Milwaukee County 2027 Adopted Budget Recap

The 2027 Adopted Budget:

- Addresses a projected **$50.8 million** budget shortfall while maintaining essential services. Departments identified nearly **$22 million** in savings.
- Uses **$12.1 million** from the Debt Service Reserve to maintain transit and paratransit service levels in 2027 while the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) develops a redesigned bus network.
- Keeps lakefront and other high-demand park parking free, adds **$100 thousand** for summer pool operations and invests **$497 thousand** toward a Washington Park splash pad.
- Invests **$164.7 million** in capital projects, including **$31.9 million** for 29 Parks projects, **$25.5 million** for traffic safety and **$15.8 million** for the Investing in Justice Courthouse Complex (IJCC) project.

$12.1M
from Debt Service Reserve to preserve transit service levels

$31.9M
for 29 Parks capital projects

$25.5M
for "Vision Zero" traffic safety

$15.8M
for Investing in Justice Courthouse Complex project

$1.9M
for new lighting in four County parks

$429K
for park security cameras to replace Flock license plate readers

$950K
for youth justice contingency funding

$150K
for Right to Counsel eviction defense (Eviction Free MKE)

$500K
for flexible housing resources

$150K
for IMPACT 211 helpline

$208K
for meals and transportation for older adults

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playground projects ($5.2M)

Tax Levy: $316.2 M (2.32% Increase from 2026)

Adopted November 5, 2026; signed with no vetoes. Ongoing reports are expected to help keep the budget balanced. Amounts are rounded.