



Risk Management & Internal Controls Policy

Authority:

The Mayor and the Board of Commissioners are responsible for legislation, policy formulation, and overall direction setting of the government. This includes the approval of policies which establish and direct the operations of Unified Government (UG). The County Administrator is responsible for carrying out the policy directives of the UG Board of Commissioners and managing the day-to-day operations of the executive departments. This policy shall be administered on behalf of the County Administrator by the UG Risk Management Committee comprised of the departments of Legal, Human Resources, Purchasing and County Administrator's Office.

I. Purpose:

The UG's Risk Management and Internal Controls policy establishes proper procedures to safeguard UG assets and ensure efficiency of UG operations. This policy applies to all assets whether they are monetary or physical.

The UG must use resources efficiently. By optimal use and effective management of those resources, the UG can achieve its goals, ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and ensure reliability in financial reporting.

The Risk Management and Internal Controls policy directs staff to protect the UG against losses affecting its assets and its ability to provide ongoing services. In addition, to the extent possible, the policy ensures safe work, security and service environment for UG staff and members of the community. The final objective of the Risk Management and Internal Controls policy is to limit/minimize the cost of implementing the UG's risk management activities.

II. Applicability and Scope:

This policy shall apply to all related functions under the control of the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners.

III. Policy:

The UG Committee, comprised of Legal, Human Resources, Purchasing and County Administrative Office, is responsible for the risk management program and the carry-out the organization-wide risk management activities.

Implementation components may include:

- Selection of insurance providers and coverage
- Selection of risk management consultant
- Selection of insurance broker

- Reviewing of contracts for potential exposure
- Implementing and monitoring safety programs
- Identifying exposures which can have an adverse effect to UG assets and employees
- Introducing programs to lessen the possibility of loss or injury to all UG employees
- Submitting annually to the Mayor and Commission a status report of the risk management program
- Periodic committee meetings to review the risk management program

Risk Management. The Unified Government's insurance coverage consists of both a self-insurance policy and policies maintained with various carriers. Exposure to various risks associated primarily with weather related incidents such as wind, hail and storm damage is covered by property insurance.

Accident and Health. The Unified Government is both self-insured and fully insured for accident and health claims. Claims for Unified Government employees (except for BPU employees) are administered through a third-party administrator for the Unified Government's self-insured plan. Premiums are paid by employer and employee contributions into an internal service fund and are available to pay claims and costs of an administrative service agreement. The government purchases an excess insurance policy annually to minimize risk. Incurred but not reported claims are reported as a liability. The outstanding claims liability is calculated from historical data and future expectations. This includes an estimated liability for known claims as well as an estimated liability for claims incurred but not reported.

Workers' Compensation. The Unified Government is self-insured for workers' compensation. Premiums are paid from the general fund into an internal service fund and available to pay claims, claim reserves and administrative costs of the program. An excess coverage insurance policy covers individual claims, subject to policy terms. The Committee evaluates policy options on an annual basis.

The Unified Government attorney prepares estimates of the amounts of unsettled claims under the self-insurance program. The outstanding claims liability is calculated from historical data and future expectations. This includes an estimated liability for known claims as well as an estimated liability for claims incurred but not reported.

General Liability. The Unified Government is also self-insured for liability claims. All liability claims are reviewed, challenged if appropriate, and processed for payment at the agreed amount by the Legal Department. Kansas statutes limit the liability in tort cases to \$500,000.

The UG maintains an internal reserve fund to be used for losses and insurance purchases. Insurance purchased by the UG will effectively be used.

The UG shall maintain an environment conducive to good internal control and safeguard its assets against loss. Additionally, the UG will monitor its accounting data for accuracy and reliability and encourage adherence to this policy. In addition, both the UG Internal and External Auditor audits, on a continuing basis, various transactions and processes for

compliance and other applicable city policies and procedures based upon vulnerability assessments.

The UG internal Auditor will provide reasonable assurances against risk by performing on-going audits that require:

- Implementing control systems to prevent a single employee from being authorized to record transactions and obtain custody of related assets. Duties are segregated within the department.
- Securing UG assets and records and limiting employee access, based on the job need. UG files/records will be protected from theft, environmental damage and backed-up for continued government operations.
- Scheduled or periodic inventory of accounting records and physical inventory of assets for historical comparison and review.
- All authorized transactions are in accordance to the management policies. The UG's risk management and internal controls policy will be reviewed annually. In addition, regularly scheduled trainings will be held to help facilitate organization-wide implementation. The policy may include individual department's safety protocols.