

# RICHLAND COUNTY

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

---

October 8, 2022

### NOTICE OF MEETING

Please be advised that the Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will convene at 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the County Board Room at 181 W. Seminary Street.

If you would like to join remotely using **WebEx Videoconference**, **WebEx Teleconference**, or by **Phone** you can find meeting access information

at: <https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/minutes/referendum-ad-hoc-committee/>

If you have any trouble accessing the meeting, please contact MIS Director Barbara Scott at 608-649-5922 (phone) or [barbara.scott@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:barbara.scott@co.richland.wi.us) (email), or Referendum Ad Hoc Committee Chair Shaun Murphy-Lopez at 608-462-3715 (phone/text) or [shaun.murphy@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:shaun.murphy@co.richland.wi.us) (email).

#### Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Proof of notification
3. Agenda approval
4. Public comments  
*Topics raised in comments received from the public may be placed on a future agenda for consideration.*
5. Approval of minutes
6. Video scripts
7. Public education information report\*
  - a. Highway Department
  - b. UW-Richland
  - c. Departmental staffing comparison with other counties
    - i. Addition of Iowa County
    - ii. Health & Human Services Department detail
  - d. 5-year financial plan expense and revenue categories
  - e. Other updates
8. Correspondence from committees\*
  - a. Richland Economic Development Board
  - b. Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee
  - c. Public Works Standing Committee
  - d. Other committees
9. Responses from the public to\*
  - a. Sheriff's Department social media post
  - ~~b.~~ Richland Observer article on Veterans Department
  - ~~b.c.~~ WRCO interview\*\*
10. Report on presentations at
  - a. Richland Center City Council
  - b. Symons Natatorium Board
11. Presentation at Richland Center School Board
12. Future agenda items
13. Adjournment

\*Meeting materials for items marked with an asterisk may be found at

<https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/minutes/referendum-ad-hoc-committee/>.

\*\* Item added after initial posting.

# RICHLAND COUNTY

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

---

CC: Committee Members, County Board, Department Heads, Richland Observer, WRCO, Valley Sentinel, Courthouse Bulletin Board

*A quorum may be present from other Committees, Boards, or Commissions. No committee, board or commission will exercise any responsibilities, authority or duties except for the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee.*

# Richland County

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

---

**September 7th, 2022**

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the County Board Room at the Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, in person and by WebEx.

Committee members present included County Board Steve Carrow, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank and School Board representative Erin Unbehaun.

Also present was Assistant to the Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, Administrator Clinton Langreck logged on by Web Ex with several department heads, county employees, general public, County Board Members and WRCO logged in by Web Ex. John Couey was present from MIS running the teleconferencing.

Not present: Dave Turk, Todd Coppernoll & Kerry Severson

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Assistant to the Administrator Dull verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, County Board members, WRCO, County department heads, Richland Observer, Valley Sentinel and a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board.
3. **Agenda Approval:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Supervisor Frank to approve the agenda, second by Supervisor Carrow. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** Ray Schmidt asked to speak. He asked how you arrive at the decision to make cuts to departments? He recommended that we check with other Counties to compare information. He review his concerns with adding staff when there are cuts to other departments.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Moved by Frank to accept the minutes as present, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrow. Motion carried.
6. **Public education information report:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed 2 documents with the same information presented differently. There have been some changes made to the document including different graphs. After discussion the committee will use 06b, tracked changes. Changes were reviewed and suggestions were made to make the information more effective and easier to read. Moved by Supervisor Carrow adopt an updated public education information report to use in communicating with the public, committees, boards, agencies, and other bodies, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Frank. Roll call vote request, all voting aye, motion carried.
7. **Video:** Supervisor Turk had an emergency to he couldn't work on a video. He requested direction from the committee as to the topics for public education videos. Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of items he felt they would like in the videos. Supervisor Carrow suggested more emphasize on why is shared revenue being reduced and why are we reacting to it now. Moved by Supervisor Carrow to recommend topics for public education videos, adding "How does Richland County compare to its peer Counties?" as a bullet point, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.
8. **Press release:** Everyone took a few minutes to read the press release prepared by Chair Murphy-Lopez. After discussion, Supervisor Frank recommends adding in the press release the State Statute numbers for reference if the public wants to educate themselves. Discussion followed on when social media releases should go out compared to the newspapers. Administrator Langreck will put it on the Department Head agenda. Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to adopt a press release for dissemination to local newspapers and Facebook pages of County departments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Unbehaun. Moved by Frank to amend to "social media of County departments and social media recommended by Mayor Coppernoll" in place of "Facebook pages of County departments", 2<sup>nd</sup> by Unbehaun. All voting aye on amendment, motion carried. All voting aye, on motion, motion carried. (CHECK WHEN THEY VOTED)
9. **Script and guests for radio:** This will be postponed.
10. **Research on other referendums:** Supervisor Carrow is doing research on County and school referendums and will hopefully have it ready for the next meeting.
11. **Correspondence with other committees:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed the schedule of who was assigned to present to which committees

# Richland County

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

---

- 12. Presentation at Richland County Towns Association meeting:** It is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 in the County Board room.
- 13. Presentations at Richland Center City Council and School Boards:** Mayor Coppernoll invited a representative to present City Council on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30. Chair Murphy-Lopez will ask Dave Turk to attend City Council. School Board Representative Unbehaun will get approval from the School Board President to present to the School Board.
- 14. Future agenda items:** None
- 15. Adjournment:** Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm in the County Board Room. All voting no, motion failed. Next meeting to be Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 in the County Board Room. Moved by Supervisor Frank to adjourn at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Carrow. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Cheryl Dull  
Richland County Assistant to the Administrator



# Richland County

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

---

**September 27th, 2022**

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Tuesday, September 27th, 2022, in the County Board Room at the Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, in person and by WebEx.

Committee members present included: County Board Members David Turk, Steve Carrow, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Kerry Severson; School Board representative Erin Unbehaun and City of Richland Center Mayor Todd Coppernoll.

Also present was: Administrator Clinton Langreck taking minutes and logged on by Web Ex, several members of the general public, County Board Members Don Seep and Ingrid Glasbrenner, Jo Ann Krulatz from WRCO logged in by Web Ex., and John Couey was present from MIS running the teleconferencing.

Not present: Supervisor Bob Frank

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Administrator Langreck verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, County Board members, WRCO, County department heads, Richland Observer, Valley Sentinel and a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board.
3. **Agenda Approval:** Moved by Supervisor Turk to approve the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Severson. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from September 7<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> meetings will be presented at the next meeting. No action taken.
6. **Public education information report a. Wage comparisons with peer counties, b. Staffing level comparisons with peer counties, C. Other updates:**

Committee reviewed track changes to the education presentation. The committee discussed the compensation and staffing levels with consideration given to demographic data points. Motion to adopt an updated public education information report to use in communicating with the public, committees, boards, agencies, and other bodies, and refer staffing comparison information to the HHS & Veterans Standing Committee for use at their upcoming 9/29/22 meeting, was made by supervisor Severson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Carrow. All Ayes, motion carried.
7. **Responses from the public to press release and social media posts:** Supervisor Murphey-Lopez presented responses from the public as posted through social media. The committee reviewed the comments. The press release was distributed to the local newspapers and radio. Committee members shared some of the feedback received from members of the community.
8. **Report on presentation at Richland County Towns Association meeting:** Supervisor Carrow and Supervisor Severson reported on the educational presentation given to the towns association on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Supervisor Carrow reported delivering the report to the members in attendance that evening.
9. **Research on other referendums:** Committee discussed the upcoming referendum with Washington County and information exchanged at the WCA conference in which we learned that the Wisconsin Counties

# Richland County

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

---

Association may be able to support out referendum with public relations support.

10. **Correspondence with other committees:** Discussion was had on the process of receiving reports from the other committees, and what actions the ad hoc committee may be taking in building a recommendation to present to Finance and Personnel.
11. **Presentation at Richland Center City Council and School Boards:** Supervisor Turk will be attending the next city council meeting. Representative Unbehaun will be investigating the ability for the ad hoc committee to attend the Richland Center School Board Meeting for presentation.
12. **Future Agenda Items:** None given
13. **Adjournment:** Next meeting will be Monday, October 10th @ 6:30 pm in the County Board Room. Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Clinton Langreck  
Richland County Administrator

# How Does Shared Revenue Impact Richland County's Budget Situation?

Any time you talk about local government funding struggles in Wisconsin, the topic of state shared revenue comes up. It's been an issue for quite a while now.

State shared revenue comes from the State of Wisconsin. **Every local government agency in Wisconsin receives this revenue.**

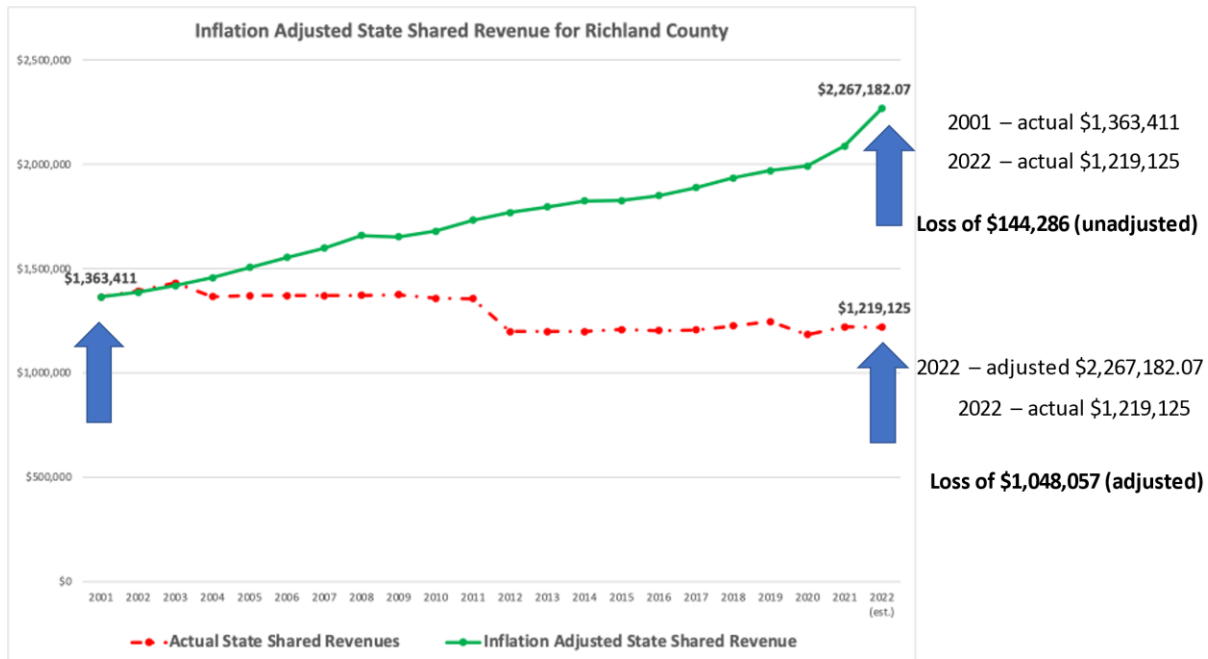
Shared revenue was originally put in place in the early 1900's to share state income tax revenue with local governments in exchange for a reduction in property that could be taxed. In the 1970's, shared revenues were begun to be used to level the playing field between communities with lower income tax revenues and wealthier parts of the state.

**In 2001, Richland County received \$1.36 million** that could be spent on general government activities such as public safety, human services, and highways. **In 2021, the State shared \$1.22 million, a drop of 12% or over \$144,000.** If the amount received in 2001 was adjusted for inflation, the amount would be \$2.27 million, for a difference of almost a million 50 thousand dollars. This isn't the only reason for our budget problems, but it's a big contributor.

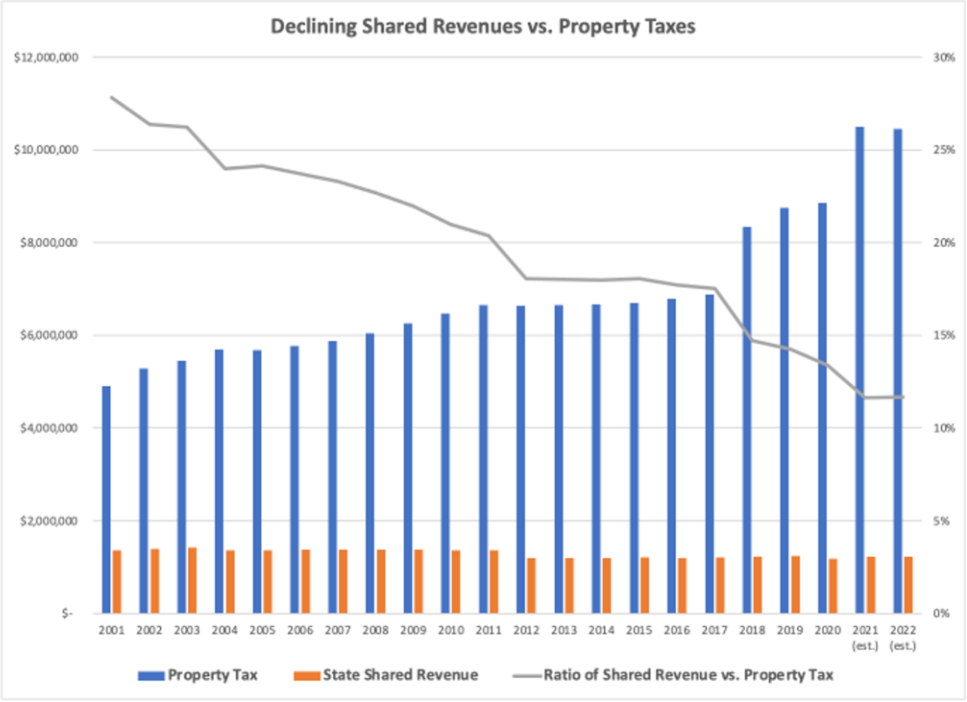
Why is shared revenue from the State declining? According to a Wisconsin Policy Forum report from 2013, the following state spending priorities shifted after 1995:

- More focus on school aid
- More property tax credits for individuals rather than governments
- Corrections spending rose rapidly as the state built and filled prisons
- State funding for Medicaid (i.e., BadgerCare) repeatedly rose since its 1999 inception
- Decelerating state tax revenues between 1999 and 2012, due to
  - Indexing the state income tax to inflation in 1999
  - State income tax rates being lowered in 2000
  - Recessions in 2001 and 2008-09

This has happened over several state administrations under both Republicans and Democrats with the net result being a squeeze on county funding.



This chart shows the increasing reliance on property tax funding for Richland County since 2001. The gray line tracks state shared revenue as compared to county tax levy. In 2001, shared revenue was over 25% as much as the county's tax levy. In 2022, that has dropped to less than 12%.



# How Does the State of Wisconsin Limit Richland County's Ability to Tax?

There are two parts to Richland County's property tax levy – operating and debt service.

Operating Levy can be used for any purpose. We use those funds to operate all the services the county provides, from Sheriff's Deputies to Courthouse Staff, office supplies and utility bills. Only certain types of expenses can be funded by the Debt Service Levy, like construction projects, purchasing equipment and a few other things.

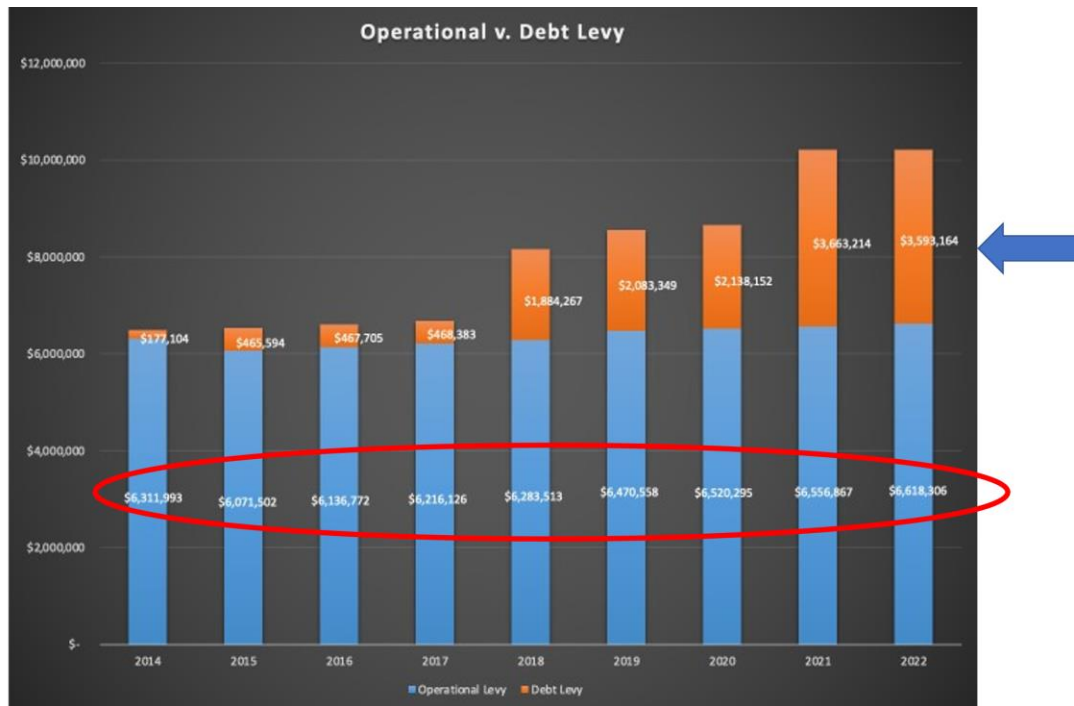
We count these separately because the State of Wisconsin has different laws about how the County can levy property taxes for each part:

1. The first law says the County **cannot raise the operating levy at a rate faster than the increase net new construction**. According to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the State implemented an earlier version of this law in 2006 because property taxes were rising as state shared revenue declined. The allowed increase for Richland County has been less than 1% in the last three years and less than 2% in 7 of the last 8 years.
2. The second law says the County **can raise the debt levy at the rate it chooses**, as long as the total outstanding debt stays below 5% of the value of all property in the County.

Over the past 8 years, **the operating levy has stayed relatively flat (circled in red), while the debt levy has risen at a faster pace, partly** to pay for the new building at Pine Valley Community Village (between 2017 and 2018) and highway/building maintenance needs (between 2020 and 2021). For a few years, the county has been shifting capital expenses (building maintenance and equipment purchases) to debt service to free up more operational revenue for other expenses like salaries. That put off the operational budget crisis for a while, but we've taken that about as far as we can now.

With the state's levy restrictions, we aren't able to increase our operating levy fast enough to keep pace with increasing costs. The operating levy has only gone

up a little over \$306,000 in the last nine years (2014-2022). That's less than a 5% total increase in that time period. We're now at a point where we either have to cut costs deeply to stay within the operating levy restrictions or ask voters for the authority to raise taxes with a referendum.



## Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

**Agenda Item Name:** Public education information report

<b>Department</b>	County Board	<b>Presented By:</b>	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10/10/22	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Motion
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open Session	<b>Authority:</b>	<a href="#">Resolution 22-74</a>
<b>Date submitted:</b>	10/10/22	<b>Referred by:</b>	Motion at 9/27/22 meeting

**Recommendation and/or action language:** Motion to adopt an updated public education information report to use in communicating with the public, committees, boards, agencies, and other bodies.

**Background:** At the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee, the committee adopted a public education information report. Attached is an updated version for the committee's consideration with tracked changes, as well as a version with all changes incorporated (not tracked).

**Attachments and References:**

07A Tracked Changes Public Education 101022	07B Public Education 101022
---	-----------------------------

**Financial Review:**

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

**Approval:**

**Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)



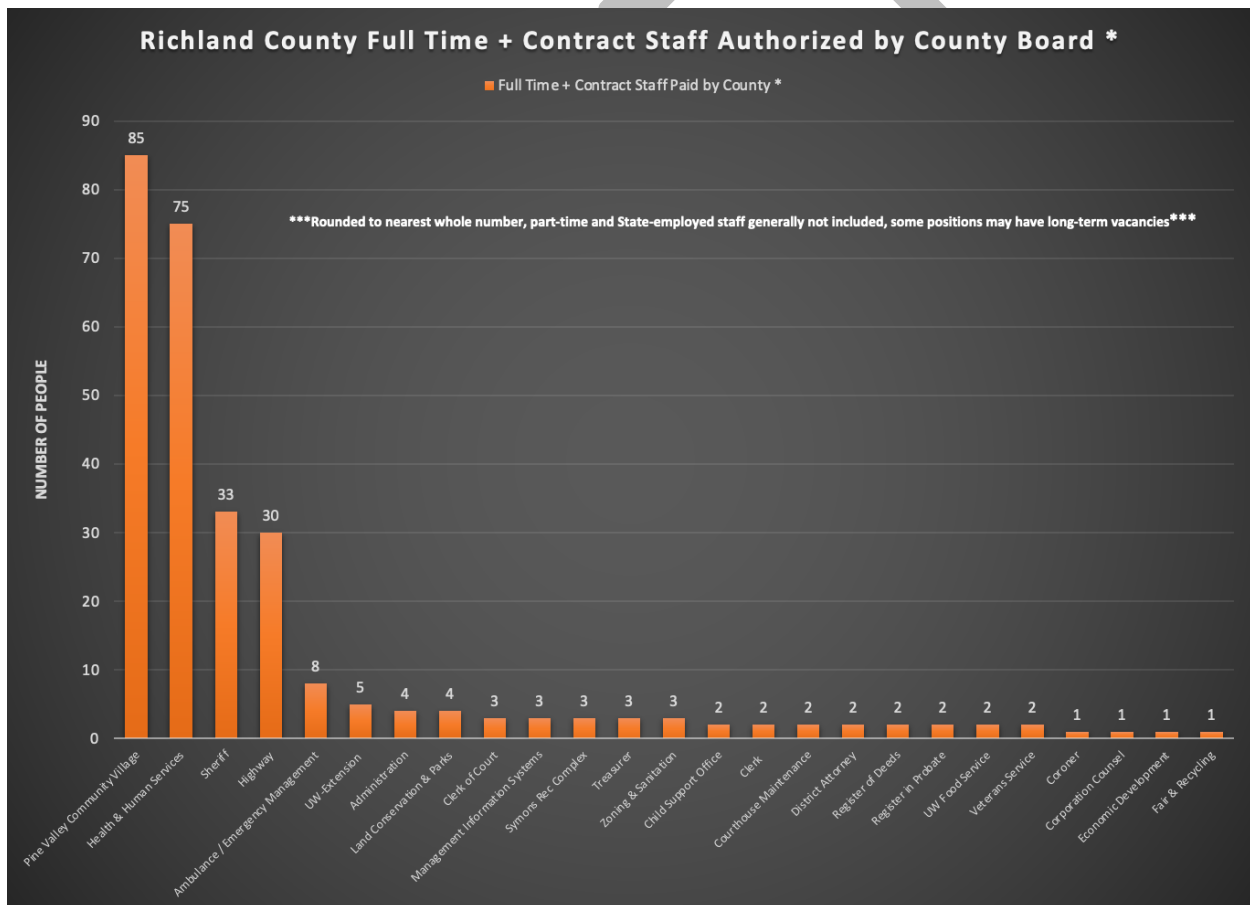
## Educational Information for Use by the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

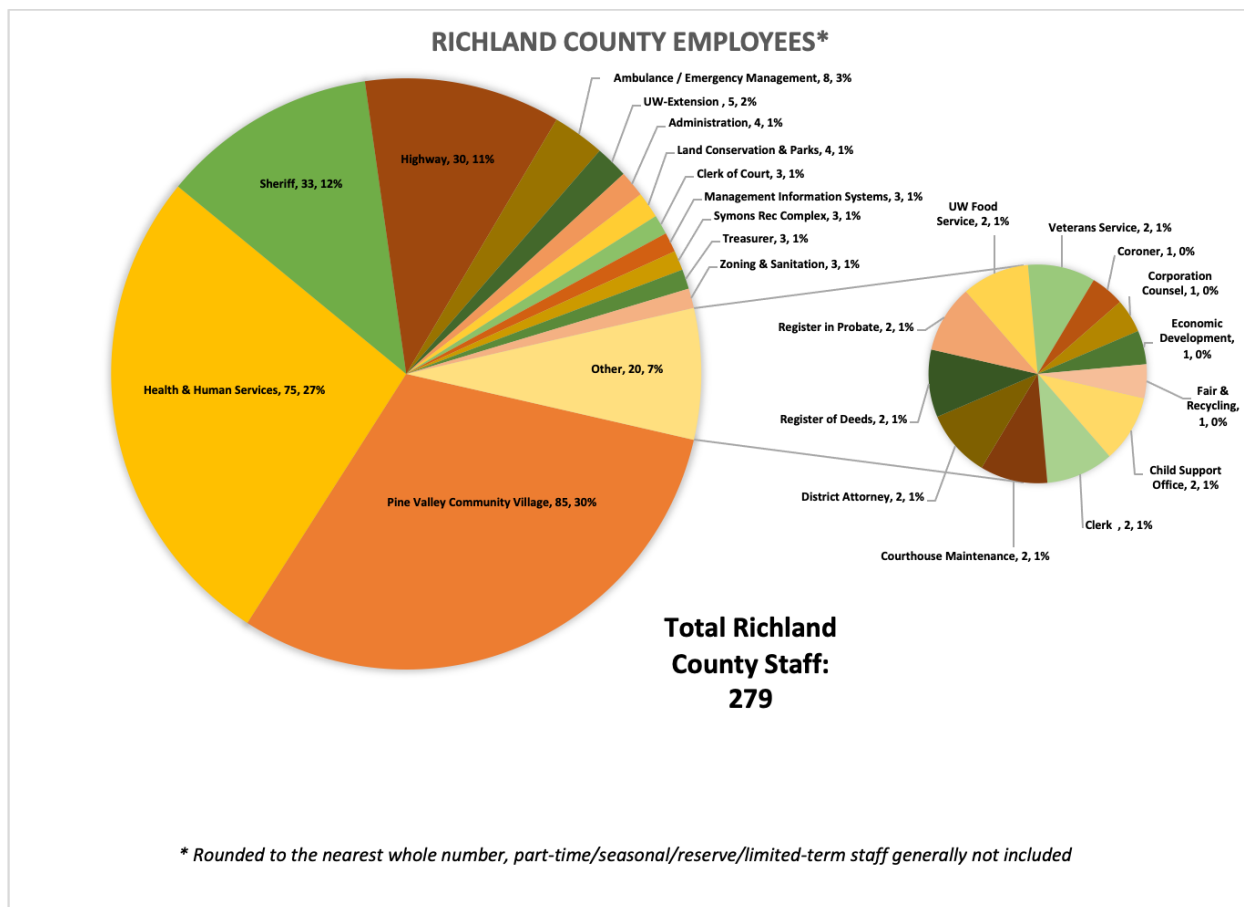
The following information provides educational context for the work of the Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee, and has the following primary purposes:

1. To serve as the basis for educational materials to be developed by the Committee so the public can better understand our mission
2. To be used as a tool for communication with County departments/committees, as well as other government agencies and their representatives

### Introduction

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee is *considering the idea of a referendum* so the voters can decide if the County's operating levy should be increased to maintain current staffing levels and services. **Staffing levels currently look like this:**





The County has a total budget of \$36 million in the current 2022 calendar year. **The budget is balanced, meaning \$36 million in expenses matches \$36 million in revenues.**

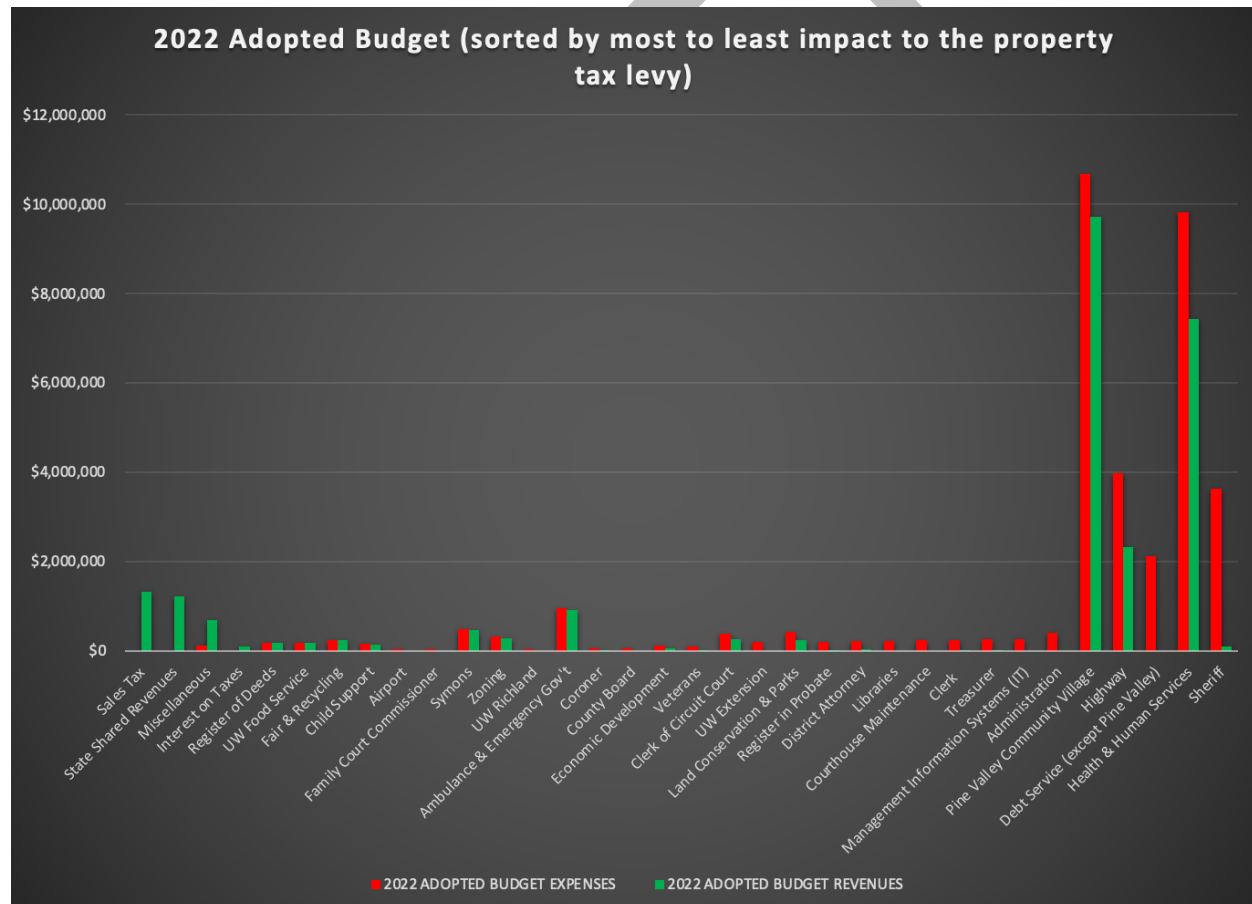
## Revenues vs. Expenses

Most County budget revenues come from other governments, typically at the federal and state levels. Some departments bring in significant amounts of revenue to offset County expenses. For example,

- The **federal government** pays for patient care at **Pine Valley Community Village**
- The **federal and state governments** pay for programming in the **Health & Human Services Department** (i.e., mental health, economic support, aging and disability resources, child protection, public health)
- The **state government** pays the **Highway Department** to maintain state-owned highways (e.g., US Highway 14, Wisconsin Highway 60)

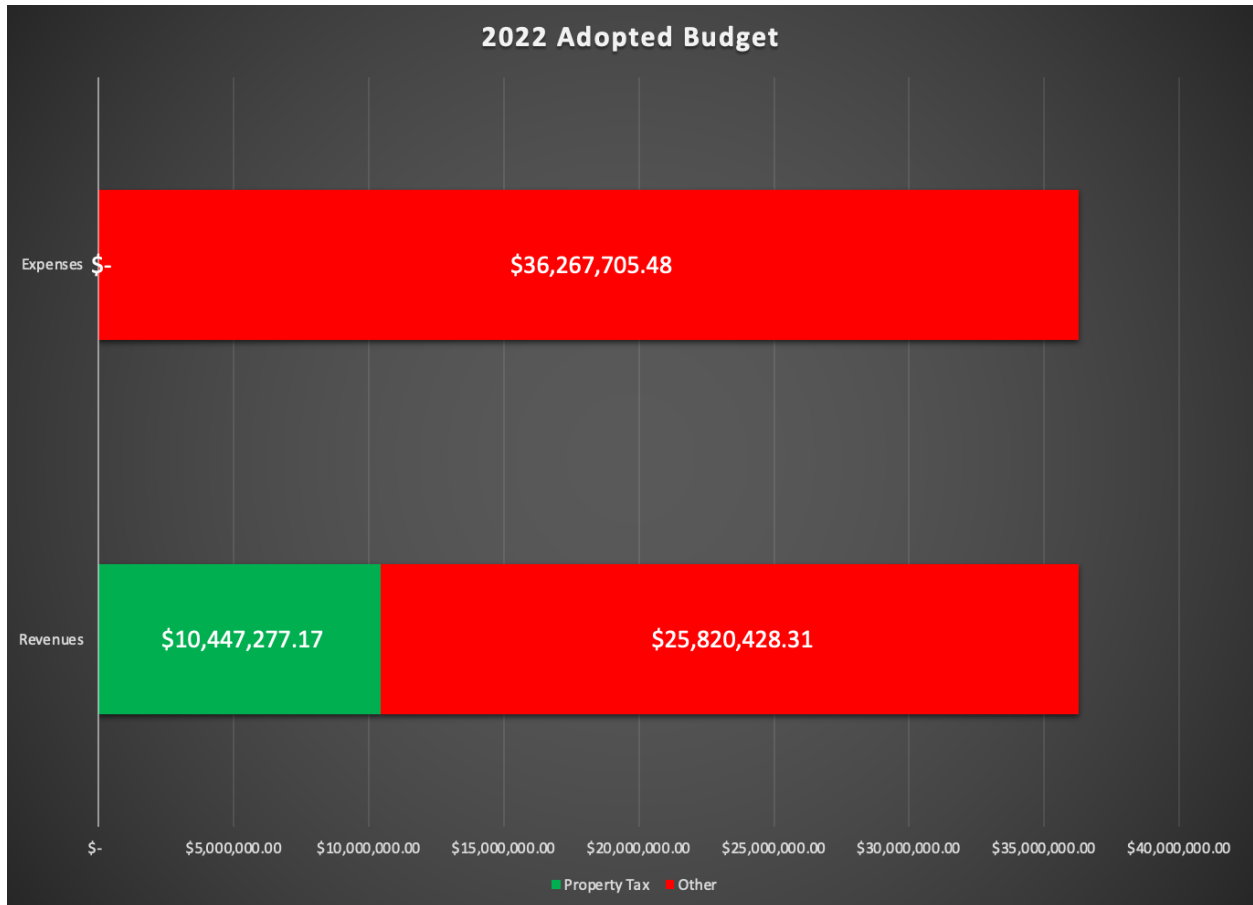
*Some of these outside revenues are reliant on matching monies from Richland County.*

Meanwhile, other departments don't have the ability to bring in very much revenue. **The expenses and revenues of all departments currently look like this:**



## The Property Tax

How does the County make up the difference in revenues and expenses for each department? **We levy a property tax**, as shown here:

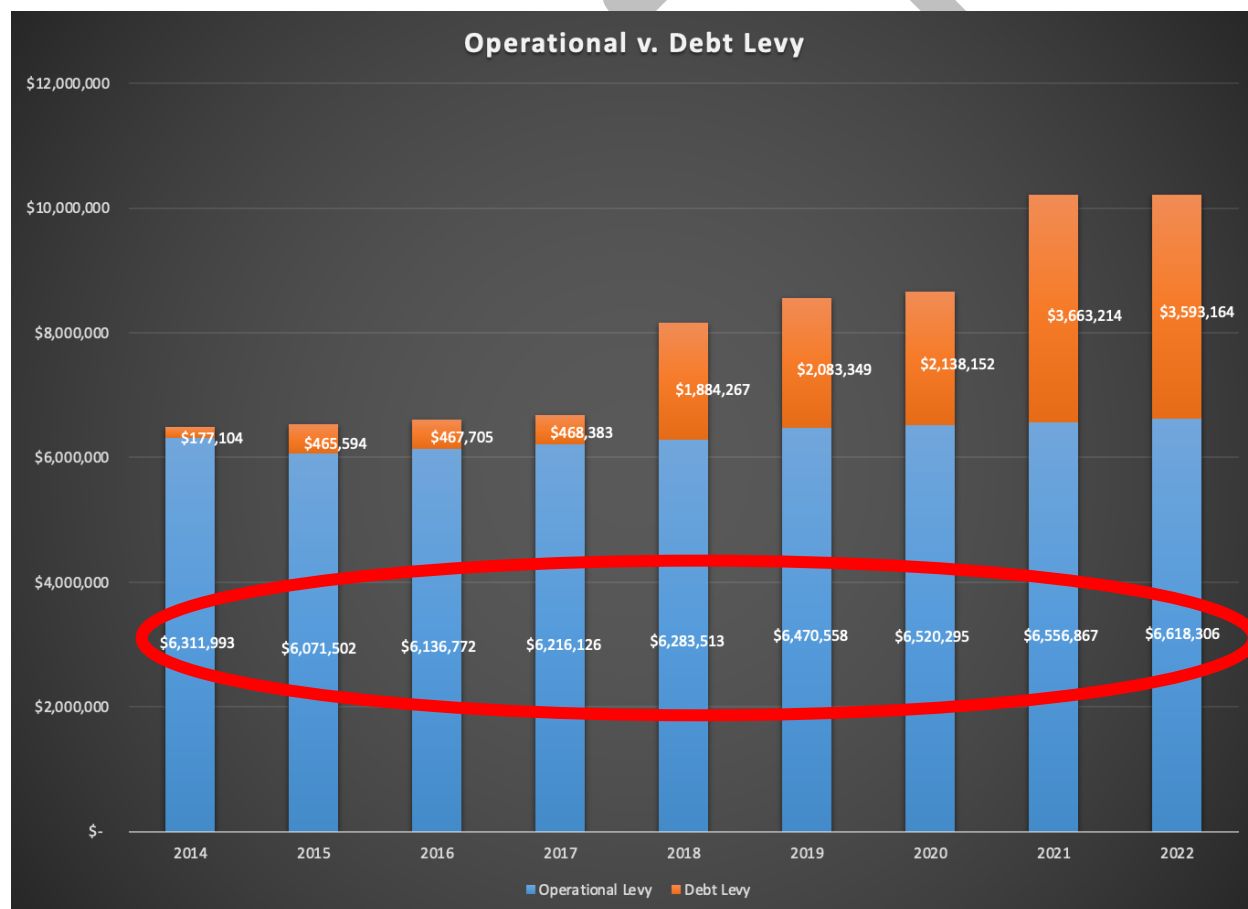


The property tax levy is divided into 2 parts: **operating and debt**. We do this because the State of Wisconsin has different laws about how the County can levy property taxes for each part:

1. The first law says the County **cannot raise the operating levy at a rate faster than net new construction**.<sup>1</sup> According to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the State implemented an earlier version of this law in 2006 because property taxes were rising as state shared revenue declined.<sup>2</sup>
2. The second law says the County **can raise the debt levy at the rate it chooses**, as long as the total outstanding debt stays below 5% of the value of all property in the County.

Over the past 8 years, **the operating levy has stayed relatively flat, while the debt levy has risen at a faster pace** to pay for the new building at Pine Valley Community Village (between 2017 and 2018) and highway/building maintenance needs (between 2020 and 2021).

The County's Referendum Ad Hoc Committee is looking at the possibility of asking the voters to approve a more substantial increase to the operating levy (circled in red below):



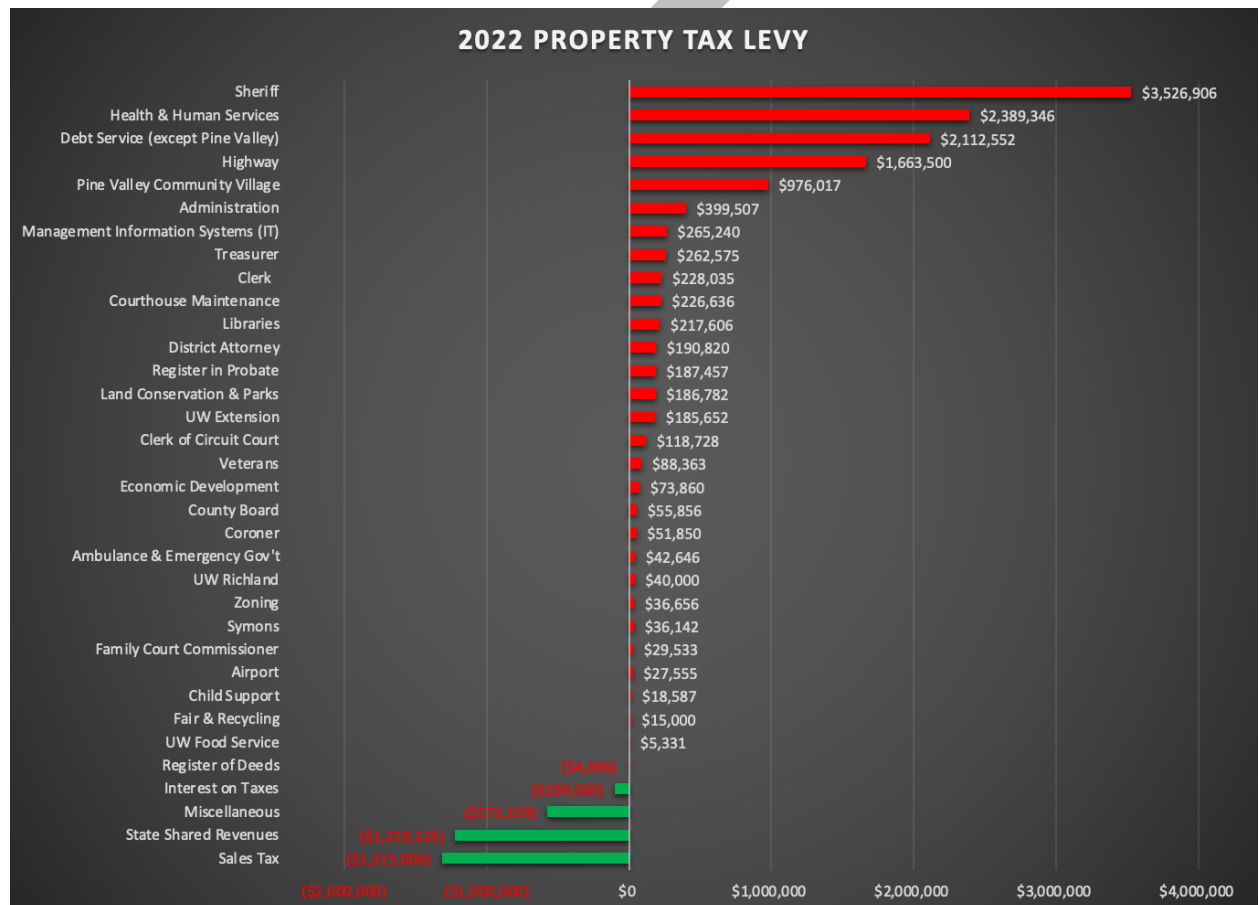
<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/66/vi/0602>

<sup>2</sup> [https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13\\_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf](https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf)

## Departments Relying on the Property Tax

Which departments benefit most from property taxes? If federal and state revenues, as well as fees for services (such as those collected by the Ambulance, Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds, Symons, UW Food Service, and Zoning Department) are set aside, the **following 4 departments use the most property tax** (as shown in the chart below):

1. Sheriff
2. Health & Human Services
3. Highway
4. Pine Valley Community Village

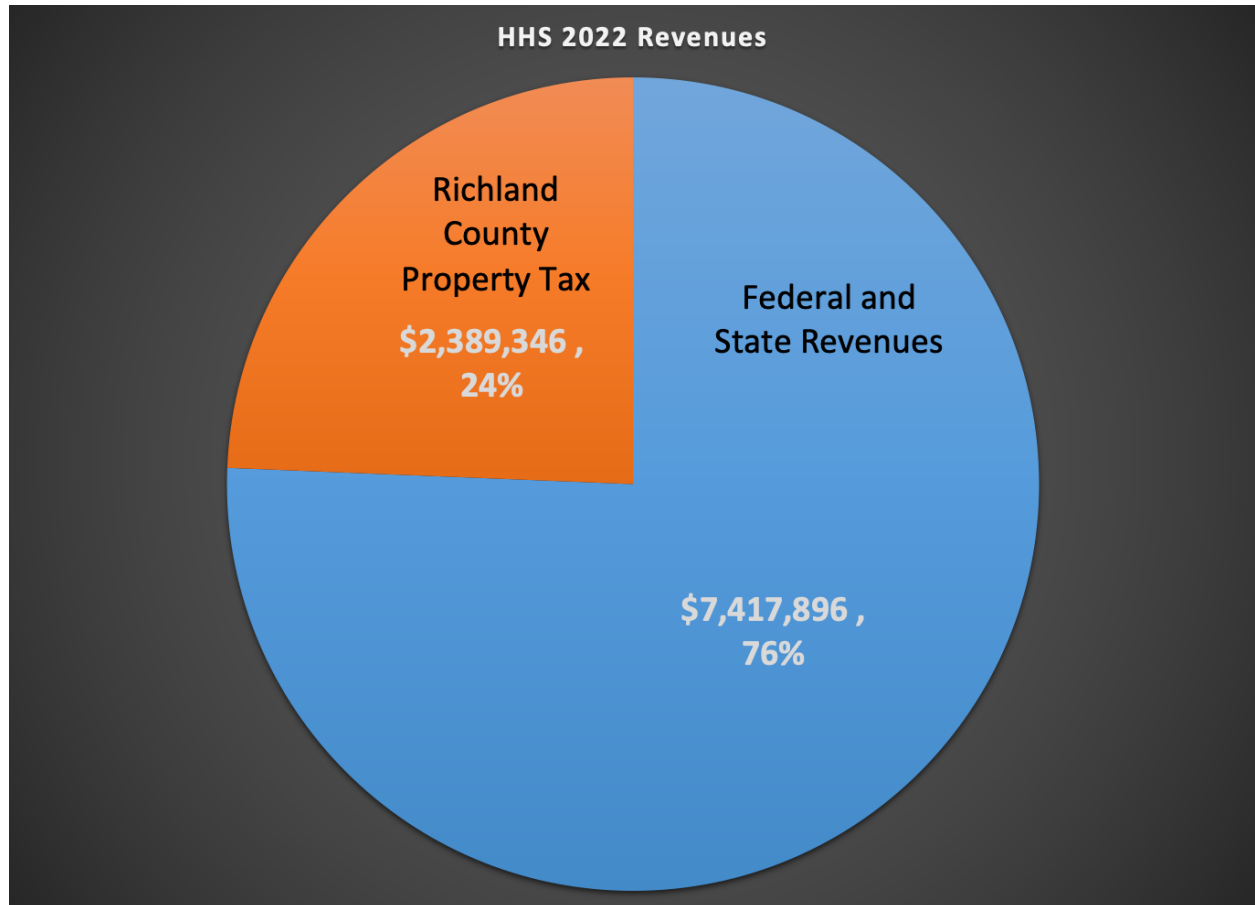


Next, we'll look at three categories that often have associated misconceptions: 1) Health & Human Services, 2) Pine Valley Community Village, and 3) State Shared Revenue.

### Category #1: Health & Human Services

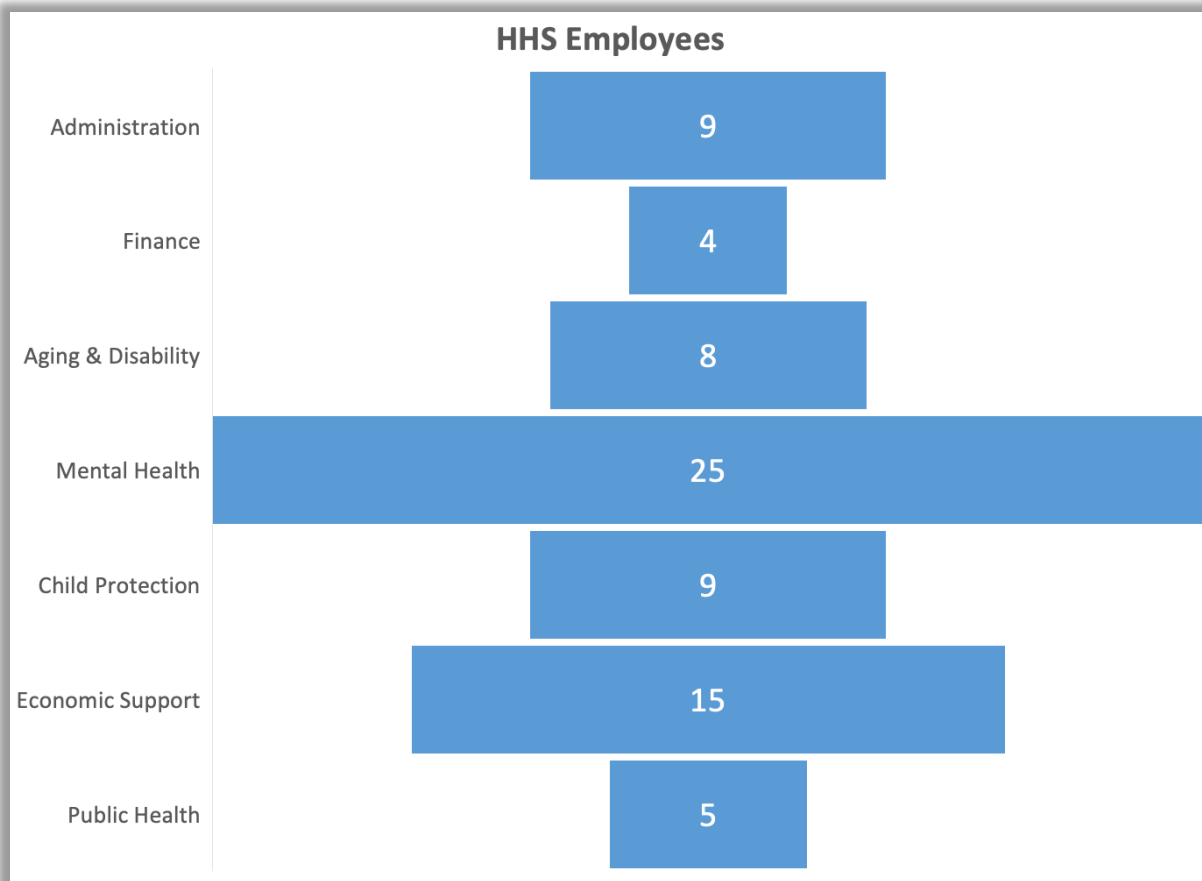
As shown in previous charts, the Health & Human Services (HHS) Department has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of employees out of any department at the County. At the same time, this department uses less property tax revenue than the Sheriff's Department (\$2.4 million for HHS vs. \$3.5 million for Sheriff). Why is this?

It's because **HHS brings in a lot of revenue from the federal and state governments.**



If the County reduced its property tax revenue contribution to HHS, some of these federal and state revenues would be lost.

People also often think HHS is primarily a welfare agency. **While economic support is important, it's one of only 5 main areas of service to residents.** More employees are dedicated to mental health services than economic support, as shown in this chart:



*Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Health & Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee to better understand how federal and state funding is tied to employee positions.*



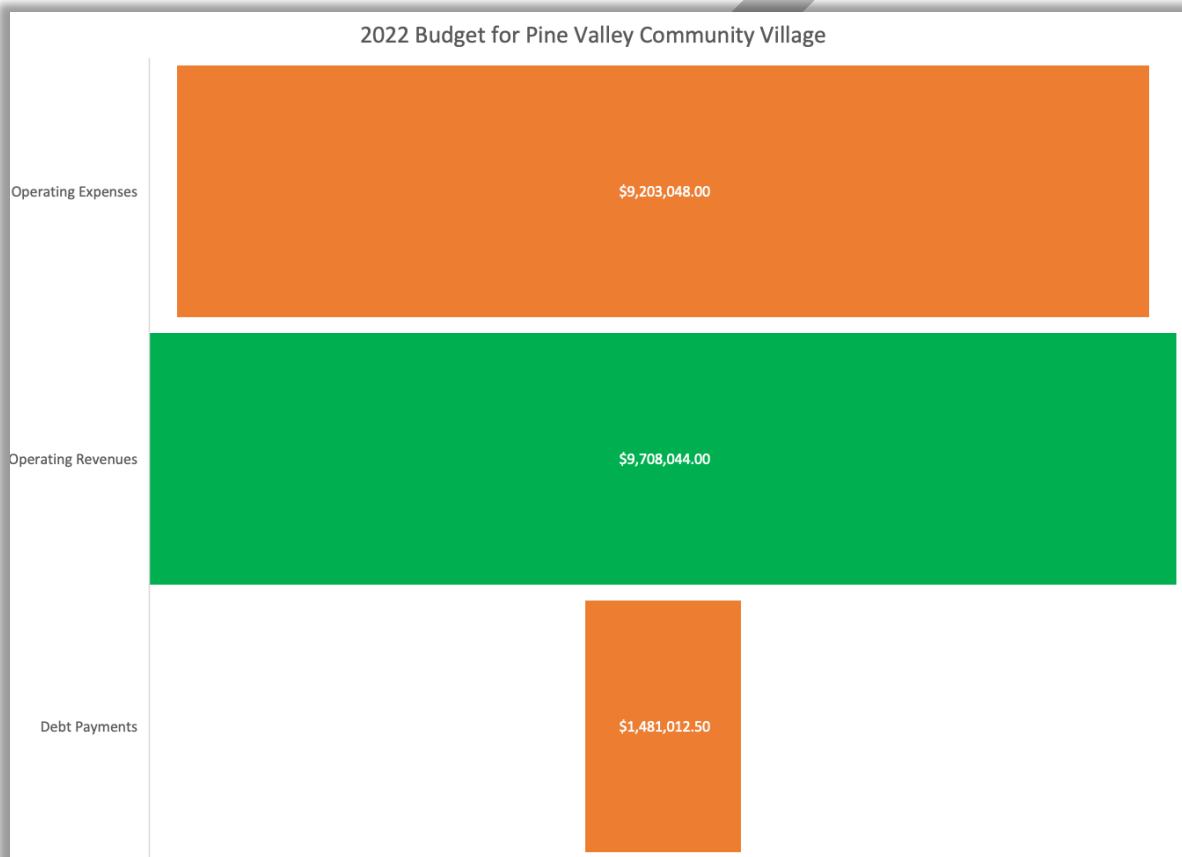
## Category #2: Pine Valley Community Village

It is often said that Pine Valley Community Village:

1. Makes a profit for the County
2. Doesn't pay its debt

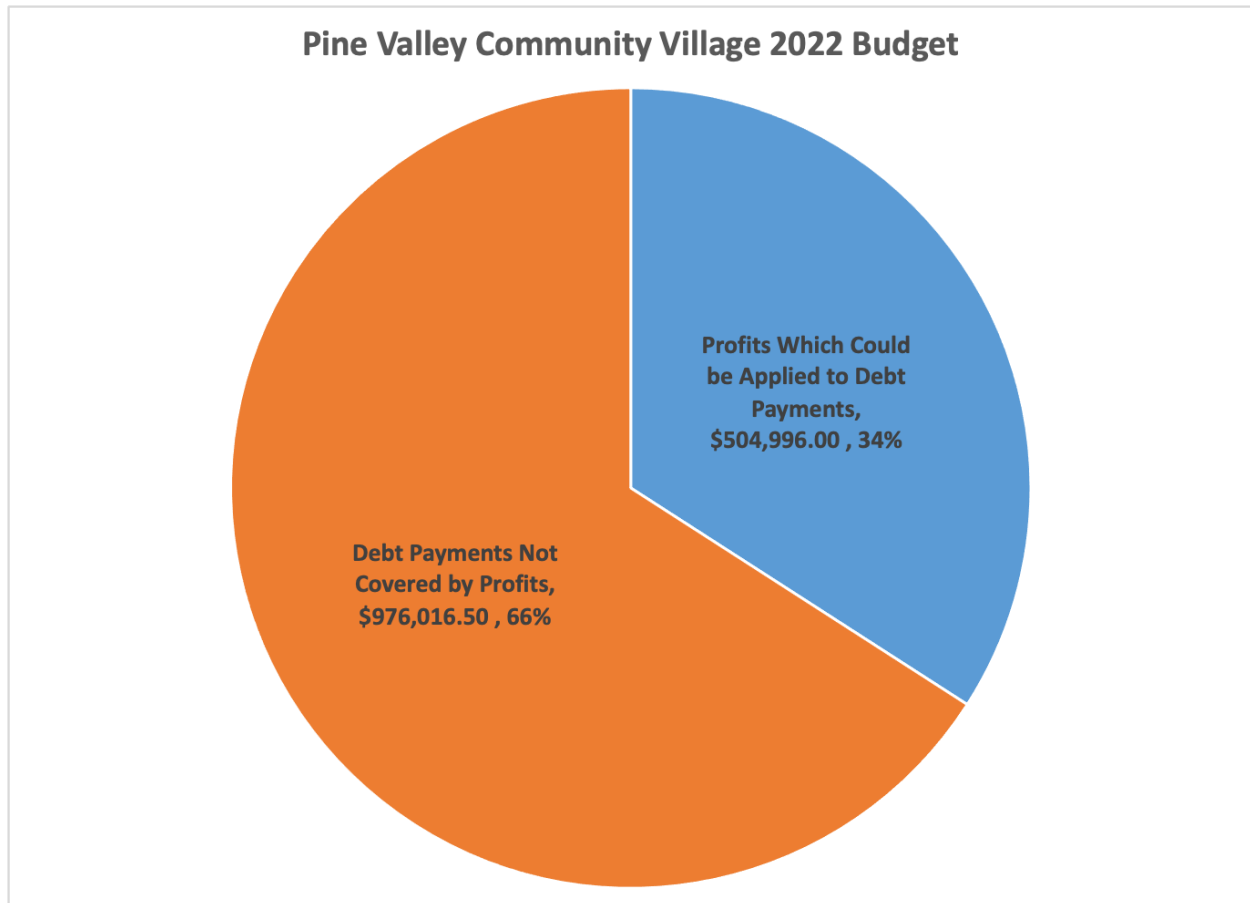
### ***Which is true?***

There is some truth to both statements, but neither is totally accurate. Because of the state laws referred to earlier, the County keeps track of Pine Valley's budget in two categories – operating and debt:



Statement #1 would be more accurate if it said, **“Pine Valley makes an operating profit for the County.”**

In recent years, the operating profit from Pine Valley has been applied to offset the operating expenses of other departments at the County. **If that operating profit was instead applied to debt payments, it would cover one-third of annual debt payments**, as shown in the following chart:



So, statement #2 would be more accurate if it said, **“Pine Valley’s operating profits could cover one-third of its debt payments, if those profits were not used by the County Board to offset the operating expenses of other County departments.”**

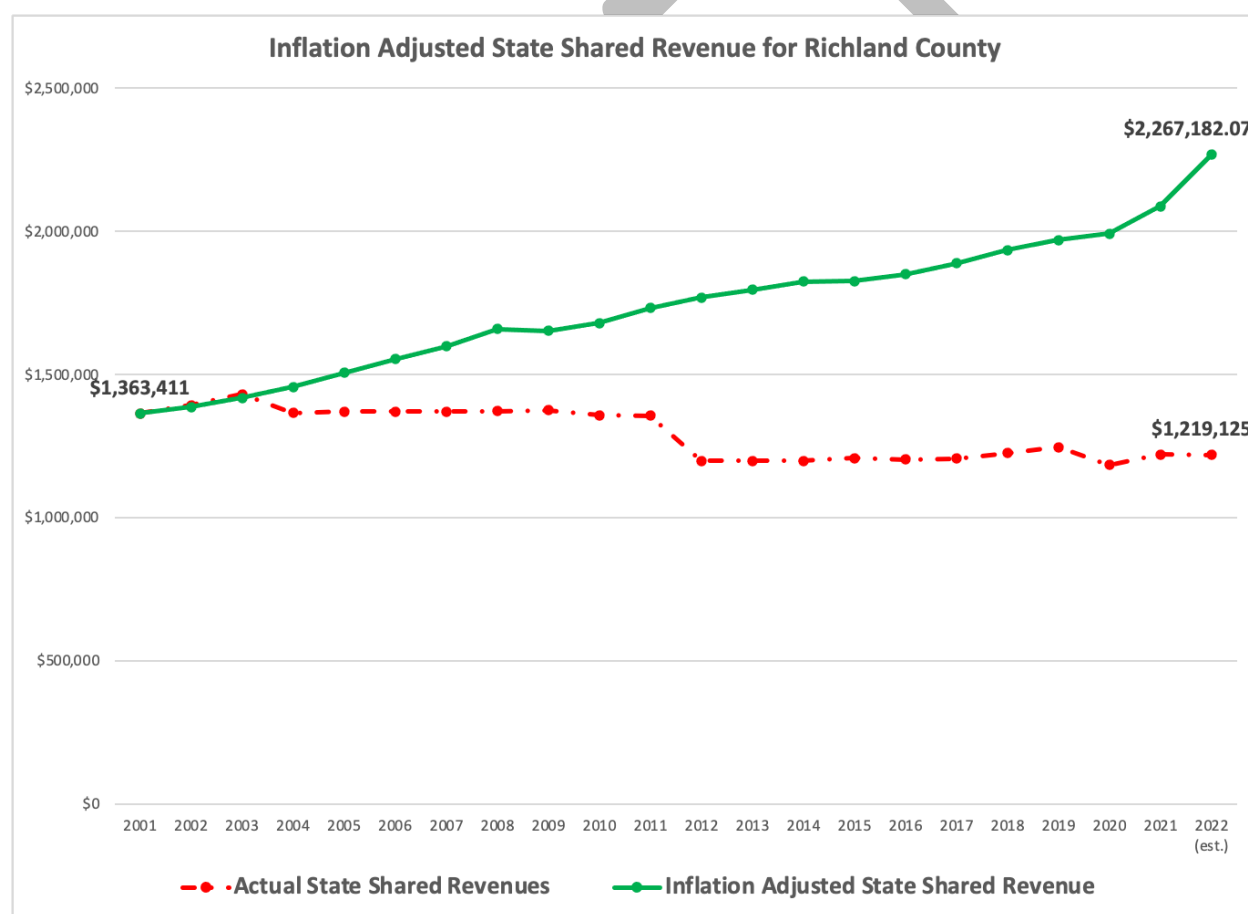
*Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee to better understand if operating profits can be increased to cover 50% of its debt payments.*

### Category #3: State Shared Revenue

State shared revenue comes from the State of Wisconsin. **Every local government agency in Wisconsin receives this revenue.**

Shared revenue was originally put in place in the early 1900's to share state income tax revenue with local governments in exchange for a reduction in property that could be taxed<sup>3</sup>. In the 1970's, shared revenues were begun to be used to level the playing field between communities with lower income tax revenues and wealthier parts of the state.<sup>4</sup>

**In 2001, Richland County received \$1.36 million** that could be spent on general government activities such as public safety, human services, and highways. **In 2021, the State shared \$1.22 million, a drop of 12%.** If the amount received in 2001 was adjusted for inflation<sup>5</sup>, the amount would be \$2.27 million.



3

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational\\_papers/january\\_2017/0018\\_shared\\_revenue\\_program\\_informational\\_paper\\_18.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2017/0018_shared_revenue_program_informational_paper_18.pdf)

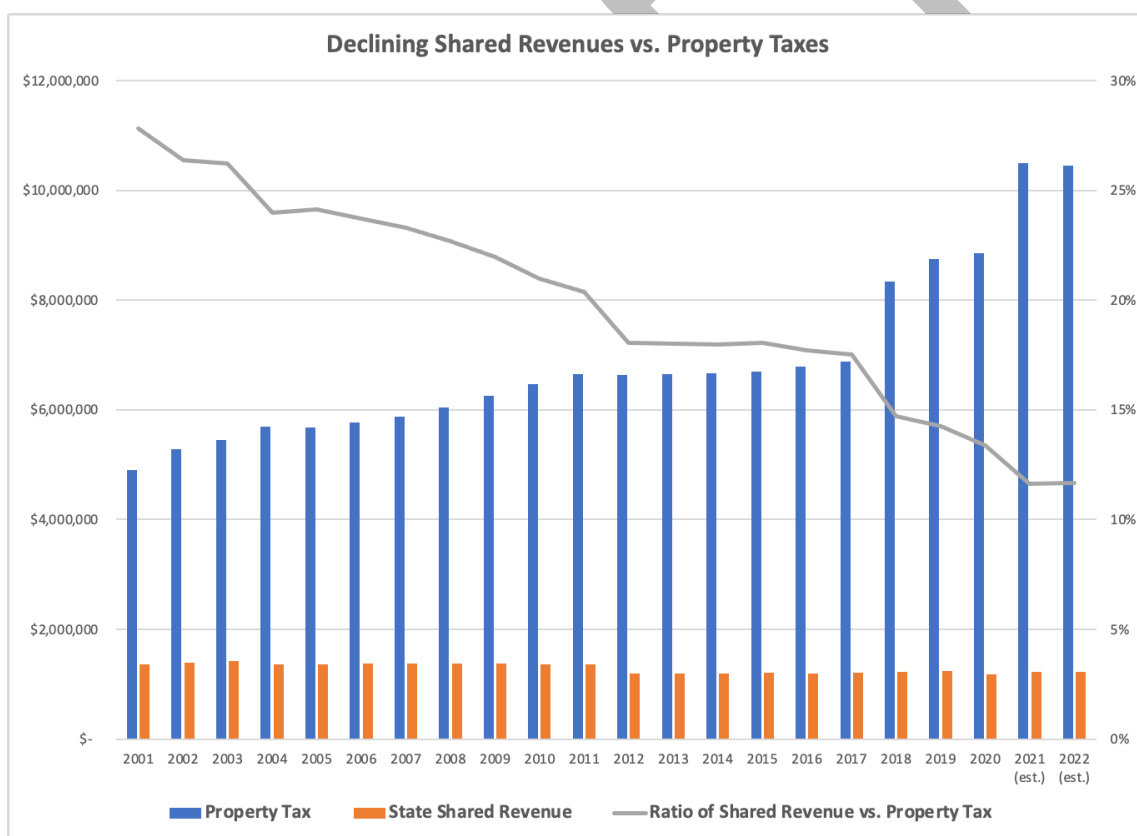
<sup>4</sup> <https://lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/5904/8-22-The-Municipality-State-Local-Partnership>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/about-us/monetary-policy/inflation-calculator/consumer-price-index-1913->

Why is shared revenue from the State declining? According to a Wisconsin Policy Forum report from 2013, the following state spending priorities shifted after 1995<sup>6</sup>:

- More focus on school aid
- More property tax credits for individuals rather than governments
- Corrections spending rose rapidly as the state built and filled prisons
- State funding for Medicaid (i.e., BadgerCare) repeatedly rose since its 1999 inception
- Decelerating state tax revenues between 1999 and 2012, due to
  - Indexing the state income tax to inflation in 1999
  - State income tax rates being lowered in 2000
  - Recessions in 2001 and 2008-09

Since shared revenues from the State of Wisconsin are declining, this means **Richland County has had to rely more on property taxes to finance departments that need additional revenues**, as shown in the following chart:



*Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Finance & Personnel Standing Committee to better understand the development of the State of Wisconsin budget, as it relates to state shared revenues.*

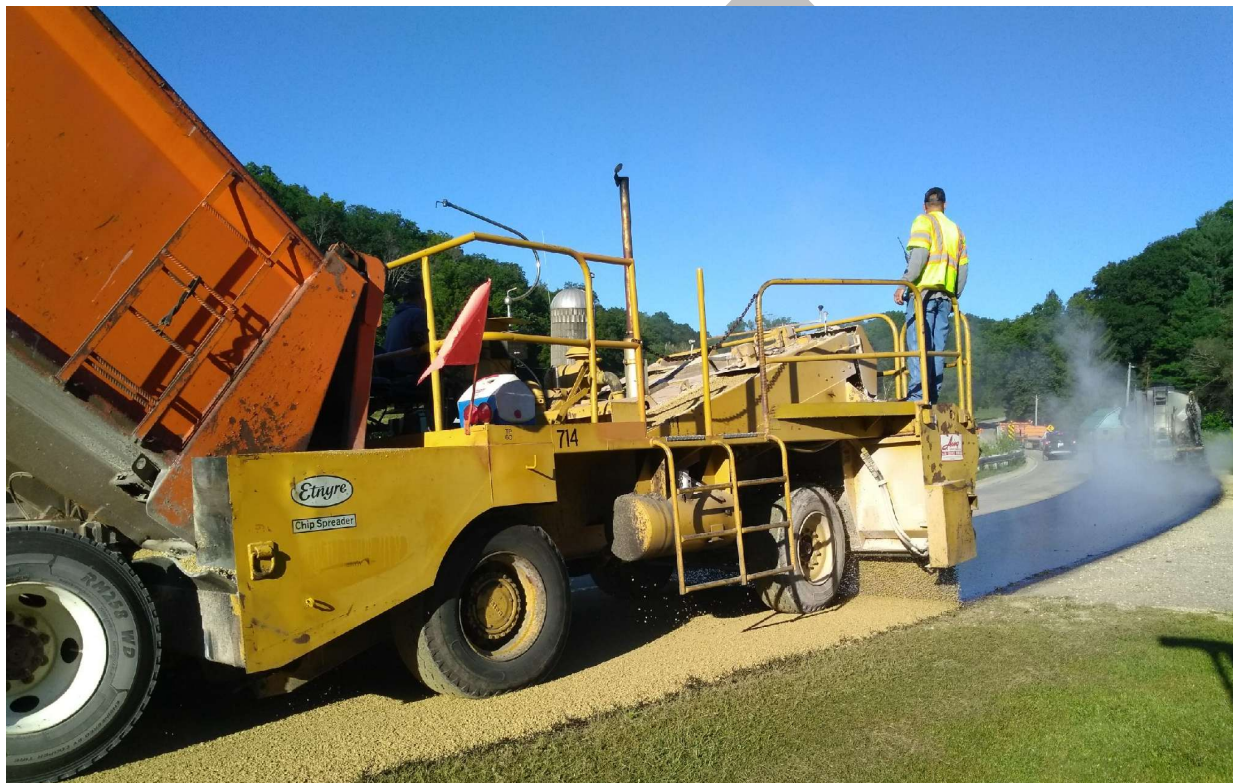
<sup>6</sup> [https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13\\_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf](https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf)

#### Category #4: Highway Department

People often ask, “What happened to the wheel tax the County Board passed?”

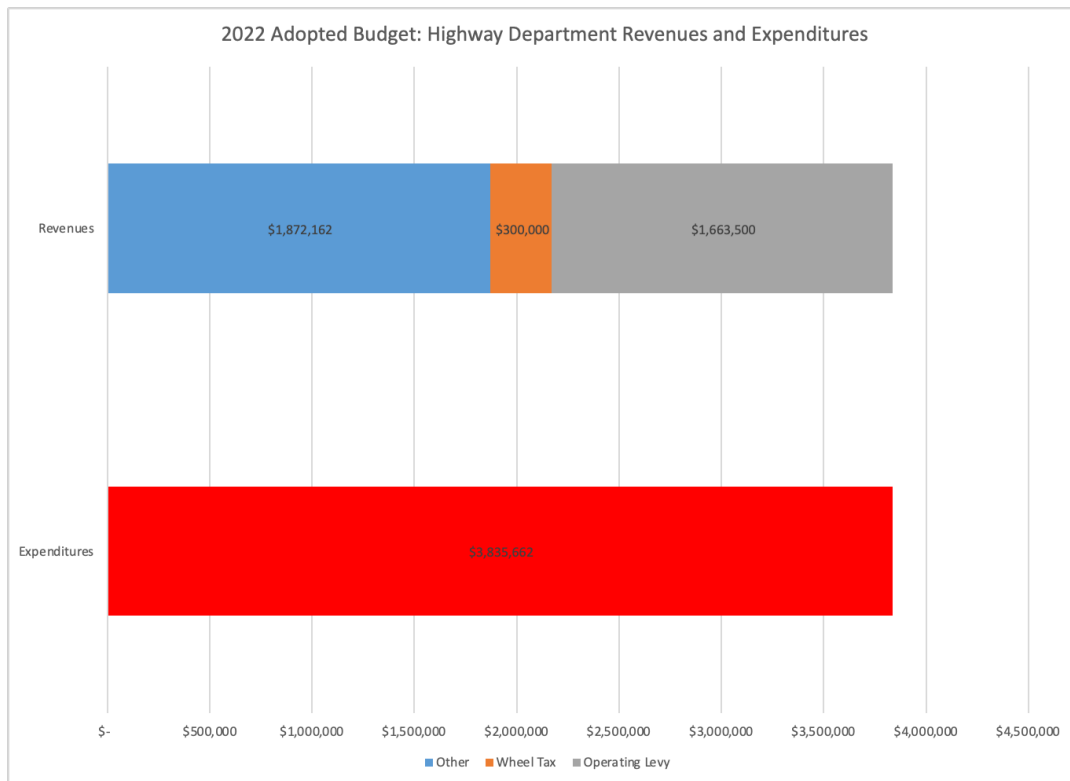
In 2019, the County Board approved an annual \$20 wheel tax for vehicles registered within Richland County. The additional revenue of approximately \$300,000 per year has been used to re-start the County’s sealcoating program for County highways. In 2022, 20 miles of County highways were seal coated, with the majority of funds coming from wheel tax revenues:

1. County Highway D between Bloom City and West Lima (6 miles)
2. County Highway JJ between US Highway 14 and WI Highway 130 (4 miles)
3. County Highway Q between Richland Center and County Highway E (7 miles)
4. County Highway SR between County Highway AA and WI Highway 80 (3 miles)



*Wheel tax revenues are being used to seal coat County highways, like County Highway D near West Lima.*

Wheel tax revenues make up less than 10% of County Department revenues, as shown in the following chart.

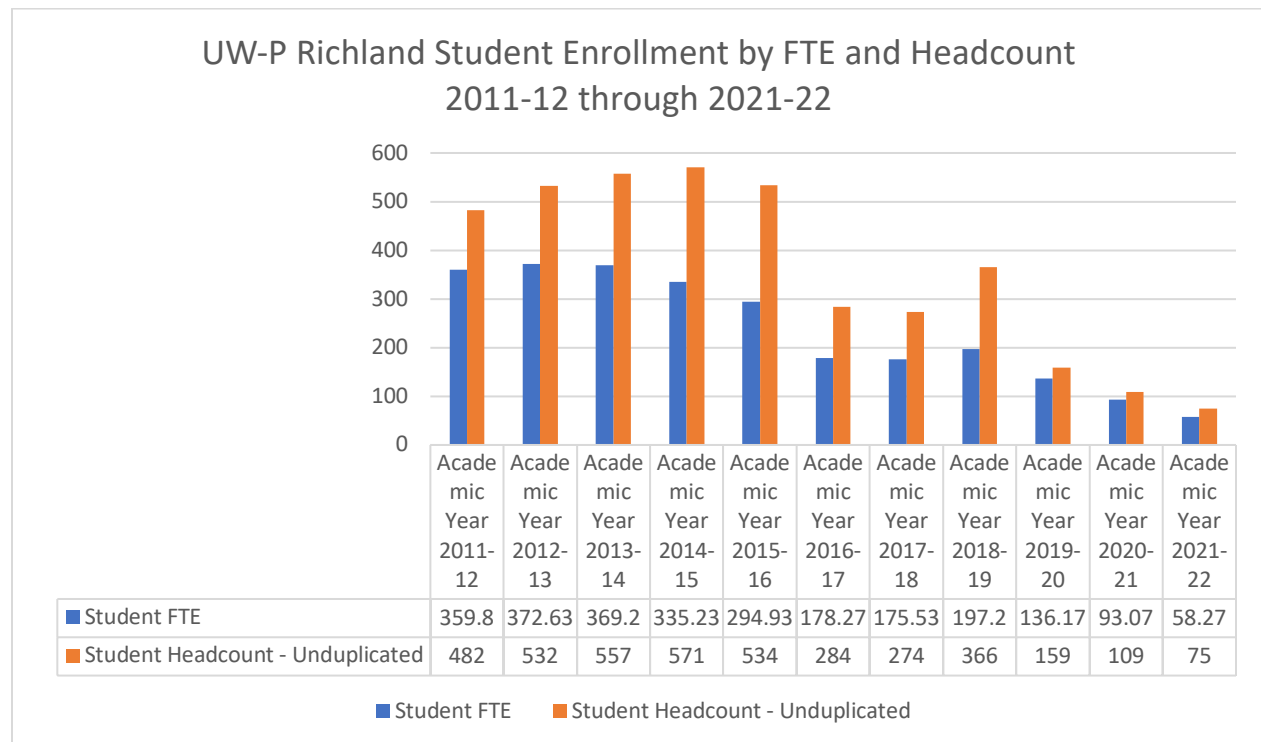


The Referendum Committee is currently working with the Highway Department to better understand the following figures highlighted in yellow provided to the Committee by the County's Finance Officer.

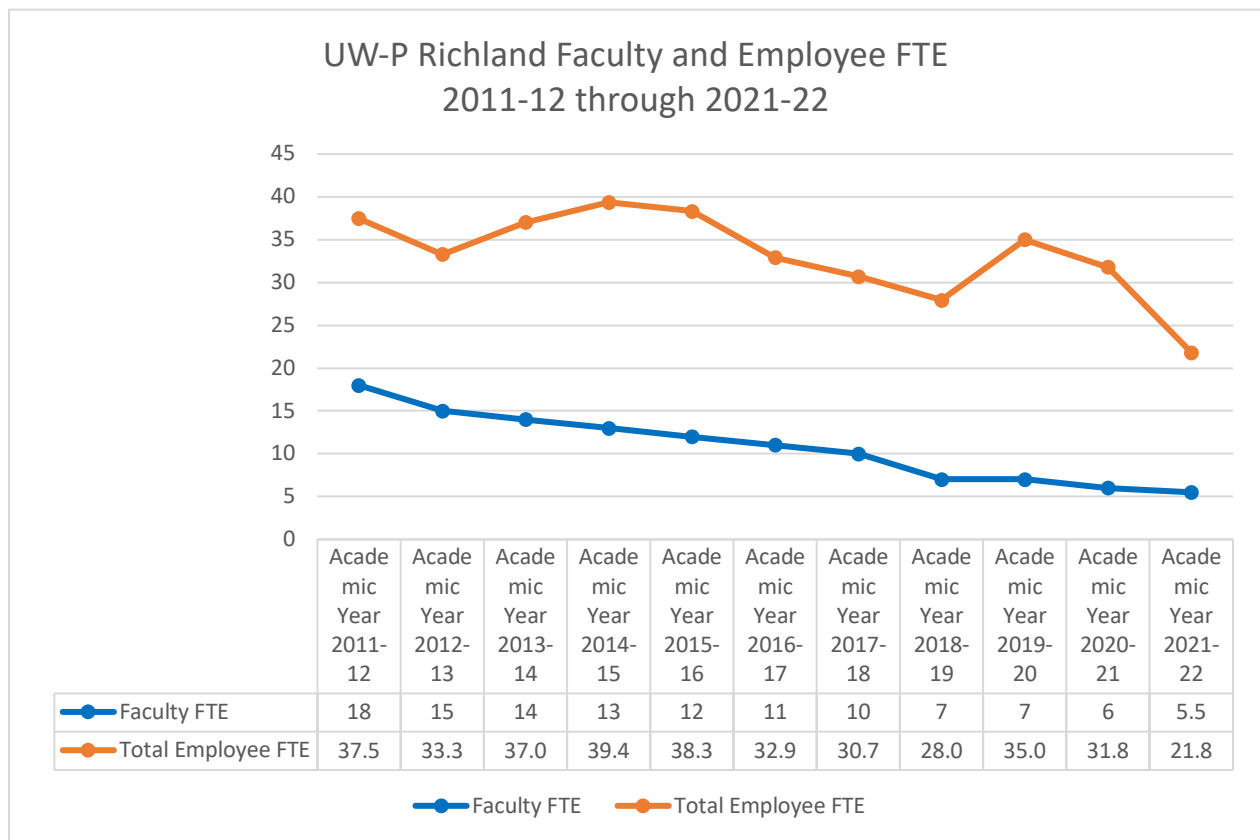
	Expenditures	Other Revenues	Operating Levy
State Maintenance Agreement	1,197,400.00	1,197,400.00	0.00
State Aid - General Transportation Aid	0.00	576,904.16	0.00
Wheel Tax	0.00	300,000.00	0.00
Equipment (Machinery)	483,000.00	1,824,560.00	483,000.00
County Highway Road Construction Projects	1,225,500.00	0.00	0.00
County Highway Routine Maintenance	2,154,365.68	269,240.91	1,166,028.70
Town Bridge 50/50 Cost Share	14,471.30	0.00	14,471.30
<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>3,835,661.86</b>	<b>2,172,161.86</b>	<b>1,663,500.00</b>

### Category #5: UW-Richland Campus

Many people have heard student enrollment has declined at UW-Richland. Staff numbers have also declined, in part due to the drop in student enrollment, and in part due to funding cuts by the State of Wisconsin. The following charts and notes show this decline, and come from UW-Platteville's Chief Data Officer.



- 1) *The drop in overall enrollments between Academic Years 2015-16 and 2016-17 represents the discontinuation of the Academic Alliance program, which was piloted in 1997 at UW-Richland in partnership with Richland Center and Ithaca high schools and discontinued in 2015-16.*
- 2) *The bump in enrollment in Academic Year 2018-19 represents a one-time counting methodology change in which distance education students were credited to a local campus if their home zip code was in that campus' area. This methodology was only used in that single year.*



- 1) *The dip in employee FTE in 2018-19 may well reflect shuffling of staff reporting lines that occurred during Collaborative Integration. Additionally, a shift from handling teaching load with full-time faculty to use of multiple adjuncts to ensure that smaller classes needed by students for degree completion could be offered impacted the fluctuations in non-faculty-staff from 2017-18 through 2020-21.*

As stated in Richland County Resolution 22-72, Requesting the State of Wisconsin Support the UW Colleges to Where it was Supporting them in 2015:

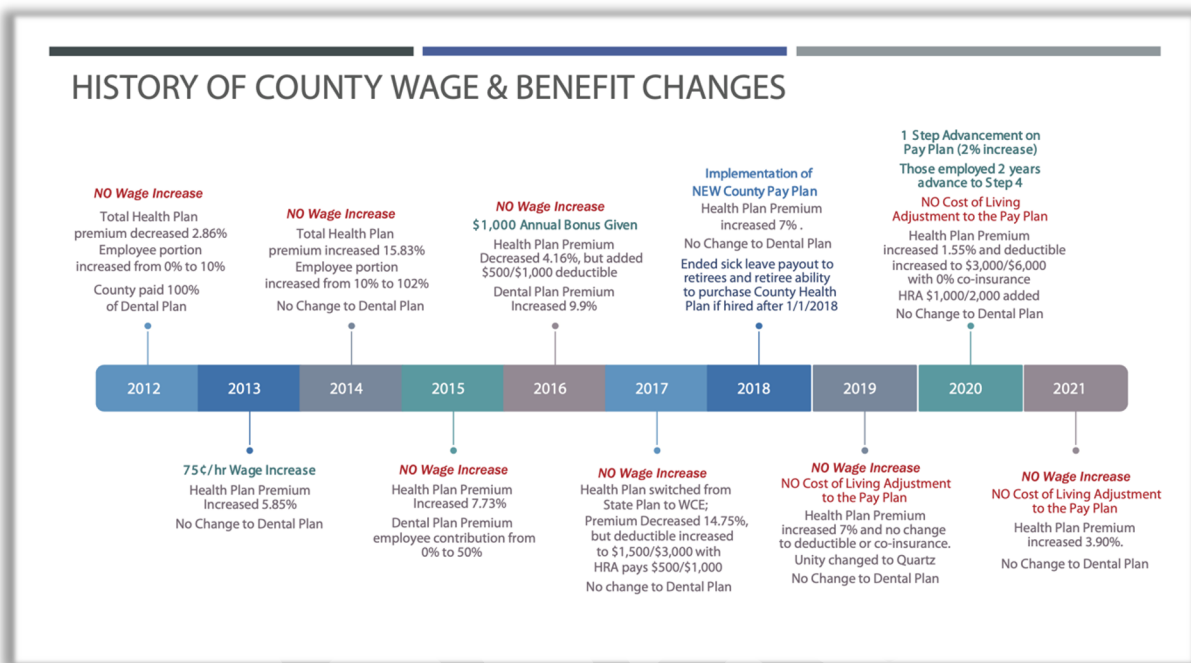
- Starting in 2016-17 state support for UW-Richland decreased by 28% (\$822,641) compared to 2015-16 and has decreased each year since.
- The campus no longer has the positions of Dean, 5 Associate Student Services coordinators, 1 custodian, 1 Library Assistant, 1 Continuing Education Coordinator, 3 Financial Specialists, and 1 First Year Initiative Coordinator
- No new or replaced professors have been hired since 2015.

There is also no longer a recruiter focused on UW-Richland. Recruiting now happens by UW-Platteville staff simultaneously for all 3 campuses (UW-Baraboo, UW-Richland, and UW-Platteville).



## Where Do We Go from Here?

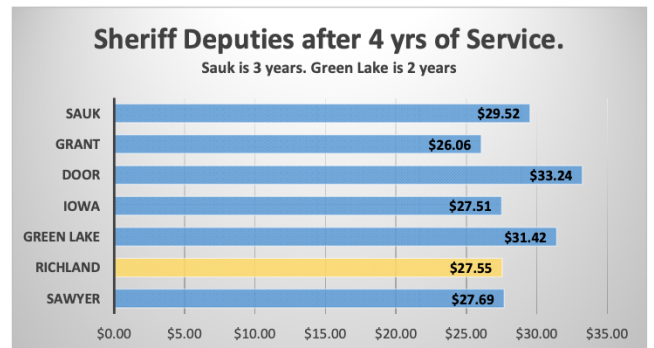
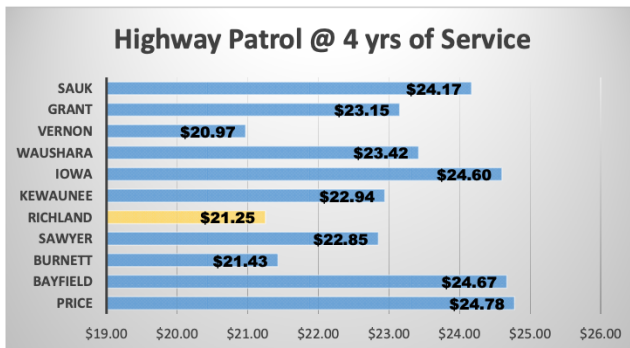
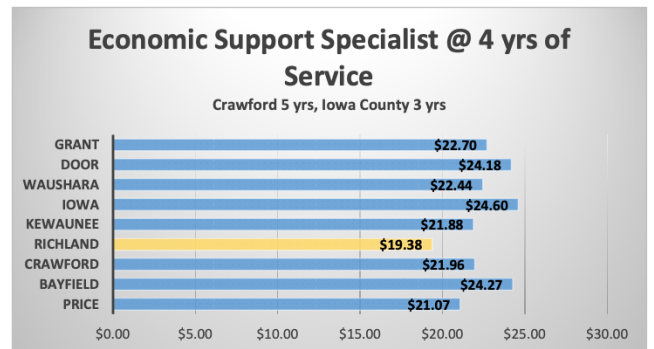
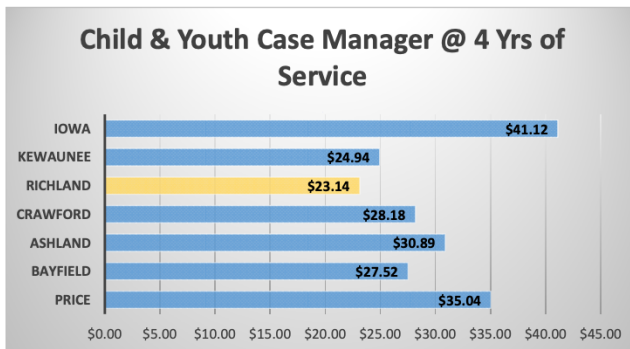
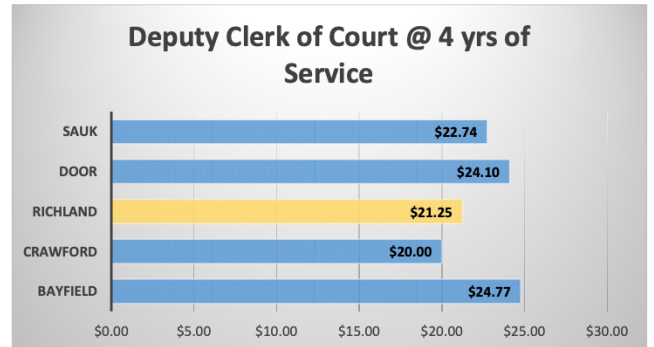
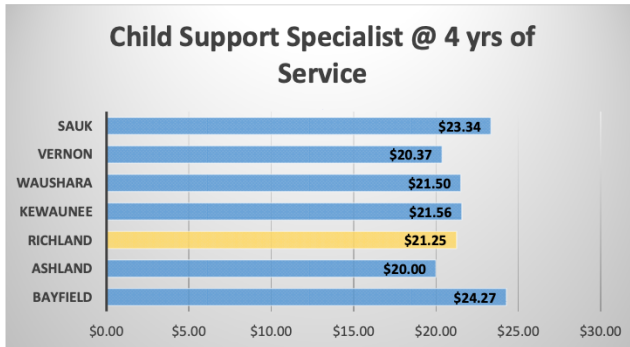
Over the past decade, Richland County has been responding to the State of Wisconsin's policies by **skipping annual pay increases and reducing health insurance benefits**, as shown in the following graphic.



Earlier this year, Richland County adopted a Strategic Plan<sup>7</sup> that determined that path is no longer sustainable, with a **commitment to annual pay increases for employees**.

<sup>7</sup> <https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Richland-County-Strategic-Plan-Chapter-2-Operations.pdf>

Current wages for select positions show how Richland County compares to peer counties in the following charts:



Current staffing levels for County departments show how Richland County compares to peer counties in the following charts:

Department	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Kewaunee****	Iowa*****	Grant*****	Sauk*****
Population of County	17,300	16,200	16,500	20,600	23,600	51,900	65,800
Pine Valley Community Village	85				54	112	125
Health & Human Services	66	48	47	42	49	110	195
Sheriff	33	46	39	37	49	57	53
Highway	30	26	22	28	42	52	62
Ambulance / Emergency Management	8	1	1	2	2	2	2
UW-Extension	5	6	2	6	6	6	7
Administration	4	2	5	6	5	5	13
Land Conservation & Parks	4	15	10	9	4	4	12
Clerk of Court	3	5	8	4	4	9	15
Management Information Systems	3	4	2	2	3	5	14
Symons Rec Complex	3						
Treasurer	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
Zoning & Sanitation	3	11	5	1	4	4	6
Child Support Office	2	3	3	3	2	6	11
Clerk	2	4	5	2	2	4	4
Courthouse Maintenance	2	3	6	4	4	6	14
District Attorney	2	4	4	2	5	4	8
Register of Deeds	2	3	2	2	2	3	3
Register in Probate	2			3	2	3	2
UW Food Service	2						
Veterans Service	2	1	2	2	1	2	5
Coroner	1		5			1	
Corporation Counsel	1		2	1	0	1	6
Economic Development	1	1	1				1
Fair & Recycling	1					3	
Airport			4		0	0	1
Family Court	0			1	0		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>242.4</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>564</b>
*Richland County: Employees authorized by the County Board; Rounded to nearest whole number; full-time + contract staff included; part-time/seasonal/reserve/limited term staff generally not included							
** Bayfield County: Full-time employees only (no part-time employees included); Clerk of Court includes Register in Probate; Zoning includes 5 Land Records employees; Economic Development is Tourism; Land Conservation includes 11 Forestry employees							
*** Burnett County: Part-time employees included; Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Zoning includes 3 Surveyor/Land Records employees; Land Conservation includes 6 Forestry employees							
**** Kewaunee County Notes: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not shown); Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Land Conservation & Parks includes Fair and Zoning; Zoning is Land Information							
***** Iowa County: FTE employee count; Pine Valley is Bloomfield and has now closed; Administration includes 3 Finance and 1 Employee Relations staff; Zoning & Sanitation is Planning & Development; Courthouse Maintenance is Environmental Services; DA includes 1 FTE for Court Ordered Programs							
***** Grant County: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not available); Administration includes Finance & Personnel Dept staff (no Administrator); Courthouse Maintenance is Facilities & Maintenance, Grant County contributes to an Economic Development Corporation							
***** Sauk County: Individual employee count (including part-time employees) but no contracted employees are included except UW Extension; Courthouse Maintenance is Building Services; MIS includes GIS and property lister; Economic Development is Community Development Coordinator							

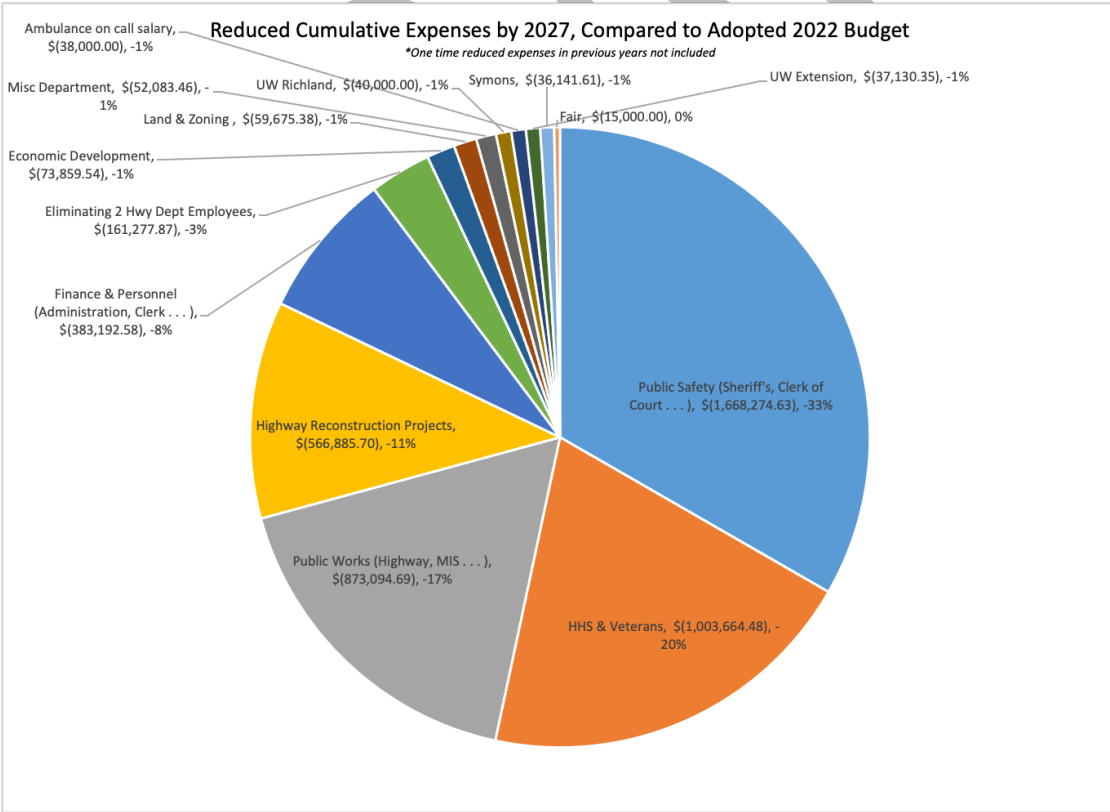
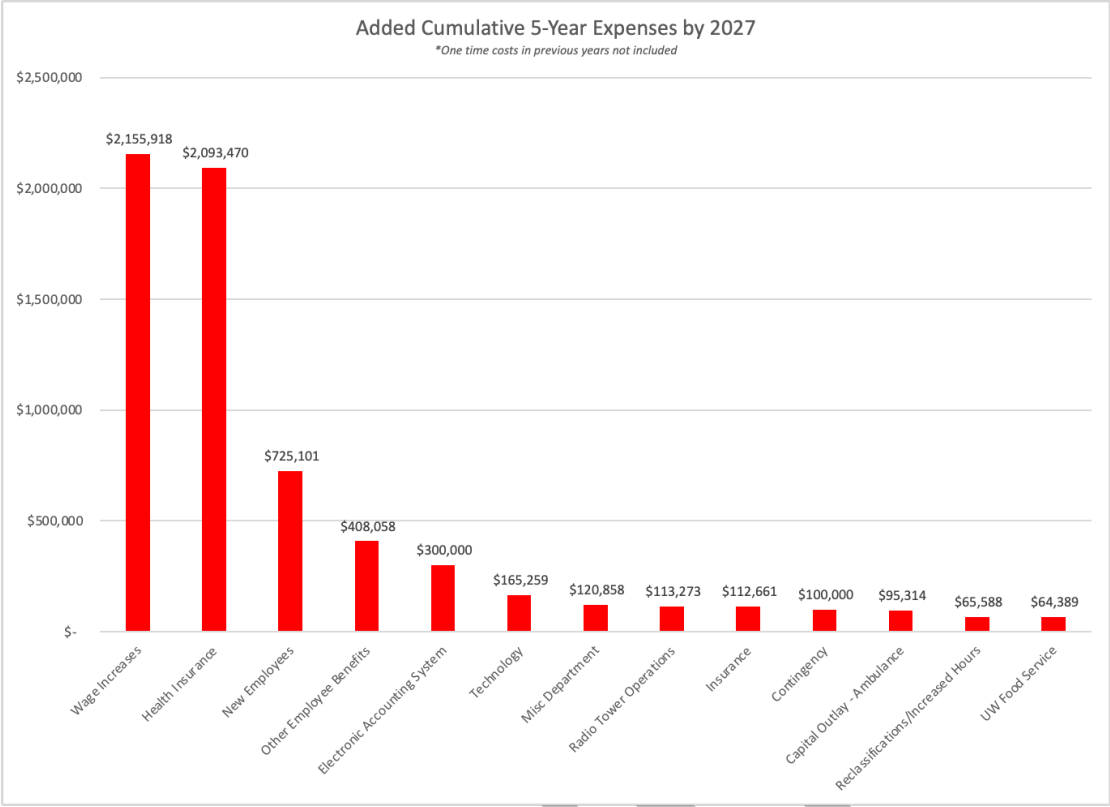
Regarding Health & Human Services Department staffing level comparisons, a detailed chart is included below to note how the numbers in the above chart were determined.

Department Name	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Iowa****	Kewaunee*****	Grant	Sauk
Population	17,300	16,200	16,500	23,600	20,600	51,900	
ADRC			15	11.6	7	17	32
Capital Consortium - Not Paid by Richland County	-9						
Health & Human Services	75		32				
Health or Public Health		11		5.8	5	26	44
Human Services		37			30		113
Justice, Division, and Support							6
Social Services				22		39	
Unified Community Services				10		28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>195</b>
*Richland County full time and contract/lease positions authorized by the County Board							
** Bayfield full-time employees in 2022							
*** Burnett County # of current employees (includes part time)							
**** Iowa County FTE authorized in 2022 budget							
***** Kewaunee County FTE authorized in 2022 budget							
***** Grant County FTE							
***** Sauk County # of current employees (includes part time)							

The County Administrator has also created a 5-year (2023 – 2027) financial plan that **estimates expenses and revenues projected by the year 2027, compared to the adopted 2022 budget**. Those expenses and revenues have been divided into four categories.

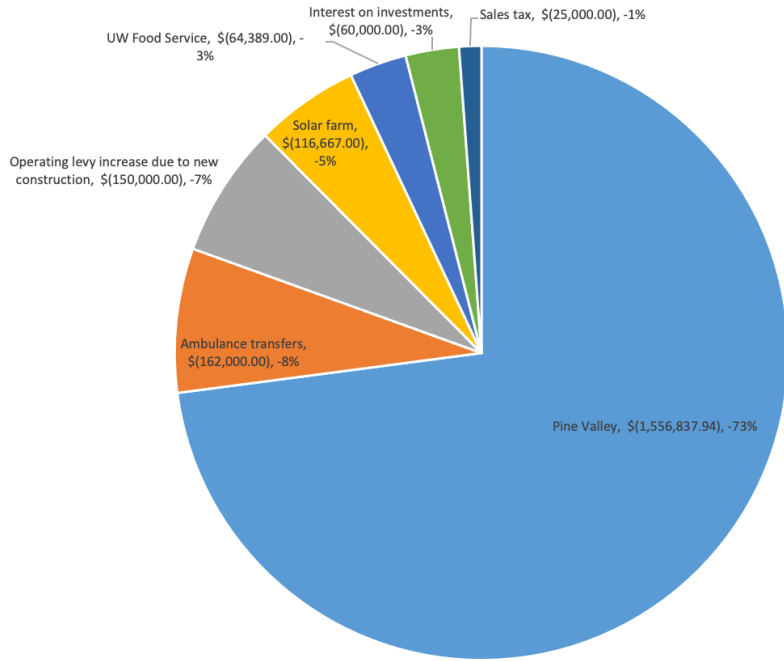
5-Year Plan Category, Comparing to 2027 to 2022	
Total Added Expenses	\$ 6,519,889.15
Total Reduced Expenses	\$ (5,008,280.29)
Total Added Revenues	\$ (2,134,893.94)
Total Reduced Revenues	\$ 623,285.08
<b>Balanced Budget</b>	<b>\$ (0.00)</b>

Added expenses, reduced expenses, added revenues, and reduced revenues are shown in the following four charts.

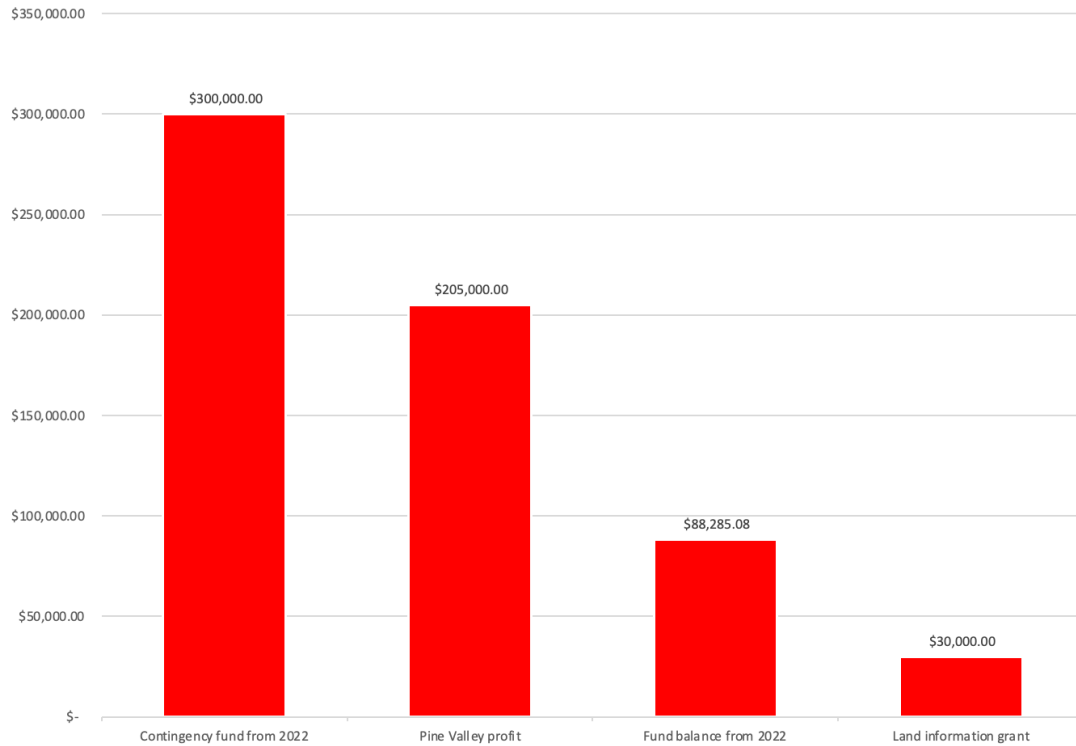


### Added Cumulative Revenues by 2027, Compared to Adopted 2022 Budget

*\*One time revenues in preveious years not included*



### Reduced Cumulative Revenues by 2027, Compared to the 2022 Adopted Budget

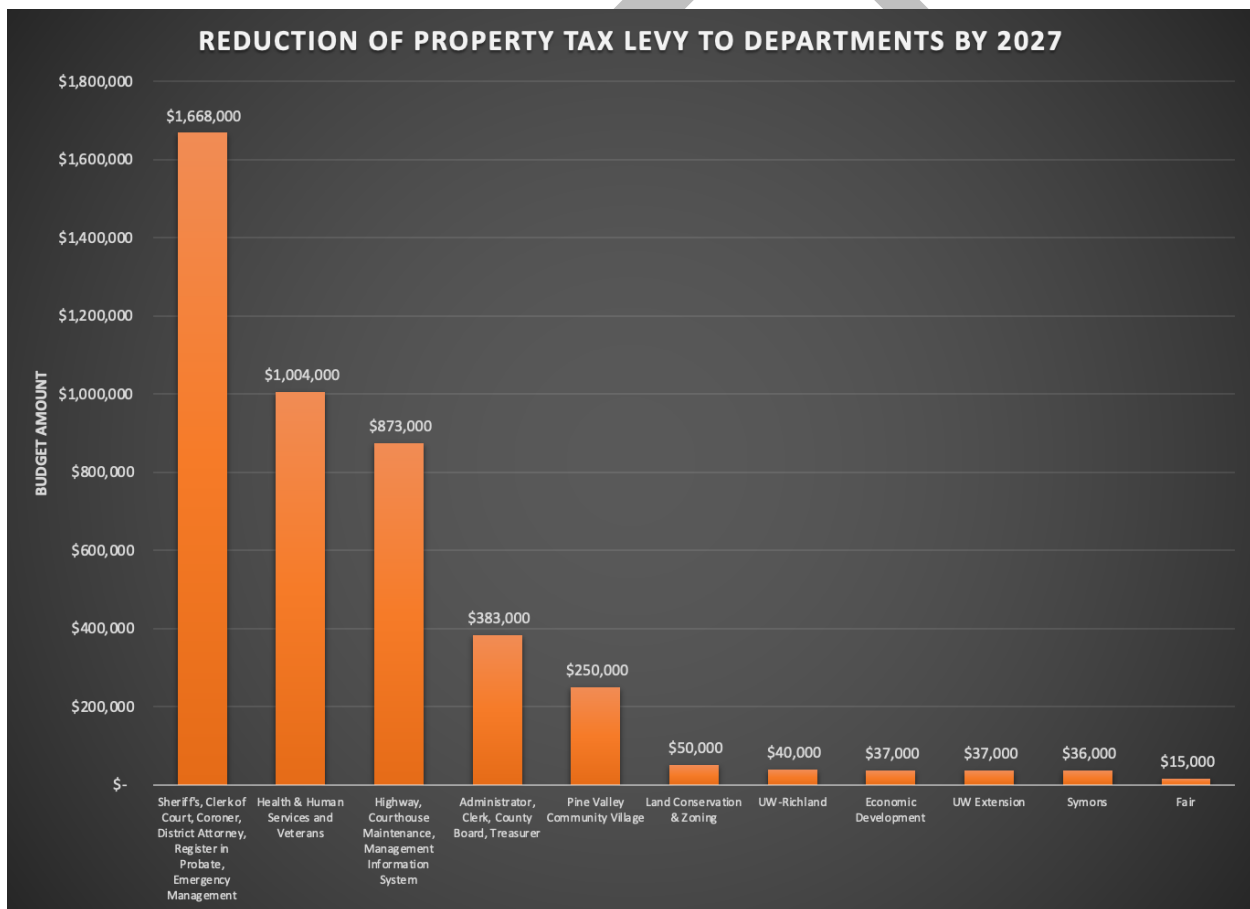


The County Board also recently adopted a set of resolutions guiding committees and departments as to how to decrease their impact on the property tax levy. **Some of these decreases may be permanent, but some may be identified for a potential property tax operating levy referendum in 2023, to take effect in 2024.**

Note that many of these reductions in the property tax levy begin in 2024 and escalate to the amounts shown in the following chart/s in 2027, to account for increasing costs such as wages and benefits.

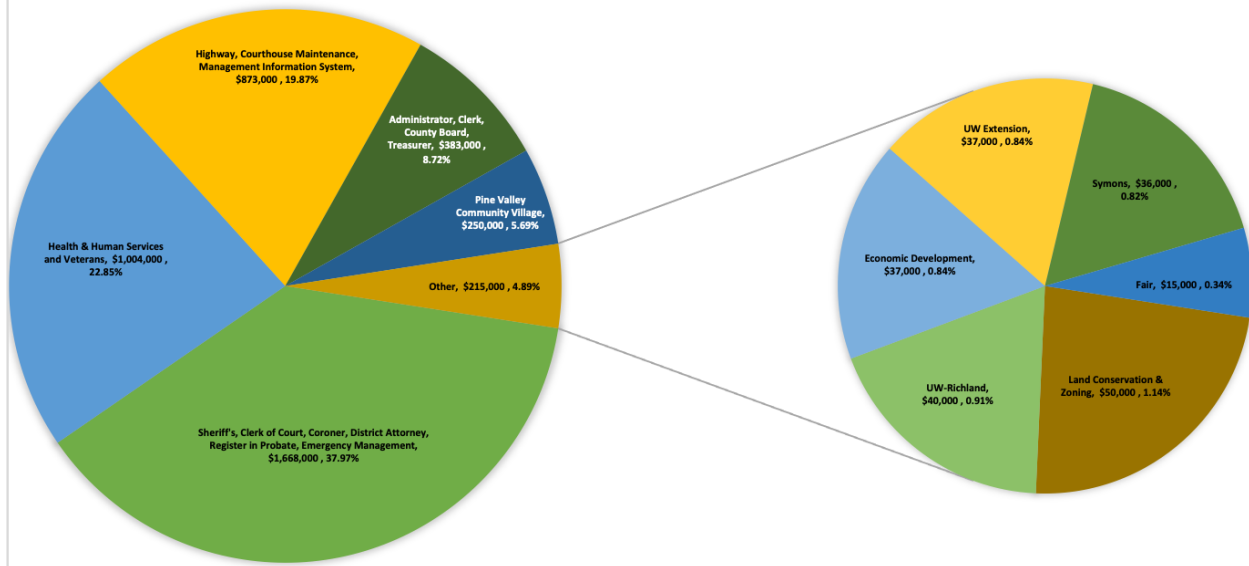
**Departments and committees may meet these reductions to the property tax levy by any of the following methods:**

1. Decreased expenses
2. Increased revenues from sources other than the property tax levy
3. Increased revenues from an operating levy referendum *(assuming such a referendum is recommended by the County Board and passed by voters)*



\*Note the discrepancies between dollar amounts in the above chart for Pine Valley Community Village, Land Conservation & Zoning, and Economic Development compared to the pie chart on a previous page illustrating the 5-year financial plan entitled, “Reduced Cumulative Expenses by 2027.”

## REDUCTION TO THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY BY 2027



Total:  
\$4.4 million



## Next Steps

The Referendum Ad Hoc Committee has identified the following next steps:

1. Communicate directly with committees and departments heads affected by a potential referendum, so that expectations are clear:
  - Share this report
  - Share the Committee's public education plans
    - Short-term (September/October): Educate the public about the work of the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
    - Long-term (TBD): If the Committee recommends moving forward with an operating levy referendum in 2023, educational materials will be developed for the approximate 2-month period before the ballot measure is placed on the ballot
  - Request information needed by the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
    - How each committee plans to describe the identified property tax levy decrease
    - Which budget amounts will be recommended as a permanent decrease, and which budget amounts will be recommended for inclusion on a potential property tax operating levy referendum, to take effect in 2024
  - Collect questions each committee has for the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
2. Research other operating levy referendums
3. Educate the public about the work of the committee
  - Radio
  - Newspaper
  - Video
4. Recommend action on the referendum, including:
  - Whether or not to develop a referendum question
  - The date, amount, and purpose of a potential operating levy referendum
  - Public education content and format for a potential operating levy referendum
  - The consequences/outcome of a failed operating levy referendum
5. Draft a report for submittal to the committee we report to (Finance & Personnel Standing Committee)

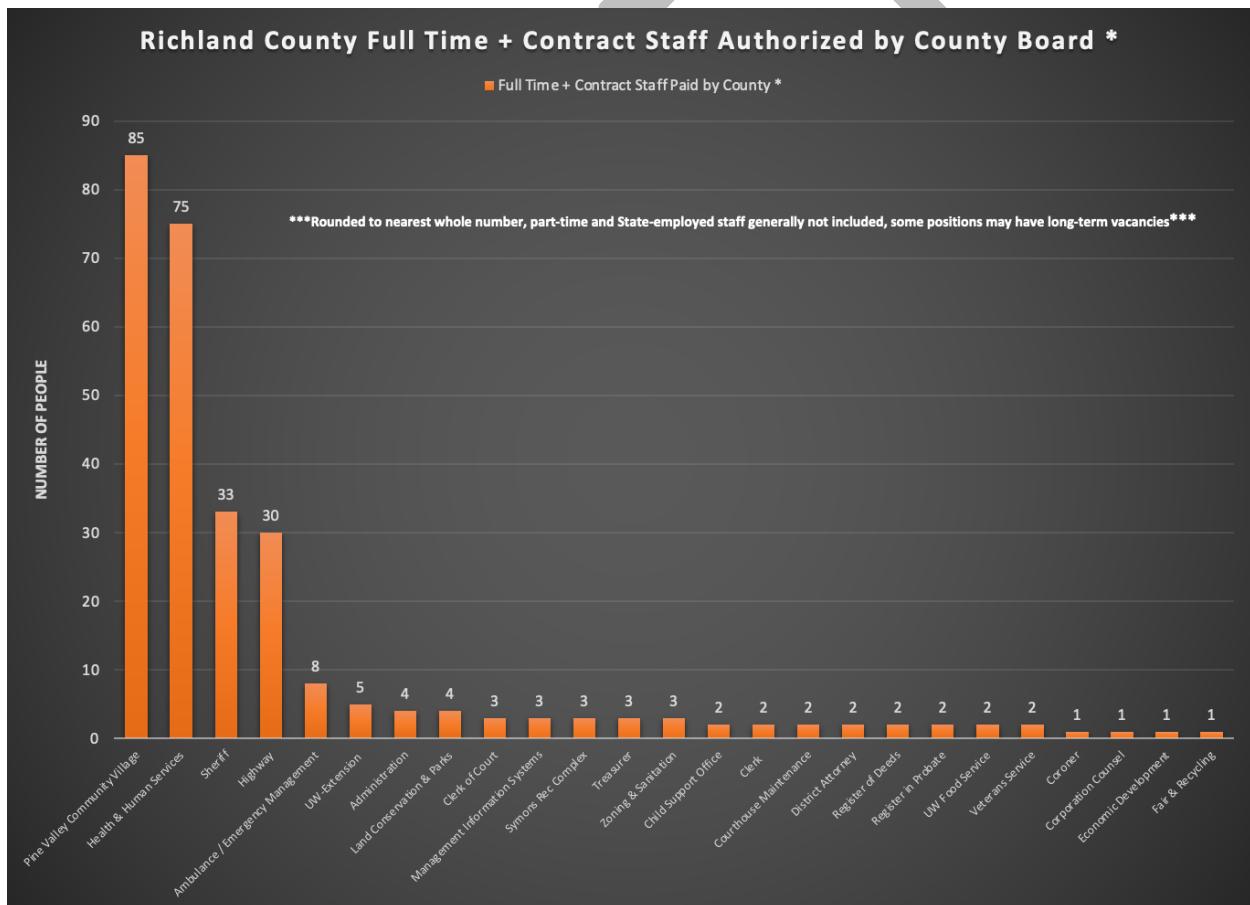
## Educational Information for Use by the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

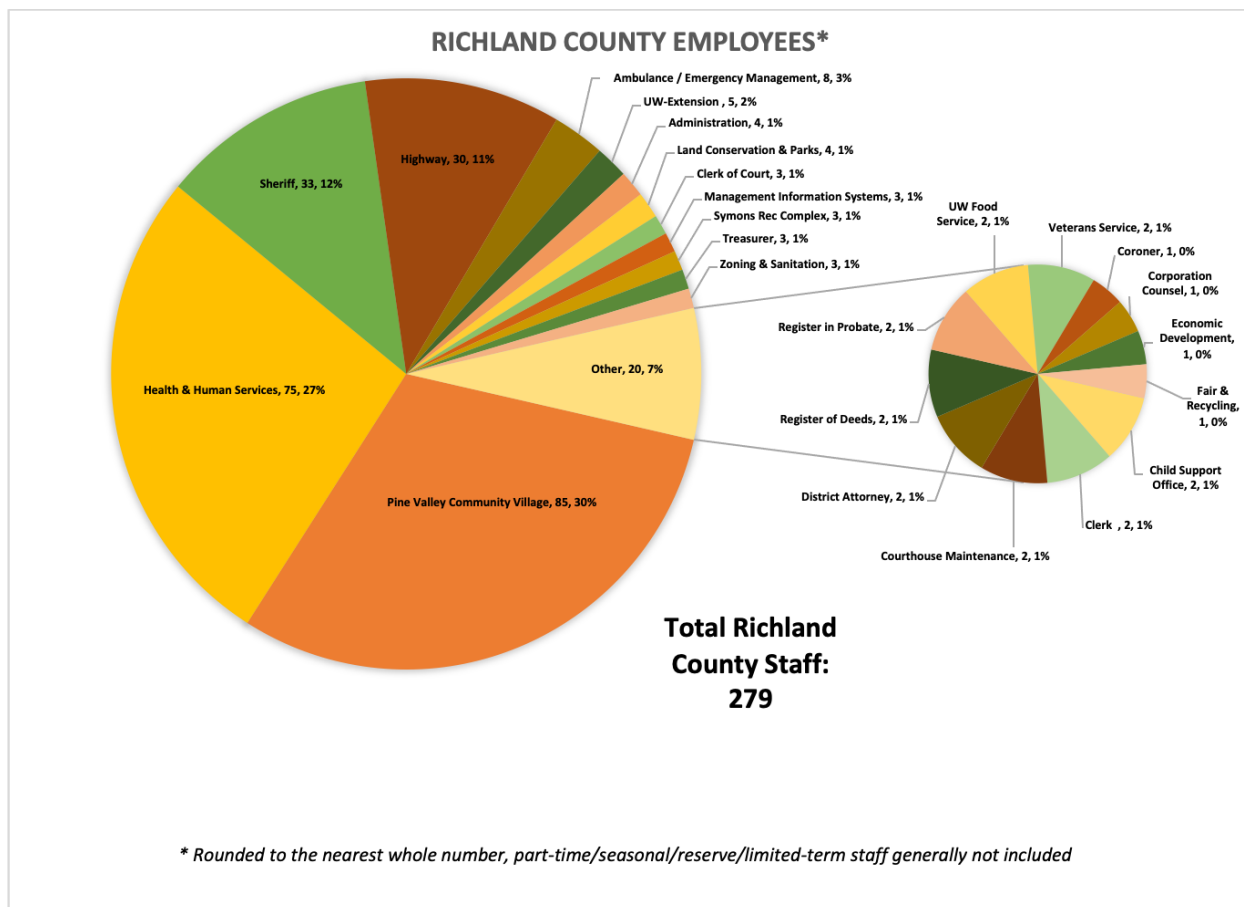
The following information provides educational context for the work of the Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee, and has the following primary purposes:

1. To serve as the basis for educational materials to be developed by the Committee so the public can better understand our mission
2. To be used as a tool for communication with County departments/committees, as well as other government agencies and their representatives

### Introduction

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee is *considering the idea of a referendum* so the voters can decide if the County's operating levy should be increased to maintain current staffing levels and services. **Staffing levels currently look like this:**





The County has a total budget of \$36 million in the current 2022 calendar year. **The budget is balanced, meaning \$36 million in expenses matches \$36 million in revenues.**

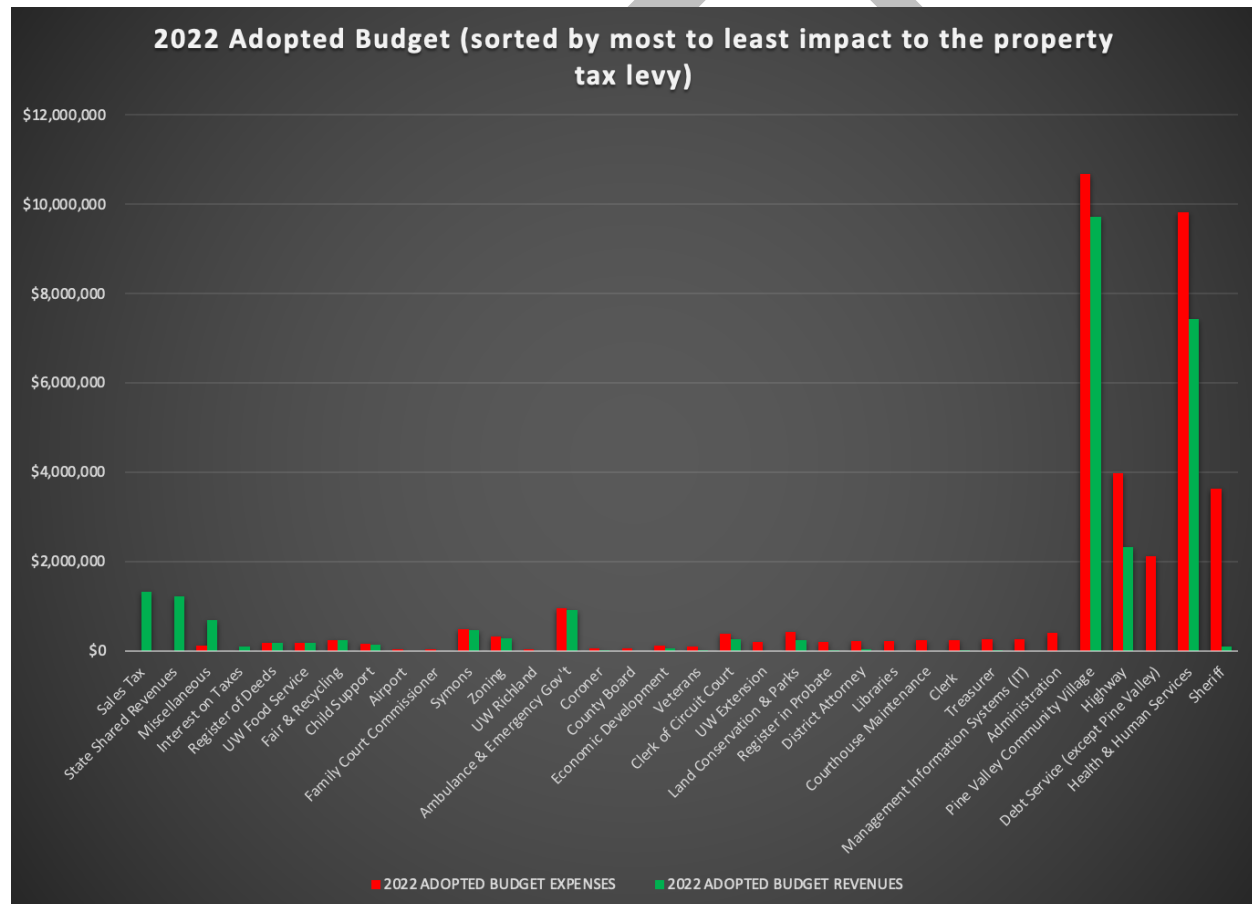
## Revenues vs. Expenses

Most County budget revenues come from other governments, typically at the federal and state levels. Some departments bring in significant amounts of revenue to offset County expenses. For example,

- The **federal government** pays for patient care at **Pine Valley Community Village**
- The **federal and state governments** pay for programming in the **Health & Human Services Department** (i.e., mental health, economic support, aging and disability resources, child protection, public health)
- The **state government** pays the **Highway Department** to maintain state-owned highways (e.g., US Highway 14, Wisconsin Highway 60)

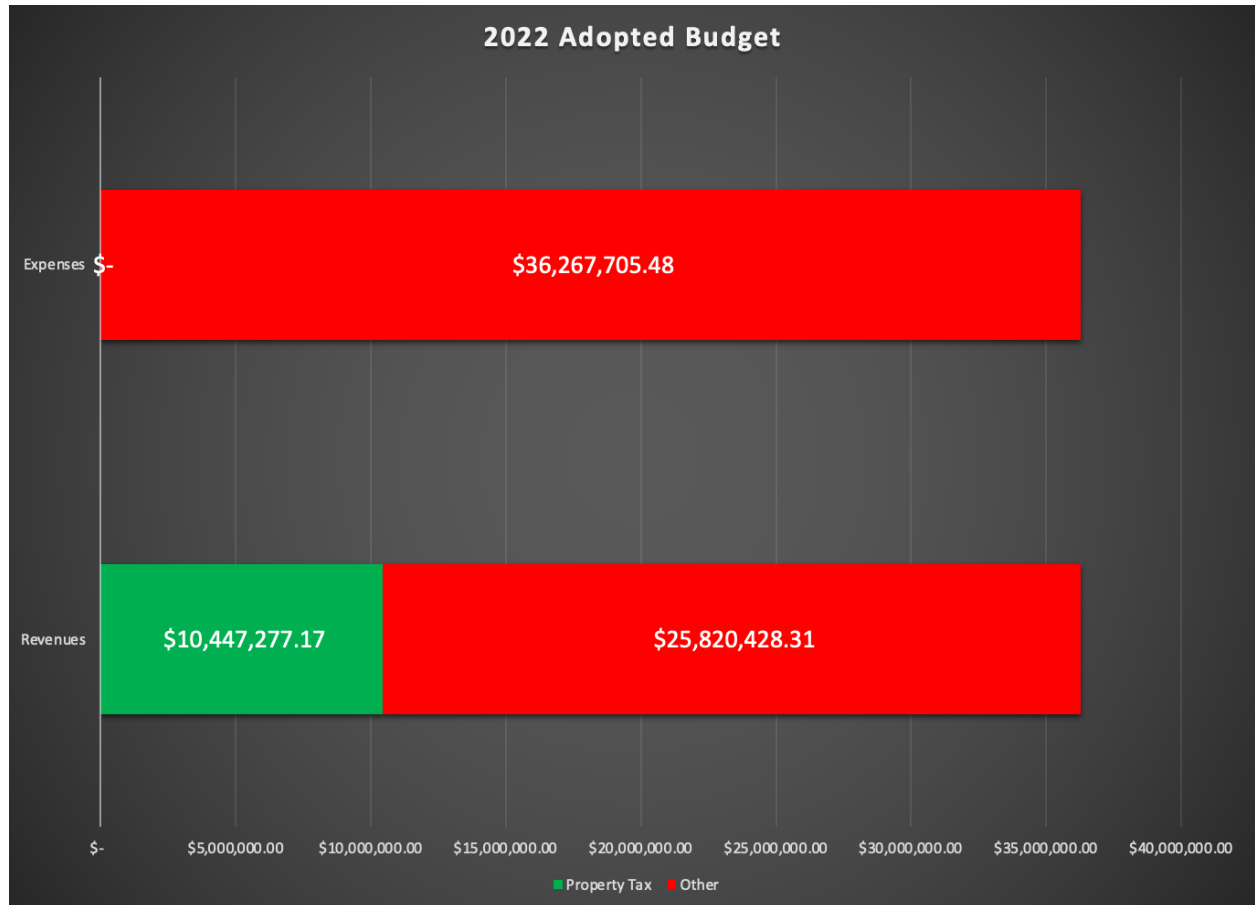
*Some of these outside revenues are reliant on matching monies from Richland County.*

Meanwhile, other departments don't have the ability to bring in very much revenue. **The expenses and revenues of all departments currently look like this:**



## The Property Tax

How does the County make up the difference in revenues and expenses for each department? **We levy a property tax**, as shown here:

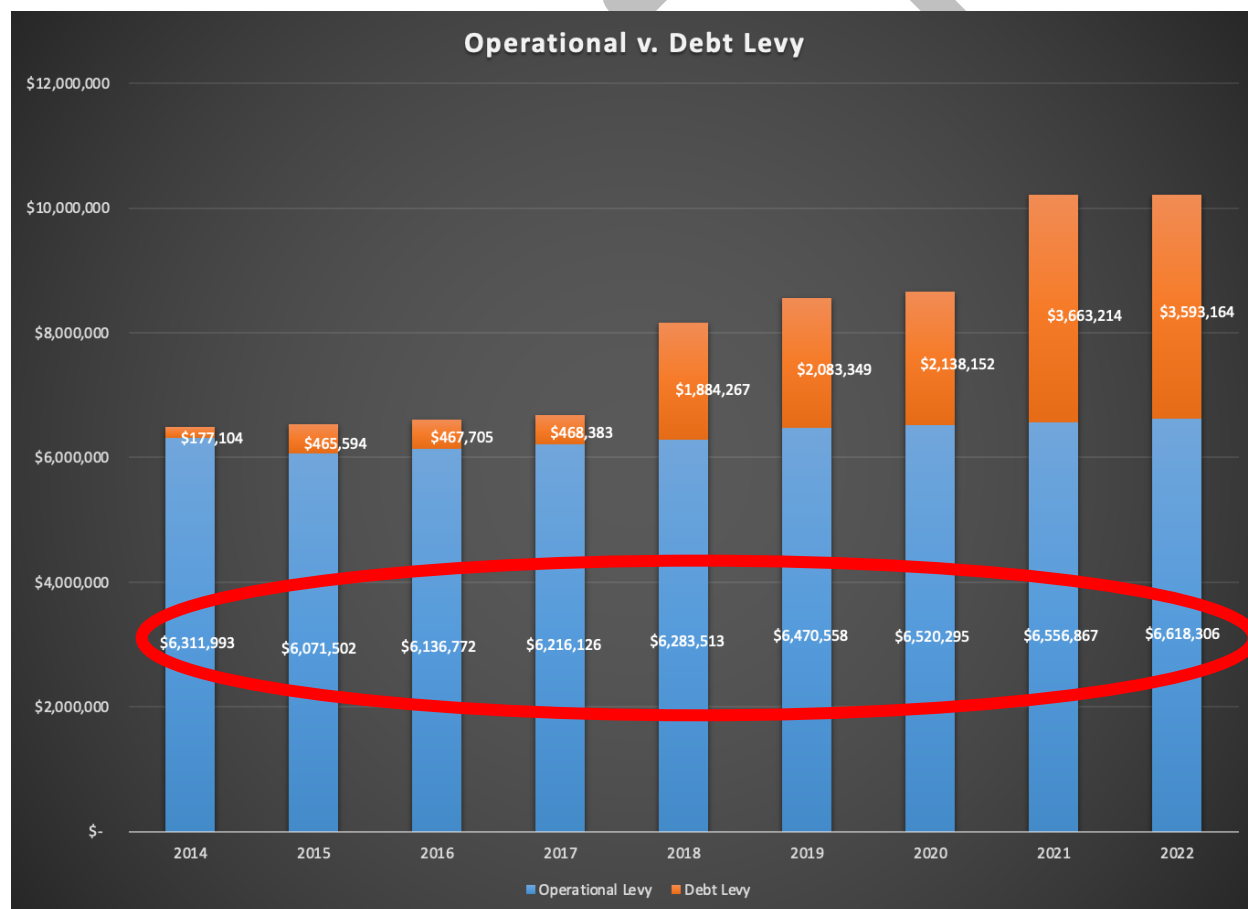


The property tax levy is divided into 2 parts: **operating and debt**. We do this because the State of Wisconsin has different laws about how the County can levy property taxes for each part:

1. The first law says the County **cannot raise the operating levy at a rate faster than net new construction**.<sup>1</sup> According to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the State implemented an earlier version of this law in 2006 because property taxes were rising as state shared revenue declined.<sup>2</sup>
2. The second law says the County **can raise the debt levy at the rate it chooses**, as long as the total outstanding debt stays below 5% of the value of all property in the County.

Over the past 8 years, **the operating levy has stayed relatively flat, while the debt levy has risen at a faster pace** to pay for the new building at Pine Valley Community Village (between 2017 and 2018) and highway/building maintenance needs (between 2020 and 2021).

The County's Referendum Ad Hoc Committee is looking at the possibility of asking the voters to approve a more substantial increase to the operating levy (circled in red below):



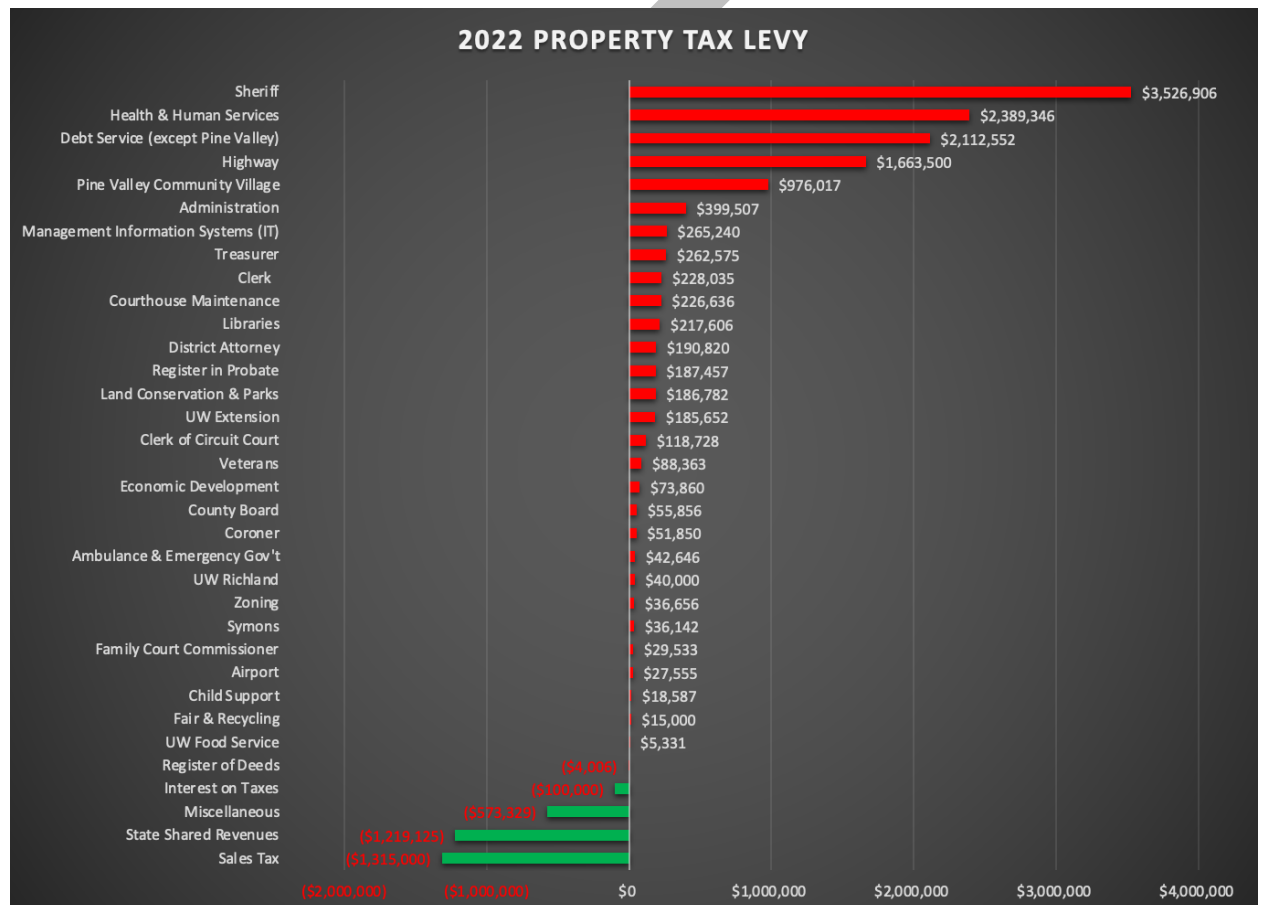
<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/66/vi/0602>

<sup>2</sup> [https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13\\_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf](https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf)

## Departments Relying on the Property Tax

Which departments benefit most from property taxes? If federal and state revenues, as well as fees for services (such as those collected by the Ambulance, Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds, Symons, UW Food Service, and Zoning Department) are set aside, the **following 4 departments use the most property tax** (as shown in the chart below):

1. Sheriff
2. Health & Human Services
3. Highway
4. Pine Valley Community Village

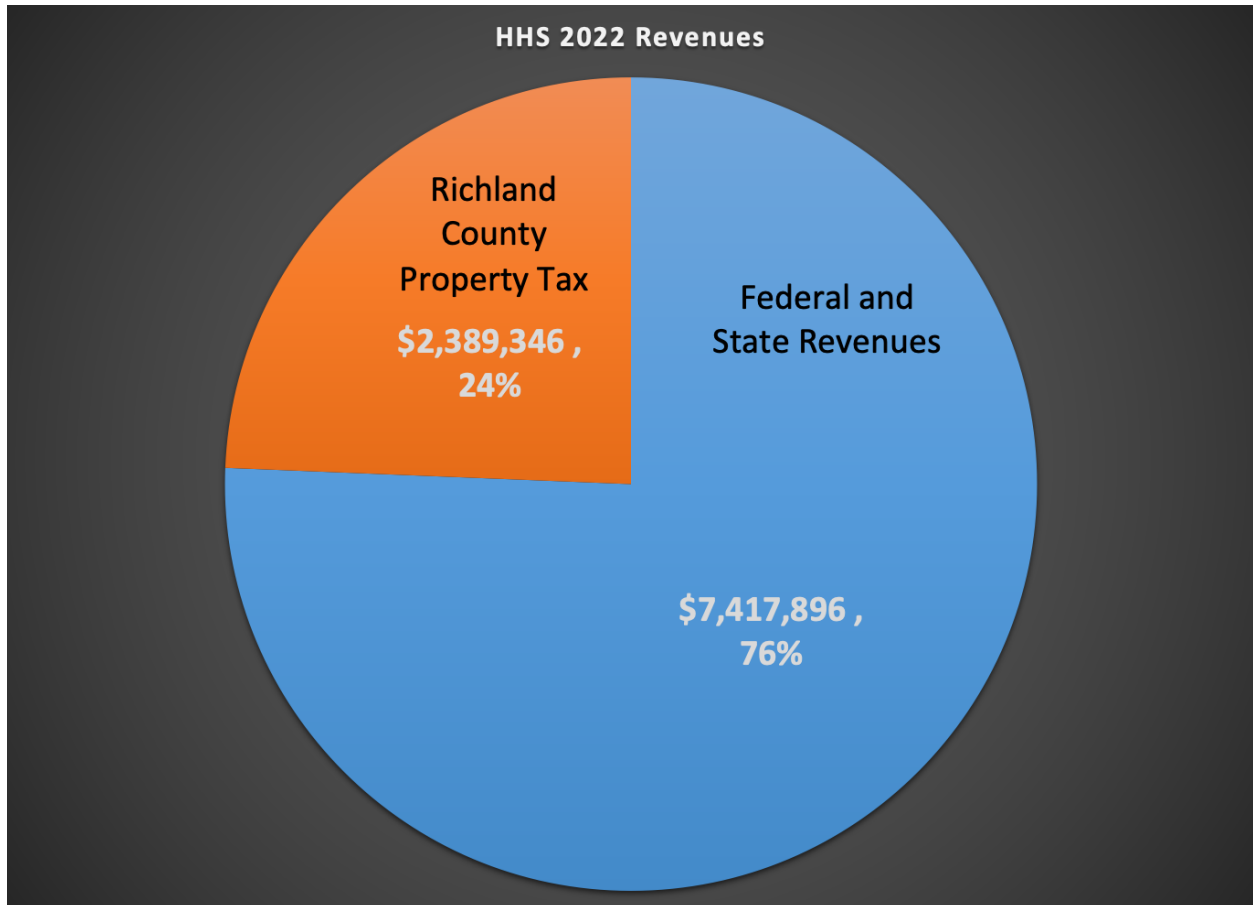


Next, we'll look at three categories that often have associated misconceptions: 1) Health & Human Services, 2) Pine Valley Community Village, and 3) State Shared Revenue.

### Category #1: Health & Human Services

As shown in previous charts, the Health & Human Services (HHS) Department has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of employees out of any department at the County. At the same time, this department uses less property tax revenue than the Sheriff's Department (\$2.4 million for HHS vs. \$3.5 million for Sheriff). Why is this?

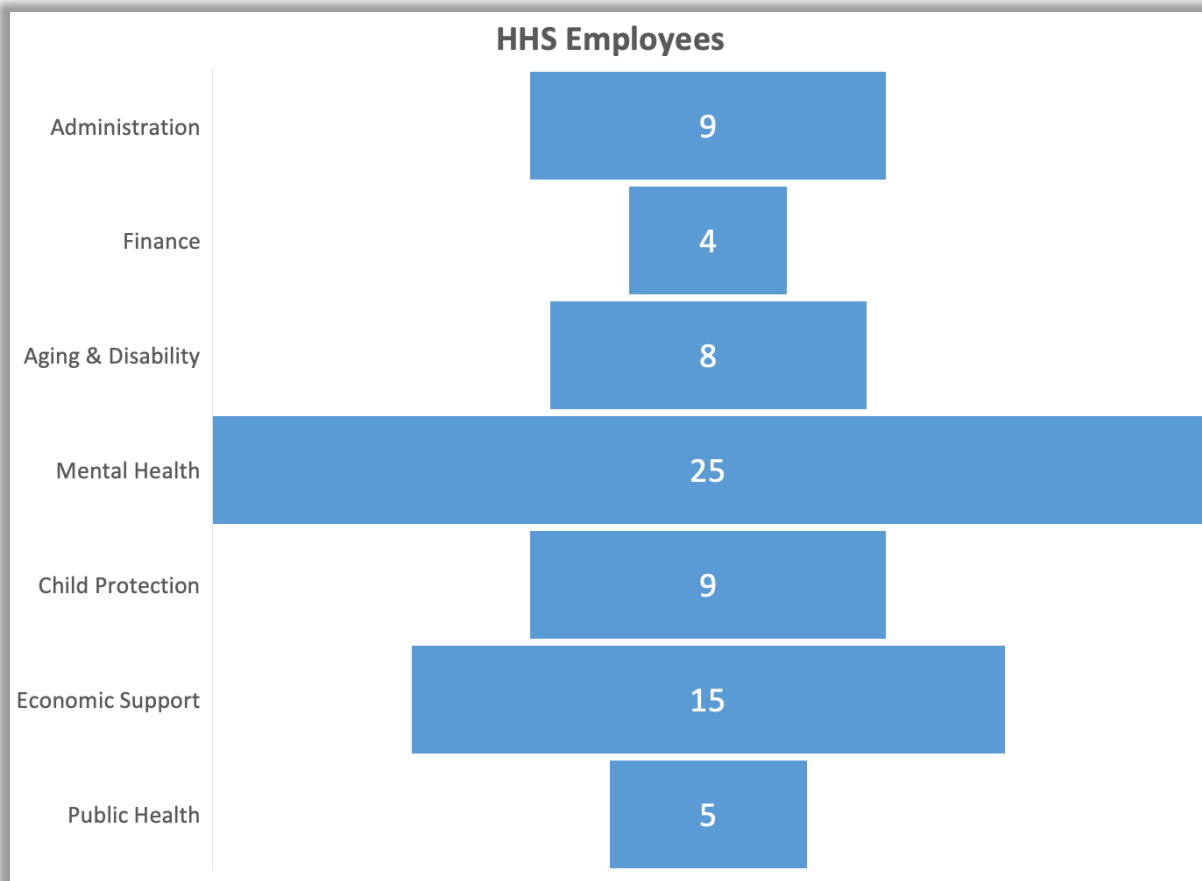
It's because **HHS brings in a lot of revenue from the federal and state governments.**



If the County reduced its property tax revenue contribution to HHS, some of these federal and state revenues would be lost.



People also often think HHS is primarily a welfare agency. **While economic support is important, it's one of only 5 main areas of service to residents.** More employees are dedicated to mental health services than economic support, as shown in this chart:



*Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Health & Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee to better understand how federal and state funding is tied to employee positions.*

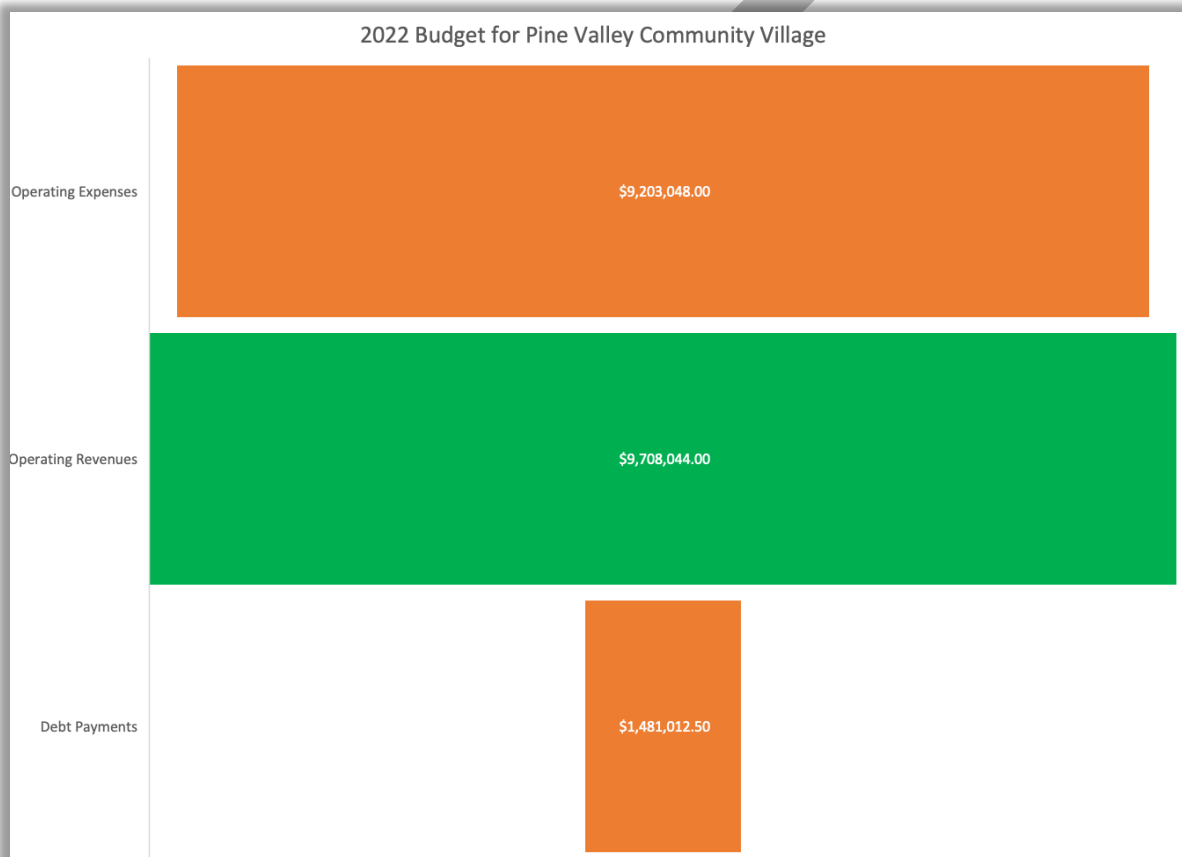
## Category #2: Pine Valley Community Village

It is often said that Pine Valley Community Village:

1. Makes a profit for the County
2. Doesn't pay its debt

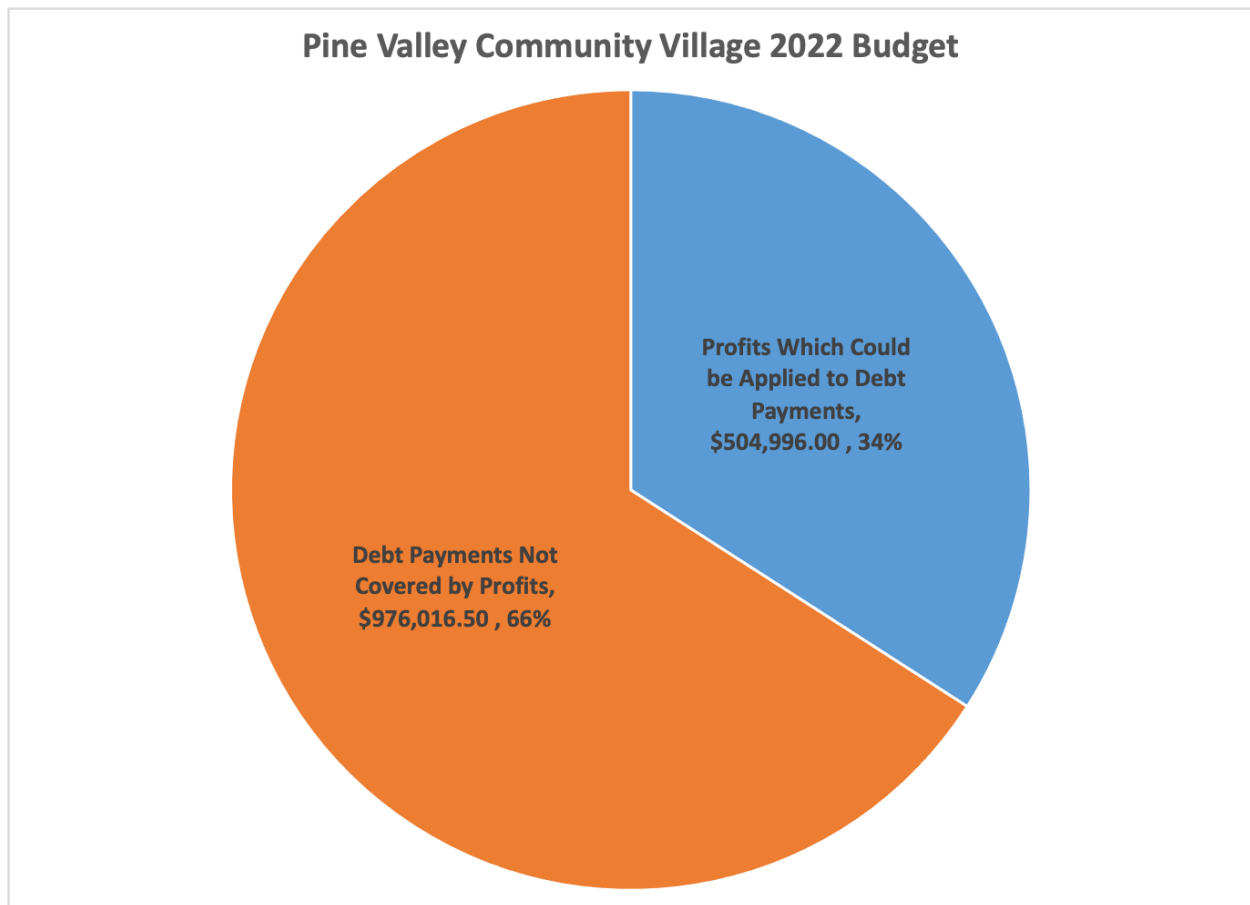
### ***Which is true?***

There is some truth to both statements, but neither is totally accurate. Because of the state laws referred to earlier, the County keeps track of Pine Valley's budget in two categories – operating and debt:



Statement #1 would be more accurate if it said, **“Pine Valley makes an operating profit for the County.”**

In recent years, the operating profit from Pine Valley has been applied to offset the operating expenses of other departments at the County. **If that operating profit was instead applied to debt payments, it would cover one-third of annual debt payments**, as shown in the following chart:



So, statement #2 would be more accurate if it said, **“Pine Valley’s operating profits could cover one-third of its debt payments, if those profits were not used by the County Board to offset the operating expenses of other County departments.”**

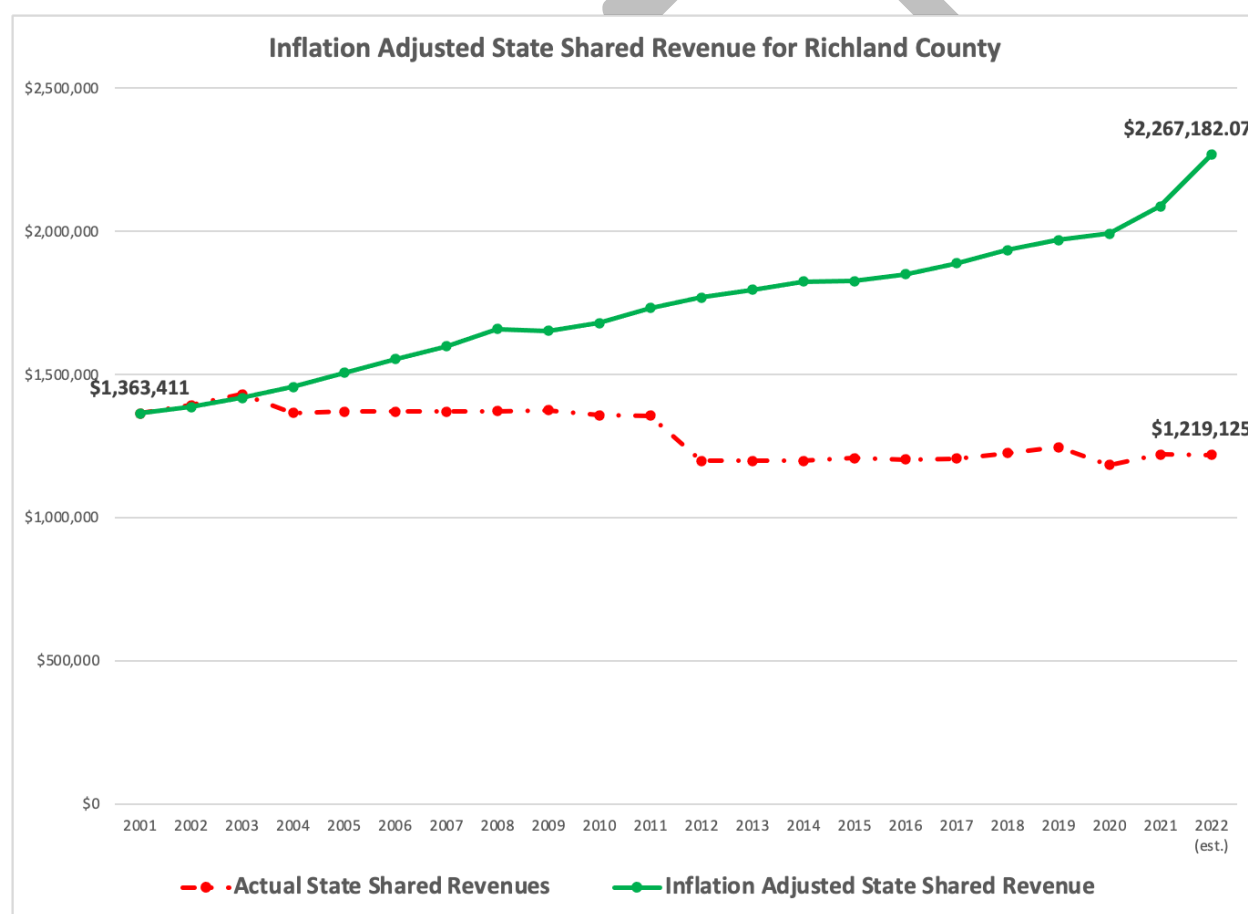
*Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee to better understand if operating profits can be increased to cover 50% of its debt payments.*

### Category #3: State Shared Revenue

State shared revenue comes from the State of Wisconsin. **Every local government agency in Wisconsin receives this revenue.**

Shared revenue was originally put in place in the early 1900's to share state income tax revenue with local governments in exchange for a reduction in property that could be taxed<sup>3</sup>. In the 1970's, shared revenues were begun to be used to level the playing field between communities with lower income tax revenues and wealthier parts of the state.<sup>4</sup>

**In 2001, Richland County received \$1.36 million** that could be spent on general government activities such as public safety, human services, and highways. **In 2021, the State shared \$1.22 million, a drop of 12%.** If the amount received in 2001 was adjusted for inflation<sup>5</sup>, the amount would be \$2.27 million.



3

[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational\\_papers/january\\_2017/0018\\_shared\\_revenue\\_program\\_informational\\_paper\\_18.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2017/0018_shared_revenue_program_informational_paper_18.pdf)

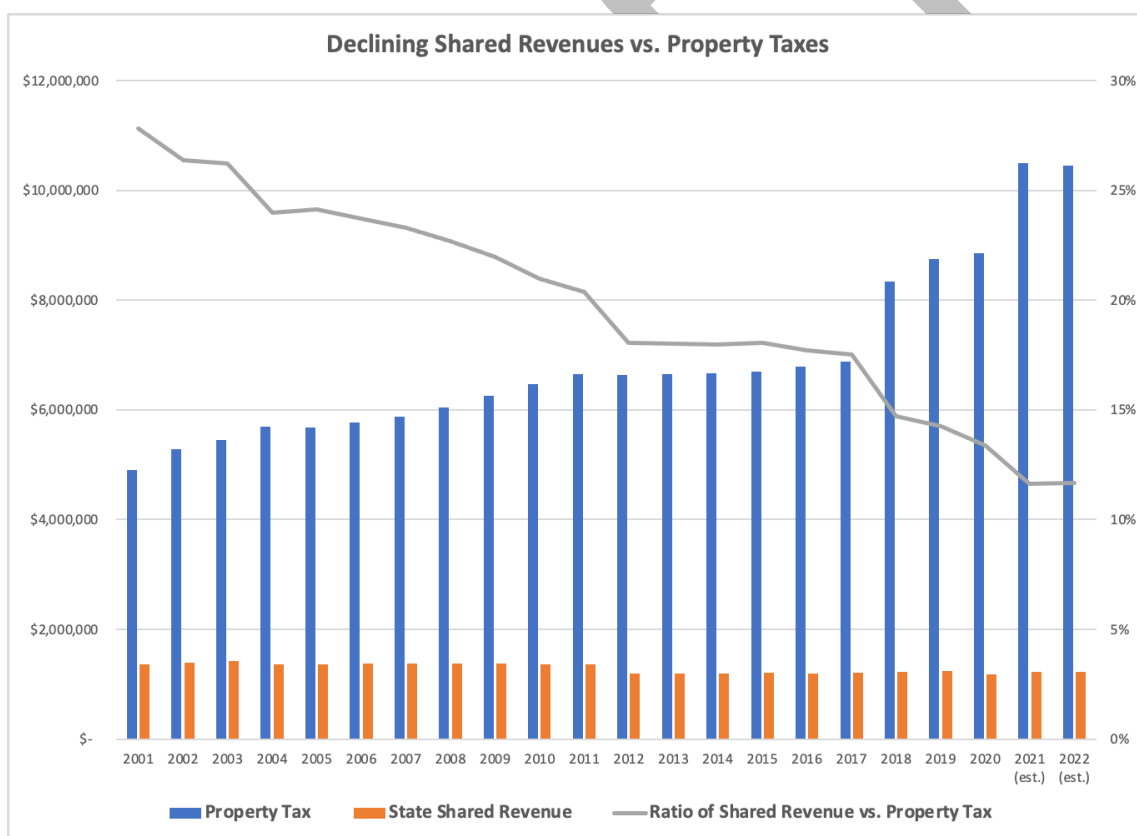
<sup>4</sup> <https://lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/5904/8-22-The-Municipality-State-Local-Partnership>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/about-us/monetary-policy/inflation-calculator/consumer-price-index-1913->

Why is shared revenue from the State declining? According to a Wisconsin Policy Forum report from 2013, the following state spending priorities shifted after 1995<sup>6</sup>:

- More focus on school aid
- More property tax credits for individuals rather than governments
- Corrections spending rose rapidly as the state built and filled prisons
- State funding for Medicaid (i.e., BadgerCare) repeatedly rose since its 1999 inception
- Decelerating state tax revenues between 1999 and 2012, due to
  - Indexing the state income tax to inflation in 1999
  - State income tax rates being lowered in 2000
  - Recessions in 2001 and 2008-09

Since shared revenues from the State of Wisconsin are declining, this means **Richland County has had to rely more on property taxes to finance departments that need additional revenues**, as shown in the following chart:



*Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Finance & Personnel Standing Committee to better understand the development of the State of Wisconsin budget, as it relates to state shared revenues.*

<sup>6</sup> [https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13\\_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf](https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf)

#### Category #4: Highway Department

People often ask, “What happened to the wheel tax the County Board passed?”

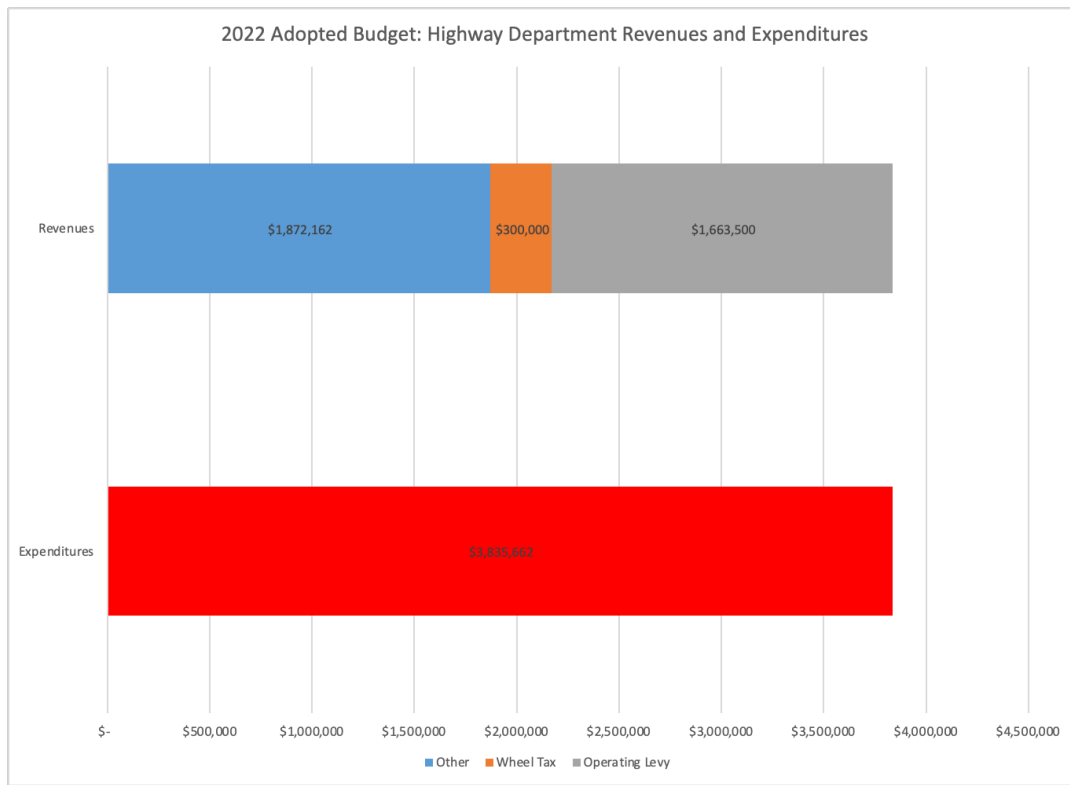
In 2019, the County Board approved an annual \$20 wheel tax for vehicles registered within Richland County. The additional revenue of approximately \$300,000 per year has been used to re-start the County’s sealcoating program for County highways. In 2022, 20 miles of County highways were seal coated, with the majority of funds coming from wheel tax revenues:

1. County Highway D between Bloom City and West Lima (6 miles)
2. County Highway JJ between US Highway 14 and WI Highway 130 (4 miles)
3. County Highway Q between Richland Center and County Highway E (7 miles)
4. County Highway SR between County Highway AA and WI Highway 80 (3 miles)



Wheel tax revenues are being used to seal coat County highways, like County Highway D near West Lima.

Wheel tax revenues make up less than 10% of County Department revenues, as shown in the following chart.

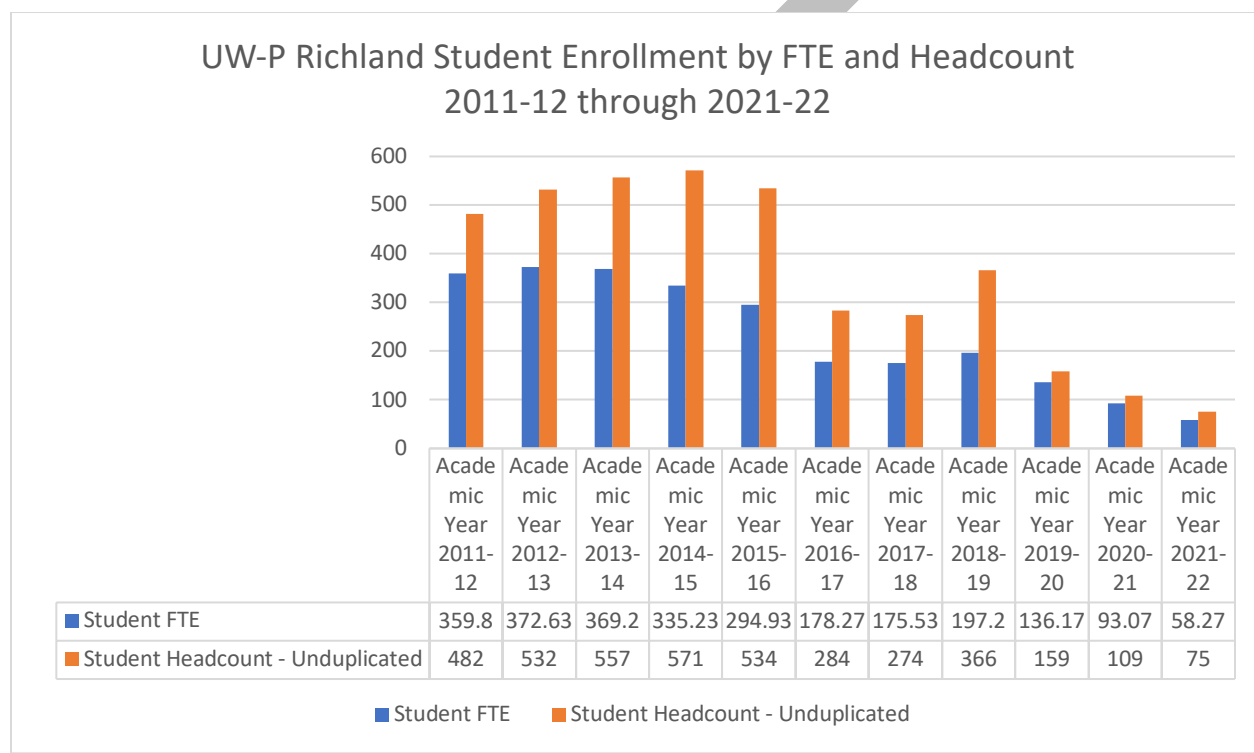


The Referendum Committee is currently working with the Highway Department to better understand the following figures highlighted in yellow provided to the Committee by the County's Finance Officer.

	Expenditures	Other Revenues	Operating Levy
State Maintenance Agreement	1,197,400.00	1,197,400.00	0.00
State Aid - General Transportation Aid	0.00	576,904.16	0.00
Wheel Tax	0.00	300,000.00	0.00
Equipment (Machinery)	483,000.00	1,824,560.00	483,000.00
County Highway Road Construction Projects	1,225,500.00	0.00	0.00
County Highway Routine Maintenance	2,154,365.68	269,240.91	1,166,028.70
Town Bridge 50/50 Cost Share	14,471.30	0.00	14,471.30
<b>HIGHWAY TOTAL</b>	<b>3,835,661.86</b>	<b>2,172,161.86</b>	<b>1,663,500.00</b>

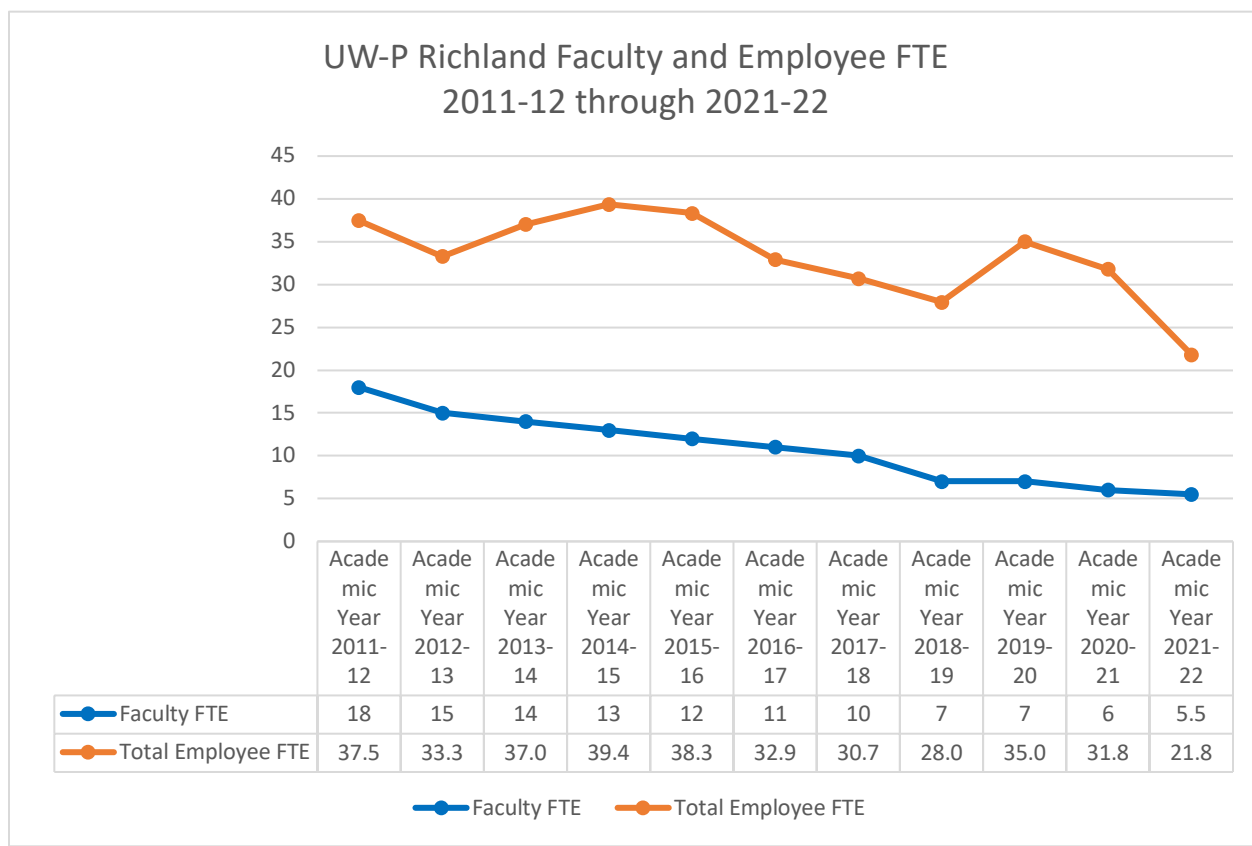
Category #5: UW-Richland Campus

Many people have heard student enrollment has declined at UW-Richland. Staff numbers have also declined, in part due to the drop in student enrollment, and in part due to funding cuts by the State of Wisconsin. The following charts and notes show this decline, and come from UW-Platteville's Chief Data Officer.



- 1) The drop in overall enrollments between Academic Years 2015-16 and 2016-17 represents the discontinuation of the Academic Alliance program, which was piloted in 1997 at UW-Richland in partnership with Richland Center and Ithaca high schools and discontinued in 2015-16.
- 2) The bump in enrollment in Academic Year 2018-19 represents a one-time counting methodology change in which distance education students were credited to a local campus if their home zip code was in that campus' area. This methodology was only used in that single year.





1) The dip in employee FTE in 2018-19 may well reflect shuffling of staff reporting lines that occurred during Collaborative Integration. Additionally, a shift from handling teaching load with full-time faculty to use of multiple adjuncts to ensure that smaller classes needed by students for degree completion could be offered impacted the fluctuations in non-faculty-staff from 2017-18 through 2020-21.

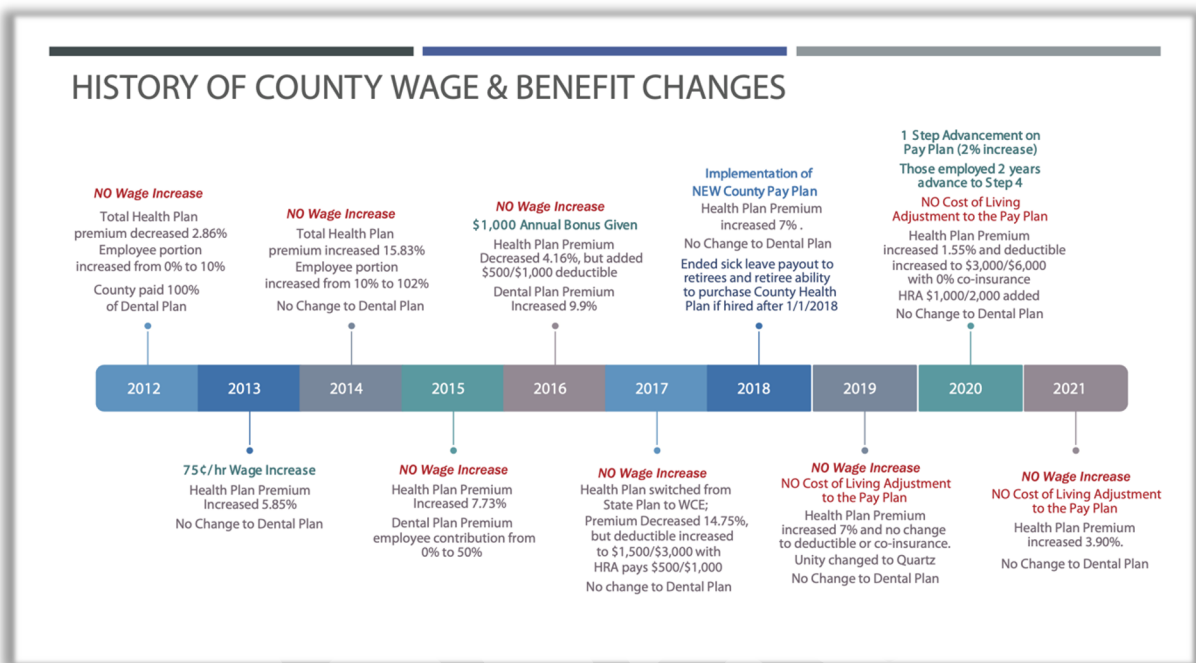
As stated in Richland County Resolution 22-72, Requesting the State of Wisconsin Support the UW Colleges to Where it was Supporting them in 2015:

- Starting in 2016-17 state support for UW-Richland decreased by 28% (\$822,641) compared to 2015-16 and has decreased each year since.
- The campus no longer has the positions of Dean, 5 Associate Student Services coordinators, 1 custodian, 1 Library Assistant, 1 Continuing Education Coordinator, 3 Financial Specialists, and 1 First Year Initiative Coordinator
- No new or replaced professors have been hired since 2015.

There is also no longer a recruiter focused on UW-Richland. Recruiting now happens by UW-Platteville staff simultaneously for all 3 campuses (UW-Baraboo, UW-Richland, and UW-Platteville).

## Where Do We Go from Here?

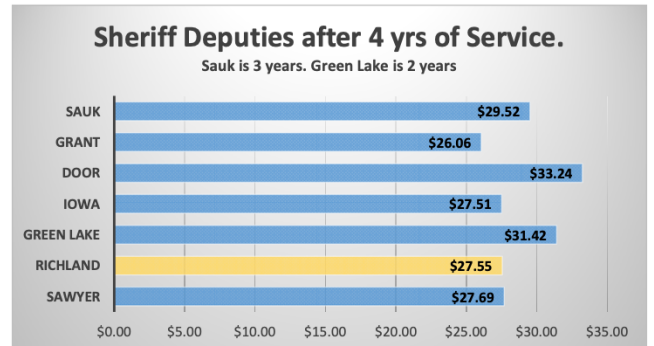
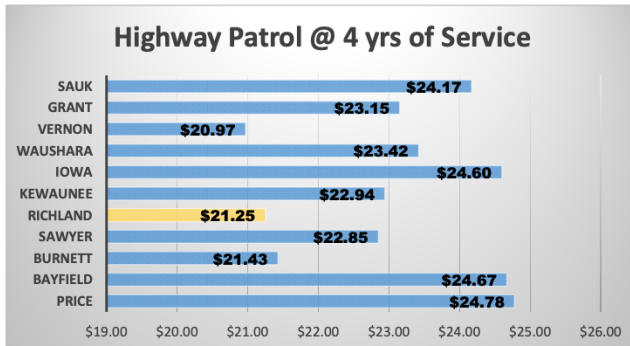
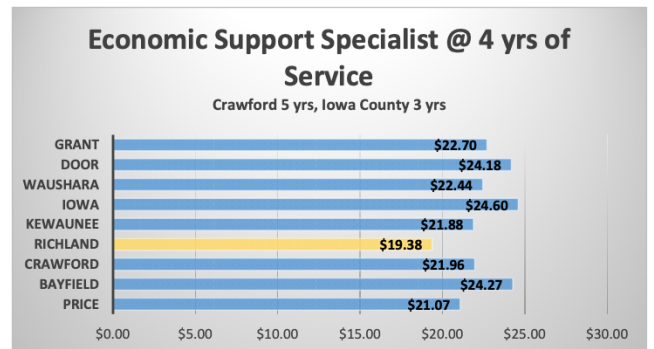
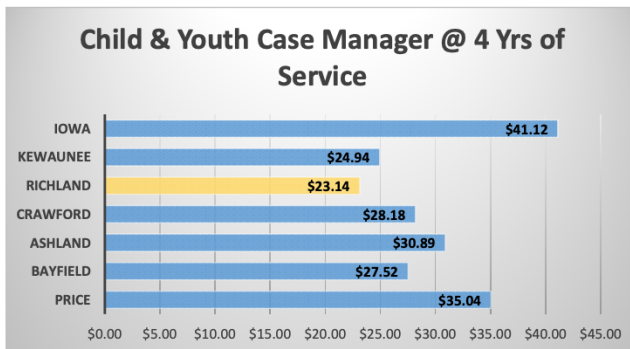
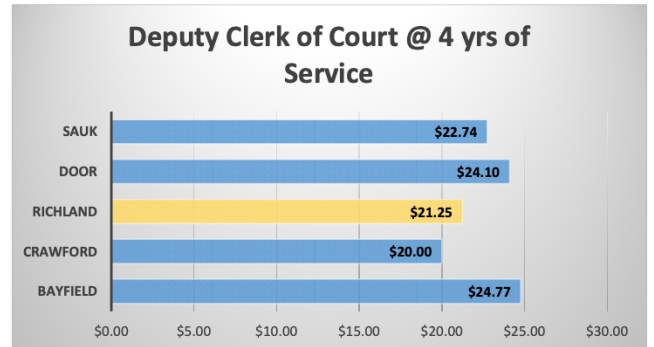
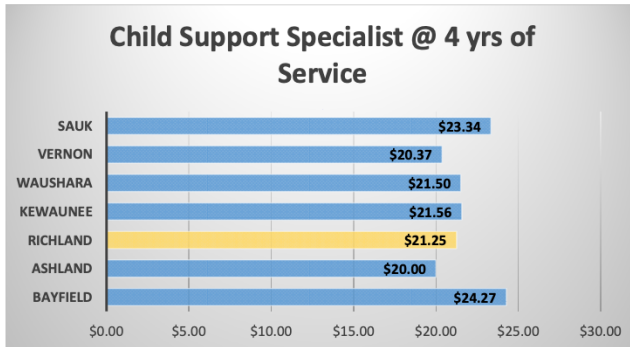
Over the past decade, Richland County has been responding to the State of Wisconsin's policies by **skipping annual pay increases and reducing health insurance benefits**, as shown in the following graphic.



Earlier this year, Richland County adopted a Strategic Plan<sup>7</sup> that determined that path is no longer sustainable, with a **commitment to annual pay increases for employees**.

<sup>7</sup> <https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Richland-County-Strategic-Plan-Chapter-2-Operations.pdf>

Current wages for select positions show how Richland County compares to peer counties in the following charts:



Current staffing levels for County departments show how Richland County compares to peer counties in the following charts:

Department	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Kewaunee****	Grant*****	Sauk*****
Population of County	17,300	16,200	16,500	20,600	51,900	65,800
Pine Valley Community Village	85				112	125
Health & Human Services	75	47	47	43	110	195
Sheriff	33	46	39	37	57	53
Highway	30	26	22	28	52	62
Ambulance / Emergency Management	8	1	1	2	2	2
UW-Extension	5	6	2	6	6	7
Administration	4	2	5	6	5	13
Land Conservation & Parks	4	15	10	9	4	12
Clerk of Court	3	5	8	4	9	15
Management Information Systems	3	4	2	2	5	14
Symons Rec Complex	3					
Treasurer	3	2	3	2	3	3
Zoning & Sanitation	3	11	5	1	4	6
Child Support Office	2	3	3	3	6	11
Clerk	2	4	5	2	4	4
Courthouse Maintenance	2	3	6	4	6	14
District Attorney	2	4	4	2	4	8
Register of Deeds	2	3	2	2	3	3
Register in Probate	2			3	3	2
UW Food Service	2					
Veterans Service	2	1	2	2	2	5
Coroner	1		5		1	
Corporation Counsel	1		2	1	1	6
Economic Development	1	1	1			1
Fair & Recycling	1				3	
Airport			4		0	1
Family Court	0			1		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>564</b>

\*Richland County: Rounded to nearest whole number; full-time + contract staff included; part-time/seasonal/reserve/limited term staff generally not included

\*\* Bayfield County: Full-time employees only (no part-time employees included); Clerk of Court includes Register in Probate; Zoning includes 5 Land Records employees; Economic Development is Tourism; Land Conservation includes 11 Forestry employees

\*\*\* Burnett County: Part-time employees included; Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Zoning includes 3 Surveyor/Land Records employees; Land Conservation includes 6 Forestry employees

\*\*\*\* Kewaunee County Notes: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not shown); Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Land Conservation & Parks includes Fair and Zoning; Zoning is Land Information

\*\*\*\*\* Grant County: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not available); Administration includes Finance & Personnel Dept staff (no Administrator); Courthouse Maintenance is Facilities & Maintenance, Grant County contributes to an Economic Development Corporation

\*\*\*\*\* Sauk County: Individual employee count (including part-time employees) but no contracted employees are included except UW Extension; Courthouse Maintenance is Building Services; MIS includes GIS and property lister; Economic Development is Community Development Coordinator

Department	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Kewaunee****	Iowa*****	Grant*****	Sauk*****
<b>Population of County</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>20,600</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>51,900</b>	<b>65,800</b>
Pine Valley Community Village	85				54	112	125
Health & Human Services	66	48	47	42	49	110	195
Sheriff	33	46	39	37	49	57	53
Highway	30	26	22	28	42	52	62
Ambulance / Emergency Management	8	1	1	2	2	2	2
UW-Extension	5	6	2	6	6	6	7
Administration	4	2	5	6	5	5	13
Land Conservation & Parks	4	15	10	9	4	4	12
Clerk of Court	3	5	8	4	4	9	15
Management Information Systems	3	4	2	2	3	5	14
Symons Rec Complex	3						
Treasurer	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
Zoning & Sanitation	3	11	5	1	4	4	6
Child Support Office	2	3	3	3	2	6	11
Clerk	2	4	5	2	2	4	4
Courthouse Maintenance	2	3	6	4	4	6	14
District Attorney	2	4	4	2	5	4	8
Register of Deeds	2	3	2	2	2	3	3
Register in Probate	2			3	2	3	2
UW Food Service	2						
Veterans Service	2	1	2	2	1	2	5
Coroner	1		5			1	
Corporation Counsel	1		2	1	0	1	6
Economic Development	1	1	1				1
Fair & Recycling	1					3	
Airport			4		0	0	1
Family Court	0			1	0		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>242.4</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>564</b>
*Richland County: Employees authorized by the County Board; Rounded to nearest whole number; full-time + contract staff included; part-time/seasonal/reserve/limited term staff generally not included							
** Bayfield County: Full-time employees only (no part-time employees included); Clerk of Court includes Register in Probate; Zoning includes 5 Land Records employees; Economic Development is Tourism; Land Conservation includes 11 Forestry employees							
*** Burnett County: Part-time employees included; Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Zoning includes 3 Surveyor/Land Records employees; Land Conservation includes 6 Forestry employees							
**** Kewaunee County Notes: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not shown); Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Land Conservation & Parks includes Fair and Zoning; Zoning is Land Information							
***** Iowa County: FTE employee count; Pine Valley is Bloomfield and has now closed; Administration includes 3 Finance and 1 Employee Relations staff; Zoning & Sanitation is Planning & Development; Courthouse Maintenance is Environmental Services; DA includes 1 FTE for Court Ordered Programs							
***** Grant County: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not available); Administration includes Finance & Personnel Dept staff (no Administrator); Courthouse Maintenance is Facilities & Maintenance, Grant County contributes to an Economic Development Corporation							
***** Sauk County: Individual employee count (including part-time employees) but no contracted employees are included except UW Extension; Courthouse Maintenance is Building Services; MIS includes GIS and property lister; Economic Development is Community Development Coordinator							

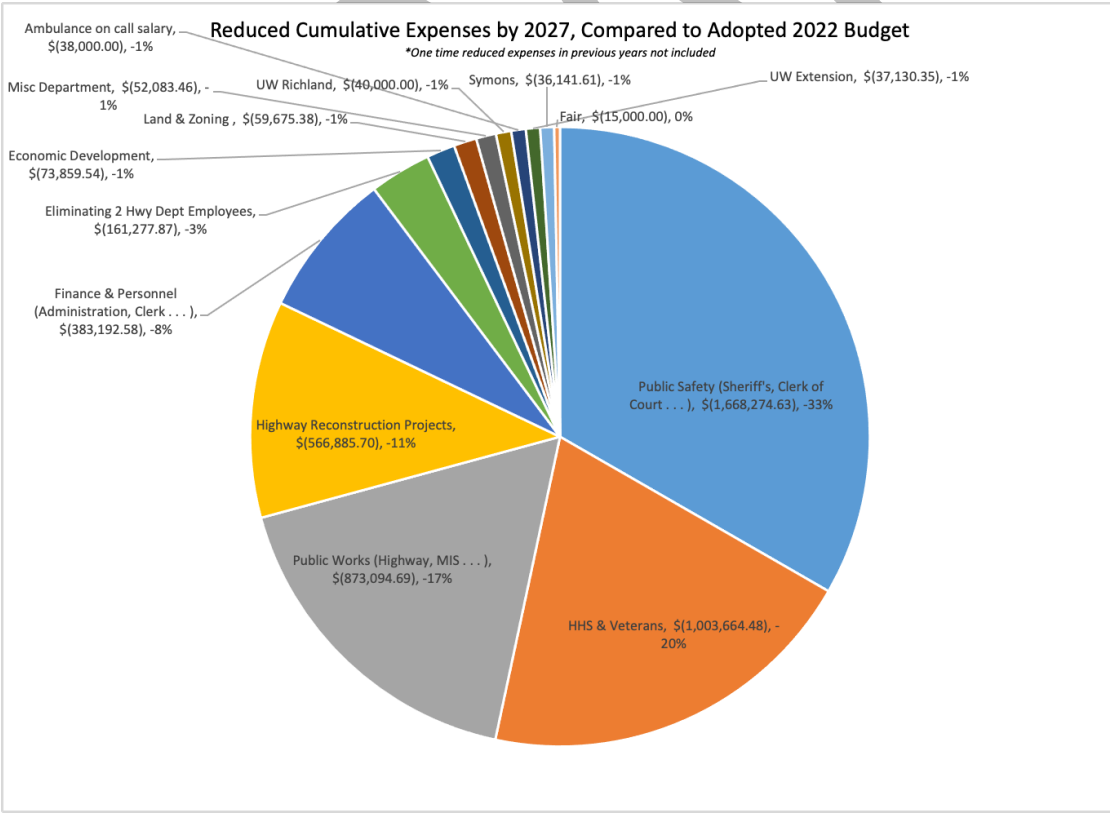
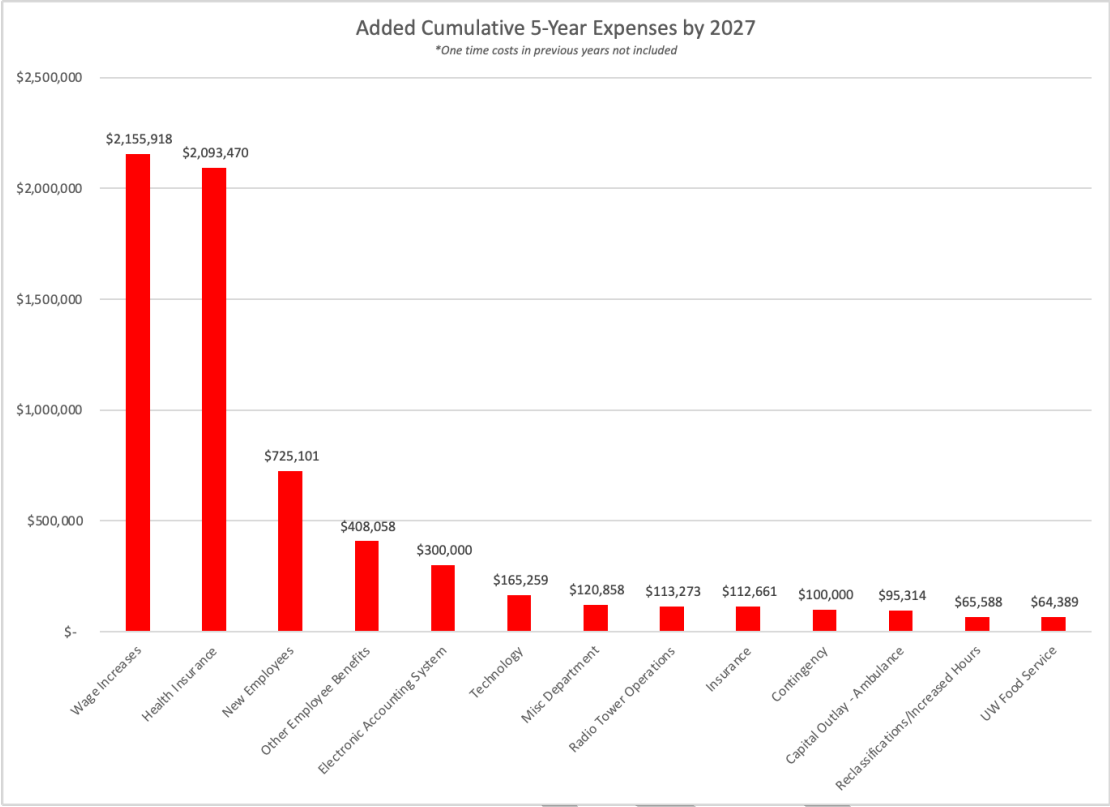
Regarding Health & Human Services Department staffing level comparisons, a detailed chart is included below to note how the numbers in the above chart were determined.

Department Name	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Iowa****	Kewaunee*****	Grant	Sauk
Population	17,300	16,200	16,500	23,600	20,600	51,900	
ADRC			15	11.6	7	17	32
Capital Consortium - Not Paid by Richland County	-9						
Health & Human Services	75		32				
Health or Public Health		11		5.8	5	26	44
Human Services		37			30		113
Justice, Division, and Support							6
Social Services				22		39	
Unified Community Services				10		28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>195</b>
*Richland County full time and contract/lease positions authorized by the County Board							
** Bayfield full-time employees in 2022							
*** Burnett County # of current employees (includes part time)							
**** Iowa County FTE authorized in 2022 budget							
***** Kewaunee County FTE authorized in 2022 budget							
***** Grant County FTE							
***** Sauk County # of current employees (includes part time)							

The County Administrator has also created a 5-year (2023 – 2027) financial plan that **estimates the additional expenses and revenues projected by the year 2027, compared to the adopted 2022 budget.** ~~Those expenses and revenues have been divided into four categories. that will be needed to deliver those pay increases to remain competitive and fund other County priorities, such has finance, human resources, and maintenance positions.~~

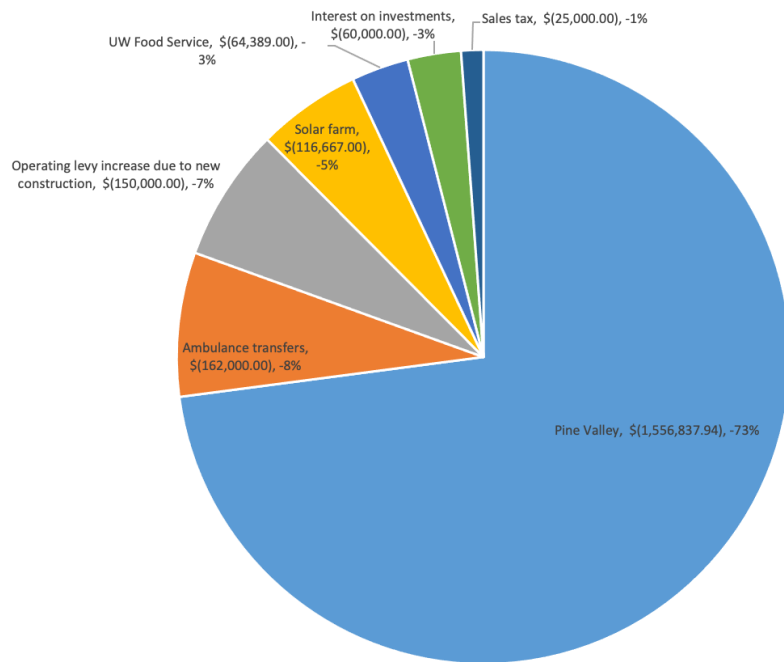
5-Year Plan Category, Comparing to 2027 to 2022	
Total Added Expenses	\$ 6,519,889.15
Total Reduced Expenses	\$ (5,008,280.29)
Total Added Revenues	\$ (2,134,893.94)
Total Reduced Revenues	\$ 623,285.08
<b>Balanced Budget</b>	<b>\$ (0.00)</b>

Added expenses, reduced expenses, added revenues, and reduced revenues are shown in the following four charts.

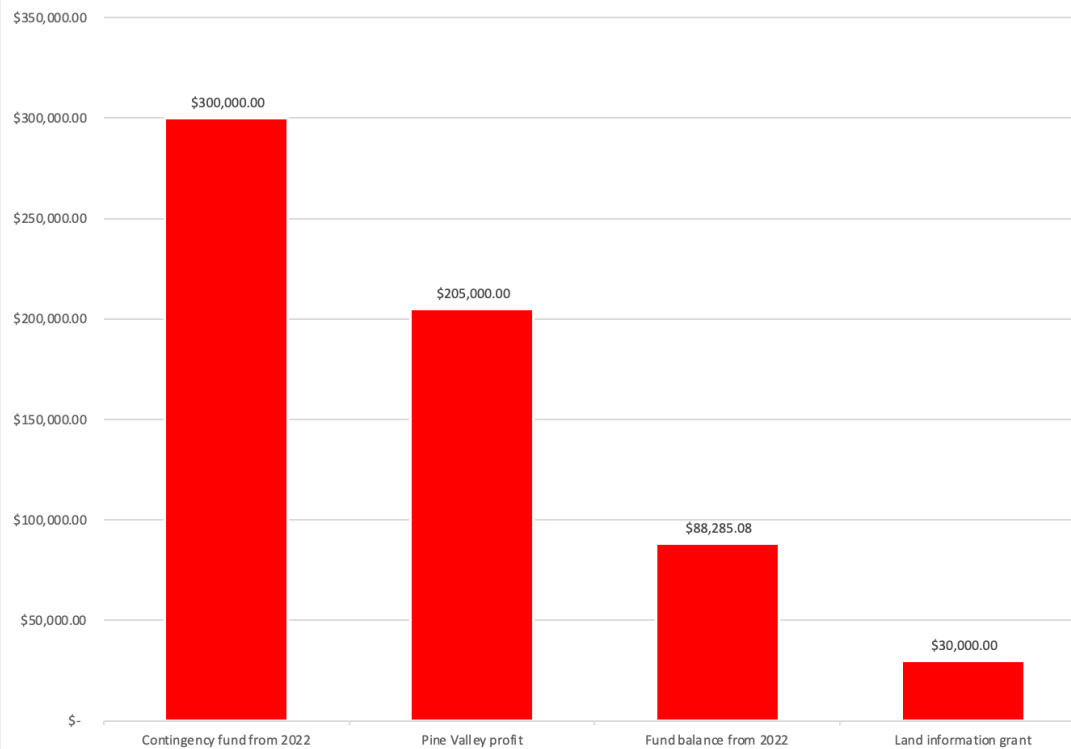


### Added Cumulative Revenues by 2027, Compared to Adopted 2022 Budget

*\*One time revenues in preveious years not included*



### Reduced Cumulative Revenues by 2027, Compared to the 2022 Adopted Budget



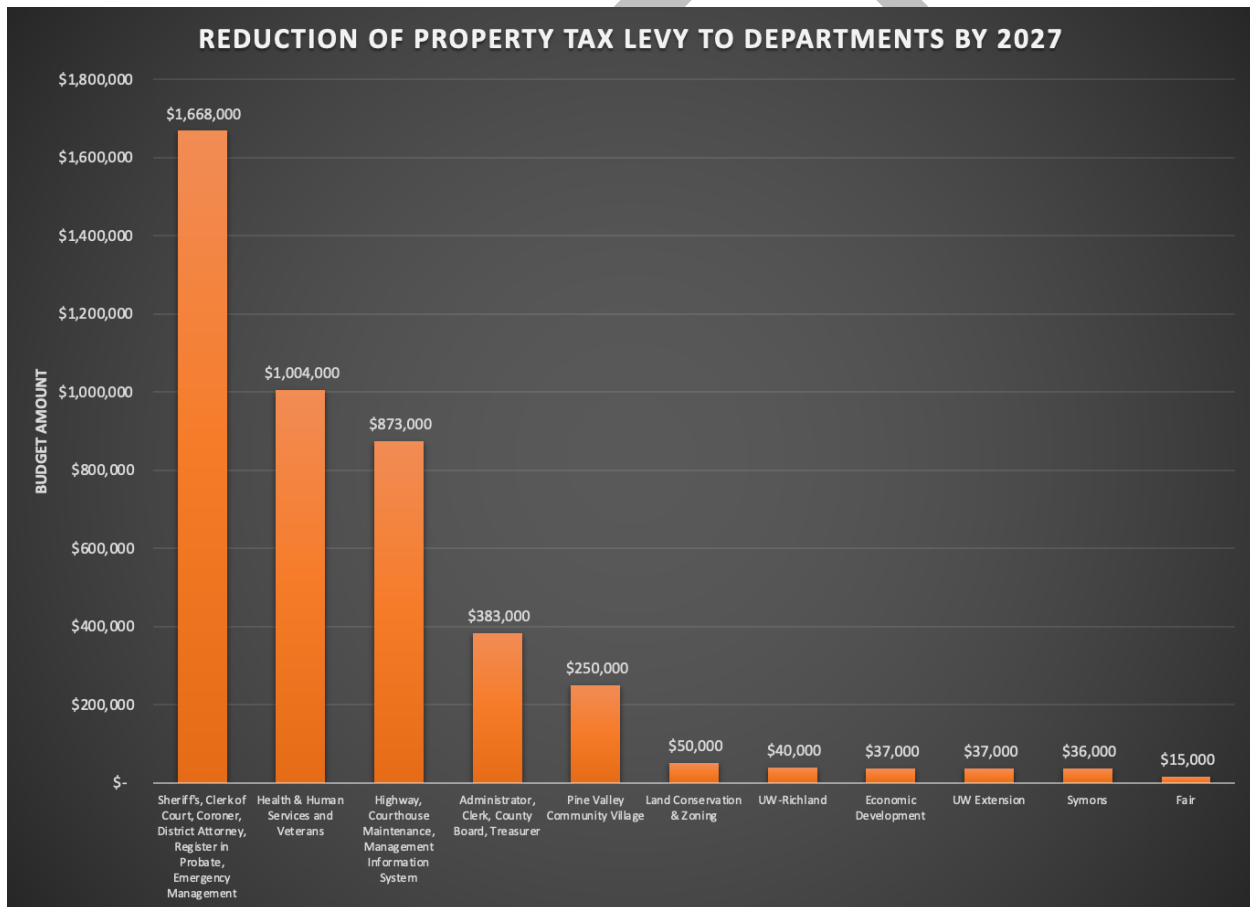


The County Board also recently adopted a set of resolutions guiding committees and departments as to how to decrease their impact on the property tax levy. **Some of these decreases may be permanent, but some may be identified for a potential property tax operating levy referendum in 2023, to take effect in 2024.**

Note that many of these reductions in the property tax levy begin in 2024 and escalate to the amounts shown in the following chart/s in 2027, to account for increasing costs such as wages and benefits.

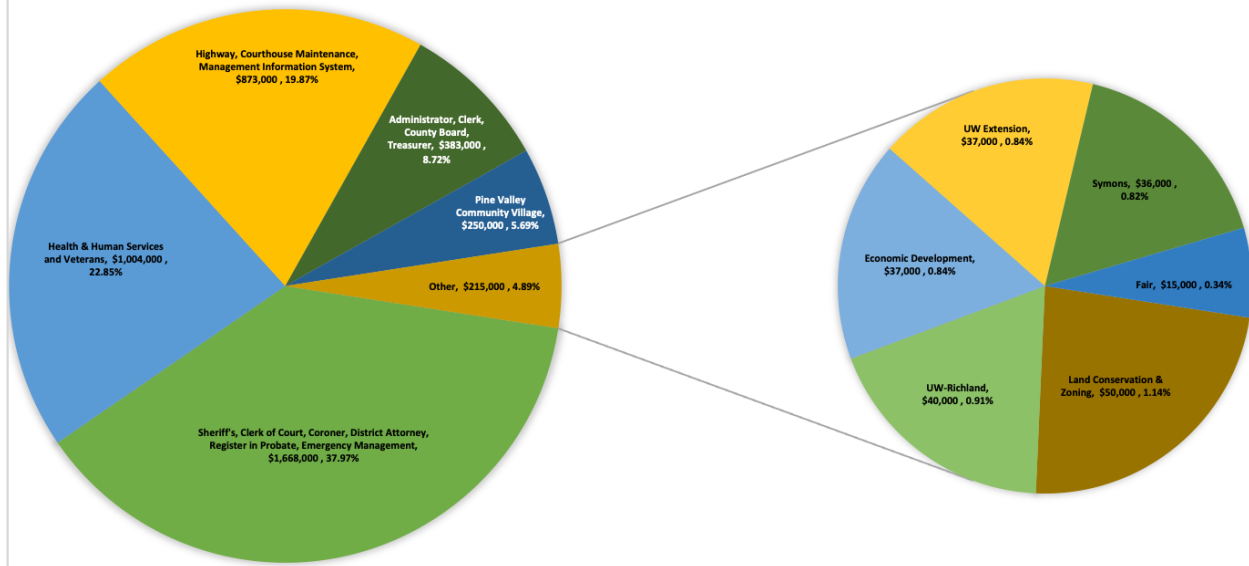
**Departments and committees may meet these reductions to the property tax levy by any of the following methods:**

1. Decreased expenses
2. Increased revenues from sources other than the property tax levy
3. Increased revenues from an operating levy referendum *(assuming such a referendum is recommended by the County Board and passed by voters)*



\*Note the discrepancies between dollar amounts in the above chart for Pine Valley Community Village, Land Conservation & Zoning, and Economic Development compared to the pie chart on a previous page illustrating the 5-year financial plan entitled, “Reduced Cumulative Expenses by 2027.”

## REDUCTION TO THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY BY 2027



Total:  
\$4.4 million

## Next Steps

The Referendum Ad Hoc Committee has identified the following next steps:

1. Communicate directly with committees and departments heads affected by a potential referendum, so that expectations are clear:
  - Share this report
  - Share the Committee's public education plans
    - Short-term (September/October): Educate the public about the work of the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
    - Long-term (TBD): If the Committee recommends moving forward with an operating levy referendum in 2023, educational materials will be developed for the approximate 2-month period before the ballot measure is placed on the ballot
  - Request information needed by the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
    - How each committee plans to describe the identified property tax levy decrease
    - Which budget amounts will be recommended as a permanent decrease, and which budget amounts will be recommended for inclusion on a potential property tax operating levy referendum, to take effect in 2024
  - Collect questions each committee has for the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
2. Research other operating levy referendums
3. Educate the public about the work of the committee
  - Radio
  - Newspaper
  - Video
4. Recommend action on the referendum, including:
  - Whether or not to develop a referendum question
  - The date, amount, and purpose of a potential operating levy referendum
  - Public education content and format for a potential operating levy referendum
  - The consequences/outcome of a failed operating levy referendum
5. Draft a report for submittal to the committee we report to (Finance & Personnel Standing Committee)

## Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

**Agenda Item Name:** Correspondence from Committees

<b>Department</b>	County Board	<b>Presented By:</b>	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10/10/22	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Motion
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open Session	<b>Authority:</b>	<a href="#">Resolution 22-74</a>
<b>Date submitted:</b>	10/10/22	<b>Referred by:</b>	Pine Valley & Child Support Committee; Richland Economic Development Board; Public Works Standing Committee

**Recommendation and/or action language:** A motion to request more information from the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee, Richland Economic Development Board, and Public Works Standing Committee as detailed by the Referendum Committee.

**Background:** At the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee, the committee received 3 reports responding to resolutions passed by the County Board in August. See **yellow highlighted** sections in Attachment A. Reports came from:

1. Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee (Attachment B)
2. Richland Economic Development Board (Attachment C)
3. Public Works Standing Committee (Attachment D)

The Referendum Committee may choose to request information from each committee. Ideas may include but not be limited to:

### Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee

- A copy of Pine Valley's 2023 proposed budget showing how proposed profits are being determined, including their amount and how proposed profits relate to other projected expenses and revenues.
- Financial projections showing how proposed profits are being determined for the years 2024 – 2027, including their amount and how they relate to other projected expenses and revenues.
- The current financial plan projects \$300,000 in profits from Pine Valley for each of the years 2023 – 2027. Resolution 22-92 directed Pine Valley to explore the possibility of increasing that amount to approximately \$740,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that \$440,000 difference the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in Pine Valley's property tax operating levy amount (i.e., increase to the profits returned to the general fund).

### Richland Economic Development (RED) Board

- Research from other counties that have private funding for economic development (e.g., Vernon, Green), including the amount of time it takes to raise funds and how the governing board is represented by private contributors.
- Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget.

### Public Works Standing Committee

## Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

- How proposed reductions to the property tax levy will be made in years 2025, 2026, and 2027, including the types of projects and purchases that will not be funded.
- The Highway Department is already projecting a \$567,000 decrease to highway reconstruction projects by 2027 to fund increases employee wage and benefits. What is the total budget for highway reconstruction projects in the operating levy, and is it large enough to absorb additional reductions through 2027?
- The portion of the Courthouse Maintenance budget that may be included in reductions to the property tax levy.
- Why MIS prioritized items in the 5-year financial plan over the purchase of new computers (shown in chart below)

Description	Impact	2027 Amount
Reclassification of MIS system Administrator Position - MIS Administrator	Reclassification of the MIS Administrator Position potentially from a "J" to "K". The MIS Systems Administrator position continues to grow in complexity requiring rapidly developing continued education, experience and responsibility.	\$ 4,688
Sheriff Tech / and Radio Tower Coordinator Position	Anticipation of position at possible "I" rating.	\$ 91,442
Reclassification of MIS Position - MIS Director	Reclassification of the MIS Administrator Position potentially from a "M" to "N". Expectations and responsibility of the department continues to grow in efforts to meet service support expectations.	\$ 4,465
MIS Assistant (Continued as new employee 20hrs)	Currently this position is leased and funded through ARPA through 2022; if keep this position leased	\$ 26,512
Office 365 Licensing (Subscription)	With this the county will have a stronger platform for sharing server access, collaborative projects, efficiencies, and continuity of support programs including video conferencing	\$ 71,898
AS400 Cloud Backup	This service backs up our financial and payroll data in cloud storage - vs. historic practice of tape backup; new expense in 2023	\$ 7,293
Smarsh - Mobile Device	Achieving Mobile Messages and Filtering; new expense in 2023	\$ 5,628
Jamf- management of updates and apps	Mobile device management (estimating at 5%, but may also have to factor for adding more devices); new expense in 2023	\$ 4,133
Telephone Licensing - looking to increase at about 7% each year	Current annual expense = \$7,035.00; increase expense at a projected 7% increase	\$ 646
New Website - for the county on a platform - Gov Office (example) estimated a 35,000 implementation and \$15,000 annual	Merge with estimates from Clerk's Budget	\$ 15,000
VEEAM - server management software - projected increases	Back up of servers. It images all servers in the event of a loss it allows for data and server recovery.	\$ 304
Misc. software expenses - Adobe, genome, WebEx, etc. (currently \$2,000) anticipating 5% increase	Adds administrative ease on managing and editing data.	\$ 3,039
Antivirus - Sophos, changed to a centralized expense vs. department (\$17,000)	Current three year deal	\$ 19,469
Barracuda Web-filter	Filters access to inappropriate content and filters malicious emails.	\$ 6,381
Security Training and Testing Program	A program would help mitigate threats and data breaches.	\$ 3,647
Security Cameras and Video Storage	Protects physical infrastructure and mitigates breaches and liabilities.	\$ 608
Secondary Internet Redundancy	This would be a "small band-width" provider to use as a secondary in the event of outage with primary	\$ 1,216

### Attachments and References:

08A Resolutions	08B Pine Valley
08C RED	08D Public Works

### Financial Review:

(please check one)

## Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
	Other funding Source		
X	No financial impact		

**Approval:**

**Review:**

---

Department Head

---

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

---

6. Levy Expenditure Reduction— Develop a course of action, if possible, where departments and budgets under supervision have a total projected, levy operational expense reduction of \$350,000 entering into 2024. These adjustments in expenditure must account for projected increases in COLA and Compensation Policy and other employee benefits included with the financial plan.

Replace stricken language in the Highway Department, Courthouse Maintenance Management, and Management Information Services section with the following:

3. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$278,000 in 2024, \$554,000 in 2025, \$681,000 in 2026, and \$873,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 2.01 through 2.91 and 18.01 through 20.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

Strike the following language in the County Administrator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Board and ancillary budgets section:

7. Service Consideration Matrix — Evaluate services under the guidance of the Service Consideration Matrix (of the Richland County Strategic Plan), finalize responses by a majority vote of the committee and submit the responses to the County Administrator to present to the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Finance and Personnel Standing Committee and the Richland County Board.
8. Levy Expenditure Reduction— Develop a course of action, if possible, where departments and budgets under supervision have a total projected, levy operational expense reduction of \$200,000 entering into 2024. These adjustments in expenditure must account for projected increases in COLA and Compensation Policy and other employee benefits included with the financial plan.

Replace stricken language in the County Administrator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Board and ancillary budgets section with the following:

4. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$122,000 in 2024, \$243,000 in 2025, \$299,000 in 2026, and \$383,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 6.01 through 6.91, 13.01 through 14.91, and 21.01 through 22.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

Voice vote taken and motion to accept proposed amendments carried. Voice vote taken to accept amended Resolution No. 22 – 96. The motion carried and the amended resolution declared adopted.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 22 – 96**

A Resolution Directing The Various Richland County Standing Committees To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the various Departments and Services listed below have been identified for service consideration and possible future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the various Standing Committees listed below are tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the various Departments and Services listed below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health and Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Health and Human Services and Veterans Services

1. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$320,000 in 2024, \$637,000 in 2025, \$783,000 in 2026, and \$1,004,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 1.01 through 1.92 and 17.01 through 17.92 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Safety Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Courts Office, Corner's Office, District Attorney's Office, Register in Probates Office and Emergency Management

2. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$531,000 in 2024, \$1,058,000 in 2025, \$1,301,000 in 2026, and \$1,668,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 3.01 through 5.91, 8.01 through 8.90, 10.01 through 11.91, and 24.01 through 25.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Highway Department, Courthouse Maintenance and Management Information Systems

3. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$278,000 in 2024, \$554,000 in 2025, \$681,000 in 2026, and \$873,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 2.01 through 2.91 and 18.01 through 20.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance and Personnel Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through County Administrator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Board and ancillary budgets



4. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$122,000 in 2024, \$243,000 in 2025, \$299,000 in 2026, and \$383,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 6.01 through 6.91, 13.01 through 14.91, and 21.01 through 22.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the various Standing Committee Chairs, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ		X
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
DEREK S. KALISH		
COUNTY CLERK	X	
DAVID TURK		
STEVE WILLIAMSON		
MARC COUEY		
GARY MANNING	X	

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

*Resolution Amended On Board Floor August 16, 2022*

Resolution No. 22 – 90 directing the Joint Ambulance Committee to consider services, develop options and propose a recommendation on future operations was reviewed by County Administrator Langreck. Motion by Couey, second by Williamson that Resolution No. 22 - 90 be adopted. The motion carried and resolution declared adopted.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 90**

A Resolution Directing The Joint Ambulance Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Joint Ambulance Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partners to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Ambulance and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Ambulance Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

#### Ambulance Operations

1. Service Consideration Matrix — Evaluate services under the guidance of the Service Consideration Matrix (of the Richland County Strategic Plan), finalize responses by a majority vote of the committee and submit the responses to the County Administrator to present to the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Finance and Personnel Standing Committee and the Richland County Board.
2. Zero Levy for Operations and Capital Expenditures — Develop a course of action, if possible, where operations of services, ownership and maintenance of all grounds buildings and equipment remain under Richland County but in which no foreseeable operational levy is required entering into 2024 and beyond. This course of action should include a business plan with expenditure and revenue projections, an autonomous capital management program, for implementation no later than 01 Jan 2026.
3. Utilization of levy exemption — Develop a course of action, if possible, where operations of services, ownership of all grounds buildings and equipment, and administrative services remain under Richland County but in which levy exemption may be utilized to fund additional operational, capital and emergency dispatch expenditures. This course of action should include a business plan with expenditure and revenue projections, an autonomous capital management program, coordination with the Sheriff's Department and the Public Safety Committee regarding dispatch expenses, for implementation no later than 01 Jan 2026.
4. Autonomous Operation— Develop a course of action, if possible, where operations of services, ownership of all grounds buildings and equipment, and administrative services no longer under Richland County. This course of action should include a business plan with expenditure and revenue projections, an autonomous capital management program, and transition plan and timeline to operate autonomous on 01 Jan 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Ambulance Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the JAC recommends to proceed with option #4 above, the Richland County Administrator is tasked to work cooperatively with the participating municipalities, utilizing the JAC, to ensure the orderly transition of ambulance operations to the successor of the JAC. Such transition shall be done in a manner and time frame so as not to disrupt the employees of the service or the provision of EMS to the participating municipalities and the Richland Hospital. Any and all assets, including the Emergency Services Building, facility and grounds, equipment, vehicles, fixtures, furniture, financial accounts and supplies used in connection with the operation of the Richland County Ambulance Service, shall be transferred and conveyed to such successor of the JAC at no or nominal consideration. Employees of the Ambulance Service shall automatically be eligible for employment by the successor to the JAC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the JAC shall not request any tax levy dollars, for any ambulance service operations and capital projects, for the fiscal year 2023 and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
DAVID TURK		
STEVE WILLIAMSON		
MARC COUEY		
GARY MANNING	X	

DEREK S. KALISH  
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

Resolution No. 22 – 91 notifying the Symons Natatorium and Richland Economic Development Department of future funding reductions and directing the Symons Natatorium Board and Richland Economic Development Board to consider services, develop options and propose a recommendation on future operations was reviewed by County Administrator Langreck. Motion by Manning, second by Rynes that Resolution No. 22 - 91 be adopted. The motion carried with one opposed and resolution declared adopted.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 91

A Resolution Notifying The Symons Natatorium And Richland Economic Development Department Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Symons Natatorium Board And Richland Economic Development Board To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the Symons Natatorium and Richland Economic Development have been identified for possible future funding reductions, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Symons Natatorium Board and Richland Economic Development Board are tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to**

consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Symons Natatorium and Richland Economic Development Department respectfully; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Symons Natatorium Board and Richland Economic Development Board are specifically tasked with the following:

Symons Natatorium Operations

1. Encouraged to explore the transfer of Symons to a non-profit organization, including research of similar non-profit models, and return to the Finance & Personnel Committee with a report by October 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

Economic Development Operations

2. Encourage the RED board to explore a public private partnership where public sources make up half and private sources make up half of the Economic Development budget; and return to Finance and Personnel Committee with a report by October 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

DEREK S. KALISH  
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
DAVID TURK		
STEVE WILLIAMSON		
MARC COUEY		
GARY MANNING	X	

Resolution No. 22 – 92 directing the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee to consider services, develop options and propose a recommendation on future operations was reviewed by County Administrator Langreck. Motion by McKee, second by Williamson that Resolution No. 22 - 92 be adopted. The motion carried with one opposed and resolution declared adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 92**

A Resolution Directing The Pine Valley And Child Support Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Community Village and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Pine Valley and Child Support Operations

1. Explore the possibility of Pine Valley generating profits that annually equal 50% of their mortgage payments to be used by the county for operations or capital projects, outside of Pine Valley, and return to Finance and Personnel with a report by 10/31/2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
DEREK S. KALISH		
COUNTY CLERK	X	
	DAVID TURK	
	STEVE WILLIAMSON	
DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022	MARC COUEY	
	GARY MANNING	X

Resolution No. 22 – 93 notifying the Fair and Recycling Coordinator and Parks Commission of future funding reductions and directing the Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee to consider services, develop options and propose a recommendation on future operations was reviewed by County Administrator Langreck. Motion by McKee, second by Rynes that Resolution No. 22 – 93 be adopted. Discussion continued. Motion by Gottschall, second by Rynes, to strike the word “fairgrounds” in section #1 and replace with “fair operations”. Roll Call vote taken to accept amendment: Yes: Carrow, Murphy-Lopez,

Seep, Rynes, Luck, Manning, Gottschall, Glasbrenner, Gentes, Cosgrove, Frank, Severson, Williamson, Couey, Voyce, and McGuire; No: Brewer, McKee, Rudersdorf, and Turk. With 16 Yes and 4 No votes, the motion to accept the amendment carried. Voice vote taken to accept amended motion carried with 2 opposed and the resolution was declared adopted.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 93**

A Resolution Notifying The Fair And Recycling Coordinator And Parks Commission Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Richland County Fair, Recycling And Parks Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the Fair and Recycling Operations and Parks and Trails Operations have been identified for future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Fair Grounds Recycling Center and County Parks and Trails; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

### **Regarding Fair Operations**

1. To explore the transfer of the fair operations to a nonprofit agricultural society including research on peer counties with a non-profit fair model, and return to Finance and Personnel by 11/30/22 with a report

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
STEVE CARROW	X	

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

MELISSA LUCK  
TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL X  
DAVID TURK  
STEVE WILLIAMSON  
MARC COUEY  
GARY MANNING X

DEREK S. KALISH  
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

*Amended On Board Floor August 16, 2022*

Resolution No. 22 – 94 notifying The UW Platteville-Richland leadership, UW Extension Office and Food Services of future funding reductions and directing the Richland County Education Standing Committee to consider services, develop options and propose a recommendation on future operations was reviewed by County Administrator Langreck. Motion by Glasbrenner, second by Manning that Resolution No. 22 - 94 be adopted. Discussion continued. Motion by Murphy-Lopez, second by Williamson, to amend the resolution as follows:

Under the “Regarding UW Campus section”: add an “s” to the word “project” in item 2b and move #3 and #4 under #2 as sub-sections of #2.

Strike the following language under the “Regarding the Food Services” section:

5. Service Consideration Matrix — Evaluate services under the guidance of the Service Consideration Matrix (of the Richland County Strategic Plan), finalize responses by a majority vote of the committee and submit the responses to the County Administrator to present to the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Finance and Personnel Standing Committee and the Richland County Board

7. Develop a course of action, for the discontinuation of the existing services including: elimination of county funding, reassignment or separation of existing staff, necessary changes in policy, and appropriation or liquidation of all assets, grounds, equipment and facilities in the best interest of the county.”

Strike date of “June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023” and replace with “October 31, 2022”.

Discussion continued. Motion by McKee, second by Rudersdorf, to accept all proposed amendments. Discussion continued. Voice vote taken and motion to accept all proposed amendments carried. Voice vote taken and motion accept amended resolution carried with one opposed and resolution declared adopted.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 22 – 94 (Amended)**

A Resolution Notifying The UW Platteville-Richland Leadership, UW Extension Office And Food Services Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Richland County Education Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator’s Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the University of Wisconsin Extension Office, Food Services and partners in the UW Platteville-Richland have been identified for future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Richland County Education Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, UW Platteville-Richland and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the UW Extension Office, Food Services and UW Platteville-Richland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Education Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

#### Regarding the UW Campus

1. Existing Agreement with No Levy — Develop a course of action, if possible, where ownership of all grounds and property is retained by Richland County and services are provided through UW Platteville-Richland, but in which no foreseeable county levy dollars are needed for any future operations or capital expenditures entering into 2025 and beyond.
2. Explore more cost effective and efficient use of land and buildings.
  - a. Explore the return of recruiting and admissions from the UW Platteville Campus to the UW Richland Campus and
  - b. Explore a dollar for dollar match by UW Richland Foundation for capital projects, not to exceed \$100,000 year in exchange for the County committing to continue to allocate a minimum of \$20,000 a year for insurance and \$100,000 for capital maintenance projects.

#### Regarding the Food Services

3. Existing Model with No Levy — Develop a course of action, if possible, where services are provided to UW Platteville-Richland, Nutrition Program and community, but in which no foreseeable county levy dollars are needed for any future operations or capital expenditures entering into 2024 and beyond. Consideration must also be given to future maintenance and ownership of the Coppertop Building.

#### Regarding the UW Extension Office

4. Service Reduction — Develop a course of action, for prioritizing services to operate at a 20% reduction by 2024 (from a 2022-year budget of approximately \$37,000).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Standing Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.



VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ		X
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
DAVID TURK		
STEVE WILLIAMSON		
MARC COUEY		
GARY MANNING	X	

DEREK S. KALISH  
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

*Amended On Board Floor August 16, 2022*

Resolution No. 22 – 95 directing the Land and Zoning Standing Committee to consider services, develop options and propose a recommendation on future operations was reviewed by County Administrator Langreck. Motion by Rynes, second by McKee that Resolution No. 22 - 95 be adopted. Discussion continued. Motion by Murphy-Lopez, second by McKee to amend the date of “June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023” to “October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Voice vote taken and motion to accept amended date carried. Voice vote taken and motion to accept amended resolution carried and resolution declared adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 95**

A Resolution Directing The Land And Zoning Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator’s Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Land and Zoning Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Land Conservation, Zoning and Register of Deeds and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Land and Zoning Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Land Conservation, Zoning and Register of Deeds

1. Service Consideration Matrix — Evaluate services under the guidance of the Service Consideration Matrix (of the Richland County Strategic Plan), finalize responses by a majority vote of the committee and submit the responses to the County Administrator to present to the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Finance and Personnel Standing Committee and the Richland County Board.
2. Levy Expenditure Reduction— Develop a course of action, if possible, where departments and budgets under supervision have a total projected, levy operational expense reduction of \$50,000 entering into 2024 and the same sustained reduction beyond. These adjustments in expenditure must account for projected increases in COLA and Compensation Policy and other employee benefits included with the financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Land and Zoning Standing Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION  
AYES \_\_\_\_\_ NOES \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE  
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE  
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
DAVID TURK		
STEVE WILLIAMSON		
MARC COUEY		
GARY MANNING	X	

DEREK S. KALISH  
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

No appointments made at meeting.

Administrator Langreck reviewed important upcoming meeting dates and times.

No correspondences reviewed at meeting.

Motion by McGuire, second by Manning to adjourn to September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)



# Pine Valley Community Village

Skilled Nursing Center – Assisted Living Center – Rehabilitation Center

25951 Circle View Lane - Richland Center, WI 53581

- Phone: (608)647-2138  
- Fax: (608)647-8955  
- Website: [pinevalleycommunity.org](http://pinevalleycommunity.org)  
- E-mail: [pvhrc@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:pvhrc@co.richland.wi.us)

---

*"....dedicated to providing quality physical, spiritual and emotional care to all individuals who seek our services."*

---

Date: September 22, 2022

To: Clint Langreck, Administrator

Re: Response to Resolution 22-96

From: Tom Rislow, administrator Pine Valley

---

**Appointed Task:** The Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee was specifically asked to *"Explore the possibility of Pine Valley generating profits that annually equal 50% of their mortgage payments to be used by the county for operations or capital projects, outside of Pine Valley, and return to Finance & Personnel with a report by 10/31/2022"*.

**Principle and Interest** on PV's debt for 2016-2019 varied.

However, from 2020 until 2036 it doesn't change.

Therefore, we will focus on that annual amount **which is \$1,482,912**.

**50% of \$1,482,912 = \$741,456.**

## **QUESTION**

So the question for Pine Valley is whether it can generate at least \$741,456 in profits annually.

## **ANSWER**

The short answer is NO.

The longer answer is...

YES, for 2017, 2018, 2019, and even 2020, when Covid stimulus dollars were received. However, since then even the best forecasted year would generate profits of only 23% of the mortgage amount. Why is that? What has changed?

**Future occupancy for the nursing home section is forecasted at least 7% below historical numbers.**

**Therefore, annual revenue for the nursing home section is forecasted more than \$400,000 below what was previously possible.**

**Lack of staff is the cause for that.**

### **Working against us...**

Factors working against Pine Valley's ability to make larger profits, include:

- Heavy reliance on government funding
- Heavy reliance on hands on care
- Heavy care needs of residents
- Staffing shortages
- High Cost of contracted staff
- Rising wages and cost of benefits for employees (necessary in order to stay competitive)
- Have little to no fat left in expenses for cutting
- Have continued to periodically turn away potential admissions (due to staffing)
- Have less revenue because of lower occupancy

### **Working in our favor...**

Factors working in Pine Valley's favor include:

- New facility
- Private rooms
- Reputation for high quality care (rated by CMS as 5-Star)
- Core group of committed dedicated employees
- Talented department leaders
- Strong demand for the assisted living apartments
- The State of Wisconsin recognizing nursing home challenges and raising Medicaid rates
- Higher retention rates and lower turnover rates among Pine Valley nursing positions when compared to the rest of the State of Wisconsin

### **Empty rooms...**

Since forecasted occupancy is less, that means plenty of empty beds. Can't those be used for something else? The nursing home section has 4 separate households. Only if one of those households totally emptied all of its rooms, could a different licensure and type of care and clientele be considered. That would be a consideration if occupancy ever dipped that low which hasn't happened to date. However, by closing a nursing home section and delicensing the beds, Pine Valley would permanently lose its ability to get those licensed beds back.

**Net cash** history by year, and **Occupancy**:

	<u>Net cash</u>	<u>Occupancy(N.H.)</u>	<u>Asst.Liv.</u>
2018	\$610,714	95%	89%
2019	\$1,146,359	95%	95%
2020	*\$1,011,173	86%	96%
2021	\$526,315	86%	95%
2022	\$350,000	85%	93%
2023 – est.	\$300,000	88%	92%
2024 – est.	\$250,000	88%	92%
2025 – est.	\$350,000	88%	92%

**Where did cash go?**

- build up operating cash (*currently at \$2,710,328*)
- build up capital fund (*currently at \$1,161,249*), and
- the county general fund (*\$1,346,996 from 2019-2022*)

**What causes the year-to-year variances?**

- Occupancy
- Labor costs
- \*additional COVID dollars in 2020

**Assumptions**

- Wage and health insurance increase percentages used for 2023, 2024 and 2025 were as originally proposed  
(wages 7% - 7% - 4%) & (health insurance premiums 15% - 11% - 10%)
- While still challenging, in preparing this forecast we assumed staffing levels would be sufficient for maintaining an occupancy of at least 88%. **Should staffing levels not be able to be maintained, then forecasted cash flow will be less. (for example, the effect of closing one of the 20-bed households would cause an annual drop in revenue of 1.3 million, and a reduction in expenses of 1 million.)**



## **Response to County Board Resolution No. 22-91 Seeking Funding Options for Richland Economic Development**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

*Resolution No. 22-91 - A Resolution Notifying The Symons Natatorium And Richland Economic Development Department Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Symons Natatorium Board And Richland Economic Development Board To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.*

**The Richland Economic Development Board hereby submits this document in response to County Board Resolution No. 22-91 which provided the following direction;**

*"2. Encourage the RED board to explore a public private partnership where public sources make up half and private sources make up half of the Economic Development budget; and return to Finance and Personnel Committee with a report by October 31st 2022."*



## Summary

9/28/2022

The RED Board has conducted research and assembled information regarding four possible funding models for Richland Economic Development. For reasons outlined throughout this document, the **Unanimous Recommendation** of the Richland Economic Development Board is to retain the current model of funding with **RED funded 50% by the County and 50% by the City**. While the actual budget documents for this model shows the County funding (60%) and the City (40%), the City provides office space and other amenities which, when factored, are intended to equally spread the cost of operations at 50% / 50%.

Past economic development efforts, and now Richland Economic Development have yielded substantial positive and measurable contributions to the County's economic position. These contributions come in ways that are both direct (increased property tax base, injection of grant money) and indirect (additional sales tax, more jobs, more students in our schools, new community amenities, and a positive outlook for the future).

There must be deep consideration of the fact that if the County and the City are not engaged in economic development then they are falling behind all counties and municipalities that are. This is almost universally understood, by governments, municipal and regional planning professionals, academia, and private industry alike.

Throughout the past year and a half, through numerous strategic planning efforts that have been conducted by Richland County and facilitated by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, it has been clearly communicated that governments cannot solve their budgetary dilemmas through cuts alone. A complete action plan requires allocation of resources to economic growth. Richland Economic Development is, in fact, the primary entity that spurs on and facilitates growth for the County.

It is also critical to note that Richland Economic Development is one of the few county departments that has the capacity to generate revenues that cover all of the associated cost of the department. Once departmental costs are covered, the Economic Development Office produces profit. The RED Board has discussed and reviewed data and believes that it is reasonable to postulate that Richland Economic Development, approximately 2 years and 5 months into its current structure, has already generated enough new repeat yearly revenue for the County and City to pay 100% of its operating costs (See Exhibit B). This means that all future revenues that are generated from projects that Richland Economic Development helps facilitate should be understood to be 100% profit. These profits can now be used to fund other departments and services that are unable to produce revenue streams through their operations.

Cutting funding and jeopardizing the stability of Richland Economic Development is likely to increase the property tax burden on every land owner in the County, not reduce it.

Thank you for your thorough review and consideration of this recommendation and the documentation that is provided.



## A Letter from the RED Board

**August 8, 2022**

### **RE: General Statement - Alternative Funding for Richland Economic Development**

The Richland Economic Development Board, ("RED Board"), is aware of Richland County's difficult budget considerations, we understand the complexity of the situation, and we appreciate the restrictive nature of state law with regards to municipal funding for rural communities.

We understand the County is in the process of searching for funding options, and considering possible cuts across multiple departments and services, we realize the need for difficult choices, and we offer our support to everyone involved.

This letter is our direct response to any consideration of defunding the Economic Development Director position.

"Strongly Opposed."

Since the creation of this position, a joint effort between Richland County and the City of Richland Center, our community has added the new dialysis center/pharmacy building, the TechCom Building, multiple new homes, the Lone Rock Village Center Park, and the addition of an elevator to the Richland Center City Auditorium.

These projects have provided the County with increased property tax revenue, increased sales tax revenue, increased local employment opportunities, and a much-needed psychological boost for local residents, following an extended period of stagnation.

Jasen Glasbrenner, our current Economic Development Director, has been a critical player in every one of these positive developments. His expertise and experience have helped move each of these possibilities from simple ideas to tangible realities. We believe a decision by Richland County to remove support for this position would not only send a harshly negative message to worried friends and neighbors; it would also lead our community backwards, as we saw when economic development was defunded at both the city and county levels.

The RED Board strongly encourages Richland County to maintain financial support for the critically important Economic Development Director position.

Sincerely,  
The RED Board





## **Richland Economic Development Board Report to Richland County Board and Committees on Funding Alternatives**

**Date: September 12, 2022**

**Re: Report from RED Board regarding restructuring and funding alternatives**

Following are four potential models for the funding of Richland Economic Development as we move forward. The County Board requested RED to evaluate models that might work instead of the existing model. The profile for each model includes a brief description of the model, the governance, and the financing. The pros and cons of the model are stated and then a recommendation from the RED Board is included.

The four funding models below are ranked in the order of most desirable to least desirable and are as follows;

### **Models:**

- 1) **Recommended** - RED is funded 50% by the County and 50% by the City. (This is the Current Model) - The actual budget documents for this model shows the County funding (60%) and the City (40%). However, the City provides office space and other amenities which, when factored, are intended to equalized the cost at 50% / 50%.
- 2) RED is funded 100% by the City. This models assumes that the City decision makers would agree to this concept and that funding could be identified within the City budget.
- 3) RED is funded 50% by the County and City (The Public Sector) and 50% by Private Businesses (The Commerce Sector). This model assumes businesses will be willing to give large donations and that there is a large enough pool of businesses to raise the money from.
- 4) RED becomes a Self-Funded Private Non-Profit Entity having to raise 100% of the funds necessary to operate. This model requires RED to approach all local government entities and businesses on a one on one basis to try to gain the necessary funding of operate. This model presents the highest level of risk and uncertainty to the success of RED and economic development in Richland County.

### **Qualifying Statement regarding the Models:**

1. With regard to Model #2 - The City has not agreed to fund RED entirely if the County dropped out as a funding partner.
2. With regard to Model #3 and #4 - No private (commerce sector) businesses have been approached regarding soliciting contributions.
3. With regard to Model #4 - There have been no efforts to incorporate or file for an IRS 501(C)(3) tax exempt status.



## **Model #1 - Maintain the Current Model of Shared County and City Funding**

### **Governance**

At the present time the RED board has four (4) permanent representatives from government, two (2) from the City of Richland Center and two (2) from Richland County. In addition, there are 5 citizen members representing different economic sectors. There would be no change to government representation or the board structure.

### **Funding**

There would be no change from the current funding model.

### **Considerations**

#### **Pros**

1. The County and City would continue to fund their contributions to RED as in the past which would provide continuity. This is a role proper to government. There would not be favoritism, real or perceived, shown to any private entity or municipality.
2. The structural document will not have to be changed and approved by the Richland Center City Council and the Richland County Board of Supervisors.
3. Sector representation will remain the same.
4. The working relationship between the city and county is better than it has been for a very long time. It is important to recognize, nurture and support this improving relationship.

#### **Cons**

1. The County will have to find other areas of the budget to cut.
2. If Richland County chooses to not support RED, the lack of monetary (visible) county government support may have a negative psychological impact on businesses who wish to expand, relocate to Richland County, or start up.

### **Commentary**

An example of the power and potential of economic development is the Bear Creek Solar Project which will provide Richland County with \$116,667 of unrestricted funds on an annual basis. It is important to note that this project is the direct result of a part-time citizen driven economic development effort which made the solar farm a reality at no cost to the taxpayers. It was completed prior to the creation of RED. This revenue stream is scheduled to start in 2023 and is expected to continue for 30 years. The revenue from this economic development effort alone exceeds the county contribution to RED with the current Richland County contribution at \$73,859.54.



The document "Net New Construction by County" (Exhibit A) indicates that Richland County has lagged all other identified counties in a 5-year average in net new construction. Iowa county leads at 1.59%. Richland County is lowest at 0.83%. This demonstrates the importance of investment in Economic Development for Richland County.

There has been noticeable new construction activity in the City of Richland Center. A positive attitude is beginning to embrace the community. The Mayor is receiving regular contacts from businesses expressing interest in the community. Much of this has started since the creation of RED. It is important for the county to recognize the importance of RED and provide financial support.

Fiber optic cable throughout rural Richland County is going to enhance lives for current residents. It will also make the area more attractive for those considering relocating. RED has played a significant role to foster installation of fiber optic cable. In addition, recent utilization of CDBG Close grants ( $\approx$  \$1.2 million) to enhance the City Auditorium and the Village of Lone Rock would not have taken place without RED.

It is critical to recognize that many economic development efforts have a cumulative effect. Stated another way, once a building is constructed and goes on the property tax rolls, the revenue generated is recurring year after year for as long as the building is in existence. This means that revenues from economic development efforts are always sustained and increasing. An economic development department is one of the few governmental departments that can operate at a consistent profit with the ability to support other departments that are unable to generate a profit.

Please see (Exhibit B) below for a brief overview of the financial involvement that RED has already had for Richland County and Richland Center. It appears that the revenues generated through economic development activity and projects are already in excess of what the County and City have invested since the inception of the department. At this point, yearly costs could be considered 100% covered by the yearly revenues that economic development efforts and RED have been substantially involved in securing. In any business model, this department would be considered for additional funding, not less.

### **Recommendation**

***The RED Board strongly recommends maintaining the current funding, governance structure and sector representation of RED.***



## **Model #2 – RED is Funded 100% by the City**

### **Governance**

As dictated by the adopted Structural Document, the RED Board contains four seats for governmental representatives. Both the County and the City are assigned two seats each. If financial contributions were withdrawn from the County, the composition of the RED Board may change in the following ways:

1. As the County's representatives, the County Administrator and County Board Chair may be removed from their seats and lose voting authority. City representatives may fill the vacancies.
2. As the County may still have a vested interest in the work of the RED Board, their representatives may remain on the board with or without voting power.
3. The RED Board may alter their structure by reducing their size, eligibility requirements for representatives (E.g., city residents only), or disband entirely.

As the structure, composition, authority and purpose of the RED Board are set forth by the Structural Document requiring adoption by both the City and County, any significant alteration, such as the County withdrawing from the agreement, necessitates significant modifications to the Structural Document and readoption. At such time the County extricates itself, the City would set forth the prescribed governance or dissolution.

### **Funding**

The current departmental budget for Economic Development is approximately \$130,000 per year of which the City is currently responsible for 40% or about \$56,000. The City has and will continue to provide office space and other amenities for the department.

To absorb the full cost of the Economic Development Department, the City would need to allocate approximately \$75,000 additional dollars for the first year. This would be an ongoing annual cost subject to a variable increase based on several economic factors (E.g., wage increases, inflationary impact to the cost of goods, equipment replacement, etc).

The City does not have a funding source identified for this additional expense. However, several options are available for consideration such as: reallocating funding from other department budgets, increasing fees, terminating current contributions to Symons (to be considered if funding is withdrawn by the County), requiring the Economic Development Director to seek and obtain grants allowing for administrative costs to be recovered, and so on. Given the revenue generated by the Economic Development Director has largely exceeded the actual expense of the department, all-potential funding options available to the City will be explored to ensure economic development continues within the City.

## **Considerations**

### **Pros**

City continues to vigorously pursue economic development without a loss of momentum.

1. Full dedication to pursuing economic development interests within the City.
2. Ongoing projects will be seen to completion.
3. The Director's time is spent on high value projects rather than fundraising.
4. Streamlined reporting process for the Director.
5. Scope of work is narrowed and strategically focused as determined by the City.
6. The County continues to receive benefit of city based economic development as about 1/3 of tax revenue generated within the City is received by the County.

### **Cons**

1. The County may lose representation and influence on the RED Board.
2. Ongoing and future economic development projects/initiatives within the County would be at the full expense of the County. On a case-by-case basis, the City may elect to contract out the Economic Development Director to the County at an hourly rate. This may prove to be cost prohibitive depending on the scope of work contracted.
3. Independent from the County, a town or village may be compelled to utilize the services of the Economic Development Director. If so, they would be subject to paying the hourly contract rate which may be cost prohibitive.
4. Without a collaborative approach as is in effect now, the potential for relationship building and strategic planning in collaboration with the County may be impeded. Unintended side effects or inefficiencies may present themselves.
5. With less access to County officials and department heads, the exchange of information and opportunity for knowledge sharing may be diminished. Although the director's focus would be city-centric, preserving a communication pathway would be essential.
6. Potential risk of alienating entrepreneurs outside of the City.
7. Towns and villages routinely struggle gaining access to the vast number of resources that may be available to them given their part-time or volunteer status. Additionally, without the necessary technical expertise and adequate time/staffing, managing grants and other programs can be quite challenging for a part-time or volunteer staff. Removing economic development from the County may prevent towns and villages from much needed assistance and support thus impeding their goals as well as the County's.
8. Self-imposed regulation like local ordinances have a tremendous impact on economic development within a community. Without an Economic Development Director on staff, the ability to address regulatory barriers and create an environment favorable to economic development would be severely impeded within the County.



### **Recommendation**

***The RED Board does not recommend this Model.*** While the City would experience several benefits from a city-centric approach to economic development, the cost the County would be tremendous. The Economic Development Director has a proven track record of success within the City and County. This success has allowed the department to generate more revenue than expenses. The department provides both direct and indirect financial value and it creates no burden to the County's overall budget.

Given the importance of continued economic development throughout the entire County, and great challenges a separation would create, it is the recommendation of the RED Board to maintain the current structure and organization of the Economic Development Department. Any proposed change would create an undue burden to the entire County at large.

## **Model #3 – RED is funded 50% by the County and City (The Public Sector) and 50% by Private Businesses (The Commerce Sector)**

### **Governance**

The private and public governance model will include representatives from the government sector and the commerce sector. Presently the RED Board has four permanent representatives from government, two from the City and two from the County. That representation would not change unless the County discontinues funding RED. In such a case, the County may lose their seats on the RED Board and those seats could be redistributed to the City and Commerce sectors. For the sake of the commerce sector contributors, RED would likely need to be organized under a non-profit 501(C)(3) corporation.

### **Funding**

Equalized funding would mean the RED budget of approximately \$130,000 per year would have one-half of the contributions from the government sector (\$65,000) and one-half from the commerce sector (\$65,000). This split would mean the City would be responsible for approximately \$32,500 and the County for approximately \$32,500. Each year the funds would need to be reallocated from the government sector and the commerce sector. There is also the matter of office space and equipment. This model presumes the City would continue to grant usage of office space and equipment.

## **Considerations**

### **Pros**

1. The County and City would significantly reduce their contributions to RED.
2. There would be greater participation financially by the commerce sector in RED. This may tend to increase the buy-in from the commerce sector.
3. RED could operate as a 501(C)(3), which has some benefits in receiving grants.
4. The operations of a 501(C)(3) would be more nimble and less encumbered by governmental regulations.

### **Cons**

1. Funding through the commerce sector takes considerable time and resources to raise and maintain. The scarce resources of time that already tax the Economic Development Director (EDD) would be used for fundraising instead of bringing new commerce into the area.
2. The City and County would significantly decrease their investment in RED which may translate into less concern for economic development.
3. The EDD will have less opportunity to create relationships with governmental offices that will help them to streamline projects.
4. The EDD will have less capacity to influence governmental bodies and government regulations to become favorable to growth and development.
5. The potential for not raising enough funds from the commerce sector could be a reality, especially in economic downturns. In this case, there may be a struggle to continue full operations of economic development in the county.

## **Recommendations**

***The RED Board does not recommend this model.*** While this model of ED structure is used in some counties, and has some measure of success, it also has several limiting factors. It takes a substantial amount of time to raise and maintain funding from the commerce sector and there is a real potential that funding efforts fall short. This creates uncertainty and a potential for failure.

## **Model #4 - RED becomes a Self-Funded Private Non-Profit Entity having to raise 100% of the funds necessary to operate.**

### **Governance**

The Richland Economic Development Board would essentially reorganize to a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and form a board of directors. The board of directors would be responsible for overseeing the operations and control of the newly formed non-profit.





This option will restructure the current make-up of the members and the size of the RED Board.

### **Funding**

Funding for a non-profit economic development organization would come from private donations from local industries or individuals or from grant monies applied for and received from local, state or federal entities.

### **Considerations**

#### **Pros:**

1. The benefit from adopting a privately funded RED Board would potentially eliminate the funding coming from the City and County funds.

#### **Cons:**

1. This type of board structure would require either the board of directors, volunteers, or the economic director to spend time generating the funding. The time spent trying to find funding sources would take away from essential time being used to cultivate and develop working relationships that directly impact economic development within our community.
2. The community tried this type of structure in the past and the experience had was a disconnect between the Economic Development and their board, the City Council, and the County Board. The ideas and visions between the 3 groups could not align and ultimately the Economic Development Board dissolved.
3. There's also a risk that funding this type of model with private donations from local industry will not succeed within our smaller community as we have fewer resources from industry than in larger communities. There's concern that either smaller businesses may not have the ability to provide funding and/or may not fully understand or have the 'buy in' to the idea of being a long-term funding source since the financial benefits are not always obtained immediately; they are gained over time as our community grows. There is a concern of a lack of long-term sustainability with this model.

### **Recommendation**

***The RED Board does not recommend this model.*** The RED Board's recommendation is to continue having both the county and city fund 100% of economic development to maintain the collaboration between the 3 groups and continue to build upon the successes that have develop over the past couple of years. Our current model, having the Economic Director as a liaison between the RED Board, the City, and County, has shown to have the most success in our smaller community with our current financial situation.



## **Exhibit A**

### **Net New Construction by County - Increase in Richland, surrounding, and similar counties by percent.**

Grant	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.06	1.06	0.82	1.47	1.71	5-year average 1.16%

Lafayette	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.35	1.35	0.91	1.16	1.93	5-year average 1.34%

Vernon	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.70	1.42	1.04	1.03	1.47	5-year average 1.33%

Sauk	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.29	0.95	1.33	1.47	1.37	5-year average 1.28%

Iowa	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	2.24	1.27	1.34	1.56	1.56	5-year average 1.59%

Crawford	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.13	0.96	0.74	0.73	1.16	5-year average 0.94%

Richland	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	0.94	0.67	0.83	0.69	1.00	5-year average 0.83%

**Exhibit A – (continued)**

**Net New Construction in dollars by municipal entity in Richland County, as a percent of the total, and 5-year average.**

	2022		2021		2020		2019		2018	
Townships	8,560,000	70%	7,160,100	90%	6,136,000	61%	5,701,400	71%	6,952,200	61%
Villages	418,400	3%	271,700	3%	773,400	8%	(120,200)	-1%	456,400	4%
City	3,337,000	27%	525,400	7%	3,071,800	31%	2,398,100	30%	3,913,400	35%
Total	12,315,400		7,957,200		9,981,200		7,979,300		11,322,000	

**5-year average NNC**

Townships	6,901,960	70%
Villages	359,940	3%
City	2,649,140	27%
Total	9,911,040	

**Exhibit B - Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</b>	
CDBG Close Grant – Lone Rock Park and RC Auditorium	\$1,200,000	Increase in Sales Tax, tourism, removal of blight so property values and community attractiveness increase.	
		New Renter @ Auditorium	≈ \$3,000 / month
		2 to 5 New Jobs	
Dialysis and Pharmacy in RC	\$1,210,000	Repeat Property Tax Income every Year	≈ \$34,800
		One time Sale of Land	\$100,000
		New and retained jobs, sales tax,	
Tech Com Building	\$585,900	Repeat Property Tax Income every Year	≈ \$35,090
		One time Sale of Land	\$25,000
		New and retained jobs, sales tax	
Phoenix Center Covid Relief Grant – made aware and assisted in pursuit	\$200,000	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
Richland Locker Grant – assisted in pursuit	\$200,000	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
Richland Locker RLF – assisted in pursuit	\$200,000	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
Starlite Theaters Grant – assisted in pursuit	\$43,800	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
TIF Extension for Affordable Housing - facilitated capture of dollars for fund that can be used to improve housing in the City	≈ \$115,000	Dollars to be invested in Richland Center	\$115,000

**Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)**

<b>Project / Fund</b>	<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</b>	
Wedgewood Development Lots – 2 Duplexes and 1 Home	≈ \$1,000,000		
		Facilitated receipt of land by donation and then sale of land	\$63,500
		Development Agreements for Net New Construction value of ≈ \$900,000. Repeat Property Tax income every year	≈ \$35,100
WEDC Idle Sites Grant for Rockbridge Childcare Facility	≈ \$150,000	Supports families and work force / provided jobs	
Facilitated Sunshine and Giggles Childcare arrival in RC		Supports families and work force / provided jobs	
		Repeat Property Tax income every year	≈ \$7,800
Main St. Bounce Back Grants	≈ \$150,000	Facilitated the application and receipt of grants to approx. 15 businesses in Richland County.	
County Housing Authority – Lost Fund Recovery Effort	≈ \$80,000	Assisted Administrator in identifying and working to recover lost / idle funds that were defederalized	\$80,000
Bear Creek / Savion / Alliant Energy Solar Field -	\$116,000 / Year for 30+ years	This project was not developed under RED. However, revenue streams are just coming on line and this project is a direct result of focused economic development efforts of the community members on behalf of the county.	

**Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)**

<b>Project / Fund</b>	<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</b>	
New Dollar Tree	\$800,000	Repeat Property Tax income every year	\$23,200
		Job creation retention and sales tax revenue	
New Dunkin Donuts / ATT Store	\$750,000	Repeat Property Tax income every year	\$21,750
Panorama Building #2	\$4,500,000	Repeat Property Tax Revenue is deferred to TIF for approx. 15 years	\$145,000
Facilitation of Richland Center Stori Field Development of new housing units	\$2,400,000	Projected Repeat Property Tax income every year	\$93,600
Los Amigos – WEDC – CDI Grant effort	\$200,000	Effort is in progress	
<b>Projects / Efforts that are in Progress that will bolster the Economy</b>			
City Website Rebuild for Marketing and public ease of use			
City Ordinance Recodification and Rewrite for growth and planning			
City / County Tax Deed Lot Program for redevelopment and new homes			
New Single Family Home Subdivision			
Facilitated transfer of vacant lot to Cazenovia for future redevelopment			
City Redevelopment Authority Revitalization			
City Industrial Park Revitalization Project			
Several Sales leads for Industrial Park			

**Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)**

Projects that are in Progress that will bolster the Economy		
Facilitating USED Grant implementation with Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission - Comprehensive plans in Richland Center, Lone Rock, Boaz, Richland County Strategic Plan, Richland Center and Richland County rebranding for Workforce Retention and Attraction		
Assisting Richland Center in planning around the construction of the New Richland Center Hospital		
Environmental Protection Agency and DNR Technical Assistance Program to clear brownfields in Richland Center and Richland County for redevelopment		
Regional involvement on model for immigrant and migrant workforces of alleviate extreme workforce shortage in the county		
Assisting Richland Center in overhauling the City Planning and Zoning departments and efforts.		

**Economic Impact Summary - Since the Inception of RED:**

- RED has secured over \$1,700,000 in Grant dollars.
- RED is currently facilitating the process to secure over \$300,000 more in grants.
- RED has assisted in the development of projects (either complete or under construction) valued at \$5,545,900.
- RED is currently working to secure development projects valued at more than \$7,000,000
- RED has significantly contributed to the realized, or soon to be realized, year after year property tax revenues of more than \$150,000.



**Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)**

- RED is working to secure development projects that, if completed, will have year after year property tax revenue streams that are in excess of \$240,000.
- RED was instrumental in acquisition and or sale of land for the City that resulted in one-time revenue streams that would not have been realized otherwise; \$163,500.
- The dollar values and contributions listed above are trackable and objective. There are numerous indirect economic and financial impacts that are more difficult to quantify, but never the less very real. Examples are jobs or businesses created or saved, increased sales tax revenues, and the overall positive social and economic environment that is created when we are actively and progressively working to develop our economy.

## Richland County Public Works

### Agenda Item Cover

**Agenda Item Name:** Discussion and Possible Action on Feedback on the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee.

<b>Department</b>	MIS/Highway	<b>Presented By:</b>	Barbara Scott/Joshua Elder
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	09/08/2022	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Approval
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open Session	<b>Authority:</b>	
<b>Date submitted:</b>	09/06/2022	<b>Referred by:</b>	

**Recommendation and/or action language:**

Motion to ... Approve suggestions for cost savings suggestion to meet budgeting needs for MIS if no increase in tax levy can be made due to unsuccessful referendum.

---

**Background:** *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

All Richland County Department Heads have been instructed to respond to the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee with effective realistic ways that we can cut costs to meet the budgetary constraints as possible directive action for 2024 budget.

While the MIS department is not a mandatory department and Highway is, the services that are provided by both are required for operations of mandatory services. Any business today requires IT support and service to function. The suggestions that are made here are carefully considered. It is with the utmost hesitation that we recommend cutting \$40,000.00 from MIS and \$238,000 from Highway for a combined savings of \$278,000. MIS uses \$40,000 for equipment that furnishes computers for departments within all of Richland County. Highway uses \$238,000 for purchase of asphalt. As this is compounded through 2027 the only way that computers will be replaced is through grants or other funding sources. Highway's funding potential loss could be replaced through alternatives such as short term borrowing. Slowing replacement of computers and roads will have negative impacts on the county up to including loss of productivity and impact to users of county services.

**Attachments and References:**

--	--

**Financial Review:**

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source	Savings for Tax Levy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

*(summary of current and future impacts)*


---

**Approval:** *Barbara J Scott*


**Review:** *Clinton Langreck*



## Richland County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page


**Richland County Sheriff's Office**  
September 29 at 3:02 PM · 🌐

For Immediate Release  
September 10, 2022  
Contact: Richland County Board Chair Marty Brewer  
608-604-0713  
marty.brewer@co.richland.wi.us... [See more](#)




👍❤️ 23

12 Comments 39 Shares

**Kenneth Galston**  
Hope it doesn't end up like the \$20 wheel tax that was going to do great things for county road maintenance. 3 years later the road department says they don't have enough money to even mow the road ditches twice a year. On the other hand do they really need 75 people for health and human services? It would be interesting to know all the job titles and the job description for each. I will say if you want to see what "defund the police" looks like, just look at Richland county the last 8-10 years. They have cut multiple positions where other departments of the county have added.


Like Reply 1w Edited 

👍 5

**Tom Perry**  
Don't put the burden exclusively on the property owners!  
That's why these state statutes we're adopted.  
Is there a way to enact a county sales tax, like they do for sports teams who pay their help millions?


Like Reply 1w 

👍 3


**Alan Lins**  
**Tom Perry** Richland County, like many counties, already has a sales tax.

Like Reply 1w 

👍 1

**Reply to Tom Perry...**

🗨️ 😊 📷 GIF 📌

**Mary McCauley**



**Mary McCauley**  
Prayers

Like Reply 1w



**Patrick Connors**

You better cut your spending rather than raising property taxes. Sell properties you can't maintain and cut nonessential social programs. Let people build smaller homes on these tiny city lots and combine the county and city police departments.

Like Reply 1w



**Dustin Wilson**

**Patrick Connors** good ideas. I'm not taking an effective pay cut to raise anyone else's pay. If you can't get by on what you have they are spending too much.

Like Reply 1w



**Heather Rae**

So everywhere lower class middle class most of center is dealing with the rising cost of everything but the county can't get their budget together. I think you need to give the towns people a recite where and what this money is been spent on before you push the cost to the people 1.32 million cut to 1.22million. Where's all this money going ?

Like Reply 1w



**Alan Lins**

Richland County is not alone. The City of Middleton is going to referendum in November.

<https://www.cityofmiddleton.us/referendum>



CITYOFMIDDLETON.US

Referendum | Middleton, WI -  
Official Website



Like Reply 1w



**Jennifer Roesch**

Some counties have sales tax then it covers everyone not just property owners.

Like Reply 1w



**Margie Freeman**

Many I have talked to are curious if the referendum will it be lumped all together or broken down by departments they are trying to reduce?

Like Reply 1w

Write a comment...





## Cardinal Glass earns OSHA safety certification

Cardinal Glass of Spring Green earned recognition for safety during a ceremony Thursday. Cardinal Glass was awarded OSHA VPP Star Certification from OSHA Regional Director Chad Greenwood. Officials said the effort began seven years ago, and Cardinal Glass has become the 39th manufacturing plant out of 9500 to earn the distinction.

Longtime employee and plant superintendent Jim Jones said noted safety wasn't considered as important when he started working at Cardinal Glass in 1969. Officials said safety is now one of the most important things done at the facility and to challenge now is the retain the certification.

Pictured are, front, Alicia Willey, Director of Safety Cardinal SGIG, Rich Valtierra, Plant Manager SGIG, Jim Jones, Plant Superintendent SGIG, Chad Greenwood, OSHA Madison Area Director, Pam McGillivray, DWD Deputy Secretary, Back, Jessica Walsh, Safety Coordinator SGIG, Jenni Lubbers, Director of EHS and Safety Cardinal IG Division, Dave Wedige, Production Manager SGIG, Dave Pinder, Cardinal IG President.

Hardy said the primary school students were learning the "Hornet Way" and added students were making new friends and teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents.

Brown said intermediate grade students are learning the expectations of "One Hive." She urged parents and teachers to start forming relationships before their child is struggling. She added there's been considerable interest in the formation of the new student council.

Bosworth said the high school staff and students are feeling "much more comfortable" this year than a year ago

See Board / page 3A

## Location, staffing for veteran's services on chopping block

By Matt Johnson

Crucial cuts to veterans services in Richland County could be decided at a meeting of the Health and Human Services (HHS)/Veterans Service Office (VSO) committee meeting on Oct. 13.

This includes moving the VSO office out of the courthouse and cutting one of the two staff members in the department.

County administrator Clint Langreck in July described a looming potential multi-million-dollar budget deficit.

A budget repair plan and potential operational referendum are being examined.

The VSO, with a budget of \$76,000, makes up .21 % of the county's \$36 million annual expenses. The VSO represents 1,184 Richland County veterans directly and connects them and their families to millions of dollars of Veteran's Administration benefits.

At a meeting of the HHS/VSO committee on Sept. 29, confusion was shown by committee members questioning the VSO's 2023 budget.

The committee's attempts to be frugal were clear. At one point a \$125 change in a VSO budget line item for conference registration was questioned. Veterans Service Officer Karen Knock said money wasn't added to the budget, but was shifted from postage costs to registration fees.

"I realize these are minimal things we're talking about, but we're at a point where every penny -- we're going to have to look at every dollar," county supervisor Ken Rynes said.

Committee chair Ingrid Glassbrenner

said the the county didn't want to appear to be "picking apart pennies."

County officials have, however, come up with some budget-saving options quickly.

Knock said she was told about moving the VSO office out of the courthouse just weeks ago and wasn't consulted about it.

"There were no cost comparisons -- it's just their plan and I knew nothing about it," Knock said. "There are people making decisions who should be better informed. Veterans are saying

they don't want to walk into a waiting room at Health and Human Services and announce they're a veteran. We're trained to avoid confronting veterans with issues that aggravate veteran-specific health conditions."

The department's only part-time employee, the veterans benefit services assistant, is targeted to be cut. County officials eluded to replacing the assistant with a HHS employee, but it's a move with pitfalls. The current

See Veterans / page 3A

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
63 35 	53 27 	61 34 	68 39 	





## With their Energy Excellence Bromley of Focus on Energy

sense. "By eliminating the veterans benefit assistant they're eliminating an accredited official who's professionally trained with continuing education," Knock said. "They're taking an already full-time Health and Human Services employee and giving them duties we already have covered in the most professional and low-cost

He said he expected the district's mill rate to remain at \$9.12 per \$1,000, but it

way possible."

Knock said the Oct. 13 meeting of the HHS/VSO committee is a linchpin in the future of veterans services. She said should the committee decide to move the office and cut the benefits position, the recommendations would go to the finance committee and ultimately to the county board for approval.

and June Cairns State Farm Insurance were also accepted.

In other action, the board

coach and Stephen Wolford assistant middle school boys basketball coach.

The county has an ad hoc committee working on a referendum to increase property taxes for operations. Wisconsin's state budget cap only allows local governments to adjust property taxes outside fixed annual increases with voter approval. The plan has kept property taxes lower, but local governments have been squeezed for decades.

Knock and other county employees are being offered a 5 % raise after years with few increases. Knock, whose annual salary is \$43,000, said she has informed the county she doesn't want the raise and would rather it be applied to

the VSO budget. Other county department heads have made similar requests.

A group of veterans wrote a letter published in the Richland Observer in September expressing concern over changes to the VSO. The public attention to the matter, however, due to the county's bleak budget outlook, could embolden committee members to approve the changes.

(Matt Johnson provides content for the Richland Observer through Johnson Media Labs. He can be reached online at [johnsonmedialabs@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonmedialabs@gmail.com))

### Rake in the Fall Savings Event!

**Save \$1,000**  
on a new  
walk-in tub!

**Interest-Free  
Financing  
for 24 Months!**

**\$50 Restaurant.com  
gift card**  
with in-home estimate!

**CALL TODAY!**



**CARPET,  
WOOD,  
TILE, VINYL,  
LAMINATE, BACKSPLASHES**

**Win**