

Budget Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We have answered some frequently asked questions regarding Lenawee County's budget and operating procedures. If you have any additional questions you'd like answered, please contact the Administrator's Office.

Why do some Lenawee County departments operate on a different fiscal year?

Because most of their funding comes from Non-General Fund sources (like the State of Michigan) for very specific purposes and requires reporting, it is more efficient for them to operate on a fiscal year that mirrors those funding sources.

Why does the County have a Capital Fund?

Capital Funds allow organizations, including county government, to engage in long-term planning. Capital funds are typically used to finance the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of our assets like buildings, equipment, vehicles, and technology. Properly maintained infrastructure and assets are less prone to breakdowns and failures and by investing in these capital projects, Lenawee County can reduce their risk of costly repairs and service disruptions.

If a department doesn't utilize its funds at the end of the fiscal year, do they carry over to next year?

For General Fund Departments, no, they do not. Everything remains in the General Fund and new budgets are set each year. Just because we have budgeted funds for expenses, doesn't mean they must be spent.

Departments that operate under Non-General Funds are a little more complicated. Due to the complex funding and reporting requirements, it varies.

For all Lenawee County departments, our goal remains the same - to budget accurately and remain good stewards of our resources.



Who oversees the budget?

The Lenawee County Board of Commissioners oversees the budget. Each month, during Personnel/Ways & Means Committee meetings, the Lenawee County Administrator gives a finance report which includes a review of the General Fund, Capital Fund, and all Non-General Funds.

How are the Capital Improvement Projects managed by the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners?

Each year, after the budget is approved, the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners approves the Capital Improvement Plan for the next fiscal year. This rolling five-year plan identifies proposed capital projects and purchases, while also prioritizing needs.

These approved projects are then managed at the committee level throughout the year. During the monthly committee meetings, commissioners oversee projects from approval to completion and manage those divisions of the Capital Fund. The Chair of each committee then gives a report to the full Board of Commissioners on those projects and funds at their monthly Board of Commissioners meeting.

