

As you know, our office had an agenda item at the BET meeting on January 9, 2026, regarding the creation of a secondary tracking list to support planning for future county expenses. This week, we have an item as outlined below that directly relates to that BET discussion.

Our goal is to help establish a countywide process that allows all Budget Board members and staff to clearly identify projects with a general budget impact. This process would support transparent listing, focused discussion, appropriate vetting, and most importantly effective long-term planning.

Budget Board Item #51 - Discussion and possible action to require the Budget Evaluation Team (BET) to review contracts and purchases that impact countywide programs and funding, excluding contracts limited to single office or department.

Purpose and Scope

This item is intended to generate initial support for the concept in collaboration with the BET item what was passed on January 9, 2026.

The BET committee plans to reconvene on February 5, 2026, to discuss the details of what the secondary tracking list will look like.

The proposed item would enable the BET committee to review contracts and purchases that have a countywide impact that requires funds.

Rationale

These contracts often affect countywide programs that need long-term funding.

Contracts or programs that need a revenue stream.

Contracts or programs that may currently have funding that could run out, but still needed.

Earlier review by the BET allows for collaboration, thoughtful questions, and responsible planning before long-term commitments are made.

What this agenda item does NOT do:

It does not apply to departmental contracts that are fully funded within a single office's budget.

This item does not mean that a contract must go before the budget board before BOCC. It is intended to be an additional resource for BOCC and the Budget Board when funding discussions take place.

The list from BET will not always go to Budget Board like the current fiscal year Watch List does, but could be requested by any office at anytime.