

BUDGET SUMMARY

| Category | 2023 Actual | 2024 Actual | 2025 Budget | 2026 Requested Budget | 2025/2026 Variance |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Expenditures | | | | | |
| Personnel Costs | 10,172,316 | 13,850,490 | 10,427,008 | 10,457,226 | 30,218 |
| Operations Costs | 4,240,497 | 4,273,571 | 3,697,038 | 4,757,880 | 1,060,842 |
| Debt & Depreciation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Interdepartmental Charges | 2,384 | 182,696 | 193,161 | 214,977 | 21,816 |
| Total Expenditures | \$14,415,197 | \$18,306,757 | \$14,317,207 | \$15,430,083 | \$1,112,876 |
| Revenues | | | | | |
| Other Direct Revenue | 220,305 | 92,791 | 170,090 | 232,650 | 62,560 |
| State & Federal Revenue | 5,395,198 | 8,630,871 | 5,717,178 | 6,922,659 | 1,205,481 |
| Total Revenues | \$5,615,504 | \$8,723,662 | \$5,887,268 | \$7,155,309 | \$1,268,041 |
| Tax Levy | \$8,799,693 | \$9,583,095 | \$8,429,939 | \$8,274,774 | (\$155,165) |
| Personnel | | | | | |
| Full Time Pos (FTE) | 166.00 | 165.00 | 165.00 | 165.00 | 0.00 |
| Overtime \$ | 152,551 | 306,060 | 180,000 | 200,000 | 20,000 |
| Seasonal/Hourly/Pool | 165,619 | 322,394 | 321,090 | 329,318 | 8,228 |

Department Mission:

The mission of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office (DA's Office) is to promote public peace and safety by just prosecution of criminal cases; to seek and to do impartial justice; to protect the health and welfare of children who are victims of child abuse and neglect; to safeguard the rule of law; and to promote participation with law enforcement and the criminal justice system by treating all persons with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Department Vision:

The goal of the DA's Office is to help create a safe and just community: one in which children have the stability and resources to learn and grow; in which neighborhoods can flourish; in which residents and culture can thrive.

Department objectives include:

Targeting investigating, and successfully prosecuting firearm and other violent offenders.

Reducing crime and recidivism and promoting offender accountability through dual paths of early intervention for non-violent offenders with serious substance abuse and mental health treatment needs, on one hand, and vigorous prosecution of violent offenders on the other. Maintaining a permanent witness protection unit to ensure that victims and witnesses are able to safely appear and testify in court. Maintaining a robust victim witness advocacy program to promote victim participation in the justice system, improve case outcomes, and ensure that statutory and constitutional mandates are met.

Enhancing the prosecution of felony drug cases through the Milwaukee High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG), the Violent Crimes Unit and the Community Partnership Unit by targeting, investigating, and prosecuting major drug traffickers and drug trafficking organizations (DTOs); ridding neighborhoods of drug dealers and nuisance properties; and continuing the successful operation of the Speedy Trial Drug Courts program, which aim to bring cases to trial within 120 days of initial appearance in court and continuing the successful operation of the state Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services of Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Speedy Resolution project at the Vel Phillips Juvenile Justice Center, to ensure that children do not languish in substitute care for years without realistic prospect of a return home or adoption by a loving family.

Department Description:

As the prosecuting office for Milwaukee County, the District Attorney's Office is responsible for representing the State in criminal matters, representing the County in certain non-criminal traffic and ordinance cases, and for handling juvenile delinquency cases, Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) cases, and termination of parental rights (TPR) matters. The District Attorney's Office handles post-conviction and post-disposition litigation in the circuit courts, petitions for writs of habeas corpus, extradition matters, and appeals relating to Milwaukee County misdemeanor, child welfare, and delinquency matters. In addition, prosecutors are on call 24 hours per day to assist law enforcement with legal process. The responsibilities of District Attorney's Office are imposed by state statute and constitutional mandate. The DA Office's work is dedicated to public safety and serving victims in Milwaukee County.

The office is comprised of state-funded prosecutors (assistant district attorneys, or ADAs) and county-funded support staff, all of whom support the office's mission. Staff are located at two campuses: the courthouse complex in downtown Milwaukee and the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center in Wauwatosa. The office is composed of three areas: Administration, the Legal Division (comprised of state-funded attorneys), and the Support Division (composed of county staff).

Administration

The District Attorney is an elected constitutional officer, responsible for the planning and organization of prosecutions in all criminal offenses, juvenile matters, and applicable traffic and ordinance violations in Milwaukee County. The District Attorney oversees all department activities and sets all department policies. The District Attorney is supported by an assistant executive.

The Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) supervises all department functions and oversees the implementation of departmental policies and procedures. The CDDA serves as a liaison with other county departments, city, state and federal officials and law enforcement agencies; works with the legislature in regard to legislative action related to criminal and juvenile law; and directly supervises the Deputy District Attorneys and the Homicide and Public Integrity units.

Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) are senior attorneys who oversee the office's divisions and units. Depending on the assignment, they directly supervise legal and support staff; handle caseloads in court; assist in and direct high level criminal investigations such as TILIs; administer budget, personnel, and grant awards; represent the office in community and law enforcement initiatives; and assist the CDDA.

The Director of Victim Witness Services oversees the provision of constitutionally and statutorily mandated crime victim services in the DA's Victim Witness Services Division. Staff in the Division include victim witness advocates, assistant sensitive crimes advocates, subpoena clerks, and clerical support. Together they provided services to tens of thousands of people, many of whom are part of underserved and vulnerable groups: abused and neglected children; sexually abused children and adults, domestic violence victims; families of homicide victims; victims of elder abuse; and thousands of victims of other violent, personal, and property crimes.

The Chief Investigator oversees the Investigations Division and supervises the Division's staff, which includes deputy chief investigators, investigators, process investigators and process servers, and intelligence analysts. The Investigations Division is divided into the Maurice V. Pulley Jr. Witness Protection Program, the Special Investigations Unit, and Process Service. The Division investigates victim/witness intimidation, police shootings of civilians, deaths in police custody, public corruption, major multi-jurisdictional crimes, elder abuse, white collar crimes and industrial deaths and injuries, and provides for personal service of legal process in criminal cases as required. In addition, investigators provide post-charging investigation on major crimes for the prosecutors, respond to critical incidents, and maintain office security.

The Network Manager directs the District Attorney's Information Technology Division, which manages the DA's computer network, maintains the hardware, the software systems, and user accounts for all county and state staff. The Division manages the database and user accounts for Protect, the State DA case management system, the Pro-Phoenix law enforcement report management software and database, and the office's connections to county applications such as INFOR and Teams. It provides data and statistics to requestors, including partner agencies and research groups, and provides training to legal and county staff in office computer applications. Most significantly, the IT Division is responsible for managing digital referrals for prosecution, and for the acquisition, storage, and dissemination of digital discovery in criminal cases.

Legal Division

Attorneys in the DA's Office's Legal Division are assigned to one of two prosecutorial unit: the Criminal Division, based primarily in the courthouse complex in downtown Milwaukee; and the Juvenile Division at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center in Wauwatosa. Both are divided into smaller units and teams which focus on specific types of referrals.

Within the Criminal Division, attorneys are assigned to:

One, the General Crimes Division, which is comprised of the General Crimes teams (GCTs), Community Partnership Unit (CPU) and Early Intervention Team (EI). Two, the Violent Crimes Division, which is comprised of the Homicide Unit, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Unit, the Felony Gun Unit, and the Felony Drug Unit. Three, the Sensitive Crimes Division, which is composed of the Sensitive Crimes Unit; the Sexually Violent Persons (Ch. 980) Unit and also the Child Protection and Advocacy Unit (CPAU) and the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit. Lastly the Public Integrity Unit.

Within the Juvenile Division, attorneys are assigned to:

One, the Child Welfare Division, which is comprised of the Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) Unit and the Termination of Parental Rights Unit; and two, the Delinquency Unit, which handles juvenile delinquency matters.

Support Division

County staff in the DA's Office's Support Division work in the Victim Witness Services Division, the Investigative Division, the Administrative Division, the Information Technology Division, and the Clerical Division. They provide essential services to the office at both the downtown and Children's Court campuses.

Major Changes

- In the State of Wisconsin FY25-27 biannual budget, it states that revenue collected from traffic citations issued within the County of Milwaukee will be available for the needs of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. The initial estimate is \$2 million annually. Approximately \$1.3 million will be set aside to cover the salary and fringe costs for additional prosecutors. The remaining balance will be used to cover expenditures deemed necessary to support the functions of the DA's Office. Some potential uses of the funds are: 1. An expenditure to Axon Enterprise for software used in our discovery process was previously paid with ARPA, capital projects, and tax levy funds. We would like to upgrade to a new version that includes AI functions. The estimated annual cost is \$486,500. 2. To cover unreimbursed salary and FICA costs for the Special Prosecution Clerks and/or the VW Chapter 950 reimbursement. 3. Other costs that are not fully funded by the tax levy.
- In the 2025 budget, a Public Relations Manager position was authorized but unfunded. With a notable increase in media requests, it has become apparent that this position needs to be filled in 2026. The 2026 budget changes the position from unfunded to funded, thereby increasing the FTE count by 1.0. The payroll costs for filling this position are absorbed within the 2026 budget. No additional tax levy funds are being requested.

The following contracts are included in the 2026 Budget in lieu of separate review and approval from the County Board during the fiscal year:

| Vendor | Contract Description | Contract Amount |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| City of Milwaukee | The City of Milwaukee administers the Byrne JAG program for three community prosecutors and one domestic violence prosecutor. The revenue is offset by prosecutor's salary and fringe costs. | 10,700 |
| City of Milwaukee | The City of Milwaukee administers the Byrne JAG program for three community prosecutors and one domestic violence prosecutor. The revenue is offset by prosecutor's salary and fringe costs. | 375,000 |
| City of Milwaukee | The City of Milwaukee issues community block grants to fund two community prosecutors. The revenue is offset by prosecutor's salary and fringe costs. | 1,200 |
| City of Milwaukee | The City of Milwaukee issues community block grants to fund two community prosecutors. The revenue is offset by prosecutor's salary and fringe costs. | 190,000 |
| State of Wisconsin - DCF | The State of Wisconsin awards a grant for TPR (termination of parental rights) and CHIPS (Child in need of protection or services). The revenue is offset by billable prosecutor's salary and fringe costs plus Milwaukee County employee's salary and FICA costs. The grant also reimburses for fringe costs for County employee's as well as a 10% de Minimus amount for administrative costs. The additional funding offsets tax levy costs for unreimbursed match costs for County employees. | 1,004,750 |
| State of Wisconsin - DCF | The State of Wisconsin awards a grant for TPR (termination of parental rights) and CHIPS (Child in need of protection or services). The revenue is offset by billable prosecutor's salary and fringe costs plus Milwaukee County employee's salary and FICA costs. The grant also reimburses for fringe costs for County employee's as well as a 10% de Minimus amount for administrative costs. The additional funding offsets tax levy costs for unreimbursed match costs for County employees. | 1,021,380 |
| Sojourner Family Peace Center | Sojourner awarded a subcontract for a Domestic Violence High Risk Team. The revenue is offset by one prosecutor's salary and fringe costs and one victim witness's salary and FICA costs. The reimbursement of County fringe costs reduces the department's tax levy request. | 100,000 |
| State of Wisconsin - DOJ | The State award is for a Domestic Violence High Risk Team. The revenue is offset by one prosecutor's salary and fringe costs and one victim witness's salary and FICA costs. The reimbursement of County fringe costs reduces the department's tax levy request. | 394,025 |
| Federal Bureau of Investigations | Reimbursement of overtime costs for an investigator that is assigned to work on FBI-involved cases. There is a monthly and annual cap for claims. The revenue is offset by overtime costs. | 10,800 |
| Federal Bureau of Investigations | Reimbursement of overtime costs for an investigator that is assigned to work on FBI-involved cases. There is a monthly and annual cap for claims. The revenue is offset by overtime costs. | 3,600 |
| EOP-Office of National Drug Control | Grant funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. The revenue is offset by prosecutor's salary and fringe costs. | 313,000 |
| Loyola University | Loyola University reimburses the County for the costs to access CCAP. The revenue is offset by an invoice submitted by the State of Wisconsin for access cost. | 6,250 |

The following contracts are included in the 2026 Budget in lieu of separate review and approval from the County Board during the fiscal year:

| Vendor | Contract Description | Contract Amount |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| State of Wisconsin - DAS | This grant is for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group. It provides funding for three prosecutors and three police departments - Milwaukee, South Milwaukee and West Allis. The police department contracts partially fund salary and fringe costs at a contracted rate specified in the award. The revenue is offset by the prosecutor's and police department's salary and fringe costs. | 543,365 |
| Milwaukee Police Department | A contract is issued by the County for the police salary and fringe costs authorized in the State of Wisconsin - DAS Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement grant. | 180,240 |
| South Milwaukee Police Department | A contract is issued by the County for the police salary and fringe costs authorized in the State of Wisconsin - DAS Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement grant. | 42,228 |
| West Allis Police Department | A contract is issued by the County for the police salary and fringe costs authorized in the State of Wisconsin - DAS Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement grant. | 46,822 |
| State of Wisconsin - DOJ | The Project Safe Neighborhood grant is for programs or projects within set boundaries established in the City of Milwaukee that initiate, support, and/or enhance law enforcement efforts to reduce gun-related crime and violence. The revenue is offset by one County employee's salary and FICA costs plus expenditures to assist the victims. The County fringe reimbursement reduces the department's tax levy request. | 66,965 |
| State of Wisconsin - DOJ | The Project Safe Neighborhood grant is to support the prosecution of firearm offenders within set boundaries established in the City of Milwaukee. The revenue is offset by one prosecutor's salary and fringe costs. | 123,000 |
| State of Wisconsin - DOJ | The Project Safe Neighborhood grant is for programs or projects within set boundaries established in the City of Milwaukee that initiate, support, and/or enhance law enforcement efforts to reduce gun-related crime and violence. The revenue is offset by one County employee's salary and FICA costs plus expenditures to assist the victims. The County fringe reimbursement reduces the department's tax levy request. | 47,750 |
| State of Wisconsin - DAS | Wis Stats 978.13(1)(b)(c)(d) and 20.475(1)(i) provides for six Special Prosecution Clerks and four clerks dedicated to the homicide, sexual assault, and drug speedy trial projects. The revenue is offset by salary and FICA costs up to a maximum amount specified in the State's biannual budget. The fringe reimbursements first covers the unreimbursed portion of salary and FICA costs and the balance reduces the department's tax levy request. | 113,665 |
| State of Wisconsin - DOA | Wis Stats 978.13(1)(b)(c)(d) and 20.475(1)(i) provides for six Special Prosecution Clerks and four clerks dedicated to the homicide, sexual assault, and drug speedy trial projects. The revenue is offset by salary and FICA costs up to a maximum amount specified in the State's biannual budget. The fringe reimbursements first covers the unreimbursed portion of salary and FICA costs and the balance reduces the department's tax levy request. | 199,710 |

The following contracts are included in the 2026 Budget in lieu of separate review and approval from the County Board during the fiscal year:

| Vendor | Contract Description | Contract Amount |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| State of Wisconsin | The State biannual budget carved out funding specifically for the Milwaukee County's District Attorney's Office. The revenue source is traffic citations. The revenue is offset by expenditures deemed necessary to support the functions of the DA's Office. | 700,000 |
| State of Wisconsin - OCVS | The State Chapter 950 program funds DA Office's Victim/Witness functions. A partial reimbursement is received for VW and Investigative staff who are assigned to this function plus a percentage of specific expenditures. The revenue is offset by salary, FICA, and specific costs that are required to support the VW functions. The reimbursement rate fluctuates around the 50% level. The reimbursed fringe rate reduces the impact of the unreimbursed costs which increase the department's tax levy request. | 1,696,534 |
| State of Wisconsin | The Victims of Crimes Acts grant provides funding for two victim witness advocates. The grant has a 20% match and is competitively awarded every three to five years. During the non-competitive years, the grant award amount does not change. The revenue is offset by the salary and FICA costs. The reimbursed fringe rate reduces the unreimbursed and match costs which increase the department's tax levy request. | 75,680 |
| VOCA - FFY27 | The Victims of Crimes Acts grant provides funding for two victim witness advocates. The grant has a 20% match and is competitively awarded every three to five years. During the non-competitive years, the grant award amount does not change. The revenue is offset by the salary and FICA costs. The reimbursed fringe rate reduces the unreimbursed and match costs which increase the department's tax levy request. | 35,005 |
| Axon Enterprise | Axon software is used for the DA's Office discovery needs. There is an existing contract which runs through 2032; however, Axon has upgraded the software to include AI. The estimated cost will increase from \$375,225 to \$486,500. The expenditure will be offset with the new revenue source from traffic citation collections. | 486,500 |

Strategic Program Area: Investigations & Criminal Prosecutions

Service Provision: Mandated

How We Do It: Program Budget Summary

| Category | 2023 Actual | 2024 Actual | 2025 Budget | 2026 Budget | 2025/2026 Variance |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Expenditures | 14,415,197 | 18,306,757 | 14,317,207 | 15,430,083 | 1,112,876 |
| Revenues | 5,615,504 | 8,723,662 | 5,887,268 | 7,155,309 | 1,268,041 |
| Tax Levy | 8,799,693 | 9,583,095 | 8,429,939 | 8,274,774 | (155,165) |
| Full Time Pos (FTE) | 185.00 | 184.00 | 165.00 | 165.00 | 0.00 |

Strategic Overview:

As the prosecuting agency in Milwaukee County, the District Attorney’s Office represents the State in criminal matters and the County in non-criminal traffic and ordinance cases and handles all juvenile delinquency, Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS), and termination of parental rights (TPR) cases in Milwaukee County. The District Attorney’s Office public safety mission requires dedicating resources to those offenders and offenses that have been demonstrated to be the greatest threat to health and safety, and to children who need protection and services to survive and to thrive. However, public safety and individualized justice also require dedicating resources to diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system when the activity which brings them into contact with law enforcement is driven by drug use, abuse, or addiction or by mental health needs, and when that can be accomplished safely.

The General Crimes Division handles the bulk of the criminal referrals to the DA's Office. ADAs assigned to the GCTs review all referrals for prosecution which are not otherwise directed to a specialty unit (over 12,000 such referrals in 2022); prosecute all general felony, misdemeanor, and applicable ordinance violations in the five general felony and four misdemeanor criminal courts; and work with ADAs in EI to seek alternatives to prosecution and incarceration where such can be done consistent with public safety.

Community Prosecutors (CPs) in the CPU work from police districts and engage collaboratively with other government agencies, law enforcement, business, community groups, and the faith-based community to identify and abate neighborhood-specific crime and nuisance issues.

The Early Intervention unit bears primarily responsibility for identifying referrals of non-violent offenders whose criminal risk can be safely managed with community-based early intervention programs, which take the form of diversion agreements, deferred prosecution agreements, Drug Treatment Court agreements, and Veterans' Treatment Court agreements, and for handling those matters pre-charging and in the circuit court.

Within the Violent Crimes Division, the Homicide Unit prosecutes homicides and related offenses in five homicide / sensitive crimes court. There are generally 120 to 140 homicide cases pending at any given time. In 2023, the unit reviewed over 220 referrals for prosecution, involving over 300 suspects.

The Gun Unit handles all felony level non-fatal shootings and related offenses and offenders, except those which are domestic violence related, in two specialty gun courts.

ADAs in the HIDTA Unit, funded through a grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to the North Central HIDTA, are responsible for disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations and prosecuting high level drug traffickers and violent offenders.

The Drug Unit is responsible for drug trafficking and opioid / methamphetamine possession offenses, using a bifurcated strategy of enforcement and demand reduction. With EI ADAs, the ADAs screen all possession and low-level trafficking offenses for redirection into EI programming; they address higher level trafficking, violent, or armed offenders, and those who decline EI through traditional prosecution. The Drug Unit team captain reviews all Len Bias Homicides.

As part of the Sensitive Crimes Division, ADAs and victim advocates in the Sensitive Crimes Unit provide a coordinated response to the review and prosecution of sexual assaults, human trafficking, possession and distribution of child pornography, invasion of privacy, sex-tortion, and related offenses. Human trafficking cases are among the most complex and difficult to prosecute; significantly the unit has received a guilty verdict in every HT case it has tried.

One ADA and a paralegal in the Sexually Violent Persons Unit handle the civil commitments of individuals who are deemed to be sexually violent persons under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 980. Typically, these offenders have been convicted of a sexually violent offense and have been found to suffer from a mental disease or disorder which makes it more likely than not that they will engage in act(s) of sexual violence in the future. Staff review and file petitions to civilly commit an individual under CH. 980 and handle petitions for discharge filed by individuals who previously have been civilly committed under those provisions.

The Child Protection and Advocacy Unit (CPAU) is comprised of ADAs and victim witness advocates who are responsible for highly complex child abuse and neglect cases involving children who have suffered significant abuse and/or neglect, including abusive head trauma (formerly shaken baby syndrome), inflicted burn injuries, severe malnutrition, and serial child torture cases. All homicides resulting from child abuse and neglect are handled by the DDA who supervises the Unit.

The staff in the DV Unit provide a coordinated, victim-centered approach to the review and prosecution of intimate partner domestic violence referrals, and to prosecute those referrals in the specialized Domestic Violence speedy trial courts. The Domestic Violence Unit is collocated in both the Courthouse complex and the Sojourner Family Peace Center, which houses a shelter for women and child victims, and which provides a central location for victim service providers, MPD's Sensitive Crimes Unit, and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's Child Advocacy Unit.

Handling Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases, the staff in the Child Welfare Division work with some of Milwaukee County's most vulnerable and at-risk citizens. This is a monumental task: approximately one-third of all child welfare cases in Wisconsin arise in Milwaukee County, and is the department's responsibility to assure that these children are kept safe, once the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) refers the matter to the office. Child Welfare cases are time sensitive and involve complex and lengthy litigation. As petitioners in the matters, the District Attorney's Office needs extensive clerical and paralegal support to ensure that proper parties are noticed, depositions are scheduled, court of appeals briefs are assembled and mailed, timelines are met, and cases are processed appropriately. A contract between the District Attorney's Office and the State of Wisconsin covers the cost of the entire TPR unit. As part of that contract, the State and County are required to match that cost with their own funds, through DA and support staff payroll that can be used only for child welfare purposes. Thus, every member of the child welfare teams—including the support staff and paralegals—is in either a contract funded or a "match" position.

Staff in the Delinquency Unit handle juvenile delinquency matters, cases which would be criminal in nature if committed by an adult. The Division also reviews all informal resolutions in delinquency cases, handles petitions for waiver into adult court and reverse waivers, and makes determinations as to the appropriateness of a serious juvenile offender (SJO) designation. These matters are extremely time sensitive: referrals for juveniles in custody must be reviewed within 24 hours.

Prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office are state-funded positions. County staff positions support the legal division in a variety of ways, but primarily through the provision of victim witness services; investigative support and witness protection; administrative support; network and discovery support; and clerical support.

Strategic Implementation:

Victim /Witness Services

Victim witness advocates and Assistant sensitive crime advocates (referred to in the aggregate as VWs) provide services in-person, over the phone, and by correspondence. Victims often present with comprehensive problems—homelessness, mental illness, significant trauma, language barriers, and AODA issues, among them—and need extensive services. VWs educate victims and witnesses about the criminal justice process; inform them of their rights; assist with Crime Victim Compensation applications and forms for financial reimbursement or other support; keep them apprised of the status of cases; and accompany them to hearings. VWs provide crisis intervention, individualized case management, and safety planning. VWs and supervisors are also deeply engaged with system and community partners to enhance services to victims and witnesses in Milwaukee County, and actively participate in the Domestic Violence High Risk Team, the Sexual Assault Response Team, CRAY, and the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, among other initiatives.

Investigations Division

The Maurice V. Pulley Jr. Witness Protection Program (WITSEC) was created in 2009 as a result of gang retaliation in homicide investigations, but in the ensuing years, domestic violence referrals have become a primary focus. WITSEC focuses both on security measures and on enforcement and prosecution of offenders. Investigators engage in safety planning for at-risk victims and investigate witness tampering, intimidation, and related offenses. The investigations have resulted in successful prosecutions for conspiracy to commit murder, intimidation, bribery, solicitation to commit perjury and other offenses. Without WITSEC, many prosecutions would become untenable.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates critical incidents, public corruption, and major multi-jurisdictional crimes. SIU is a resource for local departments facing increases in violent criminal acts, supports multi-agency investigations, and provides investigative resources and support to law enforcement partners throughout the County. Investigators attend briefings with MPD's SID, and two SIU investigators are assigned to the F.B.I. Violent Crimes Taskforce, which targets serial armed robbery, bank robbery and carjacking suspects throughout Milwaukee County. Two SIU investigators specialize in the forensic analysis of devices such as cell phones and computers; their services are available to any law enforcement agency in the county. SIU also has the capability to perform criminal intelligence analysis.

In the Outreach Unit (ORU), sworn process investigators and unsworn process servers serve subpoenas on witnesses who are either unresponsive to service by mail or who are overtly uncooperative in the most aggravated cases. This work is essential to securing the presence of witnesses in court and to improving outcomes at trial.

This budget authorizes 28 positions in the Investigative Unit, in addition to the chief investigator: 3 deputy chiefs; 14 investigators; 3 crime analysts; 6 part-time process investigators; and an hourly, non-sworn process server.

Administrative Division

The Administrative Division manages the department's fiscal, personnel and record management functions. It develops the state and county budgets; develops and administers grants and revenues; controls the department's expenditure of funds; fulfills the procurement function, handles personnel matters for all county and state employees and is the chief point of contact with the County Departments of Administrative Services and Human Resources and with the State Department of Administration and the State Prosecutors Office. The administrative section supervises record management and generally is responsible for maintaining liaison with the administrative and fiscal personnel of other related governmental agencies, including the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and local law enforcement agencies.

Information Technology (IT) Division

The District Attorney's Office is part of the statewide district attorney computer network. The IT Division manages the DA's computer network at the courthouse complex, the Vel Phillips Juvenile Justice Center and the Sojourner Family Peace Center. In the broadest sense, its responsibilities are divided two main areas: the IT hardware function and the IT applications function.

With respect to the hardware function, IT provides operational support for the office. Principally, this involves maintaining the network and computer hardware systems and supporting computer applications, such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, and Outlook. IT Staff also manages IT inventory and employees' computer accounts and licenses.

With respect to the applications function, the IT Division is responsible for the management of PROTECT, the DA's case management system and the office's criminal discovery function. Discovery is a constitutionally mandated process, whereby investigative material is disseminated to the defense after a case has been brought. Without the timely acquisition and dissemination of discovery, cases cannot proceed in court. IT staff receives digitally transmitted evidence, identifies it, connects it to the proper case, unit, and team, and organizes it in folders they create on the DA network drive. Paralegals in the Legal Division review the discovery and, in consultation with the attorney assigned to the case, identify missing material. The paralegals request the additional material from law enforcement, monitor those requests, and organize it as it is received. When the discovery is assembled, the paralegals notify IT, which disseminates it to the defense attorney on the case.

Clerical Division

The Clerical Division, supervised by the Office Manager in the criminal and the Office Manager – Juvenile in the juvenile division, support the legal staff in both divisions. Clerical staff intake new case referrals seven days per week, provide reception services in the units, help with discovery, and provide essential daily support for all office functions. Two secretaries provide direct support to the DDAs.

Paralegals

This budget authorizes 27 full-time and 2 half time paralegal positions to assist in the review and issuance of juvenile and adult referrals, assist in the acquisition and dissemination discovery, and provide administrative and litigation support.