Selected pages for Jordan & Taylor · An invented household

An ordinary Tuesday.
A different kind of paycheck.

Jordan, 64, plans to leave full-time work on October 1. Taylor, 66, is already retired. Their home is paid for. They picture long breakfasts, afternoons with family, and time to manage their own investments.

What the plan must make possible

A plan either of them can pick up and follow.

Fictional household, priorities, and illustration. This is a selection from a Blueprint, not the complete deliverable.

Monthly spending · $8,000

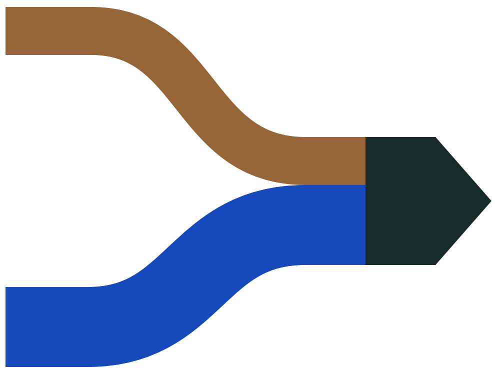
Give the money a job before it moves.

Pension, after withholding

$3,000

The gap savings must fill

$5,000



Into household checking

$8,000

each month

The two amounts combine to fund the household’s monthly spending.

Spending includes healthcare, travel, and annual bills. Income taxes beyond pension withholding are separate. No Social Security income is assumed in this 12-month example.

Bank cash, assigned by purpose

$90,000 total

Paycheck cash

$30,000

The source of the first monthly transfers.

Emergency reserve

$30,000

Kept outside the paycheck route.

Tax provision*

$30,000

Also kept separate from spending cash.

The later paychecks have dates.

Separate Treasury bills in their taxable brokerage account are assumed to return **$15,000 of principal** in December, March, and June, before the next quarter begins.

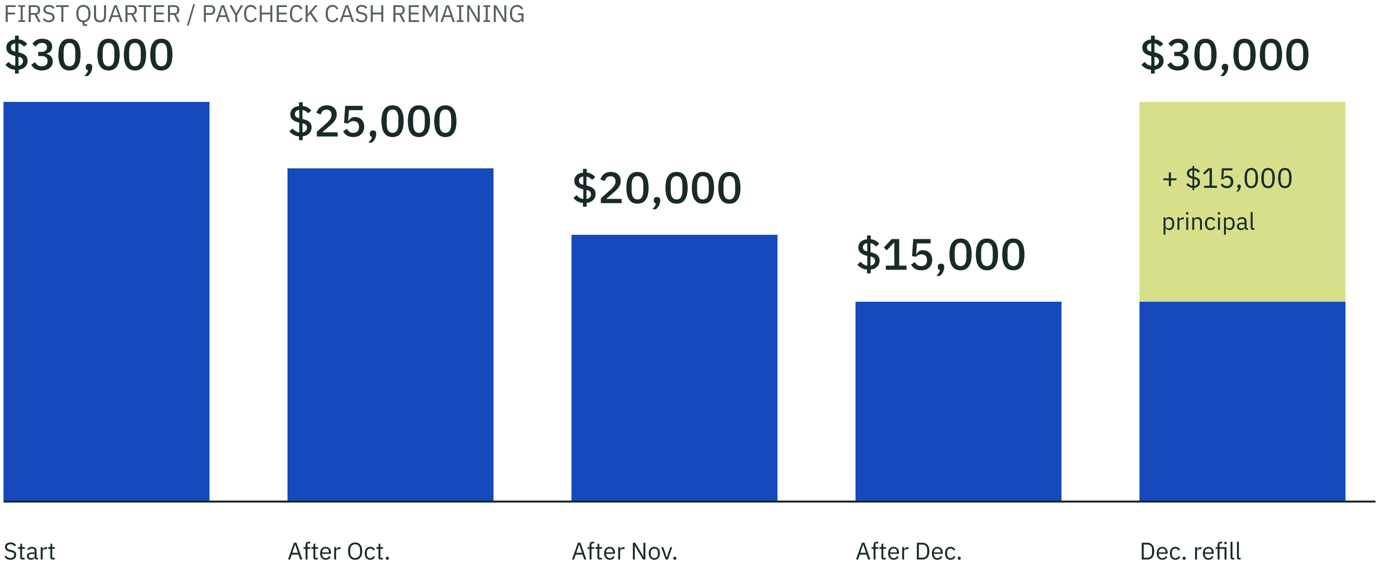
*The tax provision is an invented earmark, not a tax estimate. Interest is excluded from the maturity figures. Other assets and the full balance sheet are outside these excerpts.

Household rule A–01

The paycheck has an address and a date.

Move **$5,000** from designated paycheck cash to checking on the **first business day** of each month, beginning in October.

FIRST QUARTER / PAYCHECK CASH REMAINING



The December maturity refills what the first three paychecks used. Interest is excluded. This is a cash schedule, not an investment-performance projection.

Why this rule fits here

The assigned cash funds the first quarter without an investment sale or a new IRA distribution. Emergency and tax cash keep their separate jobs.

The 12-month cash check
$30,000 starting cash + $45,000 maturities
– $60,000 monthly transfers

$15,000
remaining after September

This arithmetic does not establish lifetime sustainability. Setup and the conditions for revisiting the rule are on page 4.

One person responsible. A clear definition of done.

Put the paycheck in motion.

Before October 1

Owner: Jordan

Set up the first three transfers.

Schedule the monthly $5,000 transfers. Taylor checks the instructions and knows where to find them.

Done when the first deposit arrives and both can find the schedule.

By November 1

Or cash at $20,000 or less

Confirm the next refill.

Jordan confirms the next $15,000 maturity with the provider. Refill paycheck cash in December, March, and June. Continue the $5,000 monthly transfers through September.

Done when the maturity is confirmed and, at each refill, the principal reaches paycheck cash.

When to reopen the rule

If income, spending, or a maturity changes, Jordan requests revised advice. A delayed maturity does not authorize spending the emergency or tax reserves.

↳ Income changes ↳ Spending changes ↳ Maturity changes

The household carries out these steps with its providers. This sample does not include ongoing monitoring or transaction authority.

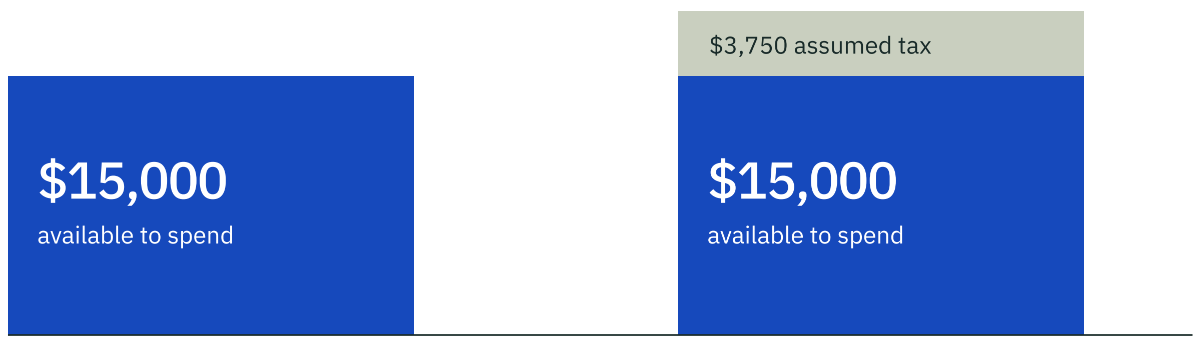
The reasoning beside the rule

The account matters.

The first quarter needs $15,000 from savings. The account changes the arithmetic.

Designated bank cash
$15,000
taken from the account

Fully pre-tax IRA
$18,750
taken from the account



No tax on cash principal; bank interest is separate.

Illustration only: a **20% tax assumption** on the IRA distribution gives $15,000 ÷ 80% = $18,750. The rate is invented; it is not a tax bracket or household tax estimate.

What this tells us

Existing cash funds the first quarter without adding IRA income. It still reduces household assets. This is a near-term cash choice, not a finding about the lowest lifetime tax.

“Then should we convert some to Roth?”

A complete tax analysis would compare no conversion with specific amounts, current tax, future withdrawals, and possible Medicare effects. This excerpt recommends no conversion amount. Roth withdrawals are also an option to evaluate.

General references: IRS Publication 590-B · Medicare costs.

October 2026–September 2027

The next year, in view.

The Blueprint is adopted in this fictional scenario. These selected actions are planned, not completed.

Oct–Dec

BEGIN

Put the paycheck to work.

Jordan: set up A–01 and confirm the December maturity. Instructions and timing: pages 3–4.

Taylor: before any conversion, coordinate records with the planner and tax preparer.

Done: first deposit received; maturity confirmed; any conversion amount, tax funding, and authorization documented. Zero remains an option.

Jan–Mar

FOLLOW THROUGH

Keep the records with the decisions.

Taylor: send actual pension, withdrawal, and conversion records to the tax preparer. **Jordan:** verify the March maturity and direct the $15,000 principal to paycheck cash.

Done: records received, filing and payment deadlines confirmed, and refill received.

Apr–Jun

COMPARE

Let real life inform the next decision.

Jordan: compare three months of actual spending; note insurance changes; verify the June refill.

Done: cash and spending reconciled; changed assumptions referred for advice.

Jul–Sep

PREPARE

Leave a clear handoff.

Taylor: update income choices, contacts, and beneficiaries. Decide whether to engage advice for next year.

Done: both can find the plan and professional contacts.

A visible year. A named person. Evidence that the step is complete.

The plan must survive a handoff.

Either of you should be able to pick it up.

"The money matters, but the money is being asked to serve a life."

Christopher Swan, CFP® · Retire Blessed manuscript

The plan is yours.

The standalone Blueprint includes written advice and a delivery walkthrough. You carry out the plan with your providers. Keep the current copy where both of you can find it.

Further help is a choice.

Further advice, coordination, investment management, or monitoring requires a separate engagement. Tax preparation and legal work remain with your professionals.

One durable Household Blueprint binder and a matching PDF.
RetireWithSwan.com · Current process, scope, and fees