

**Paul Farrow**  
County Executive



# Waukesha County

## Office of the County Executive

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE PAUL FARROW SIGNS 2024 WAUKESHA COUNTY BUDGET**

*Budget invests heavily in public safety, infrastructure, cuts the tax rate and maintains high-quality services*

**(WAUKESHA, WI)** – Tuesday, November 21, 2023, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow signed the 2024 County Budget at an event with other elected officials and department heads. The Waukesha County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Budget during their November 14th meeting with one amendment.

This marks the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive County Budget the board has passed unanimously. The Budget was amended to maintain law and order in our county by funding additional positions in District Attorney's Office. Despite crime becoming a regional issue, the State has failed to adequately fund the District Attorney's Office and courts system to operate a 6<sup>th</sup> criminal court.

Some other significant highlights of the budget include cutting the County tax rate for the tenth consecutive year, including every year County Executive Farrow has been in office. The tax rate will drop by nearly \$0.14 per \$1,000 of home property value or a 9.1% decrease, to \$1.39. This drop not only marks the lowest rate in more than three decades, but also means Waukesha County will likely have the second lowest effective tax rate among the 72 counties statewide.

“The citizens of Waukesha County have said public safety, and high-quality services are what matters most to them. My goal is to always create a budget that reflects those concerns, while prudently managing taxpayer funds,” Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow said.

#### **Justice and Law Enforcement:**

Despite dwindling funding resources, the County prioritizes the 2024 Budget, allocating its largest portion of new County tax levy and new Shared Revenue of just over \$2.2 million to support law

enforcement, corrections, accountability and justice through our courts and district attorney's office, emergency dispatch, disaster planning, and forensic medical examiner investigations.

- **Sheriff's Department**, \$1.5 million to support operations.
- **Emergency Preparedness**, \$247,000 which includes emergency dispatch operations for the Sheriff's Department and 33 municipalities,
- **Circuit Courts and the District Attorney's Office**, \$359,000
- **The Medical Examiner's Office**, \$129,000 to address high caseloads.

“When we think of public safety the first image that we see is our Sheriff's Deputies. They are what our residents see as the first line of defense and it's why we put so much tax levy into the Sheriff's budget year after year,” Farrow added.

### **Infrastructure:**

Nearly \$53 million in the Capital Projects Plan will be used to maintain transportation infrastructure necessary for a growing, economically vibrant county and for facilities to support operations that serve residents and local businesses.

- \$7.5 million toward repaving and rehabilitation on County Trunk Highways, including construction of CTH T (Grandview Boulevard), from Northview Road to I-94, in the City of Waukesha and the design/land acquisition phases for segments of CTH O (Moorland Road) in the City of New Berlin, as part of multi-year effort to rehabilitate and improve one of the County's busiest highways.
- \$35.4 million for the 2024 construction phase for the Courthouse Project Step II: Renovating the 1959 Courthouse. The project will improve security, address aging and out-of-date facility systems, and ensure that facilities can support the next fifty years of growth in the County.

### **Public Health:**

The 2024 County Budget is investing nearly \$1 million into our largest department, Health and Human Services. HHS delivers essential services to our community by providing mental health services, protecting at-risk children and adults, ensuring veterans receive the benefits they're entitled to, combating the opioid and fentanyl abuse crisis, and serving clients in many other critical areas.

“We thank the County Board for their continued support, but as we look to the future, one-time, federal and state funding sources are not sustainable. The County will proactively look for ways to avoid the financial difficulties that have troubles many local governments and we will strive to maintain our high quality of services,” Farrow concluded.

### **About the 2024 Waukesha County Budget:**

The 2024 Waukesha County Budget is online at [Waukesha County - Budget](#)

For updates about County programs and events, follow Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow on [Facebook](#) and on X [@WaukeshaCoExec](#).

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