

Paul Farrow
County Executive



Waukesha County

Office of the County Executive

Contact: Hillary Mintz
Phone: 262-548-7902
Email: hmintz@waukeshacounty.gov

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WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE PAUL FARROW INTRODUCES 2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Budget cuts tax rate, supports investments in public safety, infrastructure and maintains high levels of service

(Waukesha, WI) – On Tuesday, September 26, 2023, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow introduced his 2024 Executive Budget to the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors. The nearly \$400 million dollar budget follows a years-long trend of making justice and public safety Waukesha County’s top funding priority.

“Our residents want to feel safe in the community they call home and it’s why we’re committed to consistently investing in public safety, while maintaining conservative stewardship of taxpayer dollars,” County Executive Paul Farrow said. “Our goal with this year’s budget is to maintain the high standards of service our community expects while navigating economic forces such as high inflation, a tight labor market, and a state-imposed levy limit. Challenges lie ahead, but we will continue to stretch every dollar to meet our commitment to county taxpayers,” Farrow concluded.

Taxes:

The proposed budget would cut the County tax rate for the 10th consecutive year, including every year County Executive Farrow has been in office. If the County Executive’s Budget is passed as-is, the tax rate will drop by nearly \$0.14 per \$1,000 of home property value, or a 9.1% decrease, to \$1.39, the lowest in more than three decades. That means Waukesha County will likely have the second lowest effective tax rate among the 72 counties statewide.

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Administration Center
515 W. Moreland Blvd.
Waukesha, WI 53188
Phone: (262) 548-7010



Justice and Law Enforcement Program:

Despite scarce funding resources, the County prioritizes the 2024 Executive Budget, allocating its greatest 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.

Health and Human Services:

The County invests nearly \$1 million in our largest department. 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 crisis, and serving clients in many other essential areas. One area includes their award-winning, embedded mental health professional program. The collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and Waukesha Police works with a Crisis Clinician to address a surge in mental health-related calls to the departments.

Infrastructure:

The budget's Capital Projects Plan includes expenditures of about \$53 million 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.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to pass the final budget in November.

About the 2024 Waukesha County Budget

The 2024 Waukesha County Executive Budget is online at www.waukeshacounty.gov/Budget.

For updates about County programs and events, follow Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow on Facebook at [@CountyExecutivePaulFarrow](https://www.facebook.com/CountyExecutivePaulFarrow) and on Twitter at [@WaukeshaCoExec](https://twitter.com/WaukeshaCoExec).

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