FISCAL AND BUDGET POLICIES

Franklin County operates under a statutory elective form of government in which specific authority and responsibility are granted to each elected official according to state law. The three-member County Commission has limited ordinance-making powers granted by the Missouri state legislature as well as exclusive control of county property. The County Commission also has final authority over the County Budget, except for certain special revenue funds where state law grants final budget authority to individual elected officials.

County officials are expected to manage public funds in a manner that promotes transparency and accountability; ensures fiscal stability; protects and preserves public assets; and reduces risk and uncertainty while maintaining flexibility. The fiscal and budget policies outlined below are intended to help guide County Officials in their decision making to ensure that these goals are achieved.

Fiscal Year
The County’s fiscal year is the calendar year beginning on the first of January and ending on the last day of December.

Revenues
- To the extent allowed by law, the County will endeavor to maintain a diversified and stable revenue base as to minimize the effects of economic fluctuations as well as eliminate an over dependence on any single revenue source.
- The County will estimate its annual revenues by an objective, analytical process, wherever practical.
- Revenue trends are examined monthly and are incorporated into the annual revenue forecasts.
- During the budget process, County officials will project revenues applicable to their departments for the next year and will update their projections annually.
- The County will analyze user fees and revise them when needed to reflect the impact of inflation and other cost increases.

Purchasing
- The County will comply with procurement statutes, which require competitive bidding for single purchases of $4500 or more or where multiple purchases over a 90-day period accumulate to $4500 or more with a single vendor. Single purchases of $6,000 or more or where multiple purchases over a 90-day period accumulate to $6,000 or more with a single vendor require advertised bids.
- Although not required by state law, the County Commission encourages use of an RFP (Request for Proposal) process for procurement of professional services.
- In accordance with state statute, bidding requirements may be waived in an emergency where there exists a threat to life, property, public health or public safety or that
immediate expenditure is necessary to protect against further loss of county property, insure the integrity of county records or minimize serious disruption of county services.

- The County will comply with state statutes when making sole source purchases.
- The County Auditor shall review all pending invoices to ensure that proper documentation exists.
- All purchases must be necessary and are to be used solely for the benefit of the County.
- All purchases must be within total departmental budgets.

**Budget Policy**

- The County will adopt a balanced budget each year in accordance with state law. The budget is considered balanced when the total resources of a fund (estimated revenues, other financing sources, and available fund balance) are sufficient to cover the proposed spending plan (sum of appropriations and other financing uses) for that fund. In no event shall the proposed spending for a specific fund exceed the total resources available to the fund.
- All appropriations lapse at the end of the budget year to the extent that they have not been expended or lawfully encumbered.
- The County will establish a budget calendar each year to ensure that budget activities and deadlines comply with state law.
- A copy of the budget will be available for public inspection in the Auditor’s office.
- A copy of the budget will be available for view on the County’s web site, [www.franklinmo.org](http://www.franklinmo.org), under the Auditor’s tab.
- The budget may be amended and revised during the year in accordance with state statutes and local policy.

**Fixed Assets**

- The County will maintain an inventory of fixed assets in accordance with statutory requirements.
- Physical inventories of the County’s fixed assets will be conducted on an annual basis.
- All County property is to be disposed of in the manner authorized by the County Commission.
- County property shall not be used for personal gain.
- Administrative Authorities are responsible for safeguarding the various county assets under their control.
Financial Accounting and Reporting

- The County will establish and maintain an accounting system that allows for identifying, capturing, summarizing, and reporting the financial activities of the County.
- Except in very limited cases, County revenues will be accounted for as “gross revenue” and not netted against expenditures.
- The County’s financial statements will be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
- The County will prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- An independent financial audit will be made of all accounts of the County at least annually and more frequently if deemed necessary by the County Commission.
- The County will annually submit its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report CAFR) to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for an independent review and implement applicable recommendations.
- A copy of the CAFR will be available for public inspection in the Auditor’s office.
- A copy of the CAFR will be available for view on the County’s web site, www.franklinmo.org, under the Auditor’s tab.

Debt Policy

- The County may issue general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, special obligation bonds, and short-term tax anticipation notes as authorized by state statutes. The County may also enter into lease-purchase agreements (Certificates of Participation).
- When the County finances capital projects by issuing bonds, it will repay the bonds within a period not to exceed the expected useful life of the projects.
- The County will manage its budget and financial affairs in such a way as to ensure continued high bond ratings.
- No general obligation bonds shall be issued without approval of the requisite number of qualified voters, as required by state statute.

Fund Balance and Emergency Appropriation

- Fund balances will be maintained at levels needed to provide adequate operating flexibility while also reducing the likelihood of cash flow interruptions.
- An emergency appropriation equal to at least 3% of General Fund revenue will be included in the annual budget, as required by state law. The emergency appropriation may be used for unforeseen emergencies and requires approval of the County Commission. Emergency appropriations may be included in other funds in amounts recommended by the County Auditor and approved by the County Commission.

Grant Policy:

- Grant applications should be approved by the County Commission prior to submitting the grant application to the grantor entity/agency.
- For all grants, the County Commission will identify the local match requirement, if any, and ensure that appropriations are sufficient to meet the match requirement.
Investments

- Missouri state statutes authorize the County to invest in obligations or guaranteed obligations of the United States and its agencies, obligations of the State of Missouri and its agencies, bonds of any Missouri city having a population of not less than two thousand, bonds of any Missouri county, approved registered bonds of any Missouri school district or special road district, bonds of any state, obligations of Federal banks, bonds of any political subdivision established under the provisions of Section 30, Article VI of the Constitution of Missouri, and tax anticipation notes issued by any first class county.