

## 18. INVESTMENT POLICY

### SCOPE

The Investment Policy of Scott County shall apply to all operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds and all investment transactions involving operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds accounted for in the financial statements of the County. Each investment made pursuant to this Investment Policy must be authorized by applicable law and this written Investment Policy.

The investment of bond funds or sinking funds shall comply not only with this Investment Policy, but also be consistent with any applicable bond resolution.

This Investment Policy is intended to comply with Iowa Code.

Upon passage and upon future amendment, if any, copies of this Investment Policy shall be delivered to all of the following:

1. The Board of Supervisors and all County officials to which the Investment Policy applies.
2. All depository institutions or fiduciaries for public funds of the County.
3. The auditor engaged to audit any fund of the County.

In addition, a copy of this Investment Policy shall be delivered to every fiduciary or third party assisting with or facilitating investment of the funds of the County.

### DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

In accordance with Iowa Code, the responsibility for conducting investment transactions resides with the Treasurer of Scott County. Only the Treasurer and those authorized by resolution may invest public funds and a copy of any empowering resolution shall be attached to this Investment Policy.

All contracts or agreements with outside persons investing public funds, advising on the investment of public funds, directing the deposit or investment of public funds or acting in a fiduciary capacity for the County shall require the outside person to notify the County in writing within thirty days of receipt of all communication from the Auditor of the outside person or any regulatory authority of the existence of a material weakness in internal control structure of the outside person or regulatory orders or sanctions regarding the type of services being provided to the County by the outside person.

The records of investment transactions made by or on behalf of the County are public

records and are the property of the County whether in the custody of the County or in the custody of a fiduciary or other third party.

The Treasurer shall establish a written system of internal controls and investment practices. The controls shall be designed to prevent losses of public funds, to document those officers and employees of the County responsible for elements of the investment process and to address the capability of investment management. The controls shall provide for receipt and review of the audited financial statement and related report on internal control structure of all outside persons performing any of the following for the County:

1. Investing County funds.
2. Advising on the investment of County funds.
3. Directing the deposit or investment of County funds.
4. Acting in a fiduciary capacity for the County.

A Bank, Savings and Loan Association or Credit Union providing only depository services shall not be required to provide an audited financial statement and related report on internal control structure.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives, in order of priority, of all investment activities involving the financial assets of the County shall be the following:

1. **Safety:** Safety and preservation of principal in the overall portfolio is the foremost investment objective.
2. **Liquidity:** Maintaining the necessary liquidity to match expected liabilities is the second investment objective.
3. **Return:** Obtaining a reasonable return is the third investment objective.

## **PRUDENCE**

The Treasurer of Scott County, when investing or depositing public funds, shall exercise the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use to attain the above investment objectives. This standard requires that when making investment decisions, the Treasurer shall consider the role that the investment or deposit plays within the portfolio of assets of the County and the investment objectives stated above.

The Treasurer shall request competitive investment proposals for comparable credit and term investments from investment providers.

## INSTRUMENTS ELIGIBLE FOR INVESTMENT

Assets of the County may be invested in the following:

- Interest bearing savings accounts, interest bearing money market accounts, and interest bearing checking accounts at any bank, savings and loan association or credit union in Scott County or an adjoining Iowa county. Each bank must be on the most recent Approved Bank List as distributed by the Treasurer of the State of Iowa or as amended as necessary by notice inserted in the monthly mailing by the Rate Setting Committee. Each financial institution shall be properly declared as a depository by the Board of Supervisors of Scott County. Deposits in any financial institution shall not exceed the limit approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities.
- Certificates of deposit and other evidences of deposit at federally insured Iowa depository institutions approved and secured pursuant to Iowa Code.
- Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT).
- Prime bankers' acceptances that mature within 270 days of purchase and that are eligible for purchase by a federal reserve bank.
- Commercial paper or other short-term corporate debt that matures within 270 days of purchase and is rated within the two highest classifications, as established by at least one of the standard rating services approved by the superintendent of banking.
- Repurchase agreements, provided that the underlying collateral consists of obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the County takes delivery of the collateral either directly or through an authorized custodian.
- An open-end management investment company registered with the Securities & Exchange Commission under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. Section 80(a) and operated in accordance with 17 C.F.R. Section 270.2a-7, whose portfolio investments are limited to those instruments individually authorized in this Investment Policy.

All instruments eligible for investment are further qualified by all other provisions of this Investment Policy, including investment maturity limitations and diversification requirements.

## **PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS AND INVESTMENT PRACTICES**

Assets of the County shall not be invested in the following:

1. Reverse repurchase agreements.
2. Futures and options contracts.
3. Inverse floaters.
4. Stripped securities, including principal-only and interest-only strips.

Assets of the County shall not be invested pursuant to the following investment practices:

1. Trading of securities for the purpose of speculation and the realization of short-term trading gains.
2. Pursuant to a contract providing for the compensation of an agent or fiduciary based upon the performance of the invested assets.
3. If a fiduciary or other third party with custody of public investment transaction records of the County fails to produce requested records when requested by the County within a reasonable time, the County shall make no new investment with or through the fiduciary or third party and shall not renew maturing investments with or through the fiduciary or third party.
4. Purchase of securities on margin.
5. Pledging of County owned securities as collateral for any purpose.

## **INVESTMENT MATURITY LIMITATIONS**

Operating Funds must be identified and distinguished from all other funds available for investment. Operating funds are defined as those funds which are reasonably expected to be expended during a current budget year or within fifteen months of receipt.

All investments authorized in this policy are further subject to the following investment maturity limitations:

1. Operating Funds may only be invested in instruments authorized in this Investment Policy that mature within three hundred ninety-seven (397) days.
2. The Treasurer may invest funds of the County that are not identified as Operating Funds in investments with maturities longer than three hundred

ninety-seven (397) days. However, all investments of the County shall have maturities that are consistent with the needs and uses of the County.

## DIVERSIFICATION

Investments of the County are subject to the following diversification requirements:

Prime bankers' acceptances:

1. At the time of purchase, no more than ten percent (10%) of the investment portfolio of the County shall be invested in prime bankers' acceptances, and
2. At the time of purchase, no more than five percent (5%) of the investment portfolio of the County shall be invested in the securities of a single issuer.

Commercial paper or other short-term corporate debt:

1. At the time of purchase, no more than ten percent (10%) of the investment portfolio of the County shall be in commercial paper or other short-term corporate debt,
2. At the time of purchase, no more than five percent (5%) of the investment portfolio of the County shall be invested in the securities of a single issuer, and
3. At the time of purchase, no more than five percent (5%) of all amounts invested in commercial paper and other short-term corporate debt shall be invested in paper and debt rated in the second highest classification.

Where possible, it is the policy of the County to diversity its investment portfolio. Assets shall be diversified to eliminate the risk of loss resulting from overconcentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer, or a specific class of securities. In establishing specific diversification strategies, the following general policies and constraints shall apply:

1. Portfolio maturities shall be staggered in a way that avoids undue concentration of assets in a specific maturity sector. Maturities shall be selected which provide stability of income and reasonable liquidity.
2. Liquidity practices to ensure that the next disbursement date and payroll date are covered through maturing investments, marketable U.S. Treasury bills or cash on hand shall be used at all times.

## SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY

All invested assets of the County involving the use of a public funds custodial agreement, as defined in Iowa Code, shall comply with all rules adopted pursuant to Iowa Code. All custodial agreements shall be in writing and shall contain a provision that all custodial services be provided in accordance with the laws of the State of Iowa.

All invested assets of the County eligible for physical delivery shall be secured by having them held at a third-party custodian. All purchased investments shall be held pursuant to a written third party custodial agreement requiring delivery versus payment and compliance with all rules set out elsewhere in this section of this Investment Policy.

## ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Treasurer and all officers and employees of the County involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions.

## REPORTING

The Treasurer shall quarterly submit to the Board of Supervisors an investment report that summarizes recent market conditions and investment strategies employed since the last investment report. The investment report shall set out the current portfolio in terms of maturity, rates of return and other features and summarize all investment transactions that have occurred during the reporting period and compare the investment results with the budgetary expectations.

## INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This Investment Policy shall be reviewed every two years or more frequently as appropriate. Notice of amendments to the Investment Policy shall be promptly given to all parties noted in the Scope section of this policy.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Agency:** securities issued by government-sponsored corporations such as Federal Home Loan Banks or Federal Land Banks. Agency securities are exempt from Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration requirements.

**Agent:** individual authorized by another person, called the principal, to act in the latter's behalf in transactions involving a third party.

**Banker's Acceptance:** time draft drawn on and accepted by a bank, the customary means of effecting payment for merchandise sold in import-export transactions and a source of financing used extensively in international trade.

**Commercial Paper:** short-term obligations with maturities ranging from 2 to 270 days issued by banks, corporations, and other borrowers to investors with temporarily idle cash. Such instruments are unsecured and usually discounted, although some are interest-bearing.

**Delivery Versus Payment (DVP):** securities industry procedure, common with institutional accounts, whereby delivery of securities sold is made to the buying customer's bank in exchange for payment, usually in the form of cash.

**Fiduciary:** person, company, or association holding assets in trust of a beneficiary.

**Futures Contract:** agreement to buy or sell a specific amount of a commodity or financial instrument at a particular price on a stipulated future date.

**Inverse Floaters:** investment securities whose coupon payment rate floats opposite market interest rates.

**Open-End Management Company:** investment company that sells Mutual Funds to the public. The term arises from the fact that the firm continually creates new shares on demand. Mutual fund shareholders buy the shares at Net Asset Value and can redeem them at any time at the prevailing market price, which may be higher or lower than the price at which the investor bought.

**Option:** right to buy or sell property that is granted in exchange for an agreed upon sum. If the right is not exercised after a specific period, the option expires and the option buyer forfeits the money.

**Portfolio:** combined holding of more than one stock, bond, commodity, real estate investment, Cash Equivalent, or other asset by an individual or institutional investor.

**Repurchase Agreement:** agreement between a seller and a buyer, usually of U.S. Government securities, whereby the seller agrees to repurchase the securities at an agreed upon price and, usually, at a stated time.

**Safekeeping:** storage and protection of a customer's financial assets, valuables, or documents, provided as a service by an institution serving as Agent and, where control is delegated by the customer, also as custodian.

**Speculation:** assumption of risk in anticipation of gain but recognizing a higher than average possibility of loss.

**Stripping:** dividing a security into its principal and interest payments and selling the claims to these payments as new and separate securities. The principal portion is called a principal-only (PO) strip and the interest portion is called an interest-only (IO) strip.