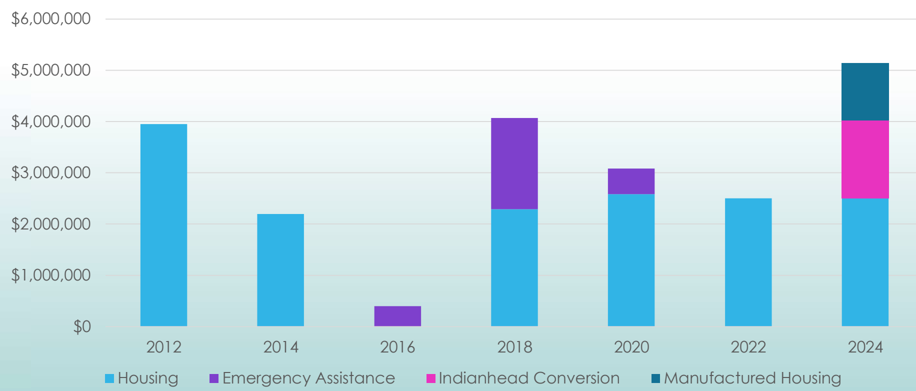
5

CDBG Housing Programs
Income Limit for Participants = 80% CMI

Housing Rehabilitation	Homebuyer Assistance	Emergency Assistance
Deferred payment loans – 0% interest	Deferred payment loans – 0% interest	Grants
Necessary repairs and accessibility improvements	Down payment assistance up to 10% of purchase price	Repair of disaster related damage to dwelling unit
Lead hazard remediation grants	Requires matching funds	Acquisition and demolition, if needed
Acquisition, demolition, and reconstruction (including displacement/relocation as needed)	Homebuyer education is required	Housing replacement if repair of home would exceed 50% of FMV before the event

6

Identification of Funds Received



7

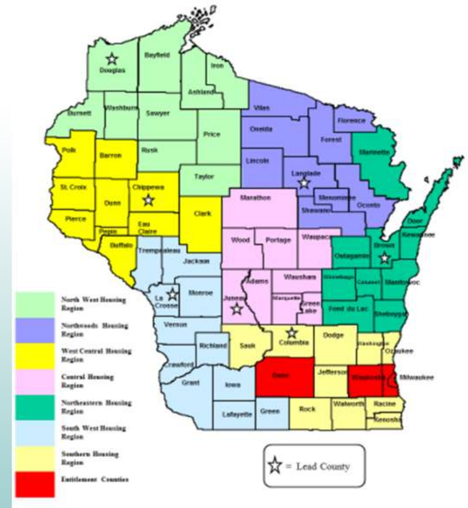
History of CDBG Small Cities Housing Program

- In the past, municipalities (non-entitlement) applied for funding know as Small City Revolving Loan Funds directly from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing, Energy and Community Resources (DOA-DEHCR)
- In 2012, DOA-DEHCR began distributing funding on a regional level
  - Must have a lead county
  - Region must consist of at least 9 counties
- In 2025, DOA-DEHCR discontinued the Small City Revolving Loan Funds
  - Regional funding will be the only funding option after September 30, 2025
  - All Small City Revolving Loan Funds will need to be returned to DOA-DEHCR by April 15, 2026
- Chippewa County agreed to be the lead county for the West Central Wisconsin Housing Region – consisting of ten counties
  - The lead county serves as the applicant on behalf of the region
  - Funds are typically made available every other year

8

CDBG Housing Regions in Wisconsin

- West Central Housing Region
  - Barron
  - Buffalo
  - Chippewa (Excluding the City of Eau Claire)
  - Clark
  - Dunn
  - Eau Claire (Excluding the City of Eau Claire)
  - Pepin
  - Pierce
  - Polk
  - St. Croix



9

Housing Needs in West Central WI
Home Repair

- Cost of materials and contracted services continues to increase
- Shortage of contractors in our Region – drives up the cost of labor
- Poverty rates and the United Way ALICE Report indicate that many homeowners will have difficulty paying for home maintenance
- Due to economic limitations, homeowners put off necessary repairs, compromising the condition of their homes and compounding the scope of repair and the cost
- In some instances, homes require demolition and reconstruction or replacement housing, which includes relocation/displacement
- 134 applicants on the waiting list for the Regional CDBG Home Repair Program
- Program beneficiaries regularly report they could not have afforded the repairs without this program

10

Housing Needs in West Central WI Homebuyer Assistance

- Home prices and values are increasing
  - Median value of housing in Region = $182,100 (Ranges from $134,400 in Clark Co. - $282,100 in St. Croix Co.) *ACS 2017-2021 Census Data*
- Low to moderate income households find it difficult to purchase housing and keep mortgage affordable
- Low to moderate income home buyers need down payment assistance to make their mortgage payments affordable
- The homes that low to moderate income buyers can afford are often in need of repairs. The homebuyer program can provide home repair funds after the purchase is complete.

11

Activities Proposed in the 2026 CDBG Application

- Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Funds
  - Waiting lists for owner occupied repairs
  - Includes demolition, reconstruction or replacement housing, and relocation for displaced families, as needed
- Homebuyer Assistance Funds
  - Steady requests for assistance
  - Loans are smaller because beneficiaries must provide matching funds
- Acquisition and Rehabilitation
  - Improve housing stock to be sold to LMI homebuyer
  - Includes demolition and reconstruction or replacement housing, if needed

12

Identification of housing and community development needs by the public

13

Progress of 2024 Regional CDBG Grant

- 2024 CDBG Housing Grant – awarded on 2/26/24
- West Central Region received $5,133,141
- Obligated $4,162,205.82 to date since 2/1/2025
  - $208,935.50 in lead hazard remediation grants
- Provided 18 loans to date
- Beneficiary data
  - 41% Female head of household
  - 41% Elderly
  - 29% Physical disability
- Average loan amount is $45,356

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Citizen input regarding the proposed application and progress on the current grant

15

2026 ANNUAL WORKPLAN FOR THE FOREST AND TRAILS DIVISION OF THE CHIPPEWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Forest and Trails Division of the Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management is responsible for management of the County Forest and various recreational trails distributed throughout the county. LCFM will work in collaboration with:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Chippewa County Highway Department on road and equipment maintenance.
- User groups and volunteers to maintain and develop recreational trails.
- Private contractors to complete necessary projects that are beyond staff capacity.

Staffing and Labor Resources available in 2026 include:

<u>Forest and Trails Division</u>
County Forest Administrator – Full Time
Assistant County Forest Administrator – Full Time
Annual Forest & Trails Maintenance Technician– Part Time, 975 hours
Seasonal Forest & Trails Maintenance Technician– Part Time, 975 hours

<u>DNR Forestry Staff</u>
County Forest Liaison directed tasks - 1048 hours

<u>Non-Forest & Trails LCFM Staff</u>
FTE Department Director ~330
FTE Accountant ~ 400-500
Office Administrator ~200
Environmental Engineer ~ 100

SECTION A. FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

I. Timber Sale Establishment

In 2026 LCFM will again set a goal of establishing approximately 800 acres of new timber sales. Reconnaissance data from Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) will assist in identifying stands suitable for management. Actual acreage will vary depending on site inspections of individual stands and determination of silvicultural needs. The following chart lists scheduled acreages by compartment:

2025 harvest acres scheduled by compartment in WisFIRS

Compartment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	19	20	21	22	23	25	26
Acres	14	49	60	29	93	47	100	93	99	88	49	10	31	42	83	15	45	120	44	38
Compartment	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	
Acres	37	53	54	108	58	127	65	60	17	30	54	46	32	33	13	135	38	175	4	
Total scheduled acreage for 2026 is 2,288 Swamp Hardwoods account for 717 acres																				

Anticipated timber sales in 2026 will include two public bid openings to be held in May and November of approximately 8-12 sales, managing 400+/- acres in both sale offerings. If currently established ash sales get contracted another Swamp Hardwood timber sale may be established to mitigate losses from EAB.

Non-Commercial Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) activities will include:

1. Testing the effectiveness of TSI techniques and assessing the feasibility of contracting out herbicide or mechanical treatment to release oak from competition in recently regenerated stands. Once treatment recommendations and cost estimates are created the financial implications of contracting TSI treatments can be presented to the Committee.

2. Release of small pockets of oak, hemlock and white pine regeneration through mechanical or herbicide TSI treatment occurs across the forest as sales are established and time allows.

3. Scarification using a dozer straight blade or dragging anchor chains to promote oak regeneration.

4. Treatment of invasive species where known locations exist and control is feasible.

II. Timber Sale Administration

Year-round timber sale administration is an essential part of County Forest management. Administration includes: sale inspections, scaling wood, correspondence with contractors, stumpage record entries and deposits, road layout, calculation and payment of town and state severance allotments, reporting harvest volumes, preparing contracts and extensions.

Weather, market conditions, and harvest restrictions influence contractor's ability to complete contracted timber sales. Staff will assist logging contractors attempting to complete contracts in a timely manner.

After bids were awarded at the November Committee meeting, dependent on contractors finishing up work, there will be approximately 32 timber sales under contract with a combined appraised value of $1,877,429. The budgeted timber sale revenue for 2026 is $839,992.00.

III. Forest Inventory and Reconnaissance

Field reconnaissance is used to assess geographical, structural and compositional attributes of forest resources. Forest inventory data is collected, stored and updated systematically and stored in WisFIRS. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of short and long-term management plans.

Efforts over the last several years have improved the quality of the information WisFIRS uses to schedule forest management activity. The County will continue to improve management planning by improving the reporting of work planned and accomplished in WISFIRS.

The County will continue to partner with the DNR and the Forest Regeneration Monitoring team to conduct comprehensive reconnaissance of oak regeneration both prior to and after management. In all stands which have had the first harvest of a shelterwood silvicultural system WDNR and County and DNR staff will evaluate regeneration and site preparation or timber stand improvement needs.

IV. County Forest Roads and Access Trails

<u>Permanent Primary Roads</u>

1. Assume lead responsibility to conduct county forest road certification and administer County Forest Road Aids from the State Department of Transportation.

2. Utilize County Highway Department to complete grading and major repairs of certified county forest roads. LCFM will assist with minor repairs and maintenance by mowing ROWs.

3. Replace culverts as necessary within budget limits.

<u>Permanent Secondary and Temporary Roads</u>

1. Regularly provide custodial maintenance of the County Forest to control litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, and vandalism in the County Forest. Conduct routine inspections to identify unauthorized motor vehicle use, areas of excessive erosion, failing culverts and other maintenance needs. Conduct limited grading to repair damage and install best management practices where needed.

2. Mow the following areas: Mud Creek Trail (~ 2.0 miles), Hickory Ridge Ski/Horse Trail Systems (~16 miles), Harold Walters Memorial Forest/River Road Ski Trail (~3.5 miles), Kempers Woods (~2 miles), Pine Harbor Woods (~1.5 mile), and Yellow River Woods (~1 mile).

3. Mow secondary access roads subject to motor vehicle use under frozen ground conditions: Ruby Game Trails (~5.8 miles), Tealey Creek Game Loop (~3.9 miles),

4. Work in cooperation with the Sheriff's Dept., DNR Conservation Wardens, and Corporation Counsel to enforce motor vehicle use laws, illegal dumping, and other property damage violations.

V. County Forest Special Use Units & Type B Tax Deed Parcels

State Statutes (Chapter 28.11(4)) allow for the designation of certain properties as "County Forest Special Use". The Forest & Trails Division manages seven (7) properties totaling 1,614 acres with such designation. These properties are not suited primarily for timber production and do not lie within the Blocking Boundary. Special Use lands are suitable for scenic value, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation, and other multi-use activities.

Chippewa County Forest Special Use Units include:

1. Pine Harbor (Campground)
2. Kempers Woods
3. Gilberts
4. Harold E. Walters Memorial Forest
5. Round Lake (Day Use Park)
6. Otter Lake (Campground & Day Use Park)
7. Yellow River

Chippewa County Policy 308 assigns management responsibility for the 20 scattered Type B Tax Deed parcels to the Land Conservation & Forest Management Department. Parcel sales are managed by the Planning & Zoning Department. Chapter 16 of the Code of Chippewa County regulates the use of those parcels with the same regulations as the County Forest. Staff are working to implement the management recommendations for these properties made by the Committee in 2022.

Planned Activities:

1. Establish and administer timber sales, maintain and improve access roads.

2. Continue to update maps, website information and signs.

3. Facilitate local volunteers performing trail maintenance and improvement projects.

VI. Fish and Wildlife Management

1. Work with LCFM engineers to develop a Dam Failure Analysis that can be used to apply for a Municipal Dam Grant from the State to repair the Failing Structure at Willow Flowage #1. The County will be required to develop a repair plan to be submitted to the State for approval

2. Assist LCFM Engineering staff in dam failure analysis of other Low Hazard Large Dams.

3. Seed steep areas of landings and roads to provide wildlife habitat and resist invasive plant species.

4. Analyze aspen species composition and continue to modify rotation ages to maximize habitat management (i.e. early entry and extended rotations where appropriate).

VII. Surveying and Boundary Line Establishment

1. Locate and mark private property lines as requested by private landowners or for timber sales.

2. Request assistance from Corporation Counsel and Planning & Zoning staff to resolve encroachments and mark boundaries.

VIII. Land Acquisition

1. Consider land acquisitions within and adjacent the County Forest Blocking Boundary on an ongoing basis. Pursue funding from DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program and other sources when purchases are proposed.

IX. Invasive Species

1. Use control measures across the forest on garlic mustard and buckthorn in select sites within forest stands with a focus along the ATV trail and adjacent the Deer Fly Trail.

2. Spray wild chervil along the Old Abe Trail from Hwy S to the Wissota Bridge and inspect the entire trail for invasive species.

3. Work to raise awareness and facilitate user groups' capacity to identify, monitor, and control invasive species in the County.

4. Swamp Hardwoods management to mitigate losses due to Emerald Ash Borer.

SECTION B. RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Recreational trails contribute to the community's quality of life, improves public health and promotes tourism. The Forest & Trails Division is responsible for the planning, development and coordination trail maintenance efforts. Tasks are accomplished through organized user groups, individual volunteers, third party service contracts, intergovernmental partnerships and LCFM staff.

Planned Activities

1. Old Abe State Trail:

   A. Conduct the maintenance of 20 miles of trail, including tree removal, mowing, surface repair, sweeping, bridge maintenance, signing and trail pass sales.

   B. Coordinate with volunteers to mow and maintain approximately 6 miles of horseback trail adjacent to the paved trail.

   C. Install picnic tables at the Anson Trailhead.

   D. Coordinate maintenance of the Anson Trailhead pit toilets with Lake Wissota State Park.

   E. Enroll and coordinate users under the County Volunteer Policy.

2. Bike Trails & Riverview Reserve:

   A. Conduct maintenance of 1.7 miles of paved bike and pedestrian trails at Riverview Reserve. Coordinate with CORBA on Area 178 Mountain bike trail maintenance.

   B. Permit the annual FOHRT mountain bike race at the Hickory Ridge Bike Trail system.

   C. Apply for a grant to construct a warming house and storage shed at the Hickory Ridge trailhead.

   D. Enroll and coordinate users under the County Volunteer Policy.

3. Snowmobile Trails:

   A. Facilitate the Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Organization (CVSO) efforts to improve and maintain approximately 427 miles of state-funded snowmobile trails.

   B. Administer DNR grant funding: snowmobile trail maintenance, supplemental funding, and bridge projects. Administer associated grant contracts in cooperation with CVSO.

   C. Cooperate with the CVSO to complete requests for additional funded trails.

   D. Enroll and coordinate users under the County Volunteer Policy.

4. ATV Trails:

   A. Facilitate the Chippewa Valley ATV Council (CVATVC) efforts to improve and maintain approximately 23 miles of state funded ATV trail.

   B. Coordinate with the Highway Department to maintain 8 miles of TROUTE.

   C. Assist CVATVC with maintenance of trailheads and toilet facilities.

   D. Administer DNR grant funding for ATV/UTV Trail and TROUTE Maintenance.

   E. Renew and implement the maintenance agreement maintenance of County Forest ATV Trails.

   F. Enroll and coordinate users under the County Volunteer Policy.

5. Ice Age National Scenic Trail:

   A. Facilitate the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) efforts to improve and maintain 19 miles of trail located in the County Forest.

   B. Facilitate efforts to reduce road use and relocate onto sections that highlight glacial features.

   C. Permit the annual Chippewa Moraine Ultra Marathon on the Ice Age Trail.

6. Horse Trails:

   A. Facilitate the Chippewa Valley Trail Riders efforts to improve and maintain approximately 28 miles of horseback riding trail.

   B. Empty manure collection bins and land spread per management plan.

   C. Enroll and coordinate users under the County Volunteer Policy.

7. Cross Country Ski Trails:

   A. Administer grant to construct a warming house, maintenance shed and mountain bike trail.

   B. Facilitate the Friends of the Hickory Ridge Trail efforts to maintain approximately 17 miles of high quality groomed trail.

   C. Permit the Powder Keg Race bike, ski and snowshoe race at the Hickory Ridge Trail system.

   D. Mow and clear downed trees from the Hickory Ridge Ski Trails.

   E. Mow and clear downed trees from the River Road Ski Trail.

   F. Enroll and coordinate users under the County Volunteer Policy.

9. Boat Landings:

   A. Inspect and maintain landings on Bass Lakes #2 and #3, Hay Meadow Flowage #1, Horseshoe Lake, Townline Lake and Knickerbocker Lake.

SECTION C. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. Implement the 2021-2035 Chippewa County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

2. Manage workload to assure a safe working environment, adequate support and supervision for staff while implementing the Division work plan.

3. Monitor 2026 budget and prepare 2027 budget, including Capital Improvement Project requests.

4. Pursue private contracts for technical, construction and forestry services to increase productivity and efficiency in meeting work plan objectives.

5. Provide support to the Committee and County Board with development and implementation of policy relating to the County Forest, recreational trails, and Type-B tax deed parcels.

6. Respond to public inquiries regarding the County Forest and recreational trails.

7. Plan workload, recruit, train, and manage new Seasonal Forest & Trails Maintenance Technician.

8. Improve website design to improve user experience and facilitate dissemination of information.

9. Cooperate with the Sheriff’s Dept. to provide law enforcement in the County Forest.

November 12, 2025

TO: County Board Supervisors

FR: Andy Albarado

RE: Proposed Revisions to Policy for Use of Fund Balance/Non-Lapsing Accounts

The proposed changes to the Policy for Use of Fund Balance/Non-Lapsing Accounts are to address the appropriate use and accounting for funds in the County Clerks and Public Health Departments, and to eliminate two funds which are no longer needed.

NEW – COUNTY CLERK (ELECTIONS)

A County Clerk Elections fund with a cap of $20,000 will be allowed to address the inconsistent election cycles and turnout for elections. In some years there may only be one election and in other years there may be four depending on the need for a primary. The turnout for elections can also vary depending on local, state, and federal races. Establishing a Fund will allow the Clerk to carry funds forward from years with less election costs to years where there will be increased costs. In addition, it will allow the accurate tracking of expenses so that costs can be accounted for in the year which they are intended to be spent.

NEW – PUBLIC HEALTH (FSR-LICENSING)

The Policy change will also create a second fund for the Public Health Department. Chippewa County operates as an Agent of the State for the purposes of Food Safety and Recreational Licensing (FSRL) purposes. This program, supported by state determined fees, provides licensing and inspection services for businesses like restaurants, lodging, and public pools. It's a function of the state government, in which Chippewa County acts as the "Agent of the State" by issuing licenses and enforcing laws and regulations for the public's safety. Per our DATCP contract, we cannot utilize this money for anything but our licensing program and its activities and therefore we want to keep it separate from other Public Health Funds.

Currently more than half of the Public Health Fund is comprised of FSRL dollars. The original Public Health Fund would remain and is used to support programs during periods of reduced or delayed grant funding. We are already seeing impacts to these programs and having the fund will help balance and maintain delivery of services as we continue to face some of the funding delays and uncertainties that we've experienced over the past few months (WIC, Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Reproductive Health and Family Planning, Nurse Family Partnership, Communicable Disease).

ELIMINATED FUND BALANCES

The policy update also includes elimination of funds for the Rifle Range (no longer in operation), and MRF Recycling (program ended).

*** PROPOSED REVISIONS ***

POLICY FOR USE OF FUND BALANCE/NON-LAPSING ACCOUNTS

Purpose

The goal of the county in establishing a fund balance policy is to provide both short term and long term financial stability to the county by ensuring sufficient funds for providing services and protecting infrastructure. This policy is to establish guidance for using funds after they are placed into fund balance/non-lapsing accounts. A significant amount of the County's funds are held in fund balance accounts and there are accounting rules that govern the categorization and expenditure of these funds. These funds must be used as designated while allowing the County Administrator & County Board to maintain their oversight of fiscal resources. This guidance is designed to clarify the process so all parties understand how to access and use fund balances.

Use of Fund Balance/Non-Lapsing Accounts

1. According to the fund balance categorization: Categories include non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned. The fund balances that are unassigned in the General Fund offer the most flexibility for the county to use.

    a. **Non-spendable fund balance** – amounts that are not in spendable form (i.e. delinquent tax amounts, inventory and prepaid items) or are required to be maintained intact.

    b. **Restricted fund balance** – amounts available for appropriation but intended for a specific purpose and legally restricted by outside parties (i.e. creditors, grantors, and bondholders).

    c. **Committed fund balance** – amounts constrained to specific purposes by the government's highest level of decision making authority. To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless changed by the County Board prior to the close of the fiscal period.

    d. **Assigned fund balance** – resources intended for spending for a purpose set by the government body itself. The County has created the following general revenue and special revenue funds to account for a specific revenue source:

GENERAL FUND:

CJCC	$75,000
County Administrator	$250,000
Courthouse	$1,000,000
Facilities Improvement	$500,000
~~Rifle Range~~	~~$50,000~~
UWEX Education	$50,000
Special Conservation Projects	$500,000
LCFM Tax Deed Sales Proceeds	$400,000
Parks Tax Deed Sales Proceeds	$400,000
Recycling	$250,000
~~MRF Recycling~~	~~$25,000~~

SWRM Grant $50,000
Non-Metallic Mining $200,000
Stewardship $100,000
Building Inspector $200,000
Platbook/roadmap $75,000
Zoning Tax Deed Sales Proceeds.. $150,000
Veterans Relief.. $20,000
Health Clinics $15,000
County Clerk (Elections) $20,000

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND:

Public Health $200,000
Public Health (FSR-Licensing).. $250,000
ADRC $550,000
Human Services $1,000,000
Land Records... $350,000
Workers Comp $1,000,000
Self-Funded Liability.. $1,000,000

e. **Unassigned fund balance** – Represents the residual fund balances for the General Fund and includes amounts that have not been assigned to other funds and that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund. This classification is also used to account for deficit fund balances in other government funds.

The county shall maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance in its General Fund ranging at a level between 30 and 40% of subsequent year's annual budgeted general fund expenditures.

The use of unassigned general fund balance should not be used to fund operational costs. This promotes the philosophy that current year operating expenditures are funded with current year collections; therefore, not creating a structural deficit. Amounts in excess of the maximum unassigned fund balance can be used for one-time capital improvement projects.

2. According to approved plans: Fund balance expenditures approved by the County Board in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or annual operating budget shall be expended according to those documents.

How to Access Fund Balance/Non-Lapsing Balances

1. Obtain approval through the CIP process.

2. Obtain approval through the operating budget process.

3. Obtain approval from the County Administrator using the Non-Lapsing Fund Request Form (Appendix FI-305-A). The County Administrator has the authority to approve all requests up to $50,000. The County Administrator's approval authority for Facilities Improvement fund balance requests is $100,000. Requests exceeding these levels must be approved in advance by the County Board.

Process for Spending Fund Balances

After obtaining a signed approval form, departments must follow the county purchasing policies. If there are any questions, consult the Finance Division.

Funds must be expended during the year of approval. If that does not happen, the department should include the item, or remaining portion of item, in a subsequent annual budget process or seek approval again in the year they wish to complete the project.