

Response to Questions on the FY 2015 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: Please outline the savings that would be achieved by a one percent, across the board, non-personnel spending reduction on the County side of the budget.

Response: For General Fund Direct Expenditures, a one percent reduction would equate to a reduction of approximately \$3 million in non-personnel services budgets. This level of reduction would be on top of a number of years of no increases in these budgets despite increasing costs for the County. Of the total more than \$2 million would be generated from five agencies and would impact categories of expenditures where there is no flexibility, therefore impacting programs and service delivery.

The Police Department and Fire and Rescue Department would generate just over \$500,000. This level of reduction would potentially limit the ability of the agencies to make necessary contributions for vehicle replacement as there is limited discretionary funding in these operating budgets. The Fire and Rescue Department has already identified a shortfall in funding for vehicle replacement and the increases necessary to meet the requirements were deferred last year as part of the annual budget process and are on the list of reductions provided at the Board's request to defer again. Another \$400,000 in reductions would come from the Facilities Management Department, severely limiting the ability of the County to fund contracted custodial and security services given the lack of flexibility in the other large operating expense categories such as leases and utilities. Finally the Department of Family Services and Department of Health would have to eliminate programs such as General Relief (which is also already on the list of reductions provided at the Board's request) and significantly reduce expenditures for contracted health clinic services to meet the \$1.1 million reduction that would be required. Many of the operating expenses in Human Service agencies are reimbursed from the State so the programs that generate savings are limited.