



2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION

CORPORATION COUNSEL

How has the pandemic changed how you deliver services to Dane County residents? Are there changes that will persist post-pandemic?

Each Unit of the Office of Corporation Counsel has had to change how it delivers its services to our residents...

THE CIVIL LITIGATION UNIT

- After the start of the pandemic, the Civil Litigation Unit had to adopt methods and practices that allowed our attorneys to interact with Dane County residents on a virtual platform.
- Such methods have resulted in an increase in engagement with the other party with actionable results. In the future, our office intends to continue to provide virtual methods of communication and engagement to hopefully provide further opportunities to resolve cases.

THE PERMANENCY PLANNING UNIT

- Child protection, involuntary commitment, and guardianship court cases have all shifted to an online format thanks to the Court's decision to embrace video conferencing.
- To the extent possible, our office will continue to advocate to keep video conferencing as an option. Providing such an option has resulted in easier opportunities for parents, family members, and others to participate in what is often a very stressful and unfamiliar environment.

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

- COVID-19 forced the majority of CSA's services to be handled remotely. Unfortunately, this has resulted in the ability for individuals to physically visit our offices to be significantly curtailed. In order to ameliorate this consequence, CSA has prioritized its new customer service initiative and explored new ways to accept electronic payments.
- CSA will remain dedicated to its customer service initiative in the future, regardless of the state of the pandemic. CSA will also explore additional options that will allow for virtual visits, if necessary.

BUDGET SUMMARY

- A number of DI's reflect an increase in outside revenue, such as federal reimbursement dollars and others, as a result of an equal increase in expenses due to personnel salaries and benefits.
- 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.
- 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.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Decision Item #1 – Decrease Groundwater Initiative Revenue

- Attorney position #1601 is partially funded by the Groundwater Initiative Revenue line (landfill). It is anticipated that the costs for that attorney will decrease slightly in 2022.
- Revenue Decrease: \$318.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Decision Item #2 – Airport Revenue from attorney time spent on PFAS related matters

- Since the detection of PFAS on airport property in 2019, Corporation Counsel has provided specialized legal services to the DC Regional Airport as it navigates the regulatory hurdles that govern the airport's mitigation and remediation efforts. Based upon the time devoted to PFAS matters from 2019 through the present day, Corp. Counsel estimates that approximately 43% of an Asst. Corp. Counsel's time will continue to be necessary in 2022.
- Revenue Increase: \$8,016.

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Decision Item #1 – Increase the projected IV-E Reimbursement Revenue

- The estimated IV-E reimbursement revenue will increase.
- Revenue Increase: \$37,455.

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Decision Item #2 – Add an Assistant Corporation Counsel position

- 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; as well as a variety civil matters as needs arise.
- Expense Increase: \$108,100.

CHILD SUPPORT

Decision Item #1 – Increase IV-D Revenue

- Increase the intergovernmental revenue as contained in the 2021-2022 biennial budget.
- Revenue Increase: \$169,439.

CHILD SUPPORT

Decision Item #2 – Add two Child Support Investigator positions

- The Child Support Agency has only two Paternity workers servicing an overwhelming 1,800 cases, which has been steadily 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.
- Expense Increase to County: \$61,200.