



Finance, Personnel & Insurance Committee

TO: Sauk County Board of Supervisors & Department Heads
FROM: Finance, Personnel & Insurance Committee
DATE: October 21, 2025
SUBJECT: 2026 Budget – Supervisory Amendments to the Budget

As part of the 2026 Budget development process, individual Supervisors may submit proposed amendments to the budget recommended by the Finance Committee. This process enables Supervisors to clearly explain, in writing, what their proposed amendment is and what their intended tax levy impact (increase or decrease) is on the 2026 Budget. Each proposed amendment should be sponsored by only one supervisor, so the Open Meetings Law related to walking quorums is not violated.

Attached, for your use, is a copy of the 2026 Budget - Supervisor Amendment form. Feel free to make copies of this form if you wish to submit more than one amendment. Please include only one amendment on each form. This form can also be found on Sauk County's web site in Microsoft Word and pdf formats so that you can make your own copies.
<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/accounting> under 2026 Budget Process and Documents

Supervisors who propose amendments are strongly encouraged to consult with the affected departments prior to submission.

The following is a schedule of when and how these Amendment forms will be processed and reviewed:

October 27, 2025	Supervisors prepare amendments and submit them to the Accounting Office. Amendments are due to the Accounting Office October 27, 2025.
Until November 5, 2025	County Administrator, Finance Director and Department Heads review the proposed amendment forms and determine the fiscal and operational impact of each proposed amendment. Supervisors who submit a proposed amendment may be contacted if further explanation is needed.
November 5, 2025	Finance Committee meets to review the proposed amendments. Finance Committee actions are distributed to all County Board members.
November 11, 2025	County Board adopts the 2026 Budget, including any amendments that are brought forward to the County Board during the meeting. Submittal of an amendment through this process does not automatically bring that amendment to the County Board floor. A specific motion to amend the Finance Committee's recommendation must be made during the November County Board session. Conversely, an amendment does not need to be submitted through this process to be considered.

Why has this form been developed?

The County intends to utilize a formal Supervisory Amendment process to allow for a structured and understandable process. In addition, it gives staff and the Finance Committee the opportunity to analyze any proposed amendments so that the County Board can make informed decisions when they meet to adopt the budget. In order to provide the Committee and staff with sufficient time to review proposed amendments, Supervisors are asked to submit their amendments as soon as possible, but no later than **October 27**.

Supervisors are reminded that the purpose of this process and the use of the form are to propose financial changes to the budget. They are not intended to be used as a forum for raising policy or procedural issues in the budget. Therefore, non-financial issues should be addressed at the appropriate Committee level and then forwarded to the full County Board for consideration if appropriate.

What are appropriate and inappropriate amendments?

Sauk County's budget proposal was developed using a complex mixture of prioritization; mandate and legal requirement review; and discussion between department managers, oversight committees and the Finance Committee. Further, Wis. Stat. § 65.90 provides for a certain amount of specificity in establishing the budget.

Amendments ruled out of order include the following:

1. "I move to amend the budget to provide a levy rate of no more than x."
2. "I move to cut x amount of dollars from the levy."
3. "I move that the budget shall provide for an x percent increase / decrease from last year."

Sauk County Financial Policy 5-94, Fund Balance/Retained Earnings and Contingent Funds Policy, also states that "Sauk County shall not use any fund balances or retained earnings to fund operations. Funding operations with fund balance erodes the County's ability to maintain these operations into the future, as well as diminishes reserves available for emergencies or future planning."

Fund balances or retained earnings may be budgeted to fund the following items:

- a. Nonrecurring or rarely recurring capital outlays to reduce reliance on borrowed funds and future debt service costs.
- b. Nonrecurring startup costs of projects or programs that are expected to provide savings or increase efficiencies in the future.
- c. Prepayment of outstanding debt to generate greater rates of return than refinancing and result in the immediate improvement of many important credit ratios.
- d. Termination costs of ineffective or inefficient programs.
- e. All or part of the contingency fund as described below.
- f. Vacancy and turnover factor. Departmental budgets are developed as if all staff positions will be filled for the entirety of the year. Recognizing that there are always vacancy and turnover, the County will analyze previous years' turnover, outside funding and any other pertinent information. The property tax levy may be reduced by using fund balance to fund this vacancy factor centrally (as opposed to in departments' budget).
- g. Continuing appropriations / carryforward funds as described in Financial Policy 3-96.
- h. Other nonrecurring expenditures which are expected to yield a positive financial return in the future.

Feel free to contact either the Administrator or Finance Director if you have any questions regarding this process, or if you would like any numbers or details clarified.

**Sauk County
2026 Budget
Proposed Supervisor Amendment**

By Supervisor: _____

Amendment #: _____
(Amendment # assigned by staff)

To amend the 2026 Proposed Budget, as recommended by the Finance Committee,
I Hereby Propose:

Anticipated service changes (additions and/or reductions):

I estimate that this proposed amendment would change the budget as follows:

Department	Program Area Description	Expenditure Increase or (Decrease)	Revenue Increase or (Decrease)	Other Sources Increase or (Decrease)	Net Tax Levy Increase or (Decrease)
Total for Amendment					