

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator  
Office of the County Administrator

**FROM:**   
Chris Rose, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

**SUBJECT:** Recommended Changes to the FY26 Proposed Budget

**DATE:** August 19, 2025

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This memorandum explains the recommendations that the Office of Management and Budget is making to the Pinellas County FY26 Proposed Budget, released on July 22, 2025, for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at the first Public Budget Hearing on September 4, 2025. These recommendations include changes discussed at the August 14, 2025, Board Work Session, updated revenue calculations, and refinements to departmental operating budgets and capital projects based on information that is newly available since the budget was proposed.

**General Fund**

As discussed at the most recent Work Session, County Administration proposed savings totaling more than \$5 million. The Board gave direction to implement most of those changes. These include reducing the risk reserves in the Department of Administrative Services by \$2,169,720 and reducing the fleet reserves in the Department of Administrative Services by \$1,000,000. These can both be accomplished in FY26 and sustained for several years with a higher risk tolerance than was contained in the Proposed Budget.

The recommendations also include reducing the State Match for Juvenile Detention by \$714,490 based on new information from the State, with no change in the level of service, and eliminating the reserve for personnel lapse savings in General Government by \$980,000.

The Board of County Commissioners gave direction to reduce one position in the budget of the Board, resulting in savings of \$71,380.

Also included in the recommendations is an increase of \$28,030 in the Sheriff's Budget for items not included in the Sheriff's revised budget submission.

These changes will result in a reduction of the Countywide General Fund Proposed Budget by \$4,907,560 and the Countywide General Fund millage rate from 4.5947 mills to 4.5580 mills in FY26 – the fourth Countywide Property Tax rate reduction in five years.

**Technical Recommendations**

We recommend reducing the Airport's user fee increase to Allegiant Airlines by \$2,611,890 and reducing the reserve for capital projects by the same amount. This will allow discussions to continue with the airline and provide more time to complete negotiations. Also, the fund balance in this department has been reduced due to new information.

Similarly, we are recommending an increase to the STAR Center beginning fund balance by \$1,947,420 based on new information and to align with recent financial reporting. Lastly, we are recommending a \$10 increase to the Transportation Trust Fund Reserves to properly balance the fund.

We are recommending three changes to the Capital Budget for the Utilities Department, all based on new information. The first recommendation is increasing the US19 utility relocations associated with FDOT project for additional design services resulting from delays and claims (\$1.6M), increasing the Dunn Pond Liner to address an emergent soil depression on the West Bank of the pond (\$5.0M), and adding a new project for septic to sewer conversions in low income areas, partially or wholly funded by a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed through the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (\$455,000).

By making these targeted modifications, we can strengthen the County's fiscal position, reduce the tax burden on our residents and businesses, and ensure that critical services remain responsive to the needs of all that live, work, or play in Pinellas County.

cc: Jill Silverboard, Deputy County Administrator  
Blaine Williams, Assistant County Administrator  
Tom Almonte, Assistant County Administrator  
Matt Spoor, Assistant County Administrator