

**ALLEGAN COUNTY
POLICY**

TITLE: Budget Policy
POLICY NUMBER: 211
APPROVED BY: Board of Commissioners
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 98, 2026



1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Policy is to establish the requirements, responsibilities, and general procedure for the preparation, adoption, and maintenance of a balanced budget and to promote sound financial health for the governmental unit.
2. **SERVICE AREA(s) AFFECTED:** Any department, service area, institution, court, board, commission, agency, office, program, activity, or function to which money is appropriated by the Board of Commissioners.
3. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - 3.1 Appropriation – An authorization granted by a legislative body to incur obligations and to expend public funds for a stated purpose.
 - 3.2 Board of Commissioners (BOC) – The legislative body of the County.
 - 3.3 Budget – A plan of financial operation for a given period of time, including an estimate of all proposed expenditures from the funds and the proposed means of financing the expenditures. A budget is not required to include, but may include, any of the following:
 - 3.3.1 A fund for which the County acts as a trustee or agent;
 - 3.3.2 An internal service fund;
 - 3.3.3 An enterprise fund;
 - 3.3.4 A capital project fund;
 - 3.3.5 A debt service fund.
 - 3.4 Budgetary Center – A general operating department or any other service area, institution, court, board, commission, agency, office, program, activity, or function to which money is appropriated by the BOC.
 - 3.5 Budgetary Center Leader – An individual appointed, elected, employed or otherwise engaged by the County to supervise a budgetary center (service area directors, court administrators, elected officials).
 - 3.6 Capital Assets – Items valued at \$5,000 or greater-with a useful life of two (2) years or greater. Capital Improvement Plan – A document/plan that summarizes the County's infrastructure and large equipment needs.
 - 3.7 Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) – The County Administrator appointed by the BOC, or the CAO's designee, as permissible by-applicable law or County policy.
 - 3.8 Compensatory (Comp) Time – Time off earned in lieu of overtime payment.

- 3.9 Compensatory (Comp) Time Payoff – Payment made to an employee in lieu of time off.
- 3.10 Core Services – While each budgetary activity may support a variety of services, core services represent the main services provided through a budgetary activity from a broad perspective. Core services shall be identified in a manner that allows the full cost to be assessed for providing that service. Examples of core services are Road Patrol, Payroll, Emergency Dispatch, Building Maintenance, and Benefits Administration.
- 3.11 Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) – A document, prepared annually, that is used to distribute administrative and occupancy costs to various programs, grants, and funds. The CAP is prepared according to Federal principles.
- 3.12 Deficit – An excess of liabilities over assets within an activity or fund.
- 3.13 Disbursement – A payment.
- 3.14 Donation – money or goods (real or personal property), commonly equipment, supplies, vehicles, real estate, K9s, etc.) that are given to the County.
- 3.15 Donor – A person or organization giving a donation.
- 3.16 Expenditure – The cost of goods delivered or services rendered, whether paid or unpaid.
- 3.17 Fund – A legal entity that provides for the segregation of moneys or other resources for specific activities or obligations in accordance with specific restrictions or limitations. A separate set of accounts must be maintained for each fund to show its assets, liabilities, reserves and fund balance, as well as its income and expenditures.
- 3.18 Fund Balance – The difference between assets and liabilities.
- 3.19 General Appropriations Act – The budget as adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
- 3.20 Grant – Funds or assets given for a specific program, purchase, or service, from a grantor, with a formal written agreement.
- 3.21 Grantor – The original financial source for a grant, typically in the form of a government agency or non-profit organization.
- 3.22 Grants Coordinator – An individual within Financial Services (or designee) responsible for oversight, coordination, and financial management of the grant.
- 3.23 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) – A requirement that a grantee must maintain a specified level of financial effort in area, for which State/Federal funds will be provided in order to receive the grant funds. The requirement is usually given in terms of a specific base year monetary amount.

- 3.24 Paid Time Off (PTO) Payout – An amount paid to an employee for unused PTO after the close of the fiscal year and/or at the time of separation consistent with policy and/or applicable labor agreement.
 - 3.25 Personal Property – Any item of value that is not real estate.
 - 3.26 Project(s) non-capital – A one-time or periodic, yet infrequent, undertaking to engage services and/or acquire or replace an asset, or set of similar assets, for which the individual unit cost and/or useful life does not meet the criteria to be classified as a Capital Asset.
 - 3.27 Program Manager – An individual who is responsible for managing the programmatic activities and requirements of the grant.
 - 3.28 Real Property – Real estate.
 - 3.29 Restricted Donation – Any donation that specifies a particular use or “restricts” the use of the donation.
 - 3.30 Service Area – A component of county government that is responsible for providing specific functions or services.
 - 3.31 Surplus – An excess of assets over liabilities within an activity or fund.
 - 3.32 Work Order – A process for routing and tracking requests to obtain specific levels of service and/or approval using County-approved software.
4. **POLICY:** It is the policy of the County to operate under a balanced budget. The budget shall be approved by the BOC at its annual meeting, which will occur between September 14 and October 16.
- 4.1 Debt or other obligations shall not be entered into unless approved by the BOC and consistent with applicable law(s) and/or County policy.
 - 4.2 Total expenditures within an activity shall not be made in excess of the amount authorized in the budget unless the necessary adjustments have been authorized.
 - 4.3 Funds may not be applied or diverted for purposes inconsistent with the appropriations.
 - 4.4 Surcharge and Millage proposals must be submitted for consideration in accordance with Appendix 6.E.
 - 4.5 Cost Allocation Plan (CAP): To the extent practicable, all non-General Fund department budgets shall include an expenditure line for the CAP.
 - 4.5.1 Unless CAP costs are disallowed by the funding source or capped at a specific dollar amount or rate, all applications for new grant programs shall include a CAP expense equal to ten percent of the program’s total expenditure budget.
 - 4.5.1.1 Once the grant is listed in the CAP document, the actual CAP

- costs shall be used in the grant budget.
- 4.5.2 Unless CAP costs are disallowed by the funding source, all grant renewal applications shall include a CAP expense.
 - 4.5.3 The CAO may approve a phased-in approach for CAP costs in cases where grants would experience programmatic challenges caused by the addition of the full CAP amount.
 - 4.5.3.1 Ten percent of the CAP cost shall be used within the first year, with ten percent added in succeeding years until the full CAP is budgeted.
 - 4.6 Comp Time and PTO Payouts: In the event the CAO has determined an activity will be in a deficit due to a comp time or PTO payout, the payout shall be appropriated from the Sick & Vacation Liability Fund and cost allocated to the applicable budgetary center, either through the annual Cost Allocation Plan or other method.
 - 4.7 Reimbursement of Personal Expenditures While Performing County Business
 - 4.7.1 Mileage: The County's mileage reimbursement rate shall equal the IRS rate, provided that a County owned vehicle is not reasonably available for use.
 - 4.7.1.1 This policy applies to elected officials, employees, volunteers, drivers, and interns.
 - 4.7.1.2 Supervisors are responsible for optimizing the use of County vehicles. If a County-owned vehicle is available, but a personal vehicle is used, the reimbursement rate shall be 60% of the IRS rate. Full IRS rate reimbursement for use of a personal vehicle shall be allowed in the limited instances where a supervisor has determined that the use of a personal vehicle is more cost-effective than using a County vehicle or in cases where an employee may have accessibility needs that cannot be met by a county-owned vehicle.
 - 4.7.1.3 When using a personal vehicle, mileage is measured from the closer of the duty station or point of departure to the destination and back.
 - 4.7.1.4 When considering travel, the least-costly travel method should be used. When traveling out of state, the total cost of mileage reimbursement shall not exceed the published lowest airfare rate for the same trip unless authorized by the CAO.
 - 4.7.2 Meals: Meals while traveling on authorized County business are reimbursable expenses (if paid by the traveler) or allowable expenses (if paid by County funds) based on actual expenses incurred, and supported by itemized receipts, subject to the following guidelines and limits:
 - 4.7.2.1 Reimbursement amounts shall be as follows:
 - \$10.00 breakfast
 - \$15.00 lunch
 - \$25.00 dinner
 - 4.7.2.2 Meals that are included in registration fees, or that are supplied as part of a meeting, are not eligible for reimbursement.
 - 4.7.2.3 If an employee travels for a duration that requires multiple meal reimbursements, the amount spent per meal is at the

employee's discretion. However, reimbursement is limited to the combined total of the applicable published meal rates for eligible meals per day.

4.7.2.3.1 Combined meal reimbursement requests must include additional documentation, such as a conference or training agenda or proof of travel to demonstrate eligibility.

4.7.2.3.2 Alcohol is not eligible for reimbursement.

4.7.3 Infrequently, a service area may need to conduct an activity, such as a training, workshop, or extended work period during which a meal may be necessary to facilitate county business. This ensures efficiency and cost-effectiveness of on-site or in-county activities that generally are performed out of the County and often on an individual basis or for critical activities that could not occur without working through scheduled meal breaks. In such cases, the meal may be considered an eligible expenditure, provided the following conditions are met, at the determination of the CAO or designee:

4.7.3.1 The activity must contribute to the overall benefit of the public. While the County recognizes the importance of employee recognition, appreciation, and informal team-building, such activities are not eligible for payment based on state law.

4.7.3.2 Eligible activities must be performed during work time, and all Fair Labor Standard Act rules must be followed. In general, flex-time will be utilized to ensure compliance. Overtime, comp time, or other premium pay must not occur due to the activity unless approved in advance by the CAO or designee.

4.7.4 The activity must be expensed as part of the Service Area's regular budget; in general, additional allocations will not be made to accommodate an increase in group activities.

4.7.5 Reimbursement amounts must be consistent with the travel reimbursement rates per person (for example, purchased meals for on-site training). For convenience, a Service Area may use a local venue to host an activity; in such cases, the per-person travel reimbursement rates must be reasonably adhered to; however, room rental and services provided may be considered value-added costs in addition to the meal rate. All applicable County policies must be adhered to, including the purchasing policy.

4.7.6 An itemized receipt and number of attendees must support reimbursement.

4.8 Boards & Commissions Per Diem & Mileage: Members of Boards & Commissions outlined in the chart below, who are not already receiving compensation as part of their regular work duties or paid for by another source when attending official meetings of the boards & commissions, shall receive per diem and mileage payments under the parameters of this section.

Boards & Commissions	Per Diem Rate
911 Operational Policy & Procedure Committee	\$55 half day/\$110 full day
Apportionment Committee	
Area Agency on Aging of W.	
Michigan Board of Directors	
Board of Canvassers	
Board of Public Works	
Boundary Commission	

Broadband Action Workgroup	
Commission on Aging	
Community Corrections Advisory Board	
Economic Development Commission	
Environmental Health Board of Appeals	
Human Services Board	
Jury Board	
Local Emergency Planning Committee	
Material Management Planning Committee	
Parks Advisory Board	
Plat Board	
Soldiers & Sailors	
Tourist Council	
Water Study Workgroup	
West Michigan Regional Planning Committee	

4.8.1 The total meeting(s) time in one (1) day exceeding four (4) hours shall be considered one (1) full day. The total meeting(s) in one (1) day of four (4) hours or less shall be considered one half (1/2) day. In the event an individual is a member of more than one board or commission and they may attend multiple meetings in a single day, the total per diem for that day shall not exceed \$110. Travel time is included.

4.8.2 Mileage reimbursement shall be at the current IRS rate unless applicable law states differently.

4.8.3 Infrequently, members may need to attend meetings separate from their appointed board or commission meeting at the request of County departmental director associated with the board or commission. The CAO is authorized to approve mileage reimbursement in cases where the CAO has deemed it applicable subject to the parameters of this section.

4.9 Budgeted funds in the following line items are not available for reallocation by the budgetary center unless approved by the CAO or as approved by the BOC:

- 701.000 through 726.999 – Salaries/Wages/Benefits
- 865.000 – Gas, Oil, Grease & Antifreeze
- 810.010 – Legal-Court Appt./Other Legal (except as outlined in Administrative Order No.1998-5 - Chief Judge Responsibilities; Local Intergovernmental Relations)
- 920.000 – Public Utilities

4.10 Elected Officials and Chief Deputies' Salaries shall be established prior to the start of a new term in accordance with applicable law. In general, the calculation of such salaries and any adjustments to those salaries shall be recommended consistent with the methods for determining non-bargaining employees' salaries.

4.11 Road Commissioner Salaries shall be adjusted each year as follows:

4.11.1 The Road Commission may propose a percentage wage adjustment to each Member's salary to be applied January 1 of each year (beginning 2026) not to exceed the across-the-board percentage wage adjustment that is included within the ACRCOBU CBA. Members are not eligible for any other adjustment including step increases or one-time payments.

4.11.2 Each year, on or by October 1, the Road Commission shall, through the

County Administrator, inform the County of the salary and per diem paid to each Member for the preceding twelve month period of October 1 through September 30 and the proposed percentage wage adjustment for the next year that will be effective January 1. The County Administrator shall advance such information and any analysis to the Board of Commissioners for its review and consideration. In the absence of any alternative actions by the Board of Commissioners prior to November 1, the Road Commission's proposed percentage wage adjustment shall be deemed acceptable.

- 4.11.3 The Chairperson shall receive \$750 above the Road Commission Member annual salary.
- 4.12 Expenditures shall always be expensed to the appropriate line item, regardless of available funds within that specific line item.
- 4.13 Expenditures shall not be made from an activity that is over budget unless authorized through a budget amendment.
- 4.14 Budget Amendments: The CAO is authorized to perform budget adjustments including those necessary to carry out the Surplus/Deficit Distribution processes outlined in this policy.
 - 4.14.1 As soon as a Budgetary Center identifies the potential for an activity to exceed its overall budget and/or a line item(s) to be materially over budget, the CAO shall be notified promptly and a plan to address such occurrence shall be recommended to the CAO.
 - 4.14.2 The CAO is authorized to make budget transfers between activities within a fund, between funds, and between line items within an activity or any combination thereof, in accordance with the established thresholds (Appendix 6.D) as long as no additional appropriation is required from General Fund fund balance.
 - 4.14.3 The CAO shall maintain a list of any potential budget overages that may require adjustment and shall provide a copy of the list to the BOC no less than quarterly. The list shall identify whether an adjustment has been made or will be recommended at a later date.
 - 4.14.4 The CAO shall recommend necessary adjustments to the BOC when such adjustments exceed his or her authorized thresholds (Appendix 6.D).
 - 4.14.5 Amendments to the approved budget (General Appropriations Act) shall not cause estimated total expenditures, including any accrued deficit, to exceed total estimated revenues, including any available surplus.
- 4.15 Capital and other projects: Consistent with the Uniform Budgeting Act, the CAO is authorized to prepare and recommend a capital improvement program as part of the annual budget, outlining both current and future capital projects. Unless stated elsewhere within this policy, any capital or other projects shall be budgeted for and managed by the provisions within this section.
 - 4.15.1 The annual program shall be guided by the Capital Improvement Plan.
 - 4.15.1.1 The Plan shall forecast capital projects and expenditures for the next 15 years. The Plan shall be maintained on an ongoing basis, and shall undergo a comprehensive review and update every 5 years, culminating with a new 15 year forecast window.
 - 4.15.1.2 The Capital Improvement Plan shall show projects in the general

- order of the BOC's priorities. Those priorities are:
- 4.15.1.2.1 Safety and Security: Item(s) that present an immediate or impending safety and security concern. These could be new, repairs or replacements;
 - 4.15.1.2.2 Repair and maintenance: Item(s) that are in a state of disrepair or require maintenance to be performed to continue functioning at acceptable levels within its identified life cycle;
 - 4.15.1.2.3 Replacement Plan: Item(s) identified within an existing replacement plan as a proactive measure to minimize unexpected disruption of services as the item approaches its end-of-life cycle.
 - 4.15.1.2.4 New Capital Requests/Strategic Initiatives: Approval of these items may carry operational increases or may increase other categories above to maintain the level of service generated by their acquisition.
- 4.15.2 Budgetary Centers shall complete a Project Scoping Form for the project to be eligible for consideration of funding and resource allocation.
 - 4.15.3 Funds for capital and non-capital projects are generally budgeted within and/or appropriated from the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Fund (401) or within a designated fund established within a Special Revenue Fund. A separate activity for each project shall be established once funds are officially requested and appropriated for the project.
 - 4.15.4 The capital improvements program shall show projects in the general order of the BOC's priority for a period of fifteen (15) years.
 - 4.15.5 Capital projects shall be budgeted on a project basis. The CAO is authorized to make transfers between capital projects within a fund or between funds in accordance with the established thresholds (Appendix 6.D). Surplus funds from each project shall revert back to the CIP fund from which the project funds were appropriated to fund other projects. For example, a new lawn mower has been approved with an estimated cost of \$15,500. The actual cost was \$14,500. The remaining \$1,000 of the budgeted amount would revert back to the CIP fund from which the project was funded unless otherwise approved by the CAO and/or BOC, subject to the established threshold (Appendix 6.D).
 - 4.15.6 If a project extends past the fiscal year from which the original budget was established, departments shall request funds to be carried over and budgeted in the following year (using the same fund and account number) less any expenses already incurred. Absent a request for carry-over, funds may be reallocated and/or removed from the project.
- 4.16 General Fund (GF):
 - 4.16.1 Zero Dollars (\$0) shall be budgeted in a specific line item to be applied to the GF reserves.
 - 4.16.2 GF Surplus Distribution: Following the annual financial audit, a GF budget surplus identified from the preceding fiscal year shall be distributed in the following manner:
 - 4.16.2.1 The GF fund balance shall be allocated that portion of the surplus that would maintain the GF fund balance as shown in Appendix 6.A;
 - 4.16.2.2 If the conditions in the preceding paragraph are met, then an allocation from the remaining annual General Fund surplus shall

- be transferred to the Budget Stabilization Fund (102) to maintain that fund as shown in Appendix 6.A;
- 4.16.2.3 If the conditions in the two preceding paragraphs are met, then an allocation from the remaining surplus shall be transferred to the Sick & Vacation Liability Fund (252) to maintain the fund as shown in Appendix 6.A;
 - 4.16.2.4 If the conditions in the three preceding paragraphs are met, then one hundred percent (100%) of the balance of the remaining annual budget surplus shall be transferred to the Liability Sinking Fund (259).
 - 4.16.2.5 Budget adjustments that are necessary to carry out the provisions contained within this GF Surplus Distribution section shall be prepared and performed at the time of the distributions, and reported to the Board in accordance with the Budget Adjustments section of this policy.
- 4.16.3 Deficit. If it is determined that current year revenues plus transfers-in may not be sufficient to cover current year expenses plus transfers-out, operating expenses shall be reduced or an appropriation from fund balance shall be made so that total expenses plus transfers out equal total revenues plus transfers in.
- 4.16.3.1 If the GF fund balance is below the designated level as shown in Appendix 6.A the BOC may choose to budget funds specifically to increase the fund balance.
 - 4.16.3.2 If the fund balance falls below five percent (5.0%) of the total GF Expense Budget then funds shall be transferred from the Sick & Vacation Liability Fund (252) to restore the GF fund balance to its level as outlined in Appendix 6.A.
- 4.16.4 GF Contingency. The GF Contingency account shall be established at an amount not to exceed two percent (2%) of the total General Operating Fund expense budget, excluding budgeted fund balance.
- 4.16.5 The General Fund shall advance a total of \$250,000 to the Drain Revolving Fund, to be recorded as a Long-Term receivable.
- 4.17 Special Revenue Fund (SRF):
- 4.17.1 Deficit. Unless otherwise stated in this policy, if it is determined that current year revenues plus transfers-in may not be sufficient to cover current year expenses plus transfers-out within an SRF, operating expenses shall be reduced to equal projected revenues or an appropriation from the SRF's fund balance or other appropriate fund balance (subject to approval by the BOC) shall be made so that total expenses plus transfers-out equal total revenues plus transfers-in.
 - 4.17.2 Parks (Fund 208)
 - 4.17.2.1 Cell Tower Revenue: Cell Tower Revenue shall be budgeted as a revenue for the Parks Fund, to be utilized towards Parks repairs and maintenance.
 - 4.17.3 Central Dispatch (Fund 261).
 - 4.17.3.1 Surplus. Prior year surplus, as determined by the completion of the annual financial audit, shall be used to maintain fund balance as shown in Appendix 6.A. Excess surplus beyond the amount needed to maintain fund balance shall be used as follows:
 - 4.17.3.1.1 If the conditions in the preceding paragraph are met,

any remaining operational fund balance shall be transferred to a restricted fund balance account to be used to supplement revenue shortfalls outlined in the 17 year projection model where surcharge revenues are not sufficient to meet projected expenses unless otherwise directed by the BOC.

- 4.17.3.2 As surcharge funds are received the operational portion shall be receipted into the operational fund and the capital portion receipted into the Central Dispatch Capital Projects Fund.
- 4.17.3.3 Surcharge. Since the main source of operating revenue for Central Dispatch is received through the collection of a monthly surcharge on any device with the ability to access 911, the calculated monthly surcharge shall be presented to the BOC utilizing the formula in Appendix 6.B:
- 4.17.3.4 Capital. A separate capital fund shall be established for Central Dispatch.
 - 4.17.3.4.1 Funding for approved capital projects shall be funded through a monthly surcharge.
 - 4.17.3.4.2 Capital projects shall be divided into three (3) categories based on the number of years to complete the project.

Short term projects	1-5years
Mid-term projects	6-10 years
Long-term projects	over 10 years
 - 4.17.3.4.3 The monthly surcharge needed to fund capital projects shall be determined using the formula in Appendix 6.B.
- 4.17.4 Child Care Fund (Fund 292)
 - 4.17.4.1 Surplus. Prior year surplus, as determined by the completion of the annual financial audit, shall be used to maintain fund balance as shown in Appendix 6.A. Excess surplus, beyond the amount needed to maintain fund balance shall be used as follows:
 - 4.17.4.1.1 One hundred percent (100%) shall be transferred to the Youth Home CIP fund (492) and designated as Child Care Buildings & Infrastructure fund projects.
- 4.17.5 Senior Services (Fund 298)
 - 4.17.5.1 Surplus. Prior year surplus, as determined by the completion of the annual financial audit, shall be used to maintain fund balance as shown in Appendix 6.A. Excess fund balance shall be used when a wait list for services exists, service capacity is available to meet those needs and funds are not available within the current annual approved operating budget. The funds shall be allocated in such a manner to reasonably ensure the increased service level is financially sustainable through the end of the term of the current authorized millage. The CAO is authorized to conduct a final review of such circumstances; direct the necessary budget adjustments to be made within the current fiscal year and report back any transfers made to the BOC.
- 4.17.6 Health Department (Fund 221)
 - 4.17.6.1 Surplus. Prior year surplus, as determined by the completion of the annual financial audit, shall be used to maintain fund balance as shown in Appendix 6.A. Excess surplus, beyond the amount

needed to maintain fund balance, shall be used as follows:

- 4.17.6.1.1 One hundred percent (100%) of the surplus shall be used to reduce current-year transfers in from the general operating fund or transferred back to the General Fund.
- 4.17.7 Law Enforcement Contract (Fund 287) – The CAO is authorized to:
 - 4.17.7.1 Execute Law Enforcement Services agreements (100% Local Unit for all personnel costs/100% County for all other costs) in conjunction with the Sheriff and local units of government within Allegan County.
 - 4.17.7.2 Budget for and expend the necessary funds to meet the County's obligations under the agreements, including but not limited to the creation of positions if deemed necessary (coterminous with the agreement), personnel costs, equipment, vehicle procurement/replacement and vehicle maintenance and operating costs.
 - 4.17.7.3 Purchase existing vehicles and equipment owned by a participating local unit.
 - 4.17.7.4 Sell, vehicles/equipment, if necessary, in the event of a termination of agreement.
 - 4.17.7.5 Update the County's vehicle fleet list to reflect any vehicles purchased/sold in relation to the agreements.
- 4.18 Drain Funds (Funds 801 and 802)
 - 4.18.1 To the extent that the Drain Revolving Fund has a positive cash balance, individual Drain Fund expenses may be paid from that Fund.
 - 4.18.2 At the point that the Drain Revolving Fund has been depleted, individual Drain Funds may draw upon positive balances in other Drain Funds. The Drain Commissioner shall issue Notes acknowledging the borrowing. The Drain Commissioner and Treasurer shall agree upon an interest rate that reasonably splits the difference between the cost of external borrowing and the investment rate of return. Internal borrowing shall not be undertaken if both the borrowing and lending Drain Funds do not realize an interest rate benefit, compared to external borrowing and investing. At no time shall internal Notes exceed the Drain Funds' collective available cash balance.
 - 4.18.3 At any time, the Drain Commissioner may choose to issue external debt in lieu of, or in addition to, the methods listed above.
- 4.19 Allocation of State Revenue Sharing (SRS) Funds
 - 4.19.1 When the County has outstanding debt that is not matched by resources available in the Liability Sinking Fund, SRS shall be distributed in the following manner:
 - 4.19.1.1 The first \$1,300,000 shall be receipted into the Capital Improvements Fund (Fund 401).
 - 4.19.1.2 The next \$900,000 shall be receipted into the Liability Sinking Fund (Fund 259).
 - 4.19.1.3 SRS dollars received in excess of \$2,200,000 shall be distributed 60% to the Capital Improvements Funds and 40% to the Liability Sinking Fund.
 - 4.19.2 When the County does not have outstanding debt, or when the County's outstanding debt is matched by the balance of the Liability Sinking Fund, 100% of SRS funds shall be receipted into the Capital Improvements Fund.

4.20 Responsibilities:

4.20.1 The CAO shall:

- 4.20.1.1 have final responsibility for budget preparation;
- 4.20.1.2 present the budget to the BOC;
- 4.20.1.3 have control of expenditures under the budget and the general appropriations act;
- 4.20.1.4 transmit the recommended budget to the BOC according to an appropriate time schedule approved by the BOC that allows adequate time for review;
- 4.20.1.5 accompany the recommended budget with a suggested General Appropriations Act Resolution to implement the budget;
- 4.20.1.6 ensure budgetary centers are provided the necessary forms through the annual budget process.

4.20.2 The BOC shall:

- 4.20.2.1 hold a public hearing as required by the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275 prior to final approval of the budget;
- 4.20.2.2 pass a general appropriations act, consistent with the uniform chart of accounts prescribed by the Department of Treasury, as formal approval of the budget for the General Fund and each Special Revenue Fund;
 - 4.20.2.2.1 The general appropriations act (budget) shall:
 - 4.20.2.2.1.4 state the total mills to be levied and the purpose for each millage levied (Truth in Budgeting Act) consistent with the budget schedule (Appendix 6.C);
includes amounts appropriated for expenditures to meet liabilities for the ensuing fiscal year in each fund;
 - 4.20.2.2.1.4 include estimated revenues by source in each fund for the ensuing fiscal year;
 - 4.20.2.2.1.4 The budgeted expenditures, including an accrued deficit, shall not exceed budgeted revenues, including available surplus and the proceeds from bonds or other obligations issued under the Fiscal Stabilization Act, Act 80 of 1981 MCL 141.1001 et al.).
- 4.20.2.3 determine the amount of money to be raised by taxation necessary to defray the expenditures and meet the liabilities of Allegan County for the ensuing fiscal year; shall order that money to be raised by taxation is within statutory and charter limitations; and shall cause the money raised by taxation to be paid into the funds of Allegan County (Appendix 6.A).

4.20.3 The leader of each budgetary center shall:

- 4.20.3.1 provide necessary information to the CAO for budget preparation;
- 4.20.3.2 be responsible for managing their budget consistent with all applicable policies, laws and best practices.

4.21 Grants: Application, acceptance, and use of any Grant shall be consistent with the nature of the County's Services and Programs, Strategic Goals, and internal controls and subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners or CAO pursuant to Appendix 6D Grants, and shall be submitted utilizing the Work

Order/Request For Action (RFA) process.

4.21.1 Requirements:

- 4.21.1.1 Service Area Leadership must designate an individual to serve as the Program Manager. The Program Manager and Grants Coordinator are responsible for completing the Grant requirements contained within this section and the Grants Management Procedures.
- 4.21.1.2 A Work Order/RFA shall be completed by the Program Manager and/or the Grants Coordinator for the Grant application or renewal for the purpose of document tracking. The Work Order/RFA will be used to obtain the required review and recommendation from the Executive Director of Finance or his/her designee before consideration by the CAO.
- 4.21.1.3 All Grants require application approval and award approval from the BOC and/or the County Administrator; reference Appendix 6.D to determine the level of approval needed.
- 4.21.1.4 All Grant requests must allow sufficient time for consideration and approval.
 - 4.21.1.4.1 Any Grant requiring BOC approval will need to be added to the BOC meeting agenda. Agenda items must be submitted to County Administration in the timeframe outlined in the BOC Rules of Organization.
 - 4.21.1.4.2 Any Grant requiring County Administrator approval must be submitted to County Administration allowing for a timeframe comparable to the BOC approval process outlined in the BOC Rules of Organization.
 - 4.21.1.4.3 Ongoing Grants should be renewed, whenever possible, through the annual budget process, therefore not requiring additional BOC approval.
 - 4.21.1.4.4 If the Grant application deadline does not allow sufficient time to obtain the appropriate level(s) of approval, the County Administrator may approve Grant applications in such emergency situations and report to BOC.
- 4.21.1.5 The only authorized signatory on behalf of Allegan County is the County Administrator or BOC Chairperson, unless otherwise designated by the BOC and/or the County Administrator. This designation, if appropriate, can be requested in the Work Order/RFA.
- 4.21.1.6 All Federal Grant spending must follow the Federal guidelines for allowable and unallowable costs as outlined in the Federal Register. Allegan County shall maintain a current membership in System for Award Management (SAM) to ensure the County's eligibility to apply for Federal grants.
- 4.21.1.7 Eligible Grant expenditures must follow both the purchasing requirements as outlined within the Grant documents and the County's Purchasing Policy. If there is conflict between these requirements, the Grant document requirements would supersede the Purchasing Policy.
- 4.21.1.8 All Federal Grant funding expended shall be reported on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) in the annual Single Audit filed with the appropriate State and Federal agencies.
- 4.21.1.9 Unless otherwise authorized by BOC, any position funded by a

Grant shall be considered coterminous with Grant funding.

- 4.21.1.10 Each Grant must have clearly outlined objectives and desired outcomes which will be used to measure Grant performance. Grant closeout information, both financial and programmatic, must be reported back to County Administration after conclusion of Grant.

4.22 Donations and Surplus Programs:

4.22.1 Planning and Approval to Accept Donations

- 4.22.1.1 Acceptance and use of any donation (money, goods, or services) shall be consistent with the nature of the County's Services and Programs, Strategic Goals, and internal controls and subject to the approval or rejection by the Board of Commissioners or CAO pursuant to Appendix 6.D and shall be submitted utilizing the Work Order/(RFA) process.
- 4.22.1.2 Private/Personal (non-governmental) donations or grant of funds or property shall not be accepted for funding and managing elections.
- 4.22.1.3 Service Areas, anticipating receipt of donations (or expecting to solicit donations through fundraising efforts) and expecting to use or expend donations (other than receiving monetary donations as a general revenue) on an ongoing basis, shall develop a Donation Plan to be submitted to the CAO.
- 4.22.1.4 The Plan shall define and establish the estimated useful life of the asset, a funding plan for any ongoing costs and/or replacement costs, use, and disposition of the asset. All donation activity shall be appropriately tracked within the County's financial system.
- 4.22.1.5 Unless otherwise approved through a Donation Plan, consistent with Appendix 6.D, or permitted within the BOC approved policy, donations for a restricted purpose shall not be accepted.
- 4.22.1.6 Donations from service providers currently doing business with the County, having done business with the County in the last 12 months, or likely to do business with the County in the next 12 months are specifically prohibited. Infrequent and de minimis items that are generally made available to a broader audience and, therefore, not an influential factor in decision-making processes (e.g. product samples, conference trinkets, holiday greetings) shall not be considered donations.
- 4.22.1.7 Donations as Recognition/Appreciation – Services Areas (not individuals) may receive donated goods as recognition/appreciation to the extent such is infrequent and de minimis. Example 1, perishable/consumable items such as food in recognition of service or working lunches (e.g. pizza, desserts, *flowers/plants*, etc.) Example 2, token items of appreciation generally valued under \$100 (e.g. service area plaques, photos, inspirational decorations).
- 4.22.1.8 Monetary Donations – Unless otherwise approved as part of a Donation Plan or approved consistent with the thresholds in Appendix 6.D, monetary donations shall be considered and treated as all other revenue, offsetting existing expenditures, and not carried over into a subsequent fiscal year.
 - 4.22.1.8.1 All monetary donations must be handled in accordance with the Treasurer's Receipting Policy.
 - 4.22.1.8.2 Service Areas expecting to receive monetary donations as revenue to offset existing expenditures regularly shall

- include estimates of donation revenue in the annual budget process.
- 4.22.1.8.3 Unless otherwise approved through a plan, monetary donations are not eligible for expenditure until they are received as revenue and approved as an expenditure through an approved budget adjustment in accordance with the budget adjustments portion of this budget policy.
- 4.22.1.9 Once approved for acceptance, the Service Area receiving the donation shall acknowledge and express thanks to the donor(s) on behalf of the County.
- 4.22.2 Approval to accept goods or services or purchase goods or services with monetary donations:
- 4.22.2.1 Goods Acquired through Government Surplus Programs or through Donation: Eligible Service Areas may participate in Government Surplus Property Grants, such as the Federal 1033 Program, or may receive donated goods subject to the following requirements:
- 4.22.2.1.1 All donated goods, or goods to be purchased with monetary donations, which have been pre-approved through the County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and/or Annual Budget/Operational Plan shall be received or purchased following the appropriate review and approval consistent with the value thresholds in Appendix 6.D (operational/capital purchases).
- 4.22.2.1.2 In determining review/approval levels, only the estimated replacement value (what it would cost the county to replace the donated good with a new good) shall be applicable. Replacement value shall be determined by acquiring a quote(s) for a new equivalent good.
- 4.22.2.2 Regardless of value, donated goods and services, and goods and services purchased resulting from a monetary donation, in consideration of being acquired, shall undergo the appropriate review/approval consistent with county policy and operational support standards, which includes, but is not limited to the following:
- 4.22.2.2.1 Technology items (e.g., laptops, portable electronic devices, printers, software, etc.) shall be reviewed in advance by Information Services.
- 4.22.2.2.2 Facility items (e.g. furniture, appliances, etc.) shall be reviewed in advance by Facilities Management.
- 4.22.2.2.3 Vehicle shall be reviewed in advance by Transportation.
- 4.22.2.2.4 Personnel/staffing related plans shall be reviewed in advance by Human Resources.
- 4.22.2.2.5 Services/service agreements shall be reviewed in advance by Project Management.
- 4.22.3 When submitting a Work Order/RFA for final approval to accept a donation or make a purchase resulting from a monetary donation, evidence of the reviews outlined above shall be provided.
- 4.22.3.1 In cases where a monetary donation will be utilized to fund a good or service, such good or service shall be acquired by the support area above most closely relating to the nature of the good or

- Center, Grant Name, Grant Purpose, # of Years the County has had the Grant, Grant Source, Anticipated Award, Local Match, Budget, \$ Breakdown of Funding Source, % Breakdown of Funding Source.
- 4.24.7 Fees. A county-wide fee schedule shall be provided.
- 4.24.7.1 Fees must exhibit the following characteristics:
- 4.24.7.1.1 A user fee must serve a regulatory purpose rather than a revenue-generating purpose.
- 4.24.7.1.2 A user fee must be proportionate to the necessary costs of the service or commodity imposed on those benefiting from the right/service/improvement supported by the fee.
- 4.24.7.1.3 A user fee is voluntary in nature as opposed to being compulsory.
- 4.24.7.2 The following categories shall be considered when calculating the cost of services:
- 4.24.7.2.1 Direct Salaries, benefits, and allowable departmental expenditures.
- 4.24.7.2.2 Departmental Overhead.
- 4.24.7.2.3 Departmental administration-management and clerical support.
- 4.24.7.2.4 County-wide Overhead Central service costs such as payroll, human resources, budgeting, county management, etc. Often established through a cost allocation methodology or plan (In this case, the County provided these costs).
- 4.24.7.2.5 Cross-Departmental Support Costs associated with review or assistance in providing specific services. For example, costs associated with the Planning Department's review of construction plans.
- 4.24.7.3 The following methodology shall be used when calculating fees:
- 4.24.7.3.1 Total costs minus dedicated revenue equals net cost
- 4.24.7.3.2 Net cost divided by the number of hours equals a net hourly rate
- 4.24.7.3.3 Net hourly rate times number of hours to perform service equals net cost per service.
- 4.24.7.3.4 Net cost per service times percent of user support equals user fee.
- 4.24.7.3.5 User fee plus other revenue = net cost per service
- 4.24.7.4 The percent of user support shall be governed by the following schedule:
- 4.24.7.4.1 Benefit Level 1 - Services that Provide General "Global" Community Benefit: 25% cost recovery.
- 4.24.7.4.2 Benefit Level 2 - Services that Provide Both "Global" Benefit and also a Specific Group or Individual Benefit: 50% cost recovery.
- 4.24.7.4.3 Benefit Level 3 - Services that Provide a Primary Benefit to an Individual or Group, with less "Global" Community Benefit: 100% cost recovery.
- 4.24.7.4.4 Unless otherwise prohibited by law, non-profit users (501(c)(3) organizations, schools, churches, and governments) shall receive a 25 percent discount on the calculated fee.

- 4.25 The CAO shall ensure the recommended balanced budget contains the following:
- 4.25.1 All funds (including but not limited to the General Fund and all Special Revenue Funds) shall be presented based on balancing revenues (including transfer-ins) to expenses (including transfer-outs), excluding beginning and ending fund balances.
 - 4.25.2 Beginning and ending fund balance for each fund for each year;
 - 4.25.3 An estimate of the amounts needed for deficiency, contingent, or emergency purposes;
 - 4.25.4 Budget Summary. An overview of key recommendations and/or decisions made relative to the final recommended balanced budget shall be included in a summary document to emphasize such information that may not be easily interpreted from the numeric data (example: wage adjustment %.) Such a summary may also include other data relating to fiscal conditions that the CAO has used in the budget development and considerations that may be useful in analyzing the future financial needs of Allegan County.
 - 4.25.5 While line-item detail is presented to the BOC throughout the budget preparation process, the final recommended balanced budget and the final adopted budget shall be activity-based.

5. REFERENCES:

- A. Michigan Department of Treasury Uniform Budget Manual
- B. Public Act 80 of 1981 Michigan Fiscal Stabilization Act
- C. Public Act 156 of 1851 MCL 46.1 County Board of Commissioners
- D. Public Act 621 of 1978 General Appropriations Act
- E. Public Act 154 of 1879 Elected Officials Salaries
- F. Public Act 267 of 1976 Michigan Open Meetings Act
- G. Allegan County Policy #511-Travel and Training
- H. Administrative Order No.1998-5 - Chief Judge Responsibilities;
Local Intergovernmental Relations
- I. Allegan County Purchasing Policy
- J. Board of Commissioners Rules of Organization
- K. County Strategy Map

6. APPENDICES:

- A. Table of Minimum Fund Balances
- B. 911 Surcharge Formula
- C. Annual Budget Schedule
- D. Board Thresholds

APPENDIX 6.A
Table of Minimum Fund Balances

Fund Title	Fund #	Types of Uses	Minimum Threshold	Distribution of Funds in Excess of Minimum Threshold and
General	101	General County Operations	Fund Balance – 11% of G. F. expense budget	Refer to Budget Policy text
Budget Stabilization	102	May be used to cover a General Fund deficit, prevent a reduction in services, cover expenses of a natural disaster, and	Maximum allowed by statute	Refer to Budget Policy text
Sick & Vacation Liability	252	To fund the accrued personnel liabilities (i.e., PTO, post-employment benefits, etc.)	Fully fund the PTO Liability per the most recent financial audit	Refer to Budget Policy text
Delinquent Tax Revolving	516	Monies are used to settle delinquent taxes with the local taxing units. The county purchases the delinquent taxes from the local units.	The annual debt service payment for the Sheriff's Office and Corrections Center Bond shall be transferred to the Debt Service fund. Ending cash balance	Transfer to the Liability Sinking Fund 259
Central Dispatch	261		Fund Balance – 10% of current year operating expenses. Capital Min - \$250,000, shall be part of the surcharge formula. If the reserve may be utilized, in part or in whole, it shall be restored over a	

Child Care	292		Fund Balance – 5% of current year operating expenses.	
Senior Services	298		Fund Balance – 10% of current year operating	
Health Fund	221		Fund balance shall be maintained at 5% of the current year operating expenses or a percentage necessary to meet the annual requirements of the State's	
Local Government Revenue Sharing	104		<u>Fund Balance – 10% of current-year operating expenses plus an additional \$20,000 reserved annually until \$100,000 is saved for DNR Trust Fund match and/or other grant matches that support board-approved plans-10% of current-year revenue plus an Additional \$20,000 reserved annually for DNR Trust Fund match until \$100,000 is saved.</u>	Transfer out to Parks fund to balance the operating budget. The remaining fund balance may be utilized for Parks Capital and/or Economic Development Initiatives as approved by the BOC.

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APPENDIX 6.B
911 Surcharge
Formula

PAEB = Projected Annual Expense Budget
OR = Other Revenue (i.e. interest earned, training funds)
FBA = Fund Balance Adjustment (from prior year audited financial statements)
TSNO = Total Surcharge Needed For
Operations CMSO = Current Monthly Surcharge
Operations
AMD = Average Monthly Devices [(((Total Surcharge January -> June)/January Monthly Surcharge)/6) + (((Total Surcharge July -> December)/July Monthly Surcharge)/6)]/2
SRJJO = Surcharge Revenue January – June Operations
TSNJyDO = Total Surcharge Needed July – December
Operations NMSJyDO = New Monthly Surcharge July – December
Operations TCMS = Total Capital Monthly Surcharge
TMSJyJ = Total Monthly Surcharge July - June

Step 1) $(PAEB - OR) +/- FBA = TSNO$

Step 2) $(CMSO \times AMD) \times 6 = SRJJO$

Step 3) $TSNO - SRJJO = TSNJyDO$

Step 4) $(TSNJyDO/6) / AMD = NMSJyDO$

Step 5) $NMSJyDO + TCMS = TMSJyJ$

Capital Formula (TCMS):

- \$ amount of capital needed in YR 1 = CAP1
- $CAP1 / 12 \text{ months} / AMD = C1$

- \$ amount of capital needed in YR 2 = CAP2
- $CAP2 / 24 \text{ months} / AMD = C2$

- \$ amount of capital needed in YR 3 = CAP3
- $CAP3 / 36 \text{ months} / AMD = C3$

- Continue this pattern for fifteen (15) years or 180 months
- All items would be totaled to equal total capital monthly surcharge (TCMS)

APPENDIX 6.C
Annual Budget
Schedule

BUDGET ITEM	BUDGET PROCESS	Due Dates
Budget Policy	BOC Approval	By 2 nd BOC of March
Budget Worksheets – Operating Budgets; Personnel Requests; Capital Requests	All worksheets are due to the County Administration Department for review and development of the recommended balanced budget.	May 31
BUDGET:	Planning Session (draft)	2 nd Planning Session of
	BOC Discussion (proposed)	1 st BOC of September
	BOC Approval (Move final)	2 nd BOC of September
	ADMINISTRATION submits public hearing notice in the publication of	September 26
	Public Hearing appears in paper	Minimum 6 days prior to 1 st BOC of October
	BOC Adopts Final Budget (P.A. 156 of 1851 MCL 46.1), Public Hearing, adopt millage, and general appropriations act. Based on the Uniform Budgeting Act, the budget shall be passed prior to the ensuing budget year.	1 st BOC of October
	ADMINISTRATION & Service Area – Elected Officials Salaries (Act 154 of 1879)	2 nd BOC of October

APPENDIX 6.D - Budget Policy

Request	Information	CAO Final Approval (Report back to Board)
Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department Requesting - Name of Grant - Summary of Grant - Application/Acceptance - New/Renewal/Continuation - Amount of Grant (Not including Local Match) - Source of Grant Funds (% of allocation) - Type of Match (cash/in-kind) - Amount/Description/Source of Match - Term of Grant - Does It Involve personnel - Does It Involve ongoing operational activities (recoverable?) - Admin fees - Equipment/ongoing costs - Does it affect other operations? - Contact info/Resp parties/ownership - Disposition - Changes in grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New grants under \$100,001 - New grants and renewals of grants approved through the budget process.
Donation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department Requesting - Name of Donor - Summary of Donation - Amount of Donation - Included or not included in the Donation Plan - Does it affect other operations? - Contact info/Resp parties/ownership - Disposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any monetary donation to be received as a general purpose revenue without resulting in additional expenditures. Individual donations under \$100,001 to be used or expended in the current fiscal year and is consistent with activities generally funded through the Board approved budget.
Purchase Operational (Budgeted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department - Item(s) - Total Bid Price - Budgeted (yes/no) - # of Bids Sent/Received - Prebid or qualifications - Tabulation Sheet - Recommendation of Award - Where it was advertised - Equipment/Service/Supplies - Contact Info/Resp parties/ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budgeted County direct purchases under \$100,001 - Emergency Purchases - Budgeted reverse auction purchases of any amount - Budgeted cooperative agreement purchases of any amount
Purchase Capital (Budgeted)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budgeted capital under \$150,001 - Emergency Purchases - All budgeted reverse auction purchases - All budgeted cooperative agreement purchases
Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties - Duration - Amount - Purpose - Dept Contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budgeted ongoing renewals - New contracts under \$100,001
Budget Adjustments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department - Fund, Activity, Account - Amount - Revenue/Expense - Explanation/Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Line items move within an activity - Year End Adjustments - Adjustments/transfers under \$100,001
Settlement Authority		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in conjunction with the recommendation of Risk Authority and/or Legal Counsel under \$100,001
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Backfilling Positions - Position Review Form - Position Changes - Summary of request - Cost analysis of request - Expenditure Status Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of and/or changes to positions, including reclassifications within the budget
Letters of Support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consistent with Board adopted plan, resolution, or budget