

Finance Committee's recommended changes to County Executive's 2012 Proposed Budget

Objective: Our primary goals in considering the Executive's budget were to eliminate the proposed increases to taxes and fees and to re-direct available resources toward public safety and transportation services without increasing overall spending.

We also worked to insure that all County employees who were losing their jobs as a result of this budget would be placed in comparable positions that were available elsewhere in the County. At this point, the administration has assured us that comparable positions have been found for everyone.

This preliminary version of the Finance Committee's Report achieves the goals that we have outlined and reflects the consideration of all items discussed in our meetings with County departments. All initiatives proposed by Committee members and other Legislators that have been received so far are included in this report.

Our report must be final at the end of today's meeting. If any legislators have proposals that they would like the Committee to consider, please structure them in the same fashion as the other elements of our preliminary report, which is to say that proposals should be self-balancing or otherwise result in no net property tax increase.

Initiative 1: No pay raises for administrative and non-union employees (Admin I, Admin II, Attorneys, Elected and Miscellaneous, Non-Union Temporary and Seasonal)

Page 431      Line 6001000 Salaries – Full-Time      -\$ 97,000

Page 432      Line 6008001 State Retirement      -\$ 17,460  
                Line 6008002 Social Security      -\$ 7,421

Initiative 2: Provide funds to pay for outside legal counsel in the event legislative actions related to modification of the proposed budget are challenged by the Executive.

Page 9      Line 6004538 Legal Charges and Fees      +\$14,000

                Line 6008007 Health Insurance      -\$14,000

Initiative 3: Restore funding for a Correction Officer position. Staffing levels are driven by facility requirements and State guidelines. This will allow for a reduction in overtime expense.

Page 160      Line 6001000 Salaries Full-Time      +\$ 39,769  
                Line 6001003 Salaries Overtime      -\$ 61,391

Page 161	Line 6008001 State Retirement	+\$ 7,158
	Line 6008002 Social Security	+\$ 3,042
	Line 6008006 Life Insurance	+\$ 19
	Line 6008007 Health Insurance	+\$ 11,274
	Line 6008010 Disability Insurance	+\$ 129

Initiative 4: Restore funding for 2 Deputy Sheriff, Road Patrol positions using resources provided from within the Sheriff's proposed budget.

Page 159	Line 5000948 U.S. Marshall Jail Facility	+\$100,000
Page 160	Line 6001003 Salaries – Overtime	-\$ 35, 906
Page 167	Line 6001000 Salaries Full-Time	+\$ 90,186
Page 169	Line 6008001 State Retirement	+ 16,234
	Line 6008002 Social Security	+ 6,900
	Line 6008006 Life Insurance	+ 38
	Line 6008007 Health Insurance	+ 22,548

Initiative 5: Restore funds to provide twice weekly bus service to Deposit

Page 307	Line 5000805 Mass Transit Supplemental	+\$ 6,137
Page 308	Line 6001001 Salaries Part-Time	+\$ 13,244
Page 309	Line 6004042 Gas, Oil, Grease & Diesel Fuel	+\$ 3,536
Page 310	Line 6008002 Social Security	+\$ 1,013
Page 173	Line 6001008 Stand-By Pay	-\$ 10,240
Page 431	Line 6001011 Discretionary Salary Savings	-\$ 1,416

Initiative 6: No upgrade for Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Recreation position.

Page 400	Line 6001000 Salaries Full-Time	-\$ 1,732
Page 401	Line 6008001 State Retirement	-\$ 312
	Line 6008002 Social Security	-\$ 132

Initiative 7: Eliminate proposed parking fee for County Parks

Page 405	Line 5000197 Parking Oper. Concessions	-\$120,000
	Line 6001002 Salaries Temporary	-\$ 23,625

Initiative 8: Reduce appropriations for debt service by \$1,066,969 to reflect amounts associated with the 2011 Flood Remediation project, which are neither authorized nor outstanding.

During this Committee's meeting with OMB representatives, we asked how the 2011 flood resulted in \$1 million in spending for 2012. We were advised that it was for debt service associated with the Flood Remediation capital project.

The Flood Remediation capital project was presented for approval in accordance with Section 26.10 of Local Finance Law.

This project cannot be considered under this section of Local Finance Law, as this section is limited in its use to flood expenses incurred during 2005.

It would take an act of the New York State Legislature to amend this section of law to allow 2011 flood expenses to be financed.

It is possible that this could happen, but it has not happened yet. In previous sessions, when this section was amended, it was amended in such a way as to retroactively authorize interim measures taken by affected governments to finance such repairs. Presumably, similar latitude would be granted again.

At any rate, no debt can be authorized or incurred in accordance with this section of law at this time.

In accordance with Section C607(A) of the County Charter, the Legislature may strike, reduce or increase items of appropriation or anticipated revenues in the proposed budget, excepting appropriations required by law or for debt service.

Since no debt can be issued or outstanding for this project in time for a debt service payment to be required during 2012, no such provision is required to be made in this budget.

Accordingly, we are hereby directing the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the appropriations for debt service on BANs included in this proposed budget by that amount associated with the BANs that were to be sold for the 2011 Flood Remediation project, \$1,066,969.00. This action will eliminate the property tax increase proposed by the County Executive.

Initiative 9: Reduce appropriations for retiree health premiums to highlight the need to address expense growth in this area.

Page 432      Line 6008009 Retiree Health Insurance                      -\$ 50,000

Page 431      Line 6004581 Contingent Fund    +\$ 50,000

Initiative 10: Increase allocation to Soil Conservation Service to provide funds for small-scale flood remediation projects.

Page 432      Line 6005017 Soil Conservation Service                                      +\$ 25,000

Initiative 11: Consider restoring Contract Agency funding to 2011 levels.