



# Board of Directors BUDGET & PERSONNEL

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

**December 16, 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, December 16, 2025, for instructions to join the teleconference.**

## **AGENDA**

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

#### **EXEMPLARY CORE CAPACITIES**

- a. VOTE: Approve the Mid-America Regional Council's revised 2025 and proposed 2026 budget and workplan.
- b. VOTE: Authorize agreement with Forvis Mazars to manage the vendor selection process for a new accounting ERP system.

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

- c. VOTE: Authorize a contract with The Olson Group, Ltd. to assist coordination of special event planning with local jurisdictions in the Kansas City region.
- d. VOTE: Authorize a three-year agreement with RapidSOS for the UNITE Communicator Module to consolidate key emergency communication tools into a single interface.

#### **EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES**

- e. VOTE: Authorize a software subscription agreement with Replica to support upcoming regional transportation planning initiatives.

#### **THRIVING OLDER ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES**

- f. VOTE: Authorize renewal and expansion of provider agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services for the Diabetes Self-Management Program Network.
- g. VOTE: Authorization to release request for proposal documents for state fiscal year 2027 services.
- h. VOTE: Authorization to submit the State Fiscal Year 2027 Aging Area Plan.
- i. VOTE: Ratify approval of a contract amendment for Senior Services Growth and Development Program funding with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
- j. VOTE: Ratify the submission of a proposal in response to the Jackson County, Missouri, Nonprofit Partnership Grants request for applications and acceptance of funds if awarded.

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

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

### **3. Other Business**

### **4. Adjournment**

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1a

Exemplary Core Competencies

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve the Mid-America Regional Council's revised 2025 and proposed 2026 budget and workplan.

#### BACKGROUND:

An overview of the draft 2025 Revised and proposed 2026 MARC Budget and Work Plan was presented at the B&P Committee in November and the 2026 Policy Goal Area work plans were reviewed with the Board. Since that time, staff has reviewed and finalized numbers and made final edits to content. At the December B&P meeting staff will review revenues and expenditures by fund and provide a summary report of key financial highlights to the Board.

The 2026 Budget includes a decrease in both revenues and expenditures compared to 2025. Reasons for the decrease include: completion of one-time grants, and some pandemic related funding that ended in 2025 are. Projected revenues softened from \$119,973,547 in 2025, to \$113,110,834 in 2026; and expenditures decreased from \$117,498,887 to \$112,634,516. Of the revenues projected in 2026, 70% are dollars that are passed through to counties, cities and other partner agencies for projects and work across the region. Overall, staffing has decreased. The 2025 Budget included 190 full and part time positions. The revised 2025 includes 183 and the 2026 Budget includes 182. Some positions that were vacated in areas of decreased or flat funding have not been backfilled. The 2026 Work Plans describe the priorities for 2026, and the budget illustrates the linkages between revenue, expenditures, policy goals and work programs.

During the course of any budget year, new programs and funding sources may become available that support our Policy Goals. In addition to developing the budget for the upcoming year, it is our practice to revise the current year budget late in the year to capture changes to the initial revenue and expenditure projections. The Revised 2025 Budget is contained within this budget document. Total revenues in the 2025 Revised budget decreased from \$119,973,547 in the 2025 approved budget to \$118,111,531 primarily due to grants ending and a large project that got pushed back to 2026 due to federal funding uncertainty. Changes from the approved 2025 Budget are noted in the Notable Changes section of the document and are reflected in future projections.

Members of the MARC Board are asked to approve the Revised 2025 and the Proposed 2026 Budget and Workplan. The document draft is available online at:

<https://www.marc.org/document/draft-2026-budget-and-workplan>

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Following are total budget numbers for the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budgets. Annual revenues and expenses differ in budget years due to fluctuations in fund balances.

	Revised 2025	Proposed 2026
Revenues	\$118,111,531	\$113,110,834
Expenditures	\$115,488,166	\$112,634,516

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

## **AGENDA REPORT**

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### **Budget and Personnel Committee**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

Darlene Pickett, Accountant III

Amanda Rehani, Grant Manager

Erika Benitez, Finance Director

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1b

Exemplary Core Capacities

#### **ISSUE:**

VOTE: Authorize agreement with Forvis Mazars to manage the vendor selection process for a new accounting ERP system.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In October 2023, the Mid-America Region Council (MARC) selected Forvis (now Forvis Mazars) to conduct an evaluation of current administrative and organizational processes and systems. This evaluation included creation of a 3-to-5-year plan that contained recommendations for acquisitions of single or multi-functional software platforms that would help address organizational needs and create operational efficiencies. The intent of this engagement was to have a multi-year relationship with the same consultant, who would then facilitate several platform acquisition processes and implementations.

In June 2024, Forvis Mazars provided a comprehensive report that mapped out processes, identified gaps and risks, and prioritized platforms based on organizational impact and risk (risk to the organization should the system not be implemented). The HRIS was identified as having the highest impact and next to highest risk should MARC not implement. A new financial system was identified as the next to the highest impact and the highest risk should MARC not implement. The HRIS system, ADP, has been successfully implemented. The next step is a new financial system. The current system, Great Plains (GP), will be at end of life in 2027.

MARC's purchasing policy provides that the selection process for technology platforms requires an initial assessment and a more comprehensive assessment of organizational needs. The Forvis Mazars work accomplished that. The selection process then allows for a search for platforms through partner agencies and referrals. Similar to the process for ADP selection, Forvis Mazars will review the initial gap analysis for observations and recommendations to design a strategy for a vendor selection process and guide MARC through the selection process. Forvis Mazars will consider solutions that can handle the transformation of MARC's specific accounting needs, migrate and store historical data, provide an integrated systems environment with ADP, create and build standard / custom reports, and have a dashboard for real time data.

The selection of the ERP system is the first of two projects that is anticipated for implementation of new system. The second project with Forvis Mazars is implementation support and will be brought forward for board consideration after the selection of the ERP is complete.

#### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

Costs for the project will be funded through the Indirect Cost Pool. Currently MARC uses the Great Plains financial system. The cost for project one, ERP selection, is \$45,000 to \$55,000.

#### **RELATED JURISDICTIONS:**

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize entering into an agreement with Forvis Mazars for ERP selection guidance, at a cost not to exceed \$55,000.

## **AGENDA REPORT**

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### **Budget and Personnel Committee**

#### **STAFF CONTACT**

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

Dao Le, Senior Accountant

Erika Benitez, Finance Director

Sasan Baharaeen, Information Technology Director

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025  
Item No. 1c  
Safe and Secure Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a contract with The Olson Group, Ltd. to assist coordination of special event planning with local jurisdictions in the Kansas City region.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) desires to retain a consultant to review and update regional safety and security planning and exercises materials, design and deliver a workshop, a seminar, and a tabletop exercise, and associated exercise after-action reports and improvement plans to assist local jurisdictions in preparing for special events and increasing coordination across the region. The MARC team released a request for proposals in November 2025 and received 5 responses. The Olson Group was chosen by the review committee as a best fit for this project scope. A summary of special events planning and exercise series project expectations is provided below.

#### Objective:

The project aims to enhance regional preparedness for special events through a structured series of planning meetings, workshops, seminars, and exercises, culminating in updated guidance and tools for consistent use across jurisdictions.

#### Key Phases and Deliverables

##### Phase 1 - Planning Meetings

Conduct virtual kickoff and initial planning meetings to finalize schedules, confirm objectives, and develop an enhancement framework for updating the Special Events Toolkit.

Deliverables: Meeting documentation and finalized framework.

##### Phase 2 - Regional Workshop

Deliver a four-hour in-person workshop by **January 31, 2026**, focusing on the Special Events Toolkit and gathering feedback for improvements.

Deliverables: Workshop materials and participant feedback summaries by **February 14, 2026**.

##### Phase 3 - Toolkit Revision

Update the Toolkit based on workshop feedback and regional priorities.

Deliverables: After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) and finalized toolkit by **February 20, 2026**.

##### Phase 4 - Regional Seminar

Conduct a hybrid seminar by **February 28, 2026** to introduce revised toolkit materials and promote consistent application.

Deliverables: Seminar AAR/IP to inform tabletop exercise development.

##### Phase 5 - Tabletop Exercise

Plan and deliver an in-person exercise by **April 30, 2026**, simulating World Cup-related scenarios for Kansas and Missouri jurisdictions.

Deliverables: Exercise design approved by **March 10, 2026**. Facilitator training, hotwash summary, and final AAR/IP by **May 31, 2026**.

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

#### Overall timeline of project scope

- Kickoff: Immediate
- Workshop: January 2026
- Toolkit Revision: February 2026
- Seminar: February 2026
- Tabletop Exercise: April 2026
- Final AAR/IP: May 2026

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$73,750
Source	Kansas 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program and UASI 23 Urban Area Security Initiative
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$73,750
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

#### COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

On October 7, 2022, the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) reviewed and approved the investments and application projects for the KS 23 funding.

On April 14, 2023, RHSCC approved the investments and application projects for the FY 23 UASI funding.

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

The associated exercise and deliverables will be available to Clay, Platte, Ray, Jackson, and Cass counties in Missouri and Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson counties in Kansas.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with The Olson Group, Ltd for the above Special Events Planning and Exercise Series Project in an amount not to exceed \$73,250.

#### CONTACT:

Erin Lynch, Emergency Services and Homeland Security Director  
John Davis, Fiscal Administrator

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025  
Item No. 1d  
Safe and Secure Communities

**ISSUE:**

VOTE: Authorize a three-year agreement with RapidSOS for the UNITE Communicator Module to consolidate key emergency communication tools into a single interface.

**BACKGROUND:**

The regional 911 system increasingly relies on advanced digital communication tools to manage voice, text, and video interactions with callers. As call volume, language diversity, and multimedia expectations continue to grow, new technology is required to support telecommunicators and improve response efficiency.

RapidSOS UNITE is an AI-enabled platform that consolidates key emergency communication tools into a single interface. The system provides real-time language translation, voice-to-text transcription, video intelligence, and AI call summarization to simplify workflows and reduce telecommunicator workload. To support the region's modernization efforts and readiness for events such as the 2026 World Cup, staff recommend entering into a three-year agreement with RapidSOS for deployment of the UNITE Communicator Module, which includes voice, text, and video intelligence capabilities.

The agreement includes annual subscription services and implementation fees. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) will receive 120 licenses for the Communicator Module at a discounted rate, a waived fee for Single Sign-On (SSO), and professional services to support configuration, testing, and training.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

The agreement includes a year one subscription cost of \$327,600, a \$60,000 one-time implementation fee, and subscription costs of \$327,600 in years two and three, for a total contract value of \$1,042,800. Funding will come from the regional 911 program budget and be cost-shared across participating jurisdictions.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,042,800
Source	911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$1,042,800

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

This request was presented to the Public Safety Communications Board and approved on November 19<sup>th</sup> and aligns with previously approved technology expenditures.

**RELATED JURISDICTIONS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve a three-year agreement with RapidSOS for the UNITE Communicator Module, including subscription services and implementation support, at a total contract value of \$1,042,800.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director



## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1e

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a software subscription agreement with Replica to support upcoming regional transportation planning initiatives.

#### BACKGROUND:

Third-party, crowd sourced data tools have become increasingly important to better address complex, emerging transportation planning issues. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has recently subscribed to Replica's "Places" and "Trends" subscription software to provide data to support planning for the Bi-State Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor, calibration of the regional travel demand model, analysis of travel patterns for transit planning in five Jackson County cities and other projects. These data sets include historic information compiled since 2018 and are useful at a variety of scales for regionwide, local and corridor level analysis.

Replica, a local company with offices in Leawood, Oakland, and New York has recently expanded their offerings to add a number of analytic tools using their Places, Trends and other data sets. Staff believes these will be helpful in supporting a variety of upcoming planning initiatives related to safe streets planning; assessing the transportation, economic and environmental impacts of potential road closures and recurring and non-recurring events at different scales; monitoring changes in travel patterns including roadway link speeds, average daily traffic volumes and intersection turning movement counts; transit demand and utilization and other applications. Under Replica's offer, all cities and counties in the MARC area, with the exception of Kansas City, Missouri which has their own subscription, will also be able to access these tools through MARC's subscription.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$103,680
Source	Federal Consolidated Planning Grant Funds
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	
Contractual	\$103,680
Pass-Through	
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This subscription will provide data and analytic tools for all MARC counties.

#### EXHIBITS:

None.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the executive director to enter into a one-year subscription agreement for Replica software in an amount not to exceed \$103,680.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1f

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize renewal and expansion of provider agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services for the Diabetes Self-Management Program Network.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Missouri Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) oversees a Diabetes Self-Management Program Network for the support of Missouri residents who are diagnosed as diabetic or pre-diabetic. To support this effort, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has agreed to deliverables including facilitating approximately 10 Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) workshops (engaging approximately 120 participants), administering social determinants of health screenings, facilitating referrals for supportive community services when risks are reported, recruiting three new Missouri clinics to refer patients to the KC Fresh Rx program, and implementing a cross-referral process between the KC Fresh Rx program and DSMP workshops. This is year 2 of this funding. \$30,000 will be dedicated to the DSMP programming scope and approximately \$70,000 will be dedicated to the KC Fresh Rx program.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES (Annual at estimated enrollment of 75 veterans)	
Source	MDHHS
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,807.19</b>
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$58,004.20
Indirect	\$22,197.73
Contractual (KC Fresh Rx clinics)	\$6,000.00
Transportation support	\$2,650.00
Marketing	\$2,428.26
Translation/Interpretation Services	\$3,005.00
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$5,522.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,807.19</b>

#### COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its December meeting and recommends Board approval.

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Missouri counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize renewal and expansion of the provider agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services for the Diabetes Self-Management Program Network.

#### STAFF CONTACTS:

Tane Lewis, Integrated Care Manager

Donna Martin, Public Health Program Manager

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1g

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### **ISSUE:**

VOTE: Authorization to release request for proposal documents for state fiscal year 2027 services.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Aging and Adult Services must begin planning for the next program year, which begins July 1, 2026. This process includes determining service providers/vendors and the costs of services to be provided. To meet the diverse needs of older adults, the staff and Commission on Aging (COA) are developing multiple "Request for Proposal" (RFP) documents encompassing a broad range of services, including:

- Frozen Meals
- Community Center Services
- Family Caregiver In-Home Supportive Services

Additionally, due to the varying times of vendor enrollment throughout the year, a rolling RFP process will be implemented for Evidence-Based Services to ensure flexibility and the timely onboarding of qualified providers.

These RFP documents are slated to be released in January 2026, with proposals due electronically to the MARC office no later than March 2026.

#### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) policies and procedures require a formal bid process if the amount to be spent is \$50,000.01 or higher.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The Commission on Aging considered this at its December meeting and recommends Board approval.

#### **RELATED JURISDICTIONS:**

This item impacts Missouri counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the release of the above-specified RFPs for SFY27 procurement.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Melody Elston, Assistant Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Tonya Boston, Senior Aging Systems Specialist

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1h

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorization to submit the State Fiscal Year 2027 Aging Area Plan.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Older Americans Act requires that each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) develop a plan that incorporates the needs of the elderly of the AAA planning and service area, the goals and objectives of the AAA and the budgets for the expenditure of available funds. This document, which represents the third year of a four-year cycle, is to be developed in accordance with specifications and instructions provided by the State Unit on Aging (SUA) and is scheduled to go out for public comment January 26, 2026 - February 24, 2026. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS), requires that the draft document be submitted by January 9, 2026. This Area Plan is for SFY 2027, which begins on July 1, 2026.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The approved Area Plan is the basis for a contract with the state and predominantly consists of a combination of federal and state dollars that come to MARC to provide programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA). Preliminary funding allotted to MARC for SFY 2027 programs totals \$5,897,889.

The following is a summary of all estimated funding that can be included in this area plan document:

Funding Source	Amount
Preliminary Direct Funding from MDHSS (OAA)	\$5,897,889
Missouri Department of Transportation (MEHTAP)	\$310,335
Missouri Department of Social Services (Medicaid)	\$1,150,603
Voluntary Participant Contributions	\$210,000
Local Funding	\$80,000
Senior Services Growth & Development Program (MDHSS)	\$700,000
<b>ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,348,827</b>

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

The Commission on Aging considered this at its December meeting and recommends Board approval.

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Missouri counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Authorize submission of the SFY 2027 Area Plan for the MARC Area Agency on Aging, negotiate program specifications, accept funds and contract for the implementation of the Area Plan.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Melody Elston, Assistant Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Margaret Murphy, Aging and Adult Services Grant Manager

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1i

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Ratify approval of a contract amendment for Senior Services Growth and Development Program funding with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MO DHSS) established the Senior Services Growth and Development Program (SSGDP) to enhance services for older adults through the Area Agencies on Aging. Initiated in 2019, the program aims to develop and expand senior center programs, facilities, and services. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Aging and Adult Services (AAS) received a contract in February 2025 for an estimated amount of \$983,757 from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027. Now that the final amount has been calculated, a contract amendment for \$1,632,180 has been issued by the MO DHSS. Fifty percent of these funds are designated for the development and expansion of senior multipurpose center programs and facilities, while the remaining fifty percent will support activities and programs enhancing services for older adults in MARC's planning and service area, including Jackson, Clay, Cass, Platte, and Ray counties.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,632,180
Source	SSGDP Funding
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Centers	\$816,090
Programs and Special Projects	\$816,090
TOTAL	\$1,632,180

#### COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its December meeting and recommends Board approval.

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Missouri counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify approval of the SSGDP fund contract amendment.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Melody Elston, Assistant Director of Aging and Adult Services

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

December 2025

Item No. 1j

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Ratify the submission of a proposal in response to the Jackson County, Missouri, Nonprofit Partnership Grants request for applications and acceptance of funds if awarded.

#### BACKGROUND:

Jackson County released a request for proposals (RFP) due September 23, 2025. With approval from the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Executive Director and the MARC Community Services Corporation (CSC) Board, the Aging and Adult Services department submitted a proposal to meet the RFP deadline. Since then, a similar funding opportunity was re-released, replacing the previous version with a new due date of November 20, 2025, and a new application was submitted with approval from MARC's Executive Director to meet the new deadline.

The proposed collaborative approach builds on the experience of MARC, the Community Support Network (CSN) community care hub, multiple community-based organizations (CBOs), and health care entities. The design aligns with the funding priority subcategory to address food insecurity and access to nutritious foods. MARC's Area Agency on Aging and its partners previously served over 486,000 meals in Jackson County that already meet dietary guidelines and requirements. This funding would support expanding food as medicine initiatives and build on existing workflows and supply chain to offer accessible options for medically tailored meals that are diabetic and renal friendly, heart healthy, vegetarian, and gluten-free in support of improved health outcomes.

#### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,179,280
Source	Jackson County
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$165,000
Contractual	\$902,000
Indirect	\$82,280
Other	\$30,000
Total Projected Expenses	\$1,179,280

#### COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging considered this at its December meeting and recommends Board approval.

#### RELATED JURISDICTIONS:

This item impacts Jackson County, Missouri.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the submission of a new grant proposal to Jackson County and acceptance of funding if awarded.

#### STAFF CONTACT:

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Adult Services  
Bethany Reyna, Nutrition Program Manager



## BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Meeting  
Summary  
November 25, 2025  
11:15 a.m.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Council member Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS - Chair of the Budget and Personnel Committee  
Mayor John Bacon, Olathe, KS  
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO  
Commissioner Scott Fricker, Platte County, MO  
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS  
Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO  
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, KS  
Commissioner Mike Stieben, Leavenworth County, KS  
Commissioner Sheila Tracy, Ray County, MO

### 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  
Julie Phillips, Shared Services Program Director  
Hannah Mitchell, Housing Program Manager  
Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Program Manager  
McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant

### OTHERS

### CALL TO ORDER

Council member Holly Grummert called the meeting to order at 11:16 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: Overview of the Revised 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget.

Carol Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, provided the first draft of the revised 2025 and projected 2026 budget for committee review. She indicated that staff are continuing to refine numbers - a some of the numbers in the current draft will shift, but not substantially. There are four priorities that

the budget helps execute: extend key regional functions, foster new initiatives, strengthen civic partnerships, and invest in our organizational capacity. The first few pages in the budget include an organization chart, committee chart, and high-level overviews of the total amount of funds of the budget. 2026 revenues are projected to be \$113,110,834 and total expenditures are projected to be \$112,634,516. Ms. Gonzales reminded the committee that funds and projects sometimes straddle the year lines and make projections difficult to be exact, which is why MARC produces a revised budget before the end of the year. Ms. Gonzales showed how the budget is structured from seven different revenue sources and then organized into five funds that pay for four types of expenses that support the work of our eight policy goal areas. She then highlighted several new grants and programs that occurred in 2025 and are projected to continue or begin in 2026. She also explained several grants and projects that ended in 2025 or will be ending in 2026. Revenue outlooks for all policy areas are strong leaning into 2026 and MARC investments are trending well with increase revenue generation.

Ms. Gonzales reported that MARC is budgeting for an 8% increase in health insurance but said that MARC has not received an increase in several years, however to keep the budget nimble, a projected increase helps secure funding should those expenses rise. She highlighted employee changes with one position decrease in 2026 and noted that a salary increase is projected at 2%. The indirect rate that is negotiated with HHS is still pending approval but for the 2026 year, MARC requested 33.23%. Ms. Gonzales also highlighted the importance of MARC's long term contingency planning funds in light of the recent need to use these funds for the gap in funding due to the federal shutdown.

Commissioner Stieben asked if the revenues and expenditures on page 10 have any trends from year to year or if it has remained the same. Ms. Gonzales answered that the timing can be difficult because of the ebbs and flows based on projects and grants. Generally MARC has seen an increase in philanthropic dollars since 2020 - federal grants increased in 2020 as a response to the pandemic but then decreased this year and now remain stable.

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

Carol Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, requested approval of an extension agreement with RubinBrown for the 2025 audit. 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. Staff are ready to begin the fiscal year 2025 audit and are recommending that MARC once again, engage RubinBrown for the 2025 annual audit, with options to continue for two additional years. Total contract amount for these costs are paid from the Indirect Fund within MARC's budget for a total of \$96,000. This contract will cover the cost of RubinBrown to complete the Audit of Financial Statements, SWMD, preparation of 990 for CSC, and the preparation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Commissioner Scott Fricker asked how long MARC has contracted with RubinBrown to complete the audit. Ms. Gonzales answered 9-10 years with RubinBrown but that the managers of the audit within RubinBrown have rotated to provide a fresh set of eyes on the numbers and funds.

Mayor Curt Skoog recalled that the last time MARC went to bid for an audit firm there were not many in the business to pull proposals from which limits the pool of potential audit firm changes.

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

Julie Phillips, Shared Services Program Director, requested authorization of an application to the Health Forward Foundation's capacity building grant to enable MARC staff to examine existing community engagement efforts and develop an organization-wide approach for how we engage with external stakeholders. This opportunity represents year three of the capacity grant program and will be used to



cover personnel and consultant costs. Total funding for year three is \$50,000. MARC has previously been awarded \$100,000 for this work.

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

Julie Phillips, Shared Services Program Director, requested authorization of a contract amendment with the Meriweather Group who was selected through a RFP process in 2024. 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 continuation of the Health Forward Funds, MARC would like to extend the contract with the Meriweather Group through December 2026 for a new total of \$86,225.

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

Hannah Mitchell, Housing Program Manager, requested approval of a contract with the Housing Narrative Lab to complete research for the Regional Housing Partnership. 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.

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick asked if there was research that indicates additional housing units were made available or built after the Housing Narrative Lab completed their studies? Commissioner Hanzlick also asked if the MARC Board could have a presentation about the Regional Housing Fund in the near future.

Ashley Hand answered that she will need to revisit the data in order to produce an answer about concrete change, however, the product of this contract is more than tactical - it seeks to help communities understand the housing work in order to move forward proposed changes at a policy level.

Commissioner Fricker echoed Commissioner Hanzlick's comments about the lack of housing units and expressed the need to lower constraints for governments and communities to tackle the issues.

Commissioner Stieben asked for examples of what "process implications" means for this project. Ms. Mitchell answered it could mean anything from zoning and building permitting processes or pre-approved building designs (i.e. what Overland Park just recently passed). Each strategy could be tailored to the community within a jurisdiction rather than a one size fits all for the region.

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

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Communications Director, requested approval to purchase routing switch hardware that complies with regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure peak performance of the regional 911 network system. MARC staff obtained quotes from vendors 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 taken from the 911 allocation budget.

Commissioner Fricker asked what the life span of the switches typically are. Mr. Winebrenner answered 5 year life spans are the average.

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.

Dr. Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning and Head Start, requested authorization of a grant application to the Kauffman Foundation that will support the Earn While You Learn ECE fellowship pilot program which will provide living stipends, employer connections and educational resources for early education students. The application total is \$1,081,648 for a total of three school years and aims to allow two cohorts to complete the pilot program.

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

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval of the fiscal year 2026 MOU between MARC and the SWMD. 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. The MOU provides \$739,202 to compensate for MARC services and supports 3.3 full time employees.

VOTE: Approve the Minutes of the October 28, 2025 Meeting.

Mayor Damien Boley moved for approval of all agenda items and Mayor Curt Skoog seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Council member Grummert adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.