

BUDGET REDUCTION IDEAS SUBMITTED

Updated 9/24/09

Scale back services provided by court system, i.e. conciliation court

Contract labor to JPI, Seniors, etc. wherever possible and practical

Contract for Human Services i.e. case management, family services

Defer purchase of new fleet vehicle

Replace current lighting with LED fixtures (gradually)

Install setback thermostats

Consider pros, cons of modifying work week (4 10 hour days, 36 hour week, etc.)

Recycle, reuse materials and equipment wherever possible

Reduce part-time staff hours

Scan documents to reduce use of paper

Use Recorders tech fund as broadly as possible to replace tax funding

Rebid mixed solid waste disposal contract to reduce costs

Consider extension of Sheriff's law enforcement services to cities

Forego squad car purchases

Make a transition from vacation and sick leave as separate benefits to one "paid leave" benefit

Find out how many employees are eligible for retirement under Rule of 90. Offer retirement package giving them health insurance until 65. Don't fill the position until the economy turns around.

Offer early retirement packages to employees who cannot retire yet. Offer 1 week pay and benefits for every year of service with Waseca County. . Don't fill the position until the economy turns around.

Do cost analysis of replacing some maintenance personnel budget with private cleaning services.

NAME: County Worker

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

Budget Cuts?, Hmm... where does one start?

#1 - It is to my understanding we have two commissioners and one county Engineer heading to Washington for a convention or meeting. Doesn't really matter which it is. Do we really need all three to go or could the information from it be found on the internet afterwards or requested via e-mail or postal. If not... could just one go and get info and bring it back to the board?

#2 - One of the people going to Washington gets a \$800 vehicle allowance eerie a month and they still had to sign out a fleet car for this trip and let the vehicle sit in the airport when it could be put to use back here. With the trial going on in Rochester, we are shorts cars to begin with. Which in turn , somebody has to use their own car and turn in mileage. For someone who gets \$800 a month, which is \$9,600 a year for vehicle allowance, he should be expected to use the vehicle for work related instances.

#3 - The moving of the IT Department has been put on hold due to cost. So why are we moving three people from the Extension office down to the Public Health Building? We will then have to heat it, cool it, have lights on, use of water and so on... It is to my understanding that all three are not there all the time either. Why not keep everyone where they are until the funds are available to move everyone at once?

#4 - Why do we shut the boilers off at night during the winter and the air off at night during the summer? I am thinking that when its turned back on in the mornings, it has to work that much harder and longer to get back to the temperature it belongs. Thats how it works at my house anyway.

#5 - It is also to my understanding that there are a lot of people turning in mileage reimbursements for personal vehicle use. I thought that is why we had cars available for people to use. The maintenance and upkeep for the vehicles has to cost quite a bit and if they are not going to be used on a regular basis because people would rather use their own vehicle and receive substantial mileage reimbursement, than why keep the cost up on the County vehicles?

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

I would highly suggest that the out-of-state travel be stopped. I understand one or two may have to go to Washington DC to get funds for building roads, but 3? How can you justify a hiring freeze but not out of state travel?

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

Here is some food for thought

1. Just like any other county there are many individuals in the court system either serving time, have fines to pay or community service. Let's put these people to work completing tasks throughout the county rather than paying someone else to do them. Currently they have STS but seems like there is so much more that could be done.
2. If travel is required it should serve a business purpose and should deliver results. You continually here of a person that attended this conference or that, but what result is it delivering? You could always limit the outrageous per diem rate?
3. Every office of the county should be able to come up with a 10% cut in their budgets (salary freeze, have employees take voluntary unpaid vacations. eliminate a training, reevaluate supplies, etc). As a citizen if I don't have the money I have to give up something. The county should be no different these expenses should not be passed on to the taxpayer. We are one and should all share in the sacrifices

NAME: steve conway

ADDRESS: 904 east elm ave

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COMMENTS:

You asked, here is a suggestion or two:

Make one person in charge for cities and counties for law enforcement!

Make one person in charge of all cities and county management in county!

Encourage or demand that all county schools are under one Administration head for all schools!

the above ideas are not new, the head person/persons would be a very top notch individual with the ability to delegate and interact and take advise!

We would than have the process to fully understand and operate county/city/school functions, we must demand cooperation to succeed.

NAME: Anon

ADDRESS: Waseca, MN

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

Consider selling the land the county garage sits on. You should be able to get a premium on the land because of the location. You win two-fold, first the value of the land and

second the additional tax base from a c-store/truck stop/restaurant etc. Additionally the citizens of the county win with increased competition and options.

NAME: XXXXXX

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

There is a department at the Courthouse that has only 4 employees, 2 of these employees are supervisors. This does not make sense even during prosperous times let alone a budget reduction period.

NAME: Craig McDonough

ADDRESS: 201 13th ave N.W.

EMAIL ADDRESS: Thomasc@hickoryteck.net

COMMENTS:

What about a ten hour four day work week?

NAME: XXXXX

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

First the county needs to practice long range planning. How many studies have been done for space? How many architects have been hired for the Brattrud property alone? Move offices, tear down walls, put up walls...must cost money! The courthouse alone is not energy efficient! Too many buildings and not user friendly, either.

NAME: Vern Benson

ADDRESS: Janesville

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

One idea to generate some money for the County would be from the new Z&P Comp plan. You could establish a TDR County Bank, and all the TDR'S would be held in the TDR Bank. Anyone wanting to build would have to buy the TDR from the County, and everyone would pay the same price. Also you would have to use it with in a certain time frame, so you could not buy them and hold. Every thing else should remain the same. I think this could be something to think about.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

Perhaps the County would be better served if every department had to bid against their civilian counterparts for services. But I would be safe in saying that the government unions in this time of need would be more than willing to file countless law suits to protect their status then accept this challenge. But on the off chance that competition for work didn't bring them to their knees screaming foul. They could see the current condition as an opportunity to prove their value. They might learn the difference between entitlement and self service as opposed to dedication and sacrifice, which those without the power to take at will know too well. Being a public employee should not be synonymous with secure life time employment and should directly reflect the condition of those they serve. What if the county were to stand against the unions? I'm sure a grateful public could be called on to form volunteer groups to assist in many things. Mowing parks, Schools and ROW's might be a place to start. You may be surprised what we the people, will do when asked and not told. If you ask an elementary student, what does government pay for? You will hear protective services and schools. To be the first resort of cuts as a threat against the taxpayer for shortfalls is insulting, these are the core services and everything else is peripheral and should be managed accordingly and if there are interest groups demanding services they should be willing and able to fund them directly or place it on a ballot .

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NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

COMMENTS:

Starting with the landfill employees

why is it one person out there works every Saturday and has gotten over time for more than 20 yrs? They should be getting a day off during the week!!

landfill items are taken and being resold like the iron that money should go back to county! taking items for own use gravel,propane.

We pay good money for taken our garbage out to the landfill and it makes us mad!

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NAME:
ADDRESS:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
COMMENTS:

Absolutely NO OVERTIME pay for any one. If overtime is needed for one week, then the next week have a reduced work week so there is no overtime paid out.

Consider having job sharing for jobs which would possibly be less costs for benefits such as dental/medical and when some one works less hours a week they are able to get a lot more done with a limited amount of time and more focused with just work as they have plenty of family time.

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NAME: Chuck
ADDRESS:
EMAIL ADDRESS: sprintspro@gmail.com
COMMENTS:
\$0 out miscellaneous in all budgets...what is lost?
Buy used instead of new equipment.
Sell surplus equipment/furniture online.
Freeze 2010 capital purchases until after fall tax collection.

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