For Immediate Release

The Washington County Budget Committee has spent several weeks discussing the County's financial crisis. While the Committee is profoundly disturbed by the chain of events that has rendered the County unable to fulfill an almost $8 million debt commitment, it is also deeply concerned about the effects of failing pay off that debt. After passing many hours learning the details of County government and the implications of the current financial crisis, the Washington County Budget Committee unanimously passed the following resolution:

The Budget Committee votes to support the proposed bond as recently amended by the commissioners for up to $8 million, that money to be used exclusively to retire the existing TAN.

The bond offers the only responsible method for addressing the County's financial crisis. It will allow the County to avoid default on the TAN, it will give municipalities flexibility in how address the financial challenges posed by this crisis, and it will buy the County time to pursue any alternative methods it may discover for resolving the crisis.

If the bond does not pass, the Committee's ability to do their work on the 2026 County budget will be severely compromised, as the County will be in the unprecedented position of running out of money to provide County services unless some other mechanism is found to raise the $8 million needed by the end of 2025 to set aside the current tax anticipation note. Most of the County's services are related to public safety: about three quarters of County expenses go to maintaining the jail, 911 dispatch, emergency management, and the Sheriff's office. The Committee regrets the need for the bond but cannot see any other responsible solution.

Brian Schuth

Washington County Budget Advisory Committee
Board Chair
October 21, 2025