

Paul Farrow
County Executive



Waukesha County

Office of the County Executive

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WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE PAUL FARROW SIGNS 2025 COUNTY BUDGET

Budget reduces tax rate while bolstering investments in public safety, infrastructure, and sustaining high-quality service standards

(Waukesha, WI) – On Thursday, November 14, 2024, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow was joined by County Supervisors as he put pen to paper and signed the 2025 Waukesha County Budget. The Waukesha County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the nearly \$400 million dollar budget during their November 12th meeting with two minor amendments.

This marks the 5th consecutive year the Board has passed the County Budget unanimously. The 2025 County Budget also reflects a decrease of \$2.9 million from the prior year.

“Residents expect a secure community, one marked by low crime rates and high-quality services. They count on us to meet this standard. We are managing, but only through significant cuts to the non-state mandated portion of our budget,” County Executive Paul Farrow said.

In the 2025 County Budget, 44% or \$51 million will fund state mandated programs, a burden that takes critical funding away from the county’s priorities

Some highlights of this year’s budget include:

Taxes: Waukesha County remains a low-tax leader

The budget will cut the County tax rate for the 11th consecutive year, including every year County Executive Farrow has been in office. The 2025 budget drops the tax rate from \$1.39 per thousand dollars of home value to \$1.35, a 3% decrease and the lowest tax rate in more than three decades. That means Waukesha County will likely continue to have the second lowest effective tax rate among the 72 counties statewide.

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Justice and Law Enforcement Program:

The 2025 Executive Budget allocates its greatest portion of new County tax levy, of \$3.5 million, and Shared Revenue, of \$2.1 million, to support law enforcement.

- **Sheriff's Department**, \$2.8 million in new tax levy and \$1.5 million in Shared Revenue to support operations, provide relief for jail inmate capacity, and cover an increase of over \$1 million in jail medical services to inmates.
- **Emergency Preparedness**, which includes emergency dispatch operations for the Sheriff's Department and 34 municipalities, receives \$450,000 of additional levy to cover personnel cost increases and the loss of grant dollars.
- **Circuit Courts and the District Attorney's Office**, \$200,000.
- **The Medical Examiner's Office**, \$65,000 to support rising costs of operations.

“In our 2025 budget, we were forced to cut two sheriff deputy positions and make additional reductions that will impact the level of service our county provides. Despite already having the lowest per capita spending of any county in Wisconsin, we cannot continue to cut our way out of this fiscal situation without putting public safety at serious risk. We're urging state lawmakers to address the shortfall of funding to local governments,” Farrow added.

Health and Human Services:

The County would invest \$97,000 in HHS. The County's largest department 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.

Infrastructure:

The 2025 Capital Budget totals \$43.7 million, a \$9.2 million decrease from the 2024 budget.

- \$5 million toward the rehabilitation of CTH O (Moorland Road), between CTH ES (National Avenue) and CTH D (Cleveland Avenue) in the City of New Berlin as part of a multi-year effort to improve multiple segments along one of the County's busiest highways.
- \$1.5 million to replace a salt dome which collapsed earlier this year.
- \$20.4 million for the Courthouse Project Step II, which will renovate the 1959 Courthouse to enhance security, refurbish the East/West wing on the 2nd floor and the existing County Board space.
- The County continues to evaluate the future sale of two key County-owned properties, Huber Facility on Northview and UW-Waukesha Campus closer to being on the tax rolls.

About the 2025 Waukesha County Budget

The 2025 Waukesha County 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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