

AMENDMENT #1A (BAKER) OF THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, prior to adoption of the final budget, the County Board may amend the proposed 2024 budget resolution by a majority vote in order to make operational and capital programming changes; and

WHEREAS, previous County Boards have made the decision to undertake major renovations for North Central Health Care (NCHC) and Mount View Care Center (MVCC), both of which provide extremely valuable services to Marathon County residents, and chose to incur debt which will require repayment of \$83,825,379 to fund these renovations; and

WHEREAS, the original intent was that increased revenue from NCHC and MVCC would provide the cash flow necessary to cover the debt payments, but this has been unfortunately not true; and

WHEREAS, all members of the current County Board recognize and accept the obligation for the Marathon County government to ensure payment is made on the existing debt obligations; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the current Board desires to repay the portion of the debt payments that NCHC and MVCC can't repay by utilizing existing County resources and revenue rather than by increasing the burden on County taxpayers through increasing our debt levy portion of the overall tax levy, and

WHEREAS, the County's Social Improvement Fund (SIF) increased by \$9,095,322 over the last 3 years because of an imbalance between the combination of budgeted revenues and property tax levy relative to the actual expenditures of the County's Social Service Department; and

WHEREAS, having a reserve in the SIF fund balance is critical because the expenditures of the Social Department can change significantly from year to year depending upon childcare needs, specifically including the potential need to pay for additional children at Lincoln Hills or similar facilities, and

WHEREAS, balancing budgeted Social Service revenues and tax levy for 2024 more closely with historical Social Service expenditures is expected free up funds to cover \$1,500,000 of the 2024 NCHC/MVCC debt service without using any of the SIF fund balance for the debt repayment, and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human services committee voted unanimously to reduce the imbalance between the revenue and historical expenditures in order to reduce 2024 debt levy by \$1,500,000; and

WHEREAS, it would be prudent to retain the SIF fund balance to provide this and future Boards with financial resources and flexibility in both future Social Service expenditures and in the debt service of the debt associated with NCHS/MVCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors for the County of Marathon does hereby amend the proposed budget as follows:

1. Increase the revenues in the 2024 budget for the Transfer from Fund Balance-Social Improvement Fund by adding the sum of \$1,500,000 dollars to Fund 200- Social Improvement Fund – Revenues. This will decrease the Fund 200 Social Improvement Fund Net Tax Levy Totals from \$6,935,723 to \$5,435,723.
2. Increase the Finance Department Fund 300 Debt Fund Revenues – County Sales Tax from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000. This will decrease the debt levy by \$1,500,000 from \$2,553,100 to \$1,053,100.
3. Decrease the County Treasurer Fund 101 General Fund Revenues – County Sales Tax from \$13,000,000 to \$11,500,000. This will increase the Fund 100 General Fund Net Tax Levy Totals from \$35,845,527 to \$37,345,527.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SIF fund balance will not be included in the 2025 CIP fund rollover calculations to provide future County Boards with resources and flexibility in providing for the future expenditure needs of the Social Service Department and future potential debt service of the debt associated with NCHS/MVCC without burdening Marathon County taxpayers with unnecessary additional taxes through increases in the debt levy portion of the overall tax levy.

Fiscal Impact: Reduce the 2024 tax levy by \$1,500,000 and reallocate resources in the 2024 adopted budget.

**The operating levy will remain the same in total.
The debt levy will go down by \$1,500,000.
The overall tax levy will decrease by \$1,500,000.
The overall sales tax will remain the same in total.**

This amendment will increase the County Sales Tax in the 2024 Debt Fund budget in the amount of \$1,500,000 dollars, decrease the County Sales Tax in the 2024 General Fund in the amount of \$1,500,000, increase the Other Financing Uses in the 2024 Social Improvement Fund by \$1,500,000 dollars and reduce the tax levy in the debt service fund by \$1,500,000

Revision Date: 11/6/23