

## Evaluation Criteria

The proposed budget criteria are used by staff to rank "expansion" requests or requests for new funding. The proposed criteria have been used consistently for the past ten years. The proposed criteria, a short description, and an example follow:

- **Goals and Objectives:** Does a request meet the stated priorities of the Commissioners? Requests which meet one or more of the Commissioners' stated priorities are given priority.
- **Safety:** Does a request eliminate, prevent, or reduce an eminent safety hazard? A hazard should be thought of as a serious condition that will result in injury or death to citizens or employees or significant property damage to citizen-owned or County-owned property. Example: purchasing a backup generator for the dispatch system.
- **Mandate:** Does a request help the County provide a new or existing mandated service. The request itself could also be mandated. Example: complying with HIPPA regulations.
- **Timing/Linkages:** How crucial is the request's timing? Factors that impact timing include whether the request is currently underway, how close it is to completion, whether it is related to another request, and whether it has any special timing concerns. Requests that have crucial timing issues are given priority. Example: electricity for a new facility.
- **Economic Impact:** Does a request enhance economic development in the County in such a way as to protect the environment? Factors include adding to the property tax base, sales tax base, and job market. Example: infrastructure for a new industry.
- **Efficiencies:** Does the request save the County money (i.e., total costs, including those of the project, are lower) over time? The request can do this by saving operating or capital expenses. Example: investing in technology to decrease man hours.
- **Maintain Current Service Levels:** Is the request necessary for the County to continue providing the services at the same quality and quantity it is currently? Example: the cost of a contract (such as property insurance) increases.
- **Improve Access:** Does the request give customers, residents, etc. better access to current services or information? Example: improvements to the county's website to allow for more internet browsers to function properly.
- **Service Improvement:** Does a request improve the quality of existing services, in the categories of public safety, public health, quality of life, internal departments, etc.? Requests which address public safety and health are given priority. Example: additional public health nurse to increase the number of students that can be seen at the Adolescent Health Center.
- **Service Additions:** Does the request increase the quantity of service provided in the categories of public safety, public health, quality of life, internal departments, etc.? Requests which address public safety and health are given priority. Example: additional public health nurse to start a school health program.
- **Operating Budget Impact:** What is the net cost of the request? Requests with lower or negative (savings) net costs are given priority.
- **Community Support/Impact:** To what degree is the project consistent with long-range plans, has community support, and or has widespread impact/benefit. Requests that have demonstrated community support and affect more people are given priority. Example: petitions for water lines.
- **Financing:** What funding sources, besides the county's general fund, are available to pay for this? Example: a position funded through grants.