

BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Requested Budget	2026/2027 Variance
Expenditures					
Personnel Costs	2,906,328	2,603,971	2,941,881	3,056,756	114,875
Operations Costs	130,523	116,330	107,534	137,797	30,263
Debt & Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Interdepartmental Charges	(998,769)	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$2,038,082	\$2,720,301	\$3,049,415	\$3,194,553	\$145,138
Revenues					
Other Direct Revenue	204,740	195,157	344,000	555,341	211,341
State & Federal Revenue	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenues	\$204,740	\$195,157	\$344,000	\$555,341	\$211,341
Tax Levy	\$1,833,341	\$2,525,144	\$2,705,415	\$2,639,212	(\$66,203)
Personnel					
Full Time Pos (FTE)	26.00	26.00	26.00	27.00	1.00
Overtime \$	79,086	10,470	0	0	0
Seasonal/Hourly/Pool	0	0	0	0	0

Department Mission:

The Milwaukee County Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) strengthens the Milwaukee County community through highly competent, creative, compassionate, and responsive legal services provided in strategic partnership with County stakeholders to optimize decision-making, reduce risks, and maximize public resources, and serve our shared community.

Department Vision:

By becoming the best government law office in Wisconsin, OCC increases equity and wellness in Milwaukee County.

Department Description:

OCC serves as chief legal counsel to Milwaukee County, including all of its departments, boards, committees, employees, and elected officials. The Chief Corporation Counsel leads OCC with the support of Deputy Corporation Counsels. Assistant Corporation Counsels report to Deputy Corporation Counsels. OCC staff includes one senior office coordinator, several paralegals, and one administrative assistant.

OCC provides advisory, transactional, dispute and litigation legal services concerning a wide range of civil issues that impact its clients, the County community, and the public. OCC's attorneys, with the support and assistance of non-attorney staff, provide comprehensive legal advice, guidance, and representation in the following areas:

Mental health-related matters and proceedings on behalf of the County and the public, including guardianships, protective placements, and civil commitments. Also, OCC represents the board responsible for sexually violent person placement under state law. Given its representation in these matters, the OCC also provides significant advisory services to the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services.

Labor and employment matters including labor relations, HR consulting, employment benefits, and representation of the Milwaukee County Employees Retirement System.

Real estate, land use, and property issues, including representation of Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport and Timmerman Airport. Also, contract drafting and review, public procurement-related issues, public records and open meetings, including the investigation and prosecution of reported violations of the same, government ethics, Milwaukee County and Board governance, election law and data privacy. Risk management advice and counseling including internal policy and procedure guidance.

OCC Prosecutes and defends Milwaukee County, its officials and employees in all manner of lawsuits and other proceedings, in state and federal court, before administrative agencies, and in labor arbitration. OCC serves as panel counsel for one of the County's insurers, Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation (WCMIC), and WCMIC pays OCC for the defense of certain administrative and litigation matters, which also reduces dollar for dollar the County's insurance deductible on a year over year basis.

Areas of the OCC's litigation practice include:

Employment discrimination proceedings including disability, age, race, and sex discrimination, before the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Equal Rights Division. As well as employee benefits litigation, prosecution of wage claims on behalf of the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, labor negotiations and interest arbitration, and civil constitutional rights defense litigation arising under 42 U.S. Code § 1983 and other federal laws.

In addition, OCC litigation practice includes personal injury and property damage, construction, tax foreclosure prosecution, procurement protests, the False Claims Act, Mandamus actions including public record disputes, actions to enforce provisions of Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, breach of contract, alternative dispute resolution including mediation and arbitration, prosecution of temporary restraining orders and injunctions on behalf of Milwaukee County, its officials and employees in their formal capacities.

Litigation management (internal and outside counsel) including prosecution of class actions concerning public health impacting Milwaukee County related to opioid and diabetes medication sales and marketing and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or "forever chemicals."

Strategic Program Area: Corporation Counsel

Service Provision: Mandated

How We Do It: Program Budget Summary

Category	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026/2027 Variance
Expenditures	2,038,082	2,720,301	3,049,415	3,194,553	145,138
Revenues	204,740	195,157	344,000	555,341	211,341
Tax Levy	1,833,341	2,525,144	2,705,415	2,639,212	(66,203)
Full Time Pos (FTE)	26.00	26.00	26.00	27.00	1.00

Strategic Overview:

As set forth above, the OCC, as chief legal counsel to the County, provides advisory, transactional, and dispute and litigation legal services on a wide and varied range of civil legal issues. OCC's values align to those of the County as a whole:

Inclusion: We actively seek diverse perspectives when making decisions.

Influence: We collectively use our authorities and expertise to positively impact the County community.

Integrity: We do the right thing even when no one is looking.

More specifically, the OCC's overall goals include "bridging the gap" by (1) determining what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity; (2) breaking down silos across Milwaukee County departments to increase access to and quality of legal services offered; and (3) intentionally applying a racial equity lens to all of our decision-making.

Strategic Implementation:

After several years, OCC is finally implementing a modern case management system. The new platform shall enhance our practice in many ways aligning our administrative practices within OCC with the best practices of our profession. Additionally, this new system will help us compile data we use to improve the services that we provide to our clients. For example, by analyzing time spent on matters, we can more efficiently allocate resources as needed. Additionally, we should also be able to identify risk factors across the County and implement mitigation strategies that will ultimately reduce liability costs by preventing incidents ahead of time.

OCC has updated its recruitment, hiring, and onboarding processes to emphasize equity and consistency. Corporation Counsel continues to provide legal training and professional development opportunities for its employees on an ongoing basis. The Corporation Counsel Office continues to provide to County departments, boards, and elected officials relevant substantive training to equip all County officials and employees to reduce risk and liability and to better serve the public and County stakeholders. Lastly, OCC continues to build robust succession planning infrastructure that ensures historical knowledge is accessible and its transfer is seamless.

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