FINANCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 2026

The monthly Finance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Zahren Building in the Special Education Co-op Room. Committee members present were Chair Travis Hiel, Vice Chair Larry Aurelio, Eric Chapman, Mike Cox, Ken Durkin, Joe Erlandson, and Craig Foster. Others in attendance included Chris Pumo, Keith Krohe, Randy Pickering, Dana Walker, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Eric Blakeley, Deputy Clerk Kyah Beck and County Clerk Jeremy Benson.

Chair Travis Hiel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review and Approve Minutes from September 9, 2026
Member Aurelio moved with a second by Member Foster to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Review and Approve Minutes from Special Budget Meetings on August 18th, 20th, 25th, 2026, and September 10th, 2026
Member Erlandson moved with a second by Member Chapman to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

MCPT Report
The monthly MCPT Report was received and filed.

Bushnell Senior Meals Report Review & Approval
Member Foster moved with a second by Member Aurelio to approve the YMCA invoice in the amount of $928.41 for September, 2026. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Coroner Report
The monthly Coroner Report was received and filed.

Monthly Financial Reports
The monthly Financial Reports were received and filed.

Transfer of Funds
None.

Warrants Issued in Vacation
Member Aurelio moved with a second by Member Foster to approve the Warrants Issued in Vacation. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Insurance Update
Keith Krohe provided a comparison to this time last year. There have been no shock losses. Keith also showed the members different deductible options.

Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Liability and Workman's Comp
Chris Pumo provided information to the committee members regarding the different liability coverage options available. There has been a significant increase in both deductibles and premiums. At this time, this item will be tabled for further discussion with Chris and the committee members.

Approve the MDH McDonough County Jail Medical Agreement

Sheriff Petitgout explained that this agreement provides medical treatment to the inmates at the county jail. Kelsi Cunningham is the sole medical professional that helps. He stated that Kelsi does a very good job and cares about what she does. This service is utilized daily. This will be moving to the full board meeting for approval.

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Aurelio to approve the MDH McDonough County Jail Medical Agreement. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Approve Sikich Audit Prep Statement of Work and Master Service Agreement FY25 Audit

Jeremy Benson spoke in regards to this agreement. A second team of auditors would be coming in to help split the responsibilities to prep for the 2025 audit. This is a one-year agreement and no price difference.

Member Chapman moved with a second by Member Foster to approve the Sikich audit prep statement of work and master service agreement for year 2025 audit. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Health Insurance Premiums

Keith Krohe and Randy Pickering recommended a 5% increase in health insurance premiums. Compared to many other plans, this would be a relatively small increase for county employees. The increase has already been included in the budget. Keith and Randy provided the members with a health plan cost breakdown for review.

Member Erlandson moved with a second by Member Foster to approve the 2027 health insurance premiums. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

A draft budget was given to the members to review. This budget will be for review in the County Clerks office for 30 days. A final version will go to the November Board meeting for approval.

Member Aurelio moved with a second by Member Durkin to approve the 2027 budget. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Discuss Parental Leave Benefit

Eric Blakeley has been leaving this up for discussion in all the committee meetings to get opinions from the members. This benefit would give the father or other caretaker the opportunity to take four weeks paid leave to tend to the birth or placement of a child. The committee discussed this matter.

Approval of Claims

Member Aurelio moved with a second by Member Foster to approve the Claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

County Board Chair Comments

Eric Blakeley brought up the complaints that have been given about the handicapped parking at the courthouse. Eric informed the committee that the architect, Michael Freese, stated that the parking is ADA compliant.

Adjourn

Member Chapman moved with a second by Member Aurelio to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.