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Monday, September 30, 2024

Switzerland County Council and Auditor,

Peace and Greetings! Having reviewed a request by Council to amend my 2025 budget request, I am writing to you with good news!

The good news is I have already made multiple fiscally responsible choices months ago. Those choices mitigate my department's budgetary impact over 20%. That is more than double the 10% reductions that Council has apparently requested. Here is how I have achieved this huge budget mitigation.

First, I cut my own pay in the maximum amount of all Switzerland County tax dollars. Council has paid the former prosecutor an additional \$5,000.00 per year—every year—since approximately 2010. My request to cut my own pay is likely the first pay cut requested by the Prosecuting Attorney in the history of the 91st Judicial Circuit. My request is that you cut \$5,000.00 from my salary down to \$0.00, making me 100% free of any local burden to the Switzerland County Taxpayer. And I intend to continue to request that pay cut in every budget season for the rest of my term.

Second, I have signed a contract with our State and Federal governments *guaranteeing* 66% reimbursement for every dollar budgeted for Child Support Services. That means that over 21% of my *entire* department's \$145,198.00 combined budget will be reimbursed, should it be spent.

Third, I have used essentially the same budgeted amounts that were appropriated in 2022 for any non-salary accounts. I continue to use these numbers, despite facing at least 7.5% cumulative inflation from 2022 to 2024. In order to maintain the same purchasing power appropriated by Council in 2022, I would have to request 7.5% overall *budget increase* to every account in my budget, just to keep up with inflation.

I have been trying to inform you of these steps and provide you my research for several months now. I sent a letter to Council on July 19, 2024. And I again provided a written memorandum and supporting research to both Council and the Commissioners via public meeting, and to Council via email to the Auditor and County Administrator in August 2024.

As a courtesy, I did provide this information to the Switzerland County Commissioners. The Commissioners recommended my salary requests in full after a hearing in a public meeting. I have included a copy of the (1) Commissioners' recommendation approving my department's salary proposal as well as my (2) written budget request memorandum and (3) research addendum. Please ensure that Council or its employees add all of these documents, along with this letter, to the County website once you have received them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "RM".

Prosecuting Attorney, Switzerland County
91st Judicial Circuit