County memo details $625K worth of cuts

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STANTON — Montcalm County department heads received a memo late Friday afternoon detailing how $625,000 worth of budget cuts will be assigned.

The county's Finance & Personnel Committee gave Controller-Administrator Bob Clingenpeel the green light earlier that day to decide how much certain departments must cut for the upcoming fiscal year. Department heads have until Aug. 11 to respond to the memo with their own plan for what or what they will cut in their departments based on the amount of cuts they were given.

The Finance & Personnel Committee will meet Aug. 14 to finalize recommendations to the full Board of Commissioners, which will meet Aug. 28.

Certain departments are not being asked to make any cuts as Clingenpeel says they simply can't sustain more reductions. No cuts are proposed for 8th Judicial Circuit Court, the Drain Commission Office, the Prosecutor's Office, the Register of Deeds Office, the Sheriff's Office or the Board of Commissioners.

Here's a look at which county departments are being asked to make cuts:

• Probate/Juvenile Court: $133,054
• Elections: $100,000 (cuts to come in part from a ballot printing reduction due to new election equipment being implemented throughout Michigan; plus $62,700 in elections revenue)
• 64B District Court: $75,000

• Animal Control: $70,000 (this amount comprises 70 percent of Animal Control's total budget and is being done in conjunction with the Mid-Michigan Humane Society taking over the county's animal shelter, although the future of Animal Control law enforcement has yet to be determined)
• Treasurer's Office: $70,000
• Michigan State University Extension: $68,000 (the county's entire budget for MSU Extension)
• Clerk's Office: $50,000
• Maintenance Department: $35,000
• Equalization Office: $25,000
• Controller-Administrator's Office: $15,000
• Capital outlay: $15,000
• Medical examiner: $10,000 (in savings due to the county switching contracts from Sparrow Health System to the West Michigan Forensic Pathology Services Authority)
• Register of Deeds technology fund: $10,000
• Central Services (budget for copiers, printers and paper): $5,000
• Friend of the Court general fund appropriations: $5,000
• Family Independence Agency (FIA) general fund appropriations: $2,000
• TOTAL AMOUNT OF CUTS: $625,354

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