

Amendment No. 4 to Council Bill No. 36-2025

**BY: Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive**

**Legislative Day No. 8
Date: May 21, 2025**

Amendment No. 4

(This is an Operating Budget amendment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Fund to initiate the New and Beginning Farmer Program which will assist new farmers with establishing their farming operations. The Program will provide space for new farmers to lease property and will provide mentors. It will also provide one-time funding to new farmers to install items like deer fencing and water hydrants and to make one time equipment purchases.)

- 1 In the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2026,
- 2 attached to this Act, amend pages 109 and 113, and the Fund Statement on page 225 as indicated
- 3 on the attached Exhibit A to this Amendment.
- 4
- 5 Correct all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures within this Act to accommodate this
- 6 Amendment including adding any applicable Fund Statements to the Act.

Howard County, MD

[illegible]

Governmental Funds

Agricultural Preservation and Promotion Fund

Description

The Agricultural Land Preservation & Promotion Fund supports the Agricultural Land Preservation and Promotion Program, which is designed to preserve the open character and agricultural use of land in Howard County. The Department of Planning & Zoning is charged by Howard County Code with implementation of the program. Revenue comes from 25% of the local transfer tax, investment income, and the development transfer tax paid when land assessed for agriculture is converted to other uses.

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Budget
Revenues			
Transfer Tax	7,713,451	7,780,000	7,780,000
Other	4,570,262	0	0
Appropriation From Fund Balance	0	0	2,789,138
			<u>2,989,138/</u>
Total Revenues	12,283,713	7,780,000	10,569,138
			<u>10,769,138</u>
Expenses			
Personnel Costs	294,333	875,365	1,006,331
			<u>1,016,331</u>
Contractual Services	3,489,328	2,207,225	1,982,173
			<u>2,122,173</u>
Supplies and Materials	47,562	62,607	171,150
Capital Outlay	0	0	220,000
			<u>270,000</u>
Debt Service	16,179,919	5,535,690	6,122,760
Expense Other	986,643	650,614	1,066,724
Operating Transfers	952,000	0	0
Total Expenses	21,949,785	9,331,501	10,569,138
			<u>10,769,138</u>
Fund Balance			
Beginning Balance	39,017,155	29,351,083	27,799,582
Net Change Current Year	(9,666,072)	(1,551,501)	0
Appropriation from Fund Balance	0	0	(2,789,138)
			<u>(2,989,138)</u>
Fund Balance Ending - Unrestricted	29,351,083	27,799,582	25,010,444
			<u>24,810,444</u>