A fund is defined as a separate accounting entity, established from various sources, that is self-balancing - reporting the current cash balance as well as receipts and disbursements for the calendar year.

All funds require appropriation before disbursements can be made, unless there is specific statutory authority to spend without appropriation.

Fund Types
- General Fund
- Special Revenue Funds
- Statutory funds

OVERVIEW OF FUND ACCOUNTING
The county treasurer shall establish a recorder's record perpetuation fund. The fund consists of all fees collected under this section for deposit in the fund and amounts transferred to the fund from the county identification security protection fund under IC 36-2-7-5-11. Except as provided in section 10.2 of this chapter, the county recorder may use any money in this fund without appropriation for:

1. the preservation of records; and
2. the improvement of record keeping systems and equipment; within the control of the county recorder.

Money in the fund may not be deposited or transferred into the county general fund and does not revert to the county general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

IC 36-2-7-10(f)

The county recorder may use any money in this fund without appropriation for:

- Preservation of records and
- The improvement of record keeping systems and equipment

Within the control of the county recorder.

Money from this fund may not be transferred to general and does not revert to general fund.

Key Phrases
(b) A county recorder may pay all or a portion of the expenses of the county recorder’s office for the following calendar year from the fund only if:

1. The county recorder submits to the county fiscal body a sworn statement that:
   - (1) the current revenue to the fund is sufficient to fulfill the statutory purpose of the fund;
   - (B) the technology of the county recorder’s office is presently updated and at a level to sufficiently meet the statutory purposes of the fund and the county recorder’s office;
   - (C) the fund has a sufficient reserve, consistent with the recorder’s plan, to capitalize the next technology or other records management upgrade necessary to fulfill the statutory purpose of the fund and the county recorder’s office;
   - (D) the county recorder specifically requests that all or a specific, identifiable portion of the fund be used to pay the expenses of the county recorder’s office for the following calendar year; and

2. The county fiscal body adopts an ordinance approving the recorder’s request under subsection (c).
c) Upon receiving the county recorder’s sworn statement, the county fiscal body may adopt an ordinance approving the county recorder’s request. If the ordinance is adopted, the county fiscal body shall, if specifically requested by the recorder for the following calendar year, approve sufficient money from the fund. The county fiscal body may not approve any more money from the fund for any purpose in excess of that requested by the county recorder.

(d) A county recorder’s request and the county fiscal body’s approval are valid for only the following calendar year. The requirements of this section must be met for each calendar year.

Effective July 1, 2014

Recorder’s records perpetuation may be used for expenses of the county recorder’s office if:

- For the following calendar year
- The county recorder submits to the fiscal body a sworn statement
- The county fiscal body adopts an ordinance approving the recorder’s request.
Claims

◦ Claims for the Statutory purpose
  ◦ Don’t need an appropriation.
  ◦ Restricted to preservation of records and improvement of record keeping system and equipment
  ◦ Payroll costs can be paid if the work being done is for the statutory purpose

Claims – Operating Costs

◦ Claims submitted for operating costs
◦ Only operating costs of the Recorder's office
◦ Payroll costs can be paid
◦ Can’t exceed the amount in the sworn statement/ordinance
Audit Expectations

- First expectation is that the record perpetuation fund has been used for expenditures related to preservation of records and improvement of record keeping system.
- If not, we will be looking for the sworn statement and ordinance approving the requested amount and audit for compliance with the statement and ordinance.
- If the county is not compliant with the statute, there could be a finding and there could be a request to restore funds to the record perpetuation fund.

Why does it go oh so wrong?

- Council doesn’t give you a sufficient budget in the general fund:
  - Control issues
  - Lack of understanding of the purpose of the fund
  - Scare resources