



DANE COUNTY

Office of the Corporation Counsel

2022 Budget Presentation To PP&J

Office of the Corporation Counsel

- ❖ “Corporation Counsel” is a fancy (archaic?) term for municipal lawyer or in our case “county attorneys”
- ❖ Our office consists of three separate divisions:
 - ❖ Civil Litigation Unit
 - ❖ Permanency Planning
 - ❖ Child Support Agency

Civil Litigation

- ❖ This unit is responsible for representing the interests of the county, its elected officials, agencies, boards, and commissions in all legal matters. This includes both prosecutorial and defense responsibilities.
- ❖ Services include providing legal advice/opinions to departments, elected officials, commissions, committees, etc.
- ❖ The unit also enforces the Dane County Ordinances such as zoning, stormwater, and public safety ordinances.

Permanency Planning

- ❖ Attorneys in this unit are statutorily authorized to represent the public interest in the following matters:
 - ❖ Mental Health Commitments
 - ❖ Juvenile /Child In Need of Protection Cases and Termination of Parental Rights.
 - ❖ Guardianships

Child Support Agency

- ❖ The Child Support Agency is responsible for running the federally mandated child support program in Dane County.
- ❖ The Agency is responsible for ensuring that children in single-parent households receive a reliable source of private financial and medical support.
- ❖ The mission of Child Support has transformed since 1975. In its early years, the sole focus was on collections. Now, the program also works collaboratively with employment and job ready services for those NCPs who need it.

2022 Budget

- In permanency planning, we are requesting the addition of a new assistant corporation counsel to handle the increasing case load of mental health and guardianship cases. (Page 153 of Exec Recommended Budget)
- In the child support unit, we are asking for two new child support investigator positions. One position will assist us with an increase in paternity/establishment cases which are often time consuming, and the other should assist us as we absorb some additional duties. (Page 156 of Recommended Budget)

2022 Budget

- **Decision Item: Add Attorney to Permanency Planning**
 - Issues involving vulnerable adults are continually increasing and have especially gone up during the pandemic. Civil attorneys have been pulled to cover many of these cases and responsibilities, while the work in the civil unit has not slowed down.
 - This attorney will be dedicated to both behavioral health issues including civil commitments, guardianships, protective placements, and alcohol petitions.
 - Cost: \$108k. Thanks to federal reimbursement revenue and other sources, no new GPR will be used to fund the position

2022 Budget

- **Decision Item: Add 2 Child Support Investigator Positions**
 - The Child Support Agency has only two Paternity workers servicing an overwhelming 1,800 cases, which has been increasing every year.
 - Additional assistance will help the Agency meet our performance standards as well as improve the overall experience for the participants our Agency serves. In addition, the Clerk of Courts plans to transition additional tasks to the CSA in 2022. 66% of the cost for these positions would be covered by the IV-D match.
 - Cost: \$61k after match. Thanks to federal reimbursement revenue and other sources, no new GPR will be used to fund the position

QUESTIONS?