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Director of Administration

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CHARLES HICKLIN
Controller

Date: April 16, 2026
To: County Executive Agard
From: Chuck Hicklin

Re: 2027 Budget Outlook

This memorandum provides a brief update on the budget outlook for Fiscal Year 2027. I issued a memorandum dated February 18, 2026 that contained a detailed discussion of forces impacting the county's fiscal position. The conclusion of that analysis, based on information available at the time was a projected operating budget deficit of \$31.8 million. One of the key contributors to that estimated deficit is the amount of surplus available at the end of Fiscal Year 2026 that can be applied to the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

As part of the county's normal fiscal processes, we have closed the books on financial activity for Fiscal Year 2025. Based on the results for Fiscal Year 2025, it appears that there will be additional surplus resources that can be applied to the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

This additional surplus emerged from a variety of sources within county operations and across many different departments. The impact of the additional resources is a revised estimate of the budget deficit from \$31.8 million to approximately \$15.0 million. While this is movement in the right direction, a gap of \$15 million still presents a significant internal budget challenge, and external instability may still exacerbate that challenge. We will continue to monitor fiscal operations as the year progresses.