



# Board of Directors BUDGET & PERSONNEL

Mid-America Regional Council • 600 Broadway, Suite 200 • Kansas City, Missouri 64105 • 816/474-4240

**November 25, 2025**

**11:15 a.m.**

**In-person attendees in MARC's Westview room with a remote option via Zoom**

**Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting: please email [marcinfo@marc.org](mailto:marcinfo@marc.org) by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, for instructions to join the teleconference.**

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Approve Contracts, Grants, and Other Major Expenditures**

#### **EXEMPLARY CORE CAPACITIES**

- a. REPORT: Overview of the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget
- b. VOTE: Authorize extension of RubinBrown agreement for the 2025 audit, with two optional additional years.
- c. VOTE: Authorize grant application to Health Forward Foundation for a capacity building grant to support organization-wide best practices for community and stakeholder engagement.
- d. VOTE: Authorize contract amendment with The Meriweather Group for consulting services to support staff capacity for community engagement.

#### **COMPETITIVE ECONOMY**

- e. VOTE: Authorize contract with the Housing Narrative Lab to complete narrative change research for the Regional Housing Partnership.

#### **SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES**

- f. VOTE: Authorize the purchase of Layer 3 routing switch hardware from SHI for regional 911 sites.

#### **QUALITY EARLY LEARNING**

- g. VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to support a three-year grant for the Early Childhood Earn While You Learn Fellowship.

#### **HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

- h. VOTE: Approve the FY2026 Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District.

### **2. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda (Administrative Matters and Minor Expenditures)**

- a. Approve the Minutes of October 25, 2025, Meeting

### **3. Other Business**

### **4. Adjournment**

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025

Item No. 1a

Exemplary Core Capacities

#### ISSUE:

REPORT: Overview of the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget

#### BACKGROUND:

Even with the uncertainty of this past year, budget development has generally occurred per our normal process. Key committees have reviewed their accomplishments and identified goals for the upcoming year. Some, like 911, OGL and the Solid Waste Management District have developed 2026 budgets, which are folded into this MARC budget. Grant applications and large expenditures approved by the Board and B&P Committee for this year and into 2026 have been included in the 2025R/2026 budget process. MARC staff has engaged in planning sessions around each policy goal area and prepared a comprehensive summary of accomplishments in 2025 and priority work for 2026. As is our practice, we use this budget process as an opportunity to ensure we are directing resources toward the policy goal areas that support the regional vision. Our work in 2026 continues to illustrate progress in key ways: extending key regional functions; fostering new initiatives; strengthening civic partnerships, and investing in our organizational capacity.

Budget numbers were entered in August which includes projecting revenues and expenses for grants and fee based programs for a revised 2025 budget, and for the 12 month 2026 year. Additionally, a comprehensive computation was completed to ensure that personnel budgets in grants match up with staffing costs required for those grants. A first draft of the budget document will be complete by Tuesday. During the next few weeks, staff will continue to refine numbers and create detailed financial charts.

The 2026 Budget and Work Plan document will once again model the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award format, with the overarching goal of clearly communicating our financial condition and operations to the public. The Budget and Personnel Committee meeting will include a review of the Budget Highlights section which provides narratives regarding the most significant information included in this Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget. At the Board meeting, staff will review the policy goal workplans and highlight projects that will be particularly impactful in 2026.

Over the next few weeks, hopefully you will review the document and ask any questions that you have. The December Board meeting will include high level financial information, and the Budget and Personnel meeting will include detail on the sources and uses of revenue.

#### EXHIBITS:

[DRAFT 2025 Revised Budget and Proposed 2026 Budget](#)

#### RECOMMENDATION

None. Information only.

#### STAFF CONTACTS

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration  
Darlene Pickett, Accountant III  
Amanda Rehani, Grant Manager

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025

Item No. 1b

Exemplary Core Competencies

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize extension of RubinBrown agreement for the 2025 audit with optional two-year extension.

#### BACKGROUND:

RubinBrown was selected in an RFP process and has audited the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) since 2016. In March 2022, the Board approved extending the audit agreement with RubinBrown for annual audit services through fiscal year 2024, with the understanding that the Board would reaffirm each engagement on an annual basis. We are ready to begin the fiscal year 2025 audit and are recommending that we once again, engage RubinBrown for the 2025 annual audit, with options to continue for two additional years.

Rubin Brown has broad public sector and grant experience, and they have provided excellent service to MARC. They have periodically rotated audit managers to provide a fresh perspective. The United States Governmental Accounting Office has endorsed manager rotation for audits as an efficient way to mitigate costs and still retain some institutional knowledge. Staff requested Rubin Brown provide a proposal for the 2025 audit and they provided the following:

| DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES                                                                        | 2025     | 2026     | 2027     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mid-America Regional Council - Audit of Financial Statements, SWMD, preparation of 990 for CSC | \$78,000 | \$80,500 | \$82,800 |
| Preparation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report                                           | \$4,800  | \$5,000  | \$5,200  |

*Note: The fee above for the Financial Statement Audit includes auditing one major program. Each additional program required to be audited will be at a fee of \$6,220 per program, adjusted annually at a 3 percent rate increase.*

Staff has obtained pricing from several cities and the pricing appears to be competitive.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for the 2025 audit is included as an Indirect Cost in the 2026 Indirect budget.

| SOURCE                                            |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Amount budgeted                                   | \$96,000 |
| Source                                            | Indirect |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES                                |          |
| Contractual                                       | \$82,800 |
| Potential for additional programs at \$6,220 each |          |

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize extension of RubinBrown agreement for the 2025 audit, with two optional additional years.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration  
Darlene Pickett, Accountant III

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025  
Item No. 1c  
Exemplary Core Capacities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize grant application to Health Forward Foundation for a capacity building grant to support organization-wide best practices for community and stakeholder engagement.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) received the first two rounds of funding for a capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation in December 2023 and November 2024. The purpose of the funding is to enable MARC staff to examine existing community engagement efforts and develop an organization-wide approach for how we engage with external stakeholders. In years one and two, funding was used to hire a consultant to support an existing staff work group and to provide training for staff. Project accomplishments include:

- Conducting staff focus groups on community engagement
- Providing staff training from KU
- Facilitating a discussion with 40 staff on identifying what is foundational to community engagement at MARC
- Developing an online toolkit of resources, training and best practices for staff
- Launching a community of practice for MARC staff

Year three funding will be used for personnel and consultant costs. Year three goals include:

- Finalizing staff-developed principles for community engagement
- Launching online toolkit of resources, training and best practices for staff
- Supporting a community of practice for MARC staff
- Extending discussions and training to include MARC committee chairs/members

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

This is the third year of funding for this capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation. The previous two awards were \$50,000 each. The year three award brings the total amount to \$150,000.

| REVENUES                           |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Previously Awarded                 | \$100,000                 |
| Amount of current grant            | \$50,000                  |
| Source                             | Health Forward Foundation |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES                 |                           |
| Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent) | \$25,000                  |
| Contractual                        | \$25,000                  |

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize grant application and agreement and acceptance of funds with the Health Forward Foundation for the capacity building grant to support development of MARC's community engagement work.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Julie Phillips, Shared Service Program Director

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025

Item No. 1d

Exemplary Core Capacities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize contract amendment with The Meriweather Group for consulting services to support staff capacity for community engagement.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) was awarded a capacity building grant from Health Forward Foundation to support the development of organization-wide best practices for community/stakeholder engagement and to support MARC staff as we think more intentionally about how we engage our stakeholders.

In 2024, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services to support this work and selected The Meriweather Group through the procurement process. Ms. Jill Meriweather, principal owner, has been working with MARC staff since April 2024 and has provided facilitation and project management of a staff-led work group to develop organization-wide principles, training and tools for community and stakeholder engagement. With the award of a third year of funding from Health Forward Foundation, MARC would like to amend the contract to increase the total year two contract amount to \$86,225 for consulting services from November 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

Ms. Meriweather's support of the staff-led work for this amended period will include:

- Co-designing and co-facilitating a staff community conversation on community engagement principles
- Supporting the design and facilitation of a staff community of practice
- Designing and facilitating monthly staff workgroups
- Supporting internal transition of this work to MARC staff

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The year one contract was \$45,700. The original year two contract was \$36,225. Amendment No. 1 in the amount of \$25,000 will bring the total year 2 contract amount to \$86,225. This amendment would bring the total contract amount with Meriweather Group over three years to \$106,925.

| REVENUES                       |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amount                         | \$106,925                 |
| Source                         | Health Forward Foundation |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES             |                           |
| Contractual Year 1             | \$45,700                  |
| Contractual Year 2             | \$36,225                  |
| Contractual Year 2 Amendment 1 | \$25,000                  |
| Total over three years         | \$106,925                 |

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contracts and amendment with The Meriweather Group in total amount not to exceed \$106,925 to provide professional services through December 31, 2026 to support staff capacity for community engagement.

## **AGENDA REPORT**

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Julie Phillips, Shared Services Program Director

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025  
Item No. 1e  
Competitive Economy

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize contract with the Housing Narrative Lab to complete narrative change research for the Regional Housing Partnership.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) is a collaboration across local government, nonprofits, developers, and others to support more housing at more price points across the region. In 2026, the RHP will be exploring policy and process improvement recommendations to support more affordable housing. With communities of all sizes across the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) region, the RHP seeks to understand the various perceptions and sentiments around housing.

This project will engage national expertise in market research and strategic communications. The consultants will facilitate a discovery process, gathering qualitative and quantitative research (e.g. focus groups, surveys, social media, etc.) to establish a “pulse” on public perceptions about housing issues. This research will be important in the identification of messages and stories about housing that resonate with communities across the MARC region. The Housing Narrative Lab will provide the RHP with messaging options and a strategy for sharing this work across the region.

The Housing Narrative Lab has completed this work in other markets, including Omaha, Nebraska, and presented their work and methodology at the September 30, 2025 RHP launch event. The MARC board has heard a presentation about the narrative change work at the October 2025 meeting and more generally about the RHP at the August 2025 meeting.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The proposed consulting agreement includes housing narrative change research consisting of a community assessment, qualitative research, and quantitative research as well as assistance with research analysis and dissemination and implementation support from the Housing Narrative Lab. The total request for this contract, not to exceed \$227,000, would be covered by an existing Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation grant for the work of the Regional Housing Partnership.

| REVENUES           |                                          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Amount             | \$227,000                                |
| Source             | Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES |                                          |
| Contractual        | \$227,000                                |

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize contractual services for housing narrative change research with the Housing Narrative Lab for \$227,000, to be executed by David Warm and Marisol Bello, CEO of Housing Narrative Lab.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Ashley Z. Hand, Director of Local Government Services  
Hannah Mitchell, Regional Housing Program Manager

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025

Item No. 1f

Safe and Secure Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize the purchase of Layer 3 routing switch hardware from SHI for regional 911 sites.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Md-America Regional Council (MARC) 911 system is a complex network of hardware devices that require regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure peak performance. The MARC public safety technical team plans for ongoing hardware refreshes on a rotating basis. This approach replaces aging equipment with current models to address capacity and performance needs. Because network hardware components have a limited lifespan, this planned replacement schedule helps reduce failure rates and minimize potential downtime of the critical 911 system.

As part of the procurement process, staff obtained three quotes and SHI's proposal was approximately 25% lower than the other vendors. The network hardware refresh includes 30 routing switch units with dual power supplies and five years of support, at a total cost of \$155,049.90.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The SHI quote of \$155,049.90 includes 30 switch units, associated dual power supplies and five years of support. Funding for this planned hardware refresh was included in the 2025 911 Allocation Budget/Capital Projects.

| REVENUES                           |                                          |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Amount                             | \$155,049.90                             |
| Source                             | 911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects) |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES                 |                                          |
| Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent) |                                          |
| Contractual                        | \$155,049.90                             |
| Pass-Through                       |                                          |
| Other (supplies, printing, etc.)   |                                          |

#### COMMITTEE ACTION:

This work is a typical expense anticipated in the 911 system capital projects budget, which was approved as part of the 2025 budget by the Public Safety Communication Board on November 20, 2024.

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This request supports the 11-county MARC regional 911 network.

#### EXHIBITS:

None

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the purchase of 30 routing switches and dual power supplies from SHI to support the planned hardware refresh project in the amount of \$155,049.90.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025  
Item No. 1g  
Quality Early Learning

**ISSUE:**

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to support a three-year grant for the Early Childhood Earn While You Learn Fellowship.

**BACKGROUND:**

Nearly 32,000 more infant/toddler slots are needed to meet the demand of the community, causing families to leave or delay entry into the workforce, limiting economic mobility options for those of modest income. Current providers have the capacity to serve more families but cannot locate qualified staff. Given the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective early educator, high-quality programs require teaching staff to have relevant credentials/degrees which can, unfortunately, serve as a financial barrier.

The Earn While You Learn ECE fellowship pilot will provide living stipends, employer connections and educational resources for early education students. Similar to the Building Outstanding Opportunities for Students to Thrive (BOOST) program in Los Angeles, it is designed to address the barriers of nontuition costs for low-income college students while demonstrating a model for future public/private investment.

By coupling the proposed intervention with a public-facing report to guide future public investment, employer support and provider match over time, we aim to sustain this progress beyond the pilot.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

This program is not currently included in MARC's budget. The grant proposal will be for a project grant spanning three school years, to allow for the completion of two cohorts.

| REVENUES                         |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Amount                           | \$1,081,648                      |
| Source                           | Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES               |                                  |
| Personnel (salaries, fringe)     | \$361,323                        |
| Contractual                      | -                                |
| Pass-Through                     | \$579,240                        |
| Other (supplies, printing, etc.) | \$141,085                        |

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS:**

Metropolitan Community College and Kansas City Kansas Community College districts.

**EXHIBITS:**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize an application for \$1,081,648 for a three-year project grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to establish the ECE Earn While You Learn Fellowship and acceptance of funds if awarded.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Toni Sturdivant, Ph.D., Director of Early Learning

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

November 2025 Item  
No. 1h  
Healthy Environment

**ISSUE:**

VOTE: Approve the FY2026 Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has provided administration, planning and financial services to the MARC Solid Waste Management District since its inception. The district is required by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to competitively procure these planning services every five years. In compliance with state requirements, the district conducted a formal competitive bid for administrative and planning services. The district executive board formally selected MARC as its administrative contractor on September 20, 2023, for the period from 2024 - 2028.

Each year, MARC then renews its Memorandum of Understanding with the District to implement the agreed-upon work plan for the coming year. The District Board approved the Work Plan and Budget and authorized the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding for 2026 at its November 19, 2025, meeting.

MARC serves as the fiscal agent for the district's allocation, interest income funds, and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program funds. MARC will manage special projects as approved by the district's executive board, such as regional education and regional solid waste planning, to utilize these funds. MARC also administers the district grant program and the HHW program.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Memorandum of Understanding provides \$739,202 from the annual allocation to compensate MARC for services provided to the district. The budget will support approximately 3.3 FTE MARC staff.

| REVENUES                           |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Amount                             | \$739,202           |
| Source                             | District allocation |
| PROJECTED EXPENSES                 |                     |
| Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent) | \$529,734.32        |
| Contractual                        | \$107,000           |
| Other (supplies, printing, etc.)   | \$102,468           |

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS:**

This item impacts Missouri counties in the MARC region.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The district's executive board approved the FY26 MARC SWMD Work Plan & Budget and Memorandum of Understanding at its meeting on November 19, 2025.

**EXHIBITS:**

[2026 Memorandum of Understanding](#)

## **AGENDA REPORT**

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### **Budget and Personnel Committee**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the executive director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the MARC Solid Waste Management District, accept and administer funds, and disperse payments as described above.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Dr. Dianna Bryant, Solid Waste Management Program Manager  
Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director  
Ron Achepohl, Director of Transportation and Environment



## BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Meeting  
Summary  
October 28, 2025  
11:15 a.m.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Council member Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS - Chair of the Budget and Personnel Committee  
Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO  
Mayor John Bacon, Olathe, KS  
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO  
Commissioner Scott Fricker, Platte County, MO  
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS  
Victor Hurlbert, Auditor, Clay County, MO  
Council member Bridget McCandless, Independence, MO  
Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, MO  
Commissioner Christian Rameriez, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS  
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS  
Commissioner Sheila Tracy, Ray County, MO  
Commissioner Tyler Vaughn, Miami County, KS

### STAFF PRESENT

David Warm, Executive Director  
Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration  
Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment  
Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning  
Ashley Z Hand, Director of Local Government Services  
Amanda Graor, Director of Data and Digital Services  
Marlene Nagel, Director of the Office of Resource Development  
Kasey Lawson, Head Start Director  
John Davis, Fiscal Administrator  
Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Program Manager  
Donna Martin, Public Health Program Manager  
McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant

### OTHERS

### CALL TO ORDER

Council member Holly Grummert called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m. Due to the meeting being conducted remotely and in-person Council member Grummert provided instructions for participation. She reported that staff would present on all the agenda items, provide an opportunity for comments and questions after each item, and ask for approval of all agenda items with one vote at the end of the meeting. Members would have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during the final vote.

*Approve Contracts, Grants, and Other Major Expenditures*

REPORT: Review Fiscal Year 2025 Year-to-Date Financial Reports through September.

Carol Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, provided a quarterly report to the committee detailing the financial investments, revenues and expenses through September 2025. She reported that the YTD September agency-wide revenues and other financial sources of \$70M are 58% of budgeted FY25 inflows and agency-wide expenditures and other financial uses of \$68M are 58% of budgeted FY25 outflows. It would be expected that these numbers be closer to 75% however, timing of the year end close for 2024 creates a variance in the budget. Ms. Gonzales explained that there is a total of \$26 million of cash and investment balances which is a 2% increase since June 2025; she reminded the committee that the majority of MARC's cash and investment balances are restricted to various programs and initiatives.

VOTE: Approval to utilize Mid-America Regional Council reserves to cover Head Start expenses, as needed, for November 2025.

Carol Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, requested approval to utilize MARC reserves, if needed, for internal Head Start expenses in November 2025. Ms. Gonzales acknowledged that the committee has been kept aware of the implication of the government shutdown and the effect on the regional Head Start program. MARC is one of 150+ programs across the country that has a new grant start date of Nov. 1, 2025. Because of the government shutdown, MARC has not received the NOA for year three of a five year grant award and thus cannot incur any costs after Oct. 31, 2025. In the weeks leading up to Nov. 1, 2025, MARC staff worked with the 17 Head Start providers that offer services in the Kansas City region to ensure continuation of services. All 17 providers have decided to take the financial risk to use their reserve funding to operate their programs through the end of November, some into December. Because MARC staff provide support to these programs, MARC staff and other services need to continue to operate. In order to do so, it will be necessary to utilize general fund reserves set aside for contingencies such as this. The average monthly cost for MARC services is \$556,212 though if the shutdown continues, staff plan to limit expenditures to only necessities during this time and do not anticipate spending that full amount during November. MARC staff conferred with the Executive Committee and they are recommending the use of reserves for this purpose.

Victor Hurlbert commented that he supports the use of reserves for this purpose but he asked how MARC plans to restore the reserve balance if MARC is not reimbursed once the government reopens and the NOA is announced. Ms. Gonzales answered that there is no plan to replenish the reserve outside of the normal process. Typically, MARC takes half of the undesignated funds at the remaining of the year and moves it over to the long term contingency balance.

Commissioner Fricker clarified that one month of operating costs for the internal program is \$500,000. Ms. Gonzales confirmed that number and stated that the chart given to the committee is an average and the team will not be traveling or purchasing any extraneous equipment purchases with the funds. They do not expect to use the entire amount during the month of November.

Commissioner Janee Hanzlick asked for clarification on the dates for the reserve balance. Ms. Gonzales confirmed the dates are Nov. 1 - Nov 30, 2025.

David Warm informed the committee that MARC has been in communication frequently with MARC's congressional delegation and the Missouri Governor's office and has received feedback from most about the urgency of the situation.

VOTE: Regional Housing Partnership update and approval of the Health Forward Foundation's Shifting Narratives funding opportunity.

Ashley Z. Hand, Director of Local Government Services, requested approval of a grant application to Health Forward Foundation's shifting narratives funding opportunity that will be used to support

contractual services from the Housing Narrative Lab organization to engage in a housing narrative change campaign in 2026. This work stems from the collaborative Regional Housing Partnership that seeks to create more housing of all types, for all income levels, in all communities throughout our region. The grant application was due September 29, 2025 and MARC staff are seeking retroactive approval for the application since the deadline was before the committee meeting.

VOTE: Authorize application and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant and issuance of associated subaward agreements.

John Davis, Fiscal Administrator, requested approval of the 2025 UASI grant through and various subaward agreements related to the work. The original NOFO that was released in early August 2025 indicated that the total eligible funding that the Kansas City area could apply for was just more than \$3.9 million which was a significant increase from the 2024 funding cycle of \$1.4 million. MARC's Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee met to determine how to allocate and use the additional funding prior to the application deadline of August 13, 2025. However, the notice of award was received in late September 2025 for a new total of \$7.8 million and thus, RHSCC came back together to determine the use of the funds as outlined in the board report. The performance period of these funds ends Sept. 20, 2026 and the agencies receiving specialized equipment have agreed to training and to respond anywhere within the region or beyond if available through mutual aid processes. At the time of the committee meeting, there was uncertainty about the full amount of the NOA being processed and staff assured the committee that they would be kept up to date with the final totals and projects.

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding for fiscal year 2025 to support regional agencies' cooperative efforts.

John Davis, Fiscal Administrator, requested approval of a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for FY 2025 that will support needed training; exercises; collaborative, strategic, and operational planning; community resilience programming, cybersecurity; a portion of KC Regional Fusion Center operations; essential equipment replacement and sustainment for the Kansas side specialty teams. MARC staff had previously applied to this opportunity but received a new, higher NOA amount totaling \$575,392 and altered the project list to reflect the new total. This grant application was submitted on behalf of Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson counties in Kansas.

VOTE: Authorize a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for Kansas State Homeland Security Grant funding for fiscal year 2026 to support regional agencies' cooperative efforts.

John Davis, Fiscal Administrator, similarly to the previous item, requested approval of a grant application to the Kansas Highway Patrol for FY 2026 that will support needed training; exercises; collaborative, strategic, and operational planning; community resilience programming, cybersecurity; a portion of KC Regional Fusion Center operations; essential equipment replacement and sustainment for the Kansas side specialty teams. This NOFO will not be released until after the first of the year when appropriations are made but the state requires that proposals be submitted in October of each previous year. Currently, the application totals \$418,338 but can be adjusted once the final NOFO is released. This grant application was submitted on behalf of Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson counties in Kansas.

VOTE: Approve an agreement with Tusa Consulting Services to provide consulting support for regional radio system evaluation, vendor coordination, and infrastructure planning for agencies participating in the Metropolitan Area Regional Radio System.

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director, requested approval of a contract to support the Metropolitan Area Regional Radio System as they engage a qualified P-25 Radio Consultant to review infrastructure needs and assist with vendor negotiations. MARC issued an RFP and received 6 responses and TUSA Consulting scored the highest and had previous experience working on a similar project. These funds total \$181,500 and the contractors services will be retained through December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Tyler Vaughn asked if the other responders to the RFP offered competitive pricing to TUSA? Mr. Winebrenner answered yes and that TUSA's previous experience with MARC and familiarity of the system is an added bonus.

Victor Hurlbert asked if the scope of this evaluation includes looking at encryption of the equipment? Mr. Winebrenner said no because this equipment is part of the radio system.

Council member McCandless asked if the cooperative purchasing program also includes things like body cams and not just large equipment purchases. Mr. Winebrenner thinks that KCRPC does but the 911 team doesn't deal with that type of equipment.

VOTE: Approve the purchase of two replacement vehicles from Olathe Ford for 911 maintenance technicians to support regional system maintenance.

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director, requested authorization to purchase two vehicle replacements for the 911 maintenance technicians during their working maintaining the regional 911 system. As part of the 911 program's annual budget and capital replacement plan, the Public Safety Communications Board approved replacing two maintenance vehicles to maintain reliability and support field operations. Vehicles are on a five-year replacement cycle. Total cost of both cars, after factoring in the trade in value, is estimated to be \$70,824. Olathe Ford provides the best overall value along with immediate availability.

VOTE Authorize contract with WSP USA, Inc. to provide on-call planning consultant services to support the Unified Planning Work Program.

Ron Acehlpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested authorization for a contract with WSP USA to provide on-call planning and consultant services to support the UPWP. The total amount of the two year contract is \$100,000 with an amount not to exceed \$50,000 per year. Work outlined in the RFP includes supporting external stakeholder engagements, data collection and conducting studies, grant writing, and limited modeling and analysis work.

VOTE: Authorize execution of a memorandum of understanding and receive funds from KCATA to assist with planning and programming activities related to the FTA Section 5310 program.

Ron Acehlpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval to execute a MOU with the KCATA for planning and programming of FTA Section 5310 which is also known as Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program. The KCATA has been named as the "designated recipient" for these funds for the Kansas City region by the Governors of Kansas and Missouri. In the past, KCATA and MARC have agreed to share responsibility for the solicitation and competitive selection of projects for funding. The total contract amount to MARC within the MOU is \$151,375 for the FFY 2025-2026.

VOTE: Authorize expenditures for the Mid-America Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program for 2025-2026 including a contract with The Family Conservancy for training and coaching services.

Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start, requested approval of expenditures for the RFCCMED program and contractual agreement with Futures First (formally known as The Family Conservancy) for training and coaching services. The program offers training and technical assistance in professional childcare and microenterprise development, financial literacy education, help navigating the childcare business licensing process, and financial assistance to prepare homes for childcare operations. Total contract amount with Futures First is \$66,775.

VOTE: Ratify a grant proposal to Jackson County to administer Child Care Works program.

Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start, requested ratification of a grant application to Jackson County, MO to support the Child Care Works program by fostering community

well-being and resilience in the county by supporting access and affordability to high-quality early learning programs through expanding Missouri Child Care Works in the county. Total grant amount is \$229,685 and the deadline to apply was before the committee meeting. MARC staff is requesting authorization to accept the funds, if awarded. However, at the time of the committee meeting, Jackson County rescinded the current RFP process and will re-open in the future.

Mr. Hurlbert asked if these funds were from the state and local recovery funds? Dr. Sturdivant answered that this grant opportunity uses the ARPA funding that the county needs to spend down.

VOTE: Approve contractual agreements with partnering organizations which assist with implementing the Double Up Food Bucks program.

Donna Martin, Public Health Program Manager, requested approval of contracts with organizations that assist with the DUFB program. The proposed three-year contracts include funds for administrative purposes (personnel, travel, supplies, etc.) and funds for incentives redeemed at the farm direct locations. These partners include K-State University Research & Extension, Cultivate KC, the University of Kansas Medical Center and the University of Missouri Extension. Also within this board item are contracts with local grocery stores that include funds for reimbursing the Double Up Food Bucks incentives plus some technical assistance funds for twelve of the grocers which allow their stores to implement the Double Up Food Bucks program. The total amount of contracts for approval is \$8,204,303 and is recommended for committee approval by the Commission on Aging.

VOTE: Final approval of remodel project at 1218 Swift, North Kansas City the MARC Meal Repack Facility.

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services, requested approval of the remodel project at 1218 Swift St. The remodel of this building was to expand meal production capacity and infrastructure for the Area Agency on Aging senior nutrition program. The costs of the remodel project included several safety upgrades, security systems, walk-in freezer for food storage, etc. and was funded through the state of Missouri DHSS and SSGDP funds spread over the 2024 and 2025 years. Total cost was \$3,246,628.74 and is recommended by the Commission on Aging for committee approval.

VOTE: Ratify a grant proposal to Jackson County to support expanding food as medicine initiatives.

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services, requested authorization for a grant application to Jackson County to support expanding food as medicine initiatives. The proposed collaborative approach builds on the experience of MARC, the Community Support Network, multiple community-based organizations, and health care entities. The proposed design aligns with a key RFP priority for Jackson County to address food security and access to nutritious foods. Total amount of the application is \$748,570 and is recommended for committee approval by the Commission on Aging. However, at the time of the committee meeting, Jackson County rescinded the current RFP process and will re-open in the future.

VOTE: Approve submission of Amendment #1 of the SFY 2026 Area Plan Budget to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services, requested approval of amendment #1 to the SFY 2026 Area Plan Budget. All Area Agencies on Aging submit budget amendments as programmatic activity becomes clearer, compared to early allotment table projections. The number of allotment table updates varies each SFY. We are currently operating under the first allotment table from the state for SFY 2026. Key changes are attributed to updates in carryover funding and allocation of Senior Services Growth and Development funds to supplement OAA federal funding. The Commission on Aging recommends this amendment for committee approval.

VOTE: Authorize acceptance of additional funding for Community Health Worker training from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Marlene Nagel, Director of the Office of Resource Development, requested approval of additional

funding from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for CHW training. MDHSS has funded the CHW program in the past and has invited MARC to apply for additional funds to support training for Community Health Workers in early 2026. The funding will include supervisory skills, train-the-trainer support and continuing education credits on career pathways. Total grant amount is \$60,000.

VOTE: Authorize contract amendment increase with Burns and McDonnell to complete the update to regional stormwater engineering standards and authorize acceptance of funds from local governments.  
Ron Acehlpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested authorization of a contract amendment with Burns and McDonnell to complete the update to regional stormwater engineering standards. The project is nearing completion however, additional tasks included significant additional engagement of local communities, the APWA Executive Board and APWA membership, to allow for robust and transparent review and comment of the proposed standards prior to the membership vote. The city of Kansas City, MO and Johnson County, KS have agreed to provide the additional \$78,000 total needed for the project.

VOTE: Approve contract with Surdex to complete the 2026 Aerial Imagery Project.  
Amanda Graor, Director of Data and Digital Services and chief Innovation Officer, requested approval to contract with Surdex to complete the 2026 Aerial Imagery project. MARC has coordinated this project every other year to produce orthorectified aerial imagery that meets ASPRS Class 1 standards and provides imagery with a resolution of 6-inch pixels. The anticipated project area for the 2026 flight is about 1,589 square miles, compared to 2,500 in some prior flights. The 2026 flight seven vendors responded to the RFP - Surdex, Kucera, NV5 (formerly MJ Harden), Aardvark, Aerial Services, Aero-Graphics and GIS Surveyors and the aerals Working Group, a sub-committee of KC MetroGIS, recommended the selection of Surdex as the 2026 aerial vendor with a total contract cost of \$103,645.95.

VOTE: Approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2025 Meeting.

Commissioner Janee Hanzlick moved for approval of all agenda items and Council member Bridget McCandless seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

#### Other Business

There was no other business.

#### Adjournment

Council member Grummert adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.