MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Budget and Personnel Committee Meeting

October 27, 2026

Meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

Attend in-person at the MARC Offices 801 Pennsylvania Ave. Ste 400, Kansas City, MO 64105 or with a remote option via Zoom.

Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting please email marcinfo@marc.org by 9:00 a.m. the day of the meeting for instructions to join the teleconference.

AGENDA

1. **Approve contracts, grants, and other major expenditures**

Exemplary Core Capacities

a) REPORT: Review fiscal year 2026 year-to-date financial reports through September 2026.
b) VOTE: Authorize a 10-year contract with Sparkrock for a new enterprise resource planning system.

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

c) VOTE: Authorize $250,000 contract with Iteris, Inc. for ClearGuide, a roadway and traffic signal analytics platform to support the regional Operation Greenlight program.

Competitive Economy

d) VOTE: Authorize receipt of $200,000 subaward from LISC Greater Kansas City to support work on the Greater Kansas City Regional Housing Partnership.

Safe and Secure Communities

e) VOTE: Authorize a $64,980 contract with Carl Abraham to complete regional emergency services assessment and outreach work.
f) VOTE: Authorize acceptance and administration of Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness subgrant funds totaling $146,555 for FY 2026–2027 planning, training, and exercise activities.
g) VOTE: Authorize a $155,000 subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the hospital preparedness program.
h) VOTE: Approve the purchase of 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters from Digi-Key totaling $67,082.40 to support the GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade.

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

i) VOTE: Approve $2,637,500 application to the America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program for capacity building funds.

2. **VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda (Administrative Matter and Minor Expenditures)**
   a) Approve the minutes of September 22, 2026, meeting
3. **Other business**

4. **Adjournment**

UPCOMING MEETING

Monday, November 24, 2026

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please notify MARC at 816-474-4240 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodation to attend this meeting (for example, qualified interpreter, large print materials, reader, hearing assistance). MARC programs are non-discriminatory as stated by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, call 816-474-4240 or visit our Title VI information page.

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1a
Exemplary Core Capacities

REPORT: Review fiscal year 2026 year-to-date financial reports through September 2026.

BACKGROUND
Based upon prior discussion, financial reports will be provided and presented quarterly to the B&P Committee (January, April, August, October).

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS
The MARC Board has fiduciary responsibility to ensure MARC's long-term sustainability, financial integrity, and compliance with regulations.

EXHIBITS:
The FY26 YTD September Financial Package is included, and highlights will be reviewed during the meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION
None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACTS
- Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
- Erika Benitez, Finance Director

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1b
Exemplary Core Capacities

VOTE: Authorize a 10-year contract with Sparkrock for a new enterprise resource planning system.

BACKGROUND

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) currently uses Great Plains (GP Dynamics) for day to day financials, supported by Wipfli, and Prophix for budget compilation. Microsoft has announced GP is going to be end of life in 2029, which necessitates MARC to have a new system implemented by that time. GP is the financial system MARC has used since 2009.

Forvis Mazars conducted a directed search for enterprise resource planning (ERP) vendors that met MARC's needs, drawing on its prior technology needs assessment and interviews with the Finance Department. The search emphasized grant management, reporting, and modernization of accounts payable processes.

Finance staff reviewed four systems in first-round demonstrations: Tyler Munis, Oracle NetSuite, Sage Intacct, and Sparkrock. Sage Intacct and Sparkrock advanced to department-wide deep-dive demonstrations based on Finance's detailed evaluation criteria. Finance also contacted one recent Sage implementer and three Sparkrock references, including an organization with significant grant activity.

Staff engagement was incorporated throughout the process. An all-staff survey gathered desired features before project kickoff, and a second survey asked current GP users what they wanted addressed in finalist demonstrations. Non-finance demonstrations focused on dashboards, reporting, navigation, and common functions such as entering accounts payable information. The June 18 Sage demonstration included 37 attendees, 27 from programs and 10 Finance staff. The June 22 Sparkrock demonstration included 38 attendees, 28 from programs and 10 Finance staff.

IT staff participated throughout the process to validate compatibility and security requirements and held detailed requirements meetings with both finalists.

Both finalist systems are cloud-based subscription platforms that would improve reporting, accounts payable and revenue processes, and general system navigation. Sparkrock is recommended because it is designed around grant management, appeared more intuitive across user groups, and demonstrated MARC-specific use cases using sample general ledger data.

- The interface was easier to navigate for users at different levels and offers four user-license tiers, compared with two for Sage.
- A Microsoft-based platform supports connectivity with Outlook, Power BI, and Copilot.
- It includes budgeting functionality that should allow MARC to discontinue Prophix; Sage would require retaining Prophix or adding another budgeting solution.

Sparkrock was founded in 2003 specifically to support nonprofits and school districts. It is built on the foundation of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, so while it is much more modern than our current GP platform, there are core functionalities that will make the transition less complicated.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Sparkrock negotiated and reduced annual subscription and implementation pricing and agreed to payment terms that address MARC's budget and cash-flow considerations.

- **Annual subscription:** $66,368 annually for a five-year term or $62,155 annually for a 10-year term.
- **Support:** Platinum support would remain in place for the full initial contract term. The discounted subscription is below the normal Gold support cost; the selected support plan cannot be changed during the term.
- **Implementation:** $87,280
- **Payment terms:** Implementation payments may be spread over 24 months. Final timing will be established in the agreement.

Current annual costs include Prophix, Microsoft Dynamics GP, and Wipfli support. Sparkrock should eliminate the need for Prophix and will eventually replace GP. It will be necessary to keep one or two licenses active at very reduced cost for GP for grant compliance and reporting for two to three years. Staff also will retain Forvis Mazars for as needed general support.

Current annual system costs

System or service	2026 budget	2026 Estimated Final Costs
Prophix	$35,200	$30,176
Microsoft Dynamics GP	$20,790	$19,287
Wipfli services	$17,952	$17,292
Total	**$73,942**	**$66,755**

Proposed Sparkrock costs

Cost component	Amount	Terms
Annual subscription—five-year option	$66,368 annually	Platinum support
Annual subscription—10-year option	$62,155 annually	Platinum support
Forvis Mazars services	Varies by level	Hourly, as needed
Implementation	$87,280 one time	Payable over 24 months; final timing to be set in the agreement

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize a ten-year contract with Sparkrock for ERP software, implementation, and support.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
- Erika Benitez, Finance Director

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1c
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

VOTE: Authorize $250,000 contract with Iteris, Inc. for ClearGuide, a roadway and traffic signal analytics platform to support the regional Operation Greenlight program.

BACKGROUND

Operation Green Light (OGL) is a regional traffic signal coordination and operations program involving local governments and the state departments of transportation in Kansas and Missouri. This initiative improves regional traffic flow, air quality and fuel consumption. As a key part of this work, OGL develops and implements traffic signal timing plans in cooperation with participating state and local governments and monitors real-time operations on roadway intersections in the program. Continued traffic signal timing and engineering support services will be integral to the successful operation of the OGL program.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) received funds through the surface transportation block grant (STBG) program in Kansas to implement crowdsourcing tools that align with the FHWA Everyday Counts Initiative to increase use of crowdsource technologies in operations. Crowdsourced data is large data and anonymized so that no personally identifiable information (PII) is included in any data product.

Iteris ClearGuide is a roadway and traffic signal analytics platform that provides travel-time monitoring, roadway delay alerts, and signal performance measures such as arrivals on green and control delay. Under the proposed two-year agreement, ClearGuide would support approximately 1,067 traffic signals across participating OGL agencies in Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth counties in Kansas. The platform will provide two years of historical data and ongoing real-time data throughout the two-year contract term, enabling OGL and participating agencies to identify performance issues and prioritize signal-timing and operational improvements.

ClearGuide was previously implemented with Missouri partners in June 2026.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Funds for this purchase are included in the Operation Green Light operations budget. This procurement will be funded through Federal Grants administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Participating local governments provide matching funds for this grant that are budgeted in the 2027 and 2028 OGL budget.

REVENUES	
Amount	$250,000
Source	Federal STBG - Kansas

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	$250,000

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Operation Green Light Steering Committee will meet on October 26, 2026, to vote to recommend the approval of a contract with Iteris, Inc.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS
Kansas Department of Transportation, Bonner Springs, Fairway, Lansing, Leavenworth, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Mission Woods, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee, Westwood, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize a two-year contract with Iteris, Inc for ClearGuide roadway and traffic signal analytics services in an amount not to exceed $250,000.

STAFF CONTACTS
- Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment
- Ray M. Webb, Traffic Operations Director

October 2026
Item No. 1d
Competitive Economy

VOTE: Authorize receipt of $200,000 subaward from LISC Greater Kansas City to support work on the Greater Kansas City Regional Housing Partnership.

BACKGROUND
In 2025, the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) was designated to receive $500,000 in Community Projects Funding appropriation request from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). LISC Greater Kansas City, who serves as the co-backbone agency for the RHP alongside the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), is the direct recipient of the funds from HUD and will be distributing MARC's $200,000 portion via a subgrant, to be used for program support for the RHP. The grant is a one-time award from HUD and can be used to cover expenses between 2025-2028.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS
This award supports MARC's housing goals as it will provide general operating support for the RHP to engage in cross-sector, region-wide collaboration and coordination to build an effective and healthy housing system that expands and sustains access to attainable housing across the Kansas City region. The RHP's work focuses on three areas: policy & process, housing construction workforce, and community voice.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS
The $200,000 award will be used for personnel expenses related to the administration and coordination of the Regional Housing Partnership.

REVENUES	
Amount	$200,000
Source	HUD Community Projects Funding (via subgrant from LISC)

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	$200,000

RELATED JURISDICTIONS
This item impacts all counties in the MARC region.

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize acceptance of $200,000 HUD Community Projects Funding subgrant from LISC Greater KC for up to 3 years of program support for the Regional Housing Partnership.

STAFF CONTACTS
- Hannah Mitchell, Regional Housing Program Manager

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1e
Safe and Secure Communities

VOTE: Authorize a $64,980 contract with Carl Abraham to complete regional emergency services assessment and outreach work.

BACKGROUND:
The Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners has hosted the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center since 2007. The Center's role is to work with federal, state, and local law enforcement and other emergency services agencies to collect, analyze, and share sensitive intelligence information to support the prevention and deterrence of terrorist acts in the Kansas City region. Personnel from several local law enforcement agencies have donated time to support the Fusion Center, and an advisory committee with public and private sector representatives offers guidance to the Center.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in conjunction with the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center (KCRFC) and agencies in the nine-county area, provides part-time contractors to help conduct special event threat assessments (SETAs) at venues in Clay, Platte, Ray, Jackson, and Cass Counties in Missouri - Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson Counties in Kansas , evaluate assessments previously conducted, and work with Fusion Center leadership to implement outreach to the public and private venues to increase their emergency preparedness. SETAs are cataloged in a database for future evaluation and tracking. In addition to conducting and tracking SETAs, contractors plan and conduct outreach to venue operators and offer customized training to enhance emergency preparedness.

Federal homeland security funds through the Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Strategic Initiative (UASI) grant program have been received to support this work. The outreach coordinators, including Carl Abraham, were selected through a competitive request for qualifications in late 2021 and will continue work in 2026-2027.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	$64,980
Source	UASI 24

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	$64,980

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:
On June 7, 2025, the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee (RHSCC) approved the investments for the FY 24 UASI funding, which included funds designated for the part-time contractors to support this work.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS:
The grant applications were submitted on behalf of Clay, Platte, Ray, Jackson, and Cass Counties in Missouri - Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson Counties in Kansas.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Carl Abraham for regional emergency services assessment and outreach work in an amount not to exceed $64,980.

CONTACT

- Erin Lynch, Emergency Services Program Director
- John Davis, Emergency Services Fiscal Administrator

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1f
Secure and Safe Communities

VOTE: Authorize acceptance and administration of Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness subgrant funds totaling $146,555 for FY 2026-2027 planning, training, and exercise activities.

BACKGROUND

The Mid-America Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) serving as the fiduciary and administrative agent, applied for FY 2026–2027 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) subgrant funding through the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The application includes planning, training, and exercise activities designed to enhance regional preparedness for transportation-related hazardous materials incidents. Awarded activities include updates to LEPC hazardous materials plan, delivery of specialized hazmat training courses, and execution of a complex functional exercise.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The projects are funded through federal HMEP subgrant funds administered by the State of Kansas and require a 20 percent non-federal match, provided through a combination of personnel time and in-kind contributions.

REVENUES	
Amount	$146,555
Source	U.S. DOT / PHMSA – HMEP (Pass-through: Kansas Adjutant General's Department)

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual $ 35,000 plan update/ $70,000 exercise, $41,555 Training	$146,555

COMMITTEE ACTION

Application was presented and approved at the March 2026 Mid America LEPC Meeting.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

The related jurisdictions tied directly to the grant funding are the three Kansas counties: Leavenworth, Wyandotte, and Johnson. The planning work also encompasses Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray Counties.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize acceptance of the HMEP subgrant funds and approval for MARC to administer the projects on behalf of the Mid-America LEPC.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Erin Lynch, Emergency Services Program Director
- John Davis, Emergency Services Fiscal Administrator

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1g
Safe and Secure Communities

VOTE: Authorize a $155,000 subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program.

BACKGROUND
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has offered the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) a subrecipient agreement that designates MARC as the lead organization responsible for supporting coalition activities, administering Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) funds, coordinating required planning and preparedness activities, and overseeing the Readiness and Response Coordinator (RRC) function and associated activities.

The program is intended to strengthen health care coalition readiness, collaboration and recovery capabilities for disasters and emergencies that exceed the day-to-day capacity of individual health care and emergency response systems. The agreement identifies $155,000 in federal funds and a term beginning October 15, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. MARC would be responsible for fiscal administration and for ensuring completion of the coalition work plan and required Readiness and Response Coordinator functions.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS
The agreement identifies $155,000 in federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds. Payments are tied to financial status reports, supporting invoices, progress reports and completion of program requirements.

REVENUES	Amount
Federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds through KDHE)	$155,000

PROJECTED EXPENSES	Amount
Personnel	$124,000
Contractual	$21,000
Travel and Training Expenses	$10,000

COMMITTEE ACTION
The Bi-state Health Care Coalition supports this action. The KS-side Healthcare Coalition met on September 11, 2026, and voted to support MARC in this role.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS
The agreement is intended to support the health care coalition and participating health care and emergency response organizations in the applicable Kansas region (Wyandotte, Johnson, and Leavenworth counties).

RECOMMENDATION
Authorize a subrecipient agreement with KDHE for the Hospital Preparedness Program in an amount not to exceed $155,000 for the period October 15, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

STAFF CONTACTS
- John Davis - Fiscal Administrator, Emergency Services
- Erin Lynch – Director, Emergency Services

October 2026
Item No. 1h
Safe and Secure Communities

VOTE: Approve the purchase of 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters from Digi-Key totaling $67,082.40 to support the GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade.

BACKGROUND

The GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade requires new serial-to-IP converters to support communications between system components. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) technical staff worked directly with Digi International, the equipment manufacturer, to identify the Digi Connect EZ 32. Digi International coordinated with Digi-Key to provide the purchase quote.

The proposed purchase includes 20 converters. The quoted equipment is currently listed with an estimated nine-week lead time after receipt of order. Moving the purchase forward will help avoid delays to the VESTA 9-1-1 Host upgrade schedule.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Digi-Key quote provides pricing of $3,354.12 per unit for 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters, for a total equipment cost of $67,082.40. Pricing is valid through Oct. 28, 2026. The quoted price excludes freight, and any applicable tariffs will be determined at the time of invoicing.

This is a sole-source procurement because MARC worked directly with Digi International to identify the specific equipment that was compatible with current system components. Digi International coordinated the quote through Digi-Key. Funding is included in the 911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects).

REVENUES	
Amount	$67,082.40
Source	911 Allocation Budget (Capital Projects)

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	$67,082.40

RELATED JURISDICTIONS

This item supports the MARC regional 9-1-1 system and benefits all participating jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the purchase of 20 Digi Connect EZ 32 serial-to-IP converters from Digi-Key for $67,082.40, plus applicable freight and tariffs, to support the GeoComm Maps component of the VESTA 911 Host upgrade.

STAFF CONTACTS

- Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Program Director
- Hassan Al-Rubaie, Public Safety Technical Services Director

AGENDA REPORT

Budget and Personnel

October 2026
Item No. 1i
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

VOTE: Approve $2,637,500 application to the America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program for capacity building funds.

BACKGROUND

The Reinvestment Fund is the National Fund Manager (NFM) for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative at the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service. The Fund released a request for applications for America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: Local and Regional Health Food Financing Partnerships Program (HFFI Partnerships Program). This program seeks to build the capacity of locally and regionally focused Healthy Food Financing Partnerships that will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible healthy food retailers and post-harvest food retail supply chain enterprises.

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) along with partners Cultivate KC and AltCap, are seeking to create the Heartland Farm to Retail Readiness Partnership with these funds. The partnership is seeking HFFI funds to reduce barriers to accessing locally grown and/or affordable fresh food and pantry staples at a variety of food retail establishments across Missouri and Kansas. To support a pipeline that increases access to healthy food in underserved areas of our bi-state region, our audience will be specialty crop producers seeking post-harvest infrastructure loans and grocery retailers that are interested in making store improvements to increase their readiness to provide a larger offering of healthy and fresh foods.

Project outcomes include:

- Creation of a bridge loan fund to allow producers to participate in existing reimbursable grant and cost-share programs
- Identification of technological solutions to upgrade point of sale systems for stores hoping to participate in Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) or other food access incentive programs, and a loan program to assist stores in affording upgrades
- Technical assistance provided to both producers and grocery retailers seeking to participate in these programs
- Further credit enhancement opportunities (financial education, credit enhancement technical assistance, and grants to eliminate barriers to loan readiness and access to capital) will be available and marketed to our target audience.

Because of the quick turnaround for submittal, David Warm, MARC's former executive director, approved the submission of a collaborative proposal.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

REVENUES	
Amount	$2,637,500
Source	HFFI

PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (Salaries, Fringe, Indirect,)	$570,306

Travel	$16,705
Subawards	$1,989,359
Materials and Supplies	$2,000
Contractual	$45,000
Other – Printing and Rent	$14,130

COMMITTEE ACTION
The Commission on Aging considered this at its October meeting and recommended board approval.

RELATED JURISDICTIONS
This item impacts specialty crop producers and local retailers across both states of Kansas and Missouri.

RECOMMENDATION
Ratify approval to submit a grant application and acceptance of award, if granted, for the HFFI Partnerships Program funding opportunity.

STAFF CONTACT
- Donna Martin, Program Manager
- Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging and Older Adults Services

October 2026
Item No. 2a

VOTE: Approve minutes of the September 22, 2026, Board meeting

BACKGROUND:
The minutes of the September 22, 2026, meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve the minutes of the September 22, 2026, meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:
- Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director
- McKenzie Neds, Executive Assistant

MARC Budget & Personnel Meeting Summary

September 22, 2026

BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE ATTENDANCE

Eric Mikkelson, Prairie Village, KS – B&P Committee Chair
Mayor Damien Boley, Smithville, MO
Commissioner Julie Brewer, Johnson County, KS
Councilmember Jeff Creighton, Olathe, KS
Councilmember Holly Grummert, Overland Park, KS
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, KS
Victor Hurlbert, Auditor, Clay County, MO
Mayor Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, MO
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, KS
Mayor Christal Waston, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

AGENDA

Call to order

Mayor Eric Mikkelson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Due to the meeting being conducted remotely and in-person Mayor Mikkelson provided instructions for participation. He 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.

Item 1a VOTE: Approve Mid-America Regional Council Head Start budget modification.
Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning, requested approval of a Head Start budget revision of up to $99,152 for the 2025–2026 grant year, transferring funds from contractual services to equipment to support playground repairs and upgrades. The revision is required by the Office of Head Start before it can consider MARC's previously approved request to carry over unspent 2024–2025 grant funds resulting from the YMCA closure and delayed projects. The action has been approved by the Head Start Policy Council and Advisory Committee and affects Jackson County, Missouri.

Item 1b VOTE: Authorize application to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver of remaining match funds for the FY2026 Head Start Federal Grant.

Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning, requested approval of MARC Head Start to apply for a waiver of up to $3,327,764 in unmet non-federal matching funds for the 2025–2026 Head Start grant. Although MARC has identified $4,901,948 toward the required match, staff may submit the waiver if the remaining balance is not secured by October 31, 2026. The Policy Council and Advisory Committee approved the request, which affects Clay, Jackson and Platte counties.

Mayor Eric Mikkelson clarified that this board item was only a pre-approved authorization should it become necessary later in the program. Dr. Sturdivant confirmed that was the action.

Item 1c VOTE: Approve contract renewal with ChildPlus software platform to support tracking of data for children, families, and staff in the Head Start program.

Toni Sturdivant, Director of Early Learning, requested to approve a $66,150 renewal of MARC Head Start's ChildPlus contract for November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2027. ChildPlus supports required program monitoring and reporting by tracking information on children, families and staff, including eligibility, family needs and goals, referrals, staff credentials and background checks. The federally funded contract serves Clay, Jackson and Platte counties.

Commissioner Hanzlick asked if ChildPlus collected the information that was required of the federal grant regulations. Dr. Studivant confirmed.

Item 1d VOTE: Authorization to apply for funds from the States of Kansas and Missouri for the regional air quality program.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested to authorize MARC to apply for and accept up to $110,960 from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the regional air quality program from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. The funding will support regional planning, technical analysis, public education and implementation of the Clean Air Action Plan across all MARC counties.

Mayor Christal Watson and Councilmember Creighton asked how they could learn more about this program. Mr. Achelpohl indicated that he would connect them with the Air Quality staff offline. Commissioner Hanzlick suggested they learn about the Air Quality Forum and who represents their jurisdiction.

Item 1e VOTE: Authorization to submit a Federal Highway Administration PROTECT grant application to improve regional transportation infrastructure.

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested to apply for up to $2 million through the Federal Highway Administration's PROTECT program to support Phase 3 of Transportation Resilience KC, with no local match required. The grant will be built on prior risk assessment and planning. The project would strengthen regional and local capacity to address flooding, heat and other extreme-weather impacts, integrate resilience into transportation investment decisions and advance implementation across all MARC counties.

Item 1f VOTE: Approve the 2027 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations and accept additional Kansas STP funding

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment, requested approval for the 2027 Planning Sustainable Places funding recommendations and acceptance of an additional $80,000 in Kansas Surface Transportation Program funds. Following review of 28 applications, MARC staff and the Sustainable Places Policy Committee developed a recommended funding list to support sustainable planning in regional centers and corridors aligned with Connected KC 2050. The program's $1,743,900 budget combines Kansas and Missouri federal transportation funds, local matching funds and transportation fees; both the Sustainable Places Policy Committee and Total Transportation Policy Committee approved the final recommendations.

Mayor Watson asked who makes these funding recommendations and how do they work with the cities and counties for projects. Mr. Achelpohl explained that cities and counties will apply for the funding and then the projects move through various committees for approval until the final recommendation is made by the Sustainable Places Policy Committee.

Mr. Hurlbert asked for clarification on the projects that appear to be out of state. Mr. Achelpohl explained that there were some projects that are bi-state which is unusual and has only happened one other time before but they were high scoring.

Commissioner Brewer asked who the committees are comprised of. Mr. Achelpohl indicated that the members are mostly city and county staff and then some technical experts in the field.

Councilmember Grummert reminded the group that these funding opportunities require jurisdictional matching funds in order to move forward with the planning process.

Item 1g VOTE: Accept funding for the Senior Growth and Development Program SFY 2027 contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for older adult programming.

Kristi Bohling-DaMetz, Director of Aging ang Older Adult Services, requested to execute the SFY 2027 contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and accept $1,112,796 from the Senior Services Growth and Development Program. Half of the funding will support senior center programs, facilities and services, while the remainder will enhance older-adult services across Jackson, Clay, Cass, Platte and Ray counties.

Item 1h VOTE: Authorize an agreement with the City of Olathe for Fire Analyst staffing at the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center.

John Davis, Emergency Services Fiscal Administrator, requested approval for an agreement with the City of Olathe to provide up to $60,000 in Kansas State Homeland Security Grant Program funds for a part-time Fire Analyst at the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The position will strengthen information sharing, analysis and coordination among public safety and emergency-response partners across the nine-county MARC region.

Mayor Mikkelson clarified that this analyst would help the entire region. Mr. Davis confirmed.

Item 1i VOTE: Authorize a subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program.

John Davis, Emergency Services Fiscal Administrator, requested for a subrecipient agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to administer $155,000 in federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds from September 21, 2026, through June 30, 2027. MARC will serve as fiscal agent and oversee coalition readiness activities supporting healthcare and emergency-response organizations in Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties.

Commissioner Brewer expressed concern that the committee was being asked to accept $155,000 before the required activities were fully defined and without a clear scope, it is impossible to determine whether the funding was proportionate to the work. She moved to alter the voting recommendation to read: *Authorize MARC to continue negotiations with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program.*

Item 2 Approve Consent Agenda: minutes of the June 23, 2026 meeting

Councilmember Holly Grummert moved for the approval of all agenda items except item 1i as it was presented. Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Commissioner Brewer moved for the approval of item 1i in its altered state that now reads: *Authorize MARC to continue negotiations with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the Hospital Preparedness Program*. Mayor Watson seconded the motion.

Item 3 Other Business

There was no other business.

Item 4 Adjournment

Mayor Mikkelson adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

NEXT/UPCOMING MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | MARC Offices 801 Pennsylvania Ave. Ste 400, Kansas City, MO 64105