

AGENDA
(TUESDAY) APRIL 15, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY BOARD ROOM #3041 – COURTHOUSE 3RD FLOOR – BLDG. A
301 WASHINGTON STREET, OCONTO WI 54153-1699

This is an open meeting of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting, by forwarding the complete agenda to the newspapers and to all news media who have requested the same as well as by posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the Office of the County Clerk and from the County's website calendar: www.co.oconto.wi.us

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Adoption of Standing Rules and Financial Management Policy
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Invocation – Supervisor Schneider
5. Statement of Mission & Vision
6. Presentation of Awards and Recognition
7. Presentation of Communications and Petitions
8. Consent Agenda
 - 8.1 Removal of Items from Consent Agenda
 - 8.2 Approval of Consent Agenda
 - 8.2.1 **A2025-04-01** Zoning Change - Town of How (Hischke) – L&W Resources Com. (3)
 - 8.2.2 **A2025-04-02** Zoning Change – Town of Little Suamico (Szela) – L&W Resources Com. (5)
 - 8.2.3 **A2025-04-03** Zoning Change – Town of Riverview (Hornois) – L&W Resources Com. (7)
 - 8.2.4 **A2025-04-04** Zoning Change – Town of Chase (Walter Christiansen Estate (Kathy Fischer, Personal Representative)) and Town of Little Suamico (Verhagen et al) (9)
 - 8.2.5 **O2025-04-01** Chapter 10 – Parks and Recreation Ordinance – L&W Resources Com. (12)
 - 8.2.6 **R2025-04-01** Amending the Oconto County Comprehensive Recreation Plan – L&W Resources Com. (14)
 - 8.2.7 **R2025-04-02** Approval of Purchase of Trimble Survey Grade GPS Equipment – L&W Resources Com. (15)
 - 8.2.8 **R2025-04-03** Approval of Purchase of Trimble Total Station Survey Equipment – L&W Resources Com. (17)
 - 8.2.9 **R2025-04-04** Approval of Sheriff's Office Carryover Funds for Firearm Equipment Replacement – Public Safety Com. (21)
 - 8.2.10 **2025-04-05** Approval of Sheriff's Office Carryover Funds to Establish Sheriff's Office Wellness Program – Public Safety Com. (25)
 - 8.2.11 **Re-Appointments** – Commission on Aging Board of Directors (Meier/Ballestad) – Co. Administrator (32)
 - 8.2.12 **Re-Appointments** – Health & Human Services Board (Bitters, Schindel) – Co. Chair (33)
 - 8.2.13 **Re-Appointment** – Health & Human Services Board (Ballestad) – Co. Admin. (34)
 - 8.2.14 **Appointment** – Health & Human Services Board (Graef) – Co. Admin. (35)
 - 8.2.15 **Appointment** – Recreation Committee (Barkhaus) – Co. Admin. (36)
9. Regular Agenda
 - 9.1 Change in Sequence
 - 9.2 Removal of Items
 - 9.3 Approval of Regular Agenda
10. Approval of Previous Meeting Proceedings (37)
11. Committee and Departmental Reports (No action to be taken)
 - 11.1 Report – Health & Human Services
 - 11.2 Report – Human Resources (39)
 - 11.3 Report – TEDCOR (Tourism & Economic Development Corporation of the Oconto Region)
 - 11.4 Report – Lake District Annual Reports
 - 11.4.1 Chute Lake Inland Protection & Rehabilitation District (40)
 - 11.4.2 Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District (43)
 - 11.4.3 Inland Lakes & Protection District #1 (46)
 - 11.4.4 White Potato Lake (50)
 - 11.4.5 Townsend Flowage Protection District (51)
 - 11.4.6 Anderson Inland Lake District (54)

Agenda continues on next page...

...Agenda continued

12. Annual Department/Office Reports (No action to be taken)

Departments/offices with () will present the report.*

12.1 Administration Committee

County Administrator* (56)
Corporation Counsel (65)
County Clerk (71)
Finance (73)
Human Resources (77)
Treasurer (80)
Veterans Service (84)

12.2 Health & Human Services Board

Health & Human Services* (92)

12.3 Highway Committee

Highway* (124)

12.4 Land & Water Resources Committee

Forest, Parks & Recreation (139)
Land & Water Conservation (144)
Land Information Systems (150)
Planning & Zoning (157)
Register of Deeds (165)
Solid Waste (173)
UW-Extension (179)

12.5 Property & Technology Committee

Maintenance (197)
Technology Services (200)

12.6 Public Safety Committee

Child Support (205)
Clerk of Circuit Court (213)
District Attorney (221)
Emergency Management (225)
Medical Examiner (232)
[Sheriff*](#) (242)

13. R2025-04-06 Approval of a Full-Time UW-Extension 4-H Educator for Oconto County – Admin. Com. (258)

14. R2025-04-07 Approve Highway Suring Shop Replacement Contract with JT Rams of Saukville, Wisconsin – Highway Com. (261)

15. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)

16. Adjournment

Any person wishing to attend the meeting who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Oconto County Clerk's office at 920-834-6800 at least 24 hours before the meeting begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Persons who are members of another governmental body, but who are not members of this committee, may attend this meeting. Their attendance could result in a quorum of another governmental body being present. Such a quorum is unintended and they are not meeting to exercise the authority, duties, or responsibilities of any other governmental body. Courthouse Bldg. "A" is located at the corner of Washington Street & Arbutus Avenue Ramp Access from Washington Street Parking Lot Entrance

c. Committee (FTP); County Administrator, Finance Director, Corporation Counsel, Department Heads, external requests), Media (via email); County Website; Central File, Official Posting Location (Physical Copy)

kp/Date Posted: 04/11/2025

May Invocation by Supervisor Schindel

To responsibly serve, support, and protect the people and places throughout our community.

AMENDATORY ORDINANCE – A2025-04-01

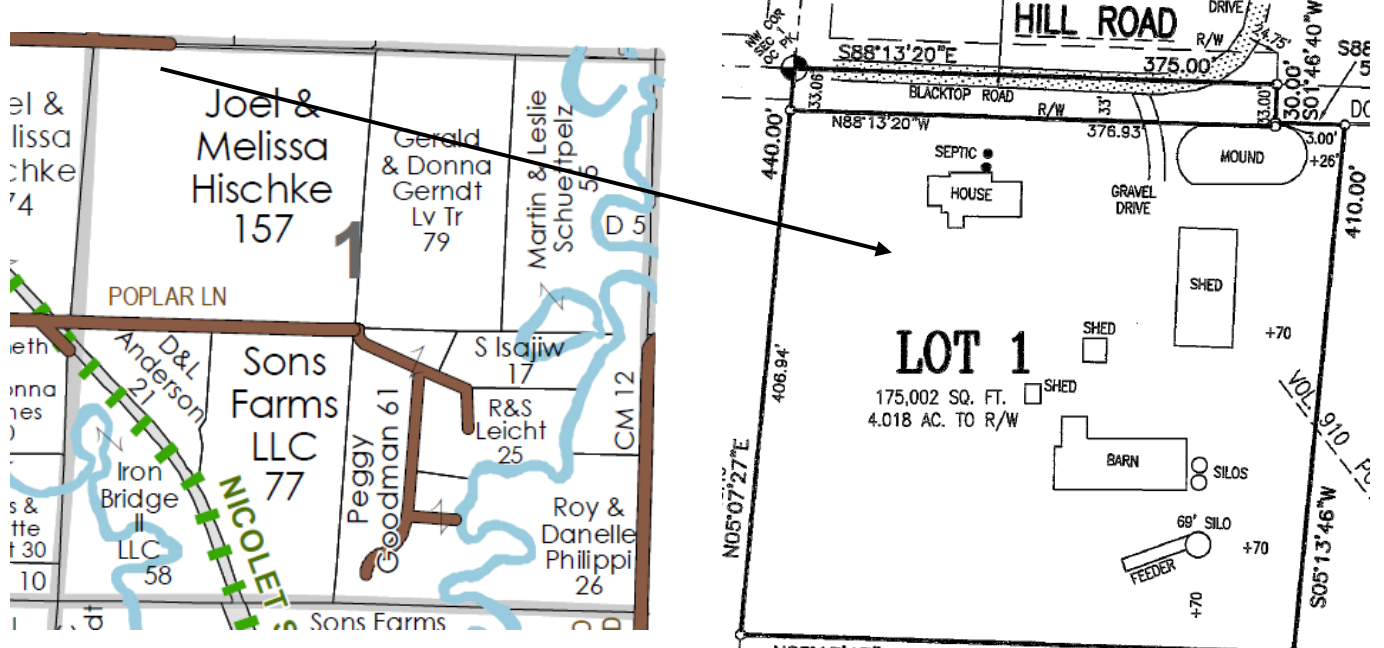
To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS: The Land & Water Resources Committee, having considered Rezone Petition RZ-20250004, filed February 10, 2025, to amend the Oconto County Zoning District Map, and having given notice thereof as provided by law and having held a public hearing thereon pursuant to S. 59.69(5), Wisconsin Statutes, and having been informed of the facts pertinent to the changes as follows:

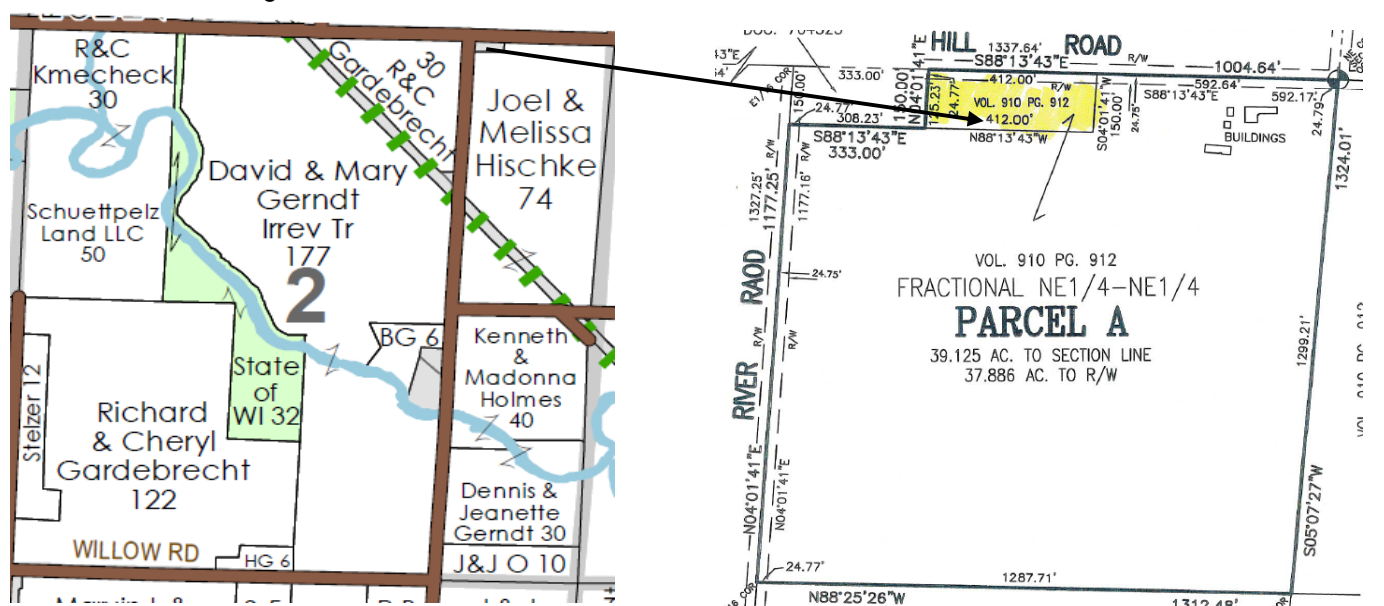
To rezone land from Residential Single Family District and Agricultural District to Rural Residential District and Agricultural District on property described as:

PROPERTY INFORMATION: Tax Parcel # 018-010101422 & 018-020200211B
Part of Section 1, T29N, R17E, Town of How
Existing Zoning: Residential Single Family District and Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning: Rural Residential District and Agricultural District
PROPERTY OWNER: Melissa Hischke

Area to be rezoned Rural Residential District



Area to be rezoned Agricultural District



And being duly advised of the wishes of the people in the area affected as follows:

WHEREAS: the applicant desires to rezone 4.018 acres to Rural Residential District and 1.42 acres to Agricultural District in order to bring the parcel into compliance to reconfigure lots; and

WHEREAS: the acreage is currently being utilized as existing farm improvements and vacant agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS: the parcel is located along Hill Rd and is in an area planned for low impact residential use; and

WHEREAS: the Town of How held a board meeting to consider the change in zoning for consistency with their Town Comprehensive Plan and voted to recommend approval; and

WHEREAS: the Land & Water Resources Committee held a public hearing on 4/14/2025 and after listening to testimony for and against, and after reviewing the application staff report, the standards for rezoning lands under 14.3315 and consistency with the Oconto County Comprehensive Plan has recommended approval.

NOW THEREFORE, THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS: Petition: RZ-20250004

Section 1: Any existing ordinances, codes, resolutions, or portion thereof in conflict with this ordinance shall be and are hereby repealed as far as any conflict exists.

Section 2: If any claims, provisions, or portions of this ordinance are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3: Rezone petition RZ-20250004 is hereby adopted amending the Oconto County Zoning District Map, by changing the zoning classification from Residential Single Family District and Agricultural District to Rural Residential District and Agricultural District for the above noted description.

Section 4: The ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczrowski
Mike Beyer
Dennis Kroll, Alternate
David Parmentier, Alternate

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/07/2025 - BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

AMENDATORY ORDINANCE – A2025-04-02

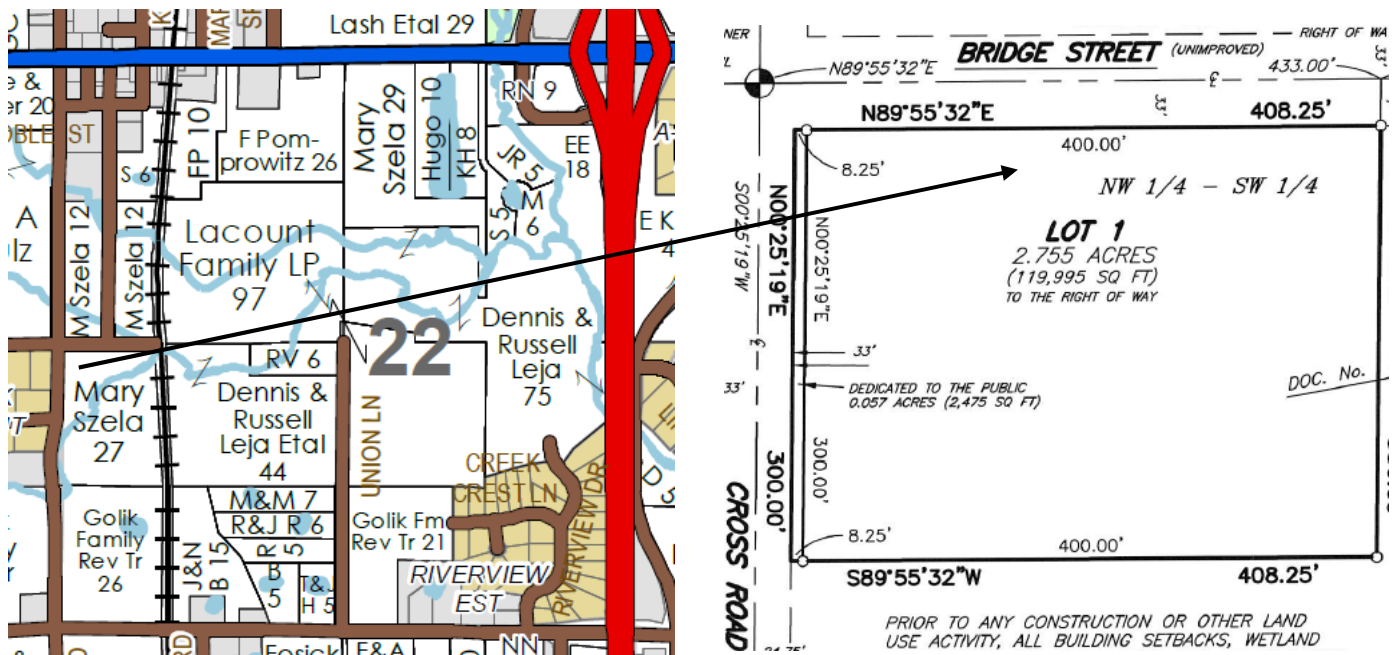
To: The Honorable and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS: The Land & Water Resources Committee, having considered Rezone Petition RZ-20250005, filed March 7, 2025, to amend the Oconto County Zoning District Map, and having given notice thereof as provided by law and having held a public hearing thereon pursuant to S. 59.69(5), Wisconsin Statutes, and having been informed of the facts pertinent to the changes as follows:

To rezone land from Agricultural District to Rural Residential District on property described as:

PROPERTY INFORMATION: Tax Parcel # 024-162202932B
Part of Section 22, T26N, R20E, Town of Little Suamico
Existing Zoning: Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning: Rural Residential District
PROPERTY OWNER: David & Kim Szela

Area to be rezoned



And being duly advised of the wishes of the people in the area affected as follows:

WHEREAS: the applicant desires to rezone 2.755 acres to Rural Residential District in order to bring the parcel into compliance to create a residential parcel; and

WHEREAS: the acreage is currently being utilized as vacant farmland; and

WHEREAS: the parcel is located along Cross Rd and is in an area planned for residential development; and

WHEREAS: the Town of Little Suamico held a board meeting to consider the change in zoning for consistency with their Town Comprehensive Plan and voted to recommend approval; and

WHEREAS: the Land & Water Resources Committee held a public hearing on 4/14/2025 and after listening to testimony for and against, and after reviewing the application staff report, the standards for

rezoning lands under 14.3315 and consistency with the Oconto County Comprehensive Plan has recommended approval.

NOW THEREFORE, THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS: Petition: RZ-20250005

Section 1: Any existing ordinances, codes, resolutions, or portion thereof in conflict with this ordinance shall be and are hereby repealed as far as any conflict exists.

Section 2: If any claims, provisions, or portions of this ordinance are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3: Rezone petition RZ-20250005 is hereby adopted amending the Oconto County Zoning District Map, by changing the zoning classification from Agricultural District to Rural Residential District for the above noted description.

Section 4: The ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczrowski
Mike Beyer
Dennis Kroll, Alternate
David Parmentier, Alternate

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/07/2025 - BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

AMENDATORY ORDINANCE – A2025-04-03

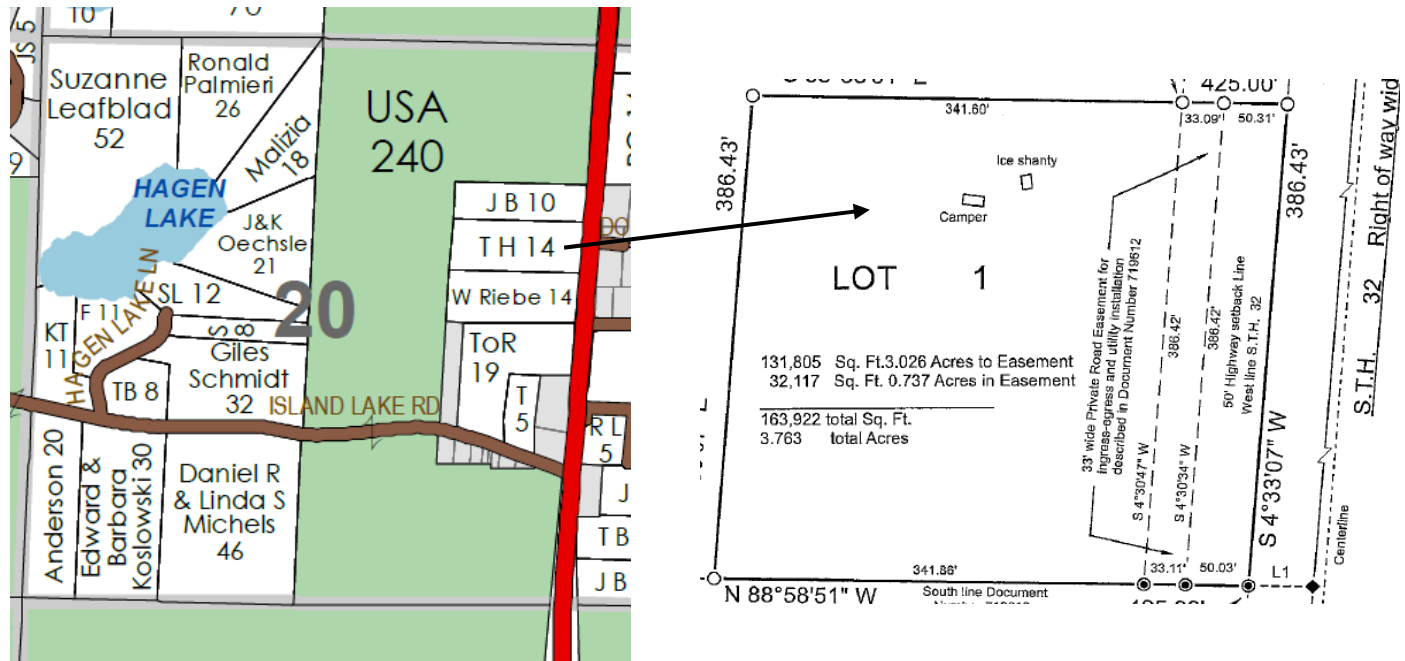
To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS: The Land & Water Resources Committee, having considered Rezone Petition RZ-20250006, filed March 11, 2025, to amend the Oconto County Zoning District Map, and having given notice thereof as provided by law and having held a public hearing thereon pursuant to S. 59.69(5), Wisconsin Statutes, and having been informed of the facts pertinent to the changes as follows:

To rezone land from Forest District to General Commercial District on property described as:

PROPERTY INFORMATION: Tax Parcel # 036-2020002414A
Part of Section 20, T32N, R16E, Town of Riverview
Existing Zoning: Forest District
Proposed Zoning: General Commercial District
PROPERTY OWNER: Timothy & Mitzer Harnois

Area to be rezoned



And being duly advised of the wishes of the people in the area affected as follows:

WHEREAS: the applicant desires to rezone 3.75 acres to General Commercial District in order to bring the parcel into compliance to create a new commercial parcel for relocating an existing business; and

WHEREAS: the acreage is currently being utilized as a vacant wooded lot; and

WHEREAS: the parcel is located along Hwy 32 and is in an area planned for commercial development; and

WHEREAS: the Town of Riverview held a board meeting to consider the change in zoning for consistency with their Town Comprehensive Plan and voted to recommend approval; and

WHEREAS: the Land & Water Resources Committee held a public hearing on 4/14/2025 and after listening to testimony for and against, and after reviewing the application staff report, the standards for

rezoning lands under 14.3315 and consistency with the Oconto County Comprehensive Plan has recommended approval.

NOW THEREFORE, THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS: Petition: RZ-20250006

Section 1: Any existing ordinances, codes, resolutions, or portion thereof in conflict with this ordinance shall be and are hereby repealed as far as any conflict exists.

Section 2: If any claims, provisions, or portions of this ordinance are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3: Rezone petition RZ-20250006 is hereby adopted amending the Oconto County Zoning District Map, by changing the zoning classification from Forest District to General Commercial District for the above noted description.

Section 4: The ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczrowski
Mike Beyer
Dennis Kroll, Alternate
David Parmentier, Alternate

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/07/2025 - BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

1 **AMENDATORY ORDINANCE – A2025-04-04**

2
3 To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors
4

5 WHEREAS, the Land and Water Resources Committee, as granted within the Oconto County
6 Zoning Ordinance under Section 14.3303 (d) may Petition for Zoning Amendments, desires to rezone areas
7 of parcels on behalf of property owners where an exchange of lands created incidental areas not consistent
8 with the adopted Oconto Co Zoning District Map; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the owners of the affected lands have signed a consent agreement to have the county
11 make application on their behalf in order to expedite the exchange of lands between parcel owners as
12 provided on attached documents or bringing and existing parcel into compliance with current zoning; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the incidental areas are of such nature that the department and the Land and Water
15 Resources Committee felt it was not prudent to burden each applicant with separate rezone applications
16 and the affected Town with the standard rezone review process involving Town Plan Commission/Town
17 Board Review; and
18

19 WHEREAS, which applicants or County did not meet with each town to consider the change in
20 zoning, the department review for consideration of the consent rezones assured that no additional lots are
21 being created, and that the rezone is to make the zoning consistent throughout the parcel; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Land and Water Resources Committee held a public hearing on 04/14/2025 and
24 after listening to testimony for and against, and after reviewing the application and the standards for
25 rezoning lands under 14.3315 have recommended approval.
26

27 NOW THEREFORE, THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS
28 FOLLOWS: Petition RZ-20250009
29

30 Section 1: Any existing ordinances, codes, resolutions, or portion thereof in conflict with this
31 ordinance shall be and hereby repealed as far as any conflict exists.
32

33 Section 2: If any claims, provisions of this ordinance are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a
34 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected thereby.
35

36 Section 3: Rezone petition RZ-20250009 is hereby adopted amending the Oconto County Zoning
37 District Map, by changing the zoning classifications for the incidental areas noted within each parcel
38 attached to this amendatory ordinance.
39

40 Section 4: The ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by
41 law.
42

43 Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.
44
45

46 By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
47

48 Tim Cole, Chair
49 Patrick J. Scanlan
50 Keith Schneider
51 Wayne Kaczrowski
52 Mike Beyer
53 Dennis Kroll (alternate)
54 David Parmentier (alternate)
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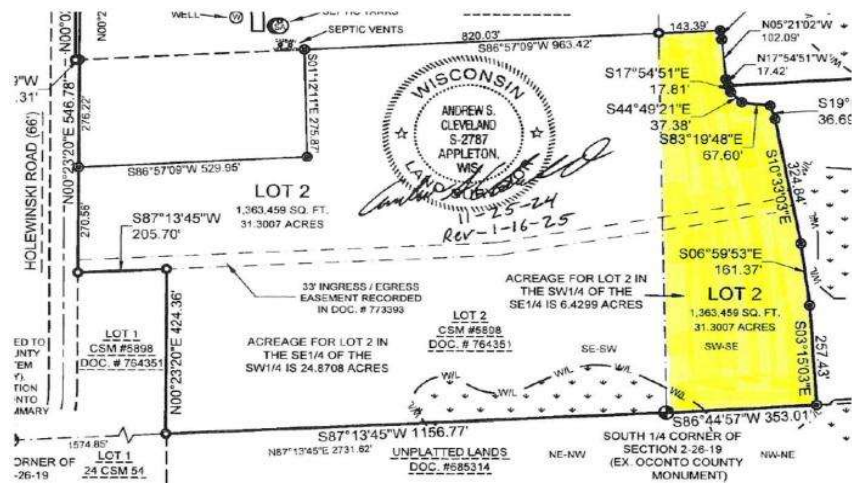
57 *Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/07/2025 - BLE*
58

59 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*

Consent Rezones

Town of Chase

1. Tax Parcel 012-020201943, Walter Christiansen Estate (Kathy Fischer, Personal Representative), 2118 Holewinski Rd, Sobieski, WI 54171, rezone from the Forest (F) district to the Agriculture (A) district. This area (280,086 sq. ft. / 6.4299 acres) was added to tax parcel 012-020201634B as Lot 2 on CSM No. 6062 (Document No. 773634). Location of the property is Section 2, T26N, R19E, Town of Chase, Holewinski Rd.



Town of Little Suamico

1. Tax Parcel 024-142002943B, Craig Verhagen et al, 6628 Allen Rd, Sobieski, WI 54171, rezone from the Agriculture (A) district to the Rural Residential (RR) district. This parcel (222,156 sq. ft. / 5.1 acres) was granted a variance in 1996 to allow a residence to be constructed on agricultural zoned lands that did not meet the minimum zoning district standards. This consent rezone is to maintain compliance for future development. Location of the property is Section 20, T26N, R20E, Town of Little Suamico, 6628 Allen Rd.



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Re: **Chapter 10 – Parks and Recreation Ordinance**

WHEREAS, Chapter 10 requires amendment to reduce user conflict, damage to boat landings and comply with court orders relating to Anderson Lake Boat Landing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Oconto County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

10.100 Definitions

- ## 10.400 Cross-Country Trails

- ## 10.900 Boats

- (f) Power Loading Prohibited – Watercraft must be loaded and unloaded from the watercraft trailer, or carriage or other device used to transport said watercraft with minimal use of the watercraft main, auxiliary or trolling power devices. A rope, strap or similar device is to be used. It shall be unlawful to otherwise launch or trailer a watercraft.
- (h) Penalty – Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$100.00, plus costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of said forfeiture and costs, shall be imprisoned in the Oconto County Jail until said forfeiture and costs are paid but not to exceed 90 days.

SECTION 2: Chapter 10, Parks and Recreation Ordinance is amended as follows:

10.800 Park General Restrictions

- (g) BOATS IN SWIMMING AREAS - It shall be unlawful to operate a boat within a water area marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices.
- (o) CLOSED/RESTRICTED AREAS - The department may close/restrict, by posted notice/sign, any park, park facility or park activity and county forest area recreation activity or activities, including but not limited to the following: any picnic area, beach, camp area, trail head, boat landing, unpaved road or similar recreation facility.
 - (1) Anderson Lake Boat Access – No person shall camp or picnic within the boat landing area.
- (s) CURFEWS - No person shall use, occupy or be present in the boat landing area and park areas between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., except for registered campers in a campsite.
 - (1) DESIGNATION OF CURFEW AREA
 - Ranch Lake Beach Area
 - Townsend Dam
 - Gillett Riverside (BB)
 - North River Road Boat Access
 - Iron Bridge Access
 - Anderson Lake
 - Grange Park
 - Patzer Park
 - Coulliardville Park

10.900 Boats

- (g) SLOW NO WAKE - The following areas shall be no wake for all watercraft:
 - (a) North Bay Shore Harbor between North Bay Shore Breakwaters

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall take effect after passage and publication as provided by law.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczrowski
Mike Beyer

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/07/2025 - BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

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Re: **Amending the Oconto County Comprehensive Recreation Plan**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend said plan to include the City of Gillett Park & ADA Bathroom project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Oconto County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

City of Gillett addition of an inclusive play area, walking trails/paths, ADA restroom, signage and picnic/seating areas along with improvements to the sports courts.

By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczowski
Mike Beyer

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

RESOLUTION – R2025-04-02

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

Re: **Approval of Purchase of Trimble Survey Grade GPS Equipment**

WHEREAS, The County Board approved the 2025 Budget for Land Information; and

WHEREAS, to ensure compatibility with other Oconto County equipment/computer systems and to maximize efficiency this equipment needs to be replaced periodically; and

WHEREAS, a Capitol Improvement project was created, submitted and approved for the purchase of this equipment; and

WHEREAS, a quote was received from Seiler Geospatial, Milwaukee, Wisconsin using WisDOT contract pricing; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal impact is \$26,373.00 which was budgeted for under the Carry-Over Fund, 100-31-51730-52153.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The County Board of Supervisors approves the purchase for Trimble Survey Grade GPS Equipment from Seiler Geospatial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Oconto County Chair, Clerk, County Administrator and Department Head are authorized to sign all documents and agreements necessary to execute the contract and complete the purchase.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

By: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczowski
Mike Beyer

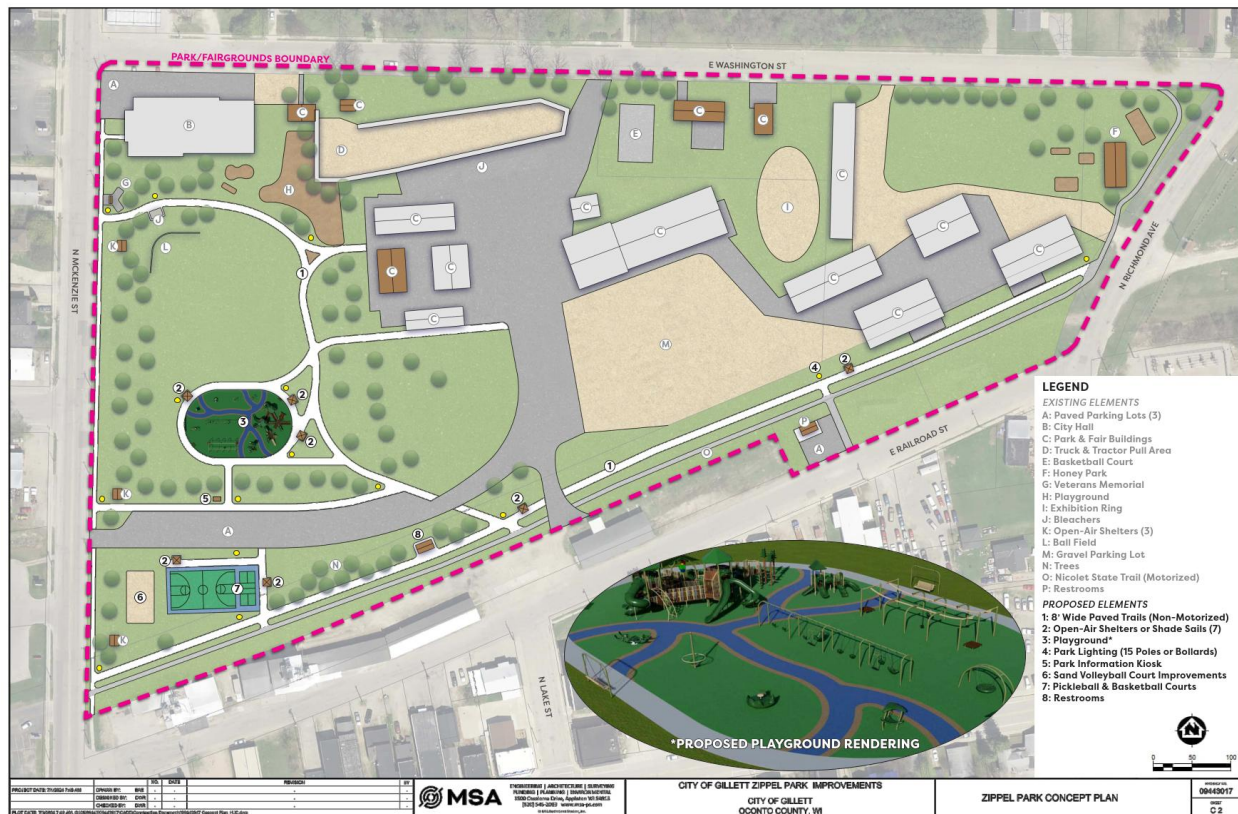
Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/02/2025- BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

CITY OF GILLETT
150 N. MCKENZIE AVE
GILLETT, WI 54124

PROJECT AND LOCATION – Addition of an inclusive play area, walking trails/paths, ADA restroom, signage, and picnic/seating areas. Improvements to the sports courts.

PROJECT COST - \$1,500,000



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Re: **Approval of Purchase of Trimble Total Station Survey Equipment**

WHEREAS, to ensure compatibility with other Oconto County equipment/computer systems and to maximize efficiency this equipment needs to be replaced periodically; and

WHEREAS, a quote was received from Seiler Geospatial, Milwaukee, Wisconsin using the WisDOT contract pricing and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The County Board of Supervisors approves the purchase for Trimble Total Station Survey Equipment from Seiler Geospatial.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

Tim Cole, Chair
Patrick J. Scanlan
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczowski
Mike Beyer

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

Contact Name: Brian Gross
E-mail: brian.gross@ocontocountywi.gov
Phone: (920) 834-6827
PO number: Brian Gross

Date Issued: 01/31/25
Expiration Date: 05/31/25

Ship To: Oconto County, WI
 301 Washington St.
 Oconto, WI 54153
 United States

Bill To: Oconto County, WI
 301 Washington St.
 Oconto, WI 54153
 United States

Quantity	Part Number	Description	List Price	Sale Price	Subtotal
1.00	R980-101-50-01	 Trimble R980, Model 50, ROW Trimble R980 model 50, Includes - Receiver Trimble R980 with TR49B Radio. Integrated dual-band 410-470 / 902-928 MHz UHF radio. 900 MHz UHF transmit capability only available where legally permitted (currently USA, Canada, and Australia). - Antenna, Rubber Ducky, 410 TO 470 AND 902 TO 928 MHZ - Transport Case for Receiver R12/R12i/R980 and TSC7/TSC5/T100 - Two receiver batteries176767 - Cable RECEIVER TO USB DOWNLOAD, 7P/USB PLUG/Power Jack - Cable RECEIVER TO USB DOWNLOAD, 7P TO USB-A end - RECEIVER QUICK RELEASE ADAPTER - Trimble R980 Option - Standard Receiver Firmware (Geospatial) - Includes one year CenterPoint RTX correction service subscription Must add charger 101070-00-01 Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025	\$9,000.00	\$7,650.00	\$7,650.00
1.00	R980-ROV	Trimble R980 Configuration Level - Rover Mode Includes rover functions: - Full GNSS constellation support - Triple frequency tracking (L1, L2, L5) - IMU tilt compensation - Trimble xFill activation - 20 Hz measurements - NMEA outputs Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025	\$20,500.00	\$17,425.00	\$17,425.00
1.00	101070-00-01	Trimble Geospatial Accessory - Dual Battery Charger with Power Supply and Power Cord (North America) Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025	\$700.00	\$616.00	\$616.00



1.00	43169-20	Rod - 2.5m Carbon Fiber Telescopic Range Pole with Bipod	\$775.00	\$682.00	\$682.00
Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025					

Total Price: \$26,373.00

This is not an invoice: Applicable sales tax and/or shipping charges will apply. This product and/or associated accessories may be subject to export controls under United States law and must not be exported or re-exported without prior authorization from either the United States Department of State or Commerce, as applicable.

Scheduled delivery times could be delayed due to vendor supply. Please communicate with your Seiler sales representative to ensure your timeline needs can be met before signing this quotation.

Note:

WISDOT RPA # 395505-S24-TRD3231-01 – Survey and Mapping Software & Equipment

Please Contact Us:

Name: Steve Grady
Address: 9755 Airways Court
 Franklin
 Wisconsin, 53132
 United States
Phone: (414) 423-0780
Mobile: (262) 219-2952
E-mail: sgrady@seilerinst.com

Terms: ☐ Net 30 ☐ Credit Card ☐ Financing

Net 30 upon approved credit application. Please inquire to sales rep on financing options available.

All credit card transactions will be charged a 3% surcharge.

This Sales Quotation is subject to and governed by the Terms and Conditions of Sale referred to at <https://www.seilergeo.com/general-terms-and-conditions/> which are hereby incorporated into this Quotation by reference. Any terms and conditions contained in any purchase order, order confirmation, or other document or communication you send or provide to Seiler which are in addition to or different from those set forth in said Terms and Conditions of Sale found at the above-link which are not separately agreed to by Seiler in writing are hereby considered material, objected to, and shall be null, void, and of no force or effect.

This Sales Quotation is subject to the [Seiler Maximum Liability and Indemnification Agreement](#), version 041421. By signing this Sales Quotation, you are also agreeing to be bound by the terms and conditions of that Agreement.



Sales Quotation

Quote Number: 00108175

Your signature below acknowledges acceptance of terms and conditions of this quote. Please sign and return via email or fax.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

RESOLUTION – R2025-04-04

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

Re: **Approval of Sheriff's Office Request for Funds for Firearm Equipment Replacement**

WHEREAS, the deputies of the Oconto County Sheriff's Office utilize Glock 9mm handguns as tools in defense of the community and themselves; and

WHEREAS, the last purchase of this equipment occurred in 2017 and the available open Trijicon sight on the firearm is nearing end of life; and

WHEREAS, new optic technology exists that significantly upgrades the performance of the firearm fostering a more accurate operational platform; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is looking to purchase 39 Glock 45 or 47 handguns with the direct cut in the side for the Holosun 509T optic, with suppressor height iron sights, all supplied from the Glock factory; and

WHEREAS, each handgun requires a new holster (39) to adequately secure the firearm; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal impact will be approximately \$39,951.65 to purchase the replacement handguns and holsters and any formal bidding process, if necessary, will be conducted at a later date for the purchase of such equipment; and

WHEREAS, any proceeds from the sale of the existing handguns and equipment will be returned to the General Fund to offset the cost of the new handguns and equipment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the request for firearm equipment replacement using transferred General Fund account funds in the amount of \$39,951.65 to the Sheriff Office's budget.

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

By: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dennis Kroll, Chair
David Parmentier
Don Bartels, Jr.
Tracy S. Ondik
Al Schreiber

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/09/2025 - BLE




Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

Contact Name: Brian Gross
E-mail: brian.gross@ocontoctywi.gov
Phone: (920) 834-6827
PO number: Brian Gross

Date Issued: 01/31/25
Expiration Date: 05/31/25

Ship To: Oconto County, WI
 301 Washington St.
 Oconto, WI 54153
 United States

Bill To: Oconto County, WI
 301 Washington St.
 Oconto, WI 54153
 United States

Quantity	Part Number	Description	List Price	Sale Price	Subtotal
1.00	S5352200	Instrument - Trimble S5 3" Robotic, DR Plus, Active Tracking Includes: 58470045 BASE S5 DR PLUS TRACKLIGHT 51002007 ACCESSORY-RAIN COVER(GDM/ATS) 55000546 Accessory - Laser adjustment tool 55000581 Accessory - Tool for handle 57012007 Prism - Reflective foil 1p.c. 25*25 and 1p.c. 60*60mm with sight marks 57013007 Accessory - Laser adjustment plate, coaxial 58019007 Accessory - Toolkit for Tribrach and Optical plumb 58080010 Case - Instrument Transport Case (Standard) 78607007 Accessory - Tribrach without optical plumb 50013001 Accessory - Rain Lens Cover 58001045 COVER LEFT RADIO CMPL S5 50014012-SUR Accessory - Panel attachment cover Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025	\$27,500.00	\$23,375.00	\$23,375.00
					
1.00	MT1000	Trimble MultiTrack Target, including 7.4V Li-Ion battery Includes: 7.4V Li-Ion battery Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025	\$3,430.00	\$3,018.40	\$3,018.40
					
2.00	99511-30	BPack,Li-Ion,INDUS,3S2P,10.8V,6500mAHr,124x74x24.8mm Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025	\$410.00	\$347.60	\$695.20
					
1.00	101070-00-01	Trimble Geospatial Accessory - Dual Battery Charger with Power Supply and Power Cord (North America)	\$705.00	\$616.00	\$616.00



Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025

1.00	73840019	INSTR./ADV. HOLDER TO PC CON. CABLE	\$80.00	\$70.40	\$70.40
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Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025

1.00	51003007	Rod - Trimble standard telescopic rod 2,6m	\$465.00	\$409.20	\$409.20
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Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025

1.00	58002007	Accessory - Tribrach 3 Pin type with Optical Plummet (GDM/GTR/ATS)	\$520.00	\$520.00	\$520.00
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Wisdot Pricing 2024-2025

1.00	SUR: TRADE-IN	EQUIPMENT TRADE-IN	Undefined	(\$200.00)	(\$200.00)
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Trade in Tribrach PN 78607007

Total Price: \$28,504.20

This is not an invoice: Applicable sales tax and/or shipping charges will apply. This product and/or associated accessories may be subject to export controls under United States law and must not be exported or re-exported without prior authorization from either the United States Department of State or Commerce, as applicable.

Scheduled delivery times could be delayed due to vendor supply. Please communicate with your Seiler sales representative to ensure your timeline needs can be met before signing this quotation.

Note:

WISDOT RPA # 395505-S24-TRD3231-01 – Survey and Mapping Software & Equipment



Sales Quotation

Quote Number: 00108172

Please Contact Us:

Name: Steve Grady
Address: 9755 Airways Court
Franklin
Wisconsin, 53132
United States
Phone: (414) 423-0780
Mobile: (262) 219-2952
E-mail: sgrady@seilerinst.com

Terms: ☐ Net 30 ☐ Credit Card ☐ Financing

Net 30 upon approved credit application. Please inquire to sales rep on financing options available.

All credit card transactions will be charged a 3% surcharge.

This Sales Quotation is subject to and governed by the Terms and Conditions of Sale referred to at <https://www.seilergeo.com/general-terms-and-conditions/> which are hereby incorporated into this Quotation by reference. Any terms and conditions contained in any purchase order, order confirmation, or other document or communication you send or provide to Seiler which are in addition to or different from those set forth in said Terms and Conditions of Sale found at the above-link which are not separately agreed to by Seiler in writing are hereby considered material, objected to, and shall be null, void, and of no force or effect.

This Sales Quotation is subject to the [Seiler Maximum Liability and Indemnification Agreement](#), version 041421. By signing this Sales Quotation, you are also agreeing to be bound by the terms and conditions of that Agreement.

Your signature below acknowledges acceptance of terms and conditions of this quote. Please sign and return via email or fax.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

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Re: **Approval of Sheriff's Office Request for Funds to Establish Sheriff's Office Wellness Program**

WHEREAS, numerous studies show the effects of stress, trauma and secondary trauma can significantly impact the mental health, job performance, and overall well-being of employees engaged in patrol, investigations, telecommunications, corrections, and administration; and

WHEREAS, that the Oconto County Sheriff's Office establishes an Employee Wellness Program that includes the following provisions:

Mental Health Resources: Partner with local mental health professionals to provide confidential counseling services and workshops aimed at stress management and trauma recovery.

Wellness Initiatives: Create wellness initiatives, such as fitness programs, stress-reduction workshops, and team-building activities, that promote physical health and team cohesion.

Feedback: Establish a feedback mechanism where employees can voice concerns or suggestions related to their wellness without fear of stigma or retribution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors in partnership with the Sheriff, will commit resources and funding to implement and sustain these initiatives, recognizing that the well-being of employees is paramount to effective law enforcement and the safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal impact will be to not exceed \$48,000 to establish the program from transferred funds from the General Fund account to the Sheriff Office budget; and

55 WHEREAS, these funds will be for approximately \$4,000 for public safety certified counselors from
56 The Wellness Command Post to conduct training to all law enforcement and the remaining funds to be used
57 for wages for all law enforcement staff to attend the mandatory training; and
58

59 WHEREAS; an amount up to \$44,000 will be used for any overtime expenses accrued for Sheriff
60 Office employees who participate in the program; and
61

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors does hereby join the
63 Sheriff to fund and establish the Oconto County Sheriff's Office Employee Wellness Program and will fund
64 up to \$48,000 from the General Fund.
65

66 Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.
67

68 By: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
69

70 Dennis Kroll, Chair
71 David Parmentier
72 Don Bartels Jr
73 Tracy S. Ondik
74 Al Schreiber
75

76
77 *Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/09/2025 - BLE*
78

79 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*



3549 N Vermilion St
Danville, IL 61832
www.oherron.com
rayoherron@oherron.com
1-800-223-2097

Quote

Page 1 of 1

Quote # 3238476
Customer No: 00-54153SH
Date: 4/8/2025

BILL TO:

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT
301 WASHINGTON ST
OCONTO, WI 54153

SHIP TO:

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT
301 WASHINGTON ST
OCONTO, WI 54153

BADGE NO:	PAYMENT TERMS: NET 30 DAYS	ORDERED BY: Eric Thomson	ORDER COMMENT:		
ITEM NO	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	EXT PRICE	
	JLM				
PA455S302MOS6H2	45 MOS6 9mm 509T RD AG NTF/NTR	39.00	828.91	32,327.49	
PA475S302MOS6H2	47MOS6 9mm 509T AG NTF/NTR	39.00	828.91	32,327.49	

NO RETURNS ON FIREARMS
USED FIREARMS ARE SOLD AS IS

ALL FIREARMS HAVE ONLY MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTIES AND
WARRANTY RETURNS ARE SUBJECT TO SHIPPING CHARGE.

*****BID PRICING--NO FREIGHT*****

Sales Tax: 0.00

Quote Total: 64,654.98

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE. ADDITIONAL SHIPPING CHARGES MAY APPLY.
Quoted prices are good until 30 days from date of quote or until otherwise noted.
If you have questions or are ready to place an order please email orders@oherron.com
or call 1-800-223-2097



Sales Quote

KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY
2802 SABLE MILL RD
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130

Bill-to Customer

OCONTO CO SHERIFF'S DEPT
301 WASHINGTON ST.
OCONTO, WI 54153

Ship-to Address

Your Reference

Bill-to Customer No. L07860

Tax Registration No.

Salesperson

KEVIN BUCKLEY

Email

Home Page

Phone No.

No. Q162189

Document Date April 7, 2025

Due Date May 7, 2025

Payment Terms

Payment Method

Tax Identification Type Legal Entity

Shipment Method Standard

ERIC THOMSON

920-834-6933

eric.thomson@ocontocountywi.gov

No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Price Excl. Tax	Line Amount Excl. Tax
GLOCPA455S302MO S6H2	GLOCK 45MOS6 GEN5 9MM PISTOL BLACK, FRONT SERRATIONS, AMERIGLO NON-TRITIUM FRONT/REAR SIGHTS, HOLOSUN 509T RD, 5.5LB --AGENCY DROP SHIP ONLY-- HAC MA - GLOCK DS	39	EACH	828.91	32,327.49
KIESLER DISCLAIMER	THIS QUOTE IS BASED ON CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS AND TARIFF RATES AS OF THE DATE LISTED ON QUOTE. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ADJUST THE FINAL PRICE TO REFLECT ANY UNFORESEEN CHANGES IN TARIFFS OR OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES THAT MAY OCCUR BETWEEN THE DATE OF THIS QUOTE AND THE DATE OF DELIVERY. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU OF ANY SUCH PRICE ADJUSTMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.	0	EACH	0.00	0.00
FORMAT KEVIN BUCKLEY	QUOTED BY KEVIN BUCKLEY KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY 2802 SABLE MILL ROAD JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130 THIS QUOTE IS VALID FOR 30 DAYS. KBUCKLEY@KIESLER.COM	0	EACH	0.00	0.00
KIESLER SIGNATURE	SIGN/DATE TO APPROVE PURCHASE X _____ SIGNATURE REQUIRED X _____ DATE	0	EACH	0.00	0.00



No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Price Excl. Tax	Line Amount Excl. Tax
	X _____ PHONE# FOR FED X QUESTIONS				
	Amount Subject to Sales Tax	0.00		Subtotal	32,327.49
	Amount Exempt from Sales Tax	32,327.49		Total Tax	0.00
				Total \$ Incl. Tax	32,327.49
				Tax Amount	0.00

KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY FFL# 4-35-019-11-7M-08220

RETURNED GOODS POLICY

No returned goods will be accepted without prior consent. Any packages returned without properly displaying a return authorization number will be refused. Returns subject to up to 25% restocking fee

DEFECTIVE MERCHANDISE POLICY

We are not a warranty repair station for any manufacturer. Returns of defective merchandise must be made directly to the manufacturer for repair or replacement.

DAMAGED GOODS POLICY

Claims of shortages or damaged shipments must be made immediately upon receipt of shipment.



QUOTATION

Expires on 05-07-2025

CopQuest, Inc.
365 Camino Carillo, Ste A | Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 388-0707 | Fax: (805) 388-0771
www.CopQuest.com | orders@copquest.com



*Serving Those
Who Serve*
Since 1999

Quotation No.: 250407-715087
Quote Date: 04-07-2025 11:43
Originator: Roger Le Brun
r.lebrun@copquest.com

SOLD TO Eric Thomson
Oconto County Sheriff's Office
301 Washington St
Oconto, WI 54153

SHIP TO Oconto County Sheriff's Office
Attn: Lt. Eric Thomson
301 Washington St
Oconto, WI 54153

Tel: (920) 834-6933
Email: eric.thomson@co.oconto.wi.us

Tel: (920) 373-4405
E-mail: eric.thomson@co.oconto.wi.us

Qty.	Part No.	Product Description	Each	Total
36	23-4602-832	[SA-6390RDS-832-481] Safariland 6390RDS ALS Level I Mid-Ride Duty Holster ~STX Basketweave - Right {832}	165.44	5955.84
3	23-4603-832	[SA-6390RDS-832-482] Safariland 6390RDS ALS Level I Mid-Ride Duty Holster ~STX Basketweave - Left {832}	165.44	496.32
4	23-2481-000	[SA-566BL-261] Safariland 566BL Ultra Hi-Ride Belt Loop Adapter ~1.75-inch belts - Right Hand	18.00	72.00

Item Sub Total: 6524.16
No Sales Tax: 0.00
Shipping - USA Ground: 0.00
Order Grand Total: \$ 6524.16

Special Instructions:(None)

QUOTATION ONLY

Prices presented here are good for 30 days. To convert this quotation to an order, please call customer service at (800) 728-0974. Thank you.

Printed: 04-07-25 12:15 - Roger Le Brun

Warranty:

CopQuest unconditionally guarantees all products to be free from defects in material and workmanship for 30 days from date of shipment. Custom items and some other products may carry an extended warranty as stated by the manufacturer.

Custom Identification Products:

Custom items produced by CopQuest are guaranteed for one year to be free from defects in material and workmanship. This includes custom identification patches, marked safety vests & outerwear, engraved name plates and name tapes. Custom items are not returnable for refund. If custom items are found to be defective within the guarantee timeframe, we will correct the problem without charge.

Safariland Cancellations:

Backordered Safariland purchases over \$500 are subject to a 15% cancellation fee if the order is cancelled more than 3 business days after it was placed. This includes all Safariland products. This is not a CopQuest fee but is imposed on CopQuest by Safariland.

Body Armor Products:

Custom fitted body armor, fitted armor panels or custom fitted carriers are not returnable.

Payment:

CopQuest accepts all major credit cards for payment. We also accept government agency purchase orders for orders that are over \$100.

CopQuest accepts all government purchase orders, credit cards and EFT payments. Billing is upon shipment of products and payment due 30 days after invoice date. Agency purchase orders must be signed by the purchasing authority, have agency destination address, billing address and a contact person with phone and e-mail address. If you are purchasing for the United States Federal Government and are exempt from sales tax, please provide your tax exemption information at time of order.

1 **REPORT**

2

3 To: The Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

4

5 **Re: Re-Appointment Commission on Aging Board of Directors**

6

7 I have formally re-appointed Char Meier, Lena, WI, and Karl Ballestad, Oconto, WI to the Commission on

8

9 Aging Board for a three year term beginning April 2025, and hereby ask for confirmation of this

10

11 re-appointment.

12

13

14

15 Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025

16

17 **By: Richard Heath, County Administrator**

18

19

20 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*

1 **APPOINTMENT**

2
3 To: The Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

4
5 **Re: Re-Appointment(s) Health & Human Services Board**

6
7 I have formally re-appointed Tom Bitters and Bart Schindel, to the Health & Human Services Board for a
8
9 three-year term expiring, April 2028, and hereby ask for confirmation of these re-appointments.
10
11

12
13 Submitted this 15th day of April 2025

14
15 **By: Alan Sleeter, County Board Chair**

16
17
18 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*

1 **APPOINTMENT**

2
3 To: The Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

4
5 **Re: Re-Appointment Health & Human Services Board – Advisory Member**

6
7 I have formally re-appointed Karl Ballestad to the Health & Human Services Board as an Advisory
8
9 Member for a three-year term expiring April 2028 and hereby ask for confirmation of this re-appointment.
10
11

12
13 Submitted this 15th day of April 2025

14
15 **By: Richard Heath, County Administrator**

16
17
18 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*

1 **APPOINTMENT**

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3 To: The Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

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5 **Re: Appointment Health & Human Services Board**

6
7 I have formally appointed Julie Graef to the Health & Human Services Board as a citizen at large to fill the
8
9 unexpired term of Carolyn Barke for a term to expire April 2027 and hereby ask for confirmation of this
10
11 appointment.
12
13

14 Submitted this 15th day of April 2025

15
16 **By: Richard Heath, County Administrator**

17
18
19 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*

1 **APPOINTMENT**

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5 To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

6
7 **Re: Appointment Recreation Committee**

8
9
10 Effective upon County Board acceptance, I have formally appointed Jolene Barkhaus to the Recreation
11 Committee to fill the vacancy of Judy Buhrandt and hereby ask for confirmation of this appointment.

12
13
14
15 Submitted this 15th day of April 2025

16
17 **By: Richard Heath, County Administrator**

18
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20
21
22
23 *Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant*

OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

County Board Chair, Al Sleeter, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. the County Board Room #3041, located at the Oconto County Courthouse, 301 Washington St., Oconto, WI by stating "This is an open meeting of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours prior to the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the newspapers and to all news media who have requested the same, as well as by posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the office of the County Clerk." County Clerk, Kim Pytleski, recorded the attendance, with 28 members present: Supervisors Barkhaus, Bartels, Behrend, Beyer, Bitters, Christianson, Cole, Dhuey, Heise, Holman, Kaczrowski, Kobylarczyk, Kroll, Lavarda, Matravers, Meier, Ondik, Parmentier, Pillsbury, Ragen, Scanlan, Schindel, Schneider, Schreiber, Sleeter, Winkler, Wittkopf, Wolf; 3 absent Gooding, Van Zeeland, Willems.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Invocation was given by Supervisor Parmentier.

4. Statement of Oconto County Mission and Vision

Richard Heath, County Administrator, recited the Oconto County Mission and Vision statement.

5. Presentation of Awards and Recognition

Chair Sleeter recognized the two Oconto County Wrestling State Champions:

- Reagan "Dig" Roy, Wabeno School District, WIAA Boys Wrestling State Champion Division 3! This is Reagan's second time at state. He is the grandson of County Board Supervisor David Christianson, District 31.
- Taylor Whiting, Lena School District, WIAA Girls Wrestling State Champion Division 5! This is Taylor's third time at state and her third State Championship title.

6. Presentation of Communications and Petition

There were two communications:

- Letter from Jon Spice, Emergency Management Director, inviting Board Supervisors to participate in the G402 Course – National Incident Management System Overview for Senior Officials to be held at the Oconto County Courthouse on April 30, 2025; treated as information to the board.
- Bridge Aid Petition for the 2024 Bride Aid Payments; treated as information to the board.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1. Removal of Items from Consent Agenda – None.

7.2. Approval of Consent Agenda

7.2.1. **O2025-03-01** Chapter 18 – Public Health, Safety, Welfare and Protection – Public Safety Com.

7.2.2. **R2025-03-01** Approval of Amended American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Town of Riverview Project – Administration Com.

7.2.3. **R2025-03-02** Approval of Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Bylaws and Membership List – Criminal Justice Coordination Council

7.2.4. **R2025-03-03** Resolution Designating the Week of April 21st through April 25th, 2025, as "Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in Oconto County" – Highway Com.

7.2.5. **R2025-03-04** Approval of the Decommissioning of Emergency Radio Equipment – Public Safety Com.

7.2.6. **R2025-03-05** Remodel of Child Support Front Office – Property & Technology and Administration Com.

Motion by Scanlan/Christianson to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion to approve carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

8. Regular Agenda

8.1. Change in Sequence – None.

8.2. Removal of Items – None.

8.3. Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion by Wolf/Lavarda to approve agenda. The motion was voted on and carried.

9. Approval of Previous Meeting Proceedings

Motion by Matravers/Meier to approve the proceedings from the 02/20/2025 meeting. Clerk to correct the spelling of Supervisor Lavarda's name under item #11. The motion was voted on and carried.

10. Committee and Departmental Reports

10.1. Report – Health & Human Services

Betty Bickel, former Health & Human Services Deputy Director, introduced the new Deputy Director, Brandon Daul. Daul presented the Health & Human Services update.

10.2. Report – Human Resources Update

Shelly Schultz, Human Resource Director, presented the Human Resources update.

10.3. Report – TEDCOR Update

Jayme Sellen, TEDCOR Director, presented the Tourism & Economic Development Corporation of the Oconto Region update.

10.4. Report – Oconto County Lakes Update

Ken Dolata, County Conservationist; Greg Jensen, Wheeler Lake; Jane Randerson, Kelly Lake, and Steve Heimerman, Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Association Representative, presented the Oconto County Lakes Update. Discussion followed.

11. R2025-03-06 Approval of Unity Recovery Services/Oconto Recovery Center Grant Application – Administration Com.

Motion by Lavarda/Ondik to adopt R2025-03-06 Approval of Unity Recovery Services/Oconto Recovery Center Grant Application. Following an explanation by Richard Heath, County Administrator, the motion to adopt carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

12. R2025-03-07 Approval of Volunteer Service of Firefighter or EMS Policy – Administration Com.

Motion by Kroll/Christianson to adopt R2025-03-07 Approval of Volunteer Service of Firefighter or EMS Policy. Following an explanation by Shelly Schultz, Human Resources Director, and discussion, the motion to adopt carried by an electronic vote 27 ayes, 1 nay (Holman).

13. R2025-03-08 Approval to Equip the County Board Room with New Microphones – Property & Technology and Administration Com.

Motion by Pillsbury/Kaczrowski to adopt R2025-03-08 Approval to Equip the County Board Room with New Microphones. Following an explanation by Richard Heath, County Administrator, and discussion the motion to adopt carried by an electronic vote 27 ayes, 1 nay (Ragen).

14. Announcements/General Information (No Action to be taken)

- The Executive Committee was asked to remain after the meeting for an update regarding agenda creation by committee chairs.
- Youth Government Day will be held April 23rd, 2025. Sophomore's from Oconto County Schools are invited by the American Legion & Auxiliary to spend the day at the courthouse meeting with representatives and learning about local government.
- 2024 Annual Reports will be available on Supervisor tablets beginning April 8, 2025 and will be included in the full county board agenda posted to the website.
- Reminder that the April meeting tends to run longer, please plan accordingly.
- Standing Committee minutes will be posted by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to County Board meetings.

15. Adjournment

Chair Sleeter declared the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

The next meeting of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors will be on April 15, 2025.

Proceedings of the County Board meeting may be viewed in its entirety at www.co.oconto.wi.us.

Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk

kp/Date Posted: 03/27/2025

Employee Update

March 2025

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Wage</u>	<u>Comment/Yrs.</u>
Debbie Metzler	DA	Legal Asst III	03/03	\$26.89	Retired 41 years
Emily Denham	Sheriff	Dispatch	03/03	\$23.17	2 months

Promotions/Transfers/Re-Hired

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Wage</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Susie Berth	Child Supp	Enforce Spec	03/15	\$26.62	Went to Circuit Court
Kris LeFebre	Circuit Court	JA	03/17	\$27.94	Went to DA's Office

New Hires

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Wage</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Brandon Daul	HHS	Deputy Director	03/10	\$46.28	

Current External Recruitments

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date Apps Due</u>	<u>Advertised Wage</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Sheriff Office	Dispatch	Ongoing	\$22.72	Hired 1
Child Support	Enforcement Spec	04/02	\$25.58	
HHS	Case Manager	04/02	\$28.01	
Summer LTE	Parks, Hwy, UW-Ext	Ongoing	\$16-\$18	

County Representative Lake District Annual Report

Please fill out information below. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date: March 5, 2025

Lake District: Chute Lake Inland Protection & Rehabilitation District

Name: David Van Zeeland

Budget Revenues/Expenditures:

See attached.

Budget Trends:

Because of the number of projects and projected expenses, the budget for 2025 increased significantly over 2024.

Current Projects:

The district is working to find a website host and designer so their website can be updated. They are also working to create email addresses for everybody that is on the board. The lake had an awful year for weed and trying to control that navigation has had both weedcutters harvesting 5 days during the week all summer long. Finding volunteers or paying people to do this and other tasks continues to be a problem. They are working with the DNR and trying to receive a 5 year harvesting permit. The district will be updating their lake management plan in 2025, as well as chemically treating for EWM from a grant which was received from the DNR. They continue to do boat inspections through Clean Boats Clean Water. The district is concerned about the lack of law enforcement on the lake. During 2024, law enforcement was not on the lake a single time.

Future/Past Projects:

The district received a grant to chemically treat the EWM throughout the lake. This project will be started in Spring 2025 and monitored throughout the year.

Future Meeting Dates:

Meetings are held the 4th Saturday of the month in January, April, June, and October.

Comments:

There has been law presence on the lake in 2024. It is very concerning as there have been many complaints about individuals breaking the "no wake" hours. This has been brought up at the Seven Towns meeting to the Oconto County Sheriff but that has gone nowhere.

Chute Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1
2025 Proposed Budget

REVENUES(Cash Collected)		2023 Approved Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Budget	2024 Actual Jan - Jul	2024 Est Jan - Dec	2025 Proposed
Tax Levy		91883	91883	95314	68298	95314	152577
Lake Grant Reimbursement - Invasives ACEI23419.2		0	9382	0	0	0	0
Lake Grant Reimbursement - Linno Curtain (DNR/County)		1200	1226	0	0	0	0
Lake Grant Reimbursement - CBCW		3750	1376	3750	938	3750	3750
Lake Grant - Healthy Waters Cost Share		7000	7000	0	0	0	0
Interest Income		50	604	50	574	1000	2000
General Donation (OCLAWA)		0	95	0	0	0	0
State Personal Property Assessment Allocation		0	5	5	5	5	5
Carryover/Cash Balance		19597	47209	38361	47209	47209	24798
Total Revenue(Cash on Hand)		123480	158780	137480	117024	147278	183130
Money In From Non-Lapsing		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cash Received		123480	158780	137480	117024	147278	183130
EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS							
Administrative Costs		5080	4740	5080	50	5080	5080
General Office Expense		2400	2060	2400	50	2400	2400
Commissioner's Stipend		2680	2680	2680	0	2680	2680
Information & Education		11800	5367	11800	2695	11800	15800
Conventions & Meetings		4000	910	4000	1328	4000	4000
Association Dues		800	800	800	70	800	800
Newsletter/Website		2000	3657	2000	733	2000	6000
Clean Boat Clean Water Program		5000	0	5000	564	5000	5000
Public Safety		600	1151	1100	0	1100	750
Boat Patrol		0	0	0	0	0	0
Bouy Replacement		600	1151	1100	0	1100	750

		2023 Approved Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Budget	2024 Actual Jan-Jul	2024 Est Jan-Dec	2025 Proposed
Lake Maintenance		91000	71239	104500	31608	89500	146500
Lake Management Plan		0	0	0	0	0	15000
Payroll		27500	22472	30000	13595	30000	35000
Invasive Treatment		36000	14431	46000	5958	26000	60000
Repairs & Maintenance & Fuel		20000	29255	22000	12055	27000	30000
Insurance		6500	4918	6500	0	6500	6500
Limno Curtain Project		1000	163	0	0	0	0
Equipment Fund		15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000
Total Expenses		123480	97497	137480	49353	122480	183130
Debt Service		0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Expenditures		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures		123480	97497	137480	49353	122480	183130
Balance		0	61283	0	67671	24798	0
Non-lapsing Funds							
Capital Equipment Maintenance		30000	204 Addition	Transferred out	204 Ending		
			15000	0	45000		

County Representative Lake District Annual Report

Please fill out information below. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date: 3/5/2025

Lake District: Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

Name: David W. Van Zeeland

Budget Revenues/Expenditures:

See Attached.

Budget Trends:

Current Projects:

The lake district continues to monitor the spread of Zebra mussels throughout the lakes (Crooked, Bass, Gilkey). In some areas of the lakes, they are much worse than other areas. Lake district continues to put in over 200 volunteer hours of Clean Boats Clean Water. In 2025, the lake district received a grant from the DNR for chemical treatment of Water Eurasian-Milfoil. However, the DNR only permitted treatment in Bass Lake and not in Crooked or Gilkey Lakes. EWM has been a issue as it continues to spread throughout the lakes. The lake district continues to work with Firewise as they are one of the highest fire risks in the state. There will be a Spring leaf and needle pickup the week of May 12th.

Future/Past Projects:

Lake district is looking at having wash stations at the boat landings. There are currently 4 boat landings (2 on Crooked Lake, 1 on Bass Lake, 1 on Gilkey Lake). Lake district has also contacted the Town of Riverview on repairing several of the boat landings, as the concrete in the lake has shifted.

Future Meeting Dates:

May 3, 2025, May 24, 2025 (Annual Meeting), September 13, 2025
October 25, 2025

Comments:

Finding property owners to get involved in either volunteering or being on the lake district board continues to be a challenge. The turnouts at their annual meetings is very low and meetings outside of the annual meeting usually are attended by no more than two property owners.

There continues to be little law enforcement or presence on the lake. It is very concerning and on some weekends, it is like the wild west out there. Many property owners will not use the lake on weekends.

Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

Printed: 3/9/25 7:44 AM

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Projection	2026 Projection
<u>Assessment/parcel</u>	100	100	100	100	100
REVENUE:					
Tax Assessment(\$50/100)	20,758	20,615	19,800	20,500	20,500
Lake Study Grant				8,123	
CBCW Grant	(1,000)			-	
Fire Wise	2,160		-	8,000	
Sales of Tractor					
Misc	75	69			
TOTAL REVENUE IN	21,993	20,684	19,800	36,623	20,500
EXPENSES:					
Fire Wise	2,160			8,000	
Insurance: Three Year Officer Bond					
Insurance: Work Comp	292	299		625	625
Insurance: Weed cutter, trailer, Public Risk Ins	3,020	3,094		4,500	4,600
Lake Monitoring, Mapping, Onterra, LLC		5,078	987	9,480	5,000
Oconto County Lake Assoc membership	50	50		50	50
Postage & Annual Mtg Mailer Printing	191	394	73	300	300
Rent, building		250		250	250
Storage, Cutter	1,440	1,440		1,440	1,440
Tractor: Storage, Repair, Fuel				-	
Supplies(Paper, envelopes)				200	200
Weed Cutter Labor & fuel				1,000	1,000
Weed Cutter Permits			-	-	
Weed Cutter Repairs & Maint.				1,400	1,400
Weed: Chemical Treatments & Permit			251	28,160	20,000
<u>Misc:</u>	378	1,076		-	
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,532	11,681	1,311	55,405	34,865
Operations CASH FLOW	14,461	9,003	18,489	(18,783)	(14,365)
CD/Savings Acct transfer in/out Ckg				31,874	6,452
CASH FLOW after transfer of funds	14,461	9,003	18,489	13,092	(7,913)
BALANCE SHEET: (date)	12/31/23	12/31/24	1/19/25	12/31/25	12/31/26
Checking	36,463	5,466	23,955	18,558	10,645
Savings Account (0.1%)		512	512	512	512
CD 6 mo. 4.0% Maturing ~6-15-25		41,000	41,093	15,093	15,093
CD				15,000	15,000
CD 12 mo. @3.69% Matures 2/4/25	15,896	16,452	16,452	16,452	10,000
CD Matured 6/5/24, moved to 5.5% Savings Ac	20,344	-	-	-	
CD 7 mo. @ 4.85% matures 5/1/25		20,874	20,874	-	

Total Checking, Savings & CDs	72,702	84,305	102,887	65,615	51,250
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Oconto County Representative Lake District Annual Report

Inland Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District #1

Date: February 2025

Representative: John M. Zeller

1. Financial Summary

1.1 Budget Overview:

Current Budget - 2024

1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024 Using 2024 Inland Lakes P&R Dist #1

1/27/2025

Page 1

Category	Actual	2024 Budget	Difference
INCOME	101,245.57	89,750.00	11,495.57
Revenues	101,245.57	89,750.00	11,495.57
Donations	880.00	500.00	480.00
Grants	7,717.50	0.00	7,717.50
Interest	2,704.63	500.00	2,204.63
Tax Levy	89,843.44	88,750.00	1,093.44
EXPENSES	97,557.93	89,600.00	-7,957.93
Administrative Costs	13,237.08	13,200.00	-37.08
Dues & Fees	935.00	1,000.00	65.00
General Office	1,029.77	500.00	-529.77
Insurance	7,767.00	8,500.00	733.00
Salaries - office	1,088.20	1,200.00	111.80
Volunteer Appreciation	2,417.11	2,000.00	-417.11
Aquatic Plant Control	77,747.54	72,000.00	-5,747.54
Aquatic Plant Treatment Accrual	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
Aquatic Treatment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital and Maintenance Accrual	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Electricity	525.19	500.00	-25.19
FICA & TAX	7,073.20	7,500.00	426.80
Fuel & Lube	4,446.35	5,000.00	553.65
Harvesting Permit	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Maintenance	12,248.71	8,500.00	-3,748.71
Misc (Ads, life jackets, etc.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wages	26,042.09	23,000.00	-3,042.09
Information & Education	1,502.48	1,900.00	397.52
Conferences (mileage & exp.)	0.00	500.00	500.00
Newsletter	1,502.48	1,400.00	-102.48
Public Safety	5,070.83	2,500.00	-2,570.83
Buoy Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dock Maintenance	4,540.00	2,500.00	-2,040.00
Sign Maintenance	530.83	0.00	-530.83
Net Difference:	3,687.64	150.00	3,537.64

1/27/2025

Current Budget - Current Year
1/1/2025 through 12/31/2025 Using 2025 Inland Lakes P&R Dist #1

Page 1

Category	Actual	2025 Budget	Difference
INCOME	63,807.61	142,750.00	-78,942.39
Revenues	63,807.61	142,750.00	-78,942.39
Donations	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Tax Levy	63,807.61	142,000.00	-78,192.39
EXPENSES	1,100.82	210,000.00	208,899.18
Administrative Costs	139.94	13,700.00	13,560.06
Dues & Fees	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
General Office	139.94	500.00	360.06
Insurance	0.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
Salaries - office	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Volunteer Appreciation	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Aquatic Plant Control	960.88	193,000.00	192,039.12
Aquatic Plant Treatment Accrual	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Aquatic Treatment	600.00	120,000.00	119,400.00
Capital and Maintenance Accrual	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Electricity	0.00	500.00	500.00
FICA & TAX	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Fuel & Lube	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Harvesting Permit	300.00	0.00	-300.00
Maintenance	60.88	10,000.00	9,939.12
Misc (Ads, life jackets, etc.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wages	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Information & Education	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Conferences (mileage & exp.)	0.00	500.00	500.00
Newsletter	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Public Safety	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Buoy Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dock Maintenance	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Sign Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Difference:	62,706.79	-67,250.00	129,956.79

Copies of the FY 24 and FY25 budgets are provided for your review below.

1.2 Budget Trends:

The FY2024 to FY2025 budget remained largely consistent, with key adjustments in three areas:

- **Tax Levy:** Following approval at the August 2024 Lake District Annual Meeting, the per-parcel tax levy increased from \$120.00 to \$200.00 to fund aquatic plant management. This resulted in a revenue increase from \$89,750.00 to \$142,750.00.
- **Aquatic Plant Management Expense:** Reflecting the increased levy, funding for aquatic plant management increased from \$0.00 in FY2024 to \$120,000 in FY2025.
- **Dock Maintenance Expense:** Major repairs to a boat landing dock were budgeted in FY2024, including ramp and dock leveling and the addition of foot guards, cost \$2,240. This was a one-time expense and is not included in the FY2025 budget.
- All other line items saw minor adjustments within any inflationary changes.

2. Operational Update

2.1 Equipment Enhancements (Current Projects):

Modifications are underway to the large weed harvester to replace the single cutter bar with two shorter bars. This improvement is expected to reduce flexing and potential breakage, minimizing future downtime.

2.2 Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Program:

The CBCW program continues to be a vital asset. In FY2024, 530 volunteer hours were dedicated to staffing boat landings. Volunteers inspected 446 boats, educated 966 boaters, and secured \$3,187.50 in grant funding. CBCW has grant funding for FY2025 to continue their vital work, and they are currently training additional volunteers to staff the boat landing in 2025.

3. Infrastructure Improvements (Past/Future Projects)

3.1 Completed Projects (2024):

- Trailer jack replacement
- Horn Lake Boat Landing dock repair
- Contribution to the Town of Townsend for Horn Lake Boat Landing asphalt replacement
- Burnt Dam Boat Landing kiosk replacement
- Survey of District property for wash pad construction

3.2 Planned Projects (2025):

- Whole-lake aquatic plant treatment (pending WDNR approval)
- Large weed harvester trailer jack replacement

- District maintenance building roof and wood framing repairs

4. District Profile (Comments):

The Inland Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District #1 celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024. The District encompasses 713 tax parcels, five water bodies (including portions of McCaslin Brook, Explosion Lake, Horn Lake, Little Horn Lake, and Reservoir Pond), four improved boat landings, and one unimproved landing.

The District owns a two-acre parcel with a 50'x50'x14' storage shed, a 32'x70' concrete pad, three aquatic plant harvesters (2000 9', 1995 10', and 2016 12'), two harvester trailers (10' and 12'), and a 2005 C3500 4x4 truck with a crane.

The District's three harvesters operated four days per week and removed a record 287 loads of milfoil, a substantial increase of 100 loads compared to the previous year. Operators observed a significant increase in milfoil growth, potentially due to lower water levels and a warmer-than-average early season. Harvesting commenced three weeks earlier than usual due to the early onset of weed growth following a mild winter and warm spring.

The District maintains a robust harvester maintenance program. This proactive approach resulted in zero harvester downtime due to repairs during the harvesting season.

5. Upcoming Meetings

- March 22, 2025: Special Meeting (Joint with Townsend Flowage)
- May 31, 2025: Quarterly Commissioners Meeting
- August 9, 2025: Lake District Annual Meeting
- August 9, 2025: Quarterly Commissioners Meeting
- November 8, 2025: Quarterly Commissioners Meeting

County Representative Lake District Annual Report

Please fill out information below. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date: 3/27/2025

Lake District: White Potato Lake

Name: Keith Schneider

Budget Revenues/Expenditures:

The Aquatic Plant Management project cost is \$24,900.00. Received from the state \$16,709.80 local match to be met is \$8,230.20. Rec'd \$600 from Town of Brazeau

Budget Trends:

Current Projects:

A kiosk was also constructed to display all of our pertinent WPLD news and communications along with our newsletter "The Eye of the Potato" that is published twice a year. On-going work with Onterra each year to survey the lake for any changes and receive recommendations on potential work that needs to be done on the lake including harvesting Eurasian Water Milfoil. They also help with grant writing.

Future/Past Projects:

We received 3 grants for Aquatic Plant Management to aid in the gathering and analyzing historical and current ecological data it also helped identify potential threats and help us determine goals and solutions that we could implement. It also will help educate the WPLD landowners of natural ecosystems and their value to a healthy lake environment. Completing this project will give us an advantage when applying for future grants.

Future Meeting Dates:

Annual Stakeholders Meeting July 19, 2025 @ 9:00 am @ Brazeau Town Hall.

Comments:

The WPLD Commissioners have worked very hard to keep costs affordable for our members. The cost this year is \$51.04 per parcel.

County Representative Lake District Annual Report

Please fill out information below. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date: 02/19/2025

Lake District: Townsend Flowage Protection District

Name: John Zimdars, President

Budget Revenues/Expenditures:

2025 revenues are projected to be \$82,000.00

2025 expenses are projected to be \$130,000.00

Budget Trends:

The cost of EWM treatment and equipment repair continues to exceed our current available revenues. This trend is expected to get worse as the DNR is funding less.

Current Projects:

See Attached.

Future/Past Projects:

In 2020 TFPD did a whole lake herbicide treatment. In 2021, the weed harvesting was reduced to less than 35 loads due to treatment in the previous year. From 2021-2024, spot treatments were done each year. The TFPD does all weed harvesting of EWM on a volunteer basis. In 2024 over 100 loads of weed were removed. It is projected that the next whole lake treatment will be needed in 2030 costing three times more than the 2025 treatment.

Future Meeting Dates:

ILPRD Joint Meeting: 3/22/2025

TFPD Meetings: 4/26/2025, 5/24/2025, 8/16/2025, 11/15/2025

Comments:

See Attached.

Current Projects:

The TFPD and ILPRD will be doing a herbicide whole lake treatment during the summer of 2025 and spot treatment in 2026. The treatment will cover over 1,100 acres of surface water. The headwaters of the McCaslin Brook, which ultimately feeds into the Oconto River, are fed through McCaslin Springs Basin and these lakes.

The ILPRD/TFPD is required to complete a Lake Management Plan in 2025. The cost of the previous plan was over \$40,000. Due to the work of the Oconto County Land and Water Conservation Department, the UW-Stevens Point and the DNR, the cost of this new five year plan will be substantially reduced.

The TFPD is also looking at construction of a maintenance building. Currently, the TFPD does not have a building to perform maintenance and repairs of equipment.

The Town of Townsend with assistance from the TFPD is doing a major rebuild of the Red Maple Lane boat landing.

Comments:

It is becoming increasingly difficult to protect the lakes, river and streams in the Northwoods with the proliferation of EWM. The cost to treat EWM is expected to increase by three fold when done in approx. 2030. This is due to the EWM becoming resistant to the current herbicide being used. This additional cost will require the TFPD to substantially increase the levy. This may cause residents to be forced to sell their property as many are on fixed incomes.

The amount of EWM is continuing to exponentially spread in our northern lakes due to increased boating traffic. This trend is not expected to decrease as more VRBO's and other rentals are increasing in the Northwoods. This additional pressure may cause the need to do whole lake treatments more often rather than once every five years.

The DNR is also receiving additional pressure due to the number of grant requests each year. The TFPD was funding at 39% of our grant request rather than the 75% possible. The pressure on the DNR is expected to increase as EWM and more Districts are looking for funding.

The TFPD oldest weed harvester is over 60 years old. The cost of replacing this harvester is approx. \$250,000. The cost of a new harvester and the continuing costs of repairing our aging harvesters puts additional levy pressure on our land owners.

The TFPD sponsors the "Kids Fishing Tournament" each year in which over 220 kids participate. This wonderful event brings children, parents, grandparents together with the community to support children's outdoor activities. This event is fully funded by community donations.

The TFPD in coordination with the Oconto County Land and Water Conservation Dept. and the DNR have completed over 20 Healthy Lakes projects thereby reducing storm water runoff. This partnership has been very successful in improving water quality.

We thank the Oconto County Land and Water Conservation Department and the County Board members for providing financial support to the TFPD and the Oconto County lakes. We appreciate your support.

County Representative Lake District Annual Report

Please fill out information below. Attach additional pages if needed.

Date: March 5, 2025

Lake District: Anderson Inland Lake District

Name: David Van Zeeland

Budget Revenues/Expenditures:

See attached.

Budget Trends:

Current Projects:

District is looking at doing web page updates and creating a messaging plan as well as creating email address for elected commissioners. Lake district continues to monitor the spread of EWM and are planning for hand harvesting in the Spring. District is also looking at having a training event for identification of invasive species. They are also working with Breed to develop boating ordinances that are consistent with the ones that were created in Mountain.

Future/Past Projects:

The district is also discussing ideas on how to improve participation from property owners on serving on committees or on the board.

Future Meeting Dates:

March 8, 2025, August 23, 2025 (Annual Meeting)

Comments:

There has been an ongoing disagreement with the boat landing and who should be taking ownership. There has been some talk about the lake district leasing the landing, but there has been very to no details about what that involves. The lake district is interesting in pursuing this if the circumstances and understanding is laid out. Other discussion has revolved around lake of law enforcement at the landing and on the lake.

Anderson Inland Lake District

	FY 2024 Budget	FY2024 YTD 8/25/2024	Projected Year end 2024	FY 2025 Proposed	FY 2025 Revised without grant
Income/Revenue					
Gross Income					
Tax Levy	\$12,836.84	\$12,626.40	\$12,837.89	\$14,090.66	\$14,090.66
Interest		\$1.05			
Donations (other)					
WDR Grants/2025-26 (APM)				\$7,500.00	
Carry over		\$1,163.42	\$1,163.42	\$1,959.34	\$1,959.34
Total Income	\$12,836.84	\$13,790.87	\$14,001.31	\$23,550.00	\$16,050.00
Expense/Appropriations					
Administrative					
Dues & Fees	\$400.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
General office & mailings	\$500.00	\$46.87	\$380.85	\$550.00	\$550.00
Insurance	\$900.00		\$718.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Promotional/educational materials	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
conferences/mileage expenses	\$1,600.00	\$343.68	\$1,093.12	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
web site (2025 will be promo and edu)	\$500.00		\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
volunteer appreciation			\$0.00		
Total Admin/Appropriations	\$4,400.00	\$440.55	\$2,441.97	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
Projects					
Lake Management Plan (Onterra/APM)				\$7,150.00	
Lake Management Plan (stakeholders/APM)				\$1,100.00	
Lake Management Plan NLF	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,250.00
Lake Treatment (AIS)				\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Lake Treatment NLF (AIS)	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00		
Lake Improvement projects (other)				\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Projects	\$9,600.00	\$9,600.00	\$9,600.00	\$18,250.00	\$10,750.00
Total Expenses	\$14,000.00		\$12,041.97	\$23,550.00	\$16,050.00
Year end Balance (carryover to 2025)			\$1,959.34		
Lake Treatment NLF (AIS)- Accrued Balance			\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00
Lake Management Plan NLF- Accrued Balance			\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,750.00

ALA- Anderson Lake Association

APM- Aquatic Plant Management

NLF- Non lapsing fund

AIS- Aquatic invasive species

Onterra- Consultant/Engineering firm

WDNR- Wisconsin Department of Resources

Tax Levy- Total money needed to cover expenses

Per Parcel Special Charge

\$115.50



**2024 Annual Report
Richard Heath
County Administrator**

INTRODUCTION

Since my first day serving as County Administrator nearly one year ago, it has been an enjoyable yet extensive learning experience. My background and familiarity with Oconto County have been valuable in this transition. My and the county's success cannot be accomplished without the contributions of so many people. I am proud to be able to lead a professional and experienced staff, work with knowledgeable elected officials, and report to a governing board that is dedicated to serving the public while positioning Oconto County to take advantage of whatever the future holds.

Thank you to Chair Al Sleeter, who is always available to answer my questions, give historical context, and provide feedback. I owe much gratitude to the Team comprised of Lisa Sherman, Shelly Schultz, Kim Pytleski, Beth Ellingson, Sharon Aubrey, Kathy Goldschmidt, Sue Archie, and Courtney Kazik for somehow "making it happen" every day!

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The primary duties of the County Administrator are identified in WI State Stats. § 59.18, and include:

- Serving as the chief administrative officer of the county;
- Ensuring that all county ordinances, state and federal laws are observed and enforced;
- Directing all administrative and management functions of county government not otherwise vested by law in boards or commissions or in other elected officers;
- Appointing and supervising department heads except those elected by the people and except where statutes provide the appointment be made by elected officers; appointments of department heads are subject to confirmation by the county board;
- Appointing the members of all boards and commissions where the statutes provide that the appointment shall be made by the county board or by the chairperson of the county board; appointments of members of boards and commissions are subject to confirmation by the county board; and
- The submission of an annual budget to the county board (highlights below).

DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

The County Administrator prepares and manages the budgets for these three areas:

County Administrator

The County Administrator's annual budget is comprised of the administrator's salary and benefits, supplies, mileage, and conferences and approximately 10 percent of the costs of an administrative assistant. The total 2024 Budget was \$194,383.

Risk Management and Insurance

Staff work with the county's insurance representatives to identify and mitigate risks that could result in major costs to the county or interrupt the delivery of services. The total cost for property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance is \$752,100. A large portion of that total (\$260,000 for workers' compensation and \$335,000 for property and liability) is

charged back to several of the departments and offices with the remaining amount of \$162,600 paid to cover general administrative operations. More detail is provided later.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Oconto County contracts with Enterprise to manage its fleet of leased vehicles. Several years ago, the determination was made to lease vehicles as a cost savings measure rather than purchase and maintain vehicles and pay staff mileage. At the end of 2024, the county leased 20 vehicles that are used by several departments to include Planning and Zoning; Forestry, Parks, and Recreation; Emergency Management; Land Conservation; Land Information; and seven cars that can be used by all staff and maintained by the Health and Human Services Department. Enterprise account managers provide input on when vehicles need to be replaced, when existing leases make sense to be extended, and when additional fleet vehicles should be added to save the county money. The cost to lease these vehicles to include maintenance was \$150,485.

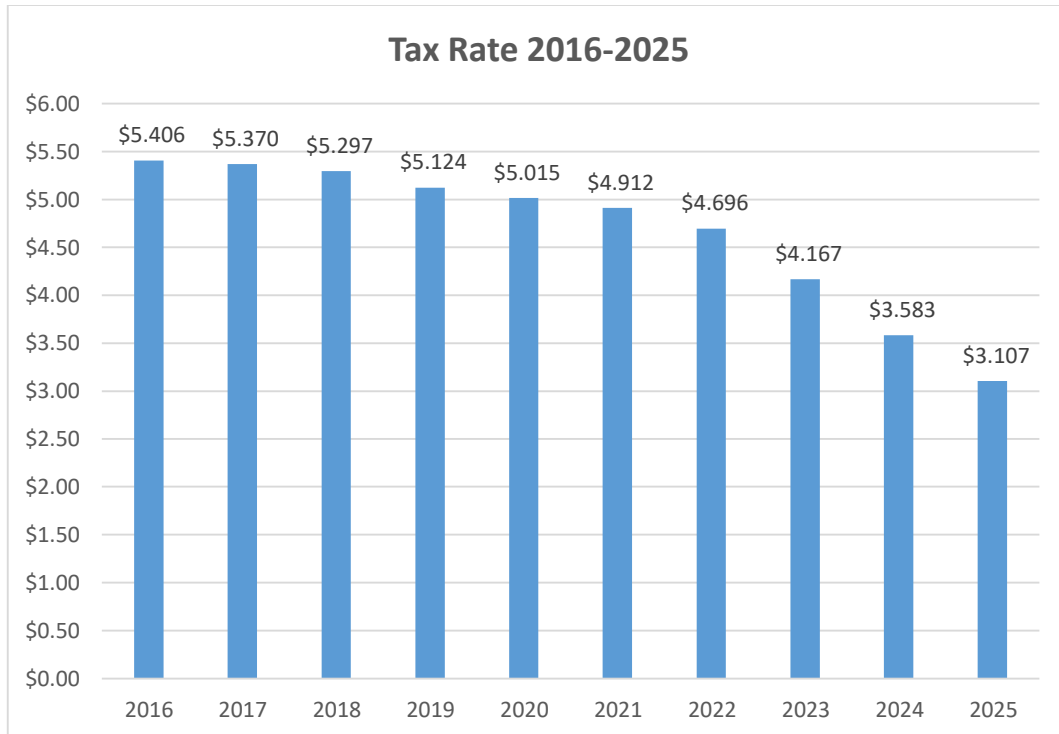
ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

Property Tax Revenue

The approved tax rate has been trending downward due to increasing equalized values. Oconto County's equalized value increased 16% over this past year \$988,283,700 to nearly \$7.2 billion and includes TID. Correspondingly, the tax rate decreased by 46 cents or -13% for 2025. The following table and graph illustrate rates the past 10 years.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TAX RATE</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
2016	\$5.41	4.1%
2017	\$5.37	1.2%
2018	\$5.30	-1.4%
2019	\$5.12	-3.3%
2020	\$5.02	-2.1%
2021	\$4.91	-2.1%
2022	\$4.70	-4.4%
2023	\$4.17	-11.3%
2024	\$3.58	-14.0%
2025	\$3.12	-13.0%

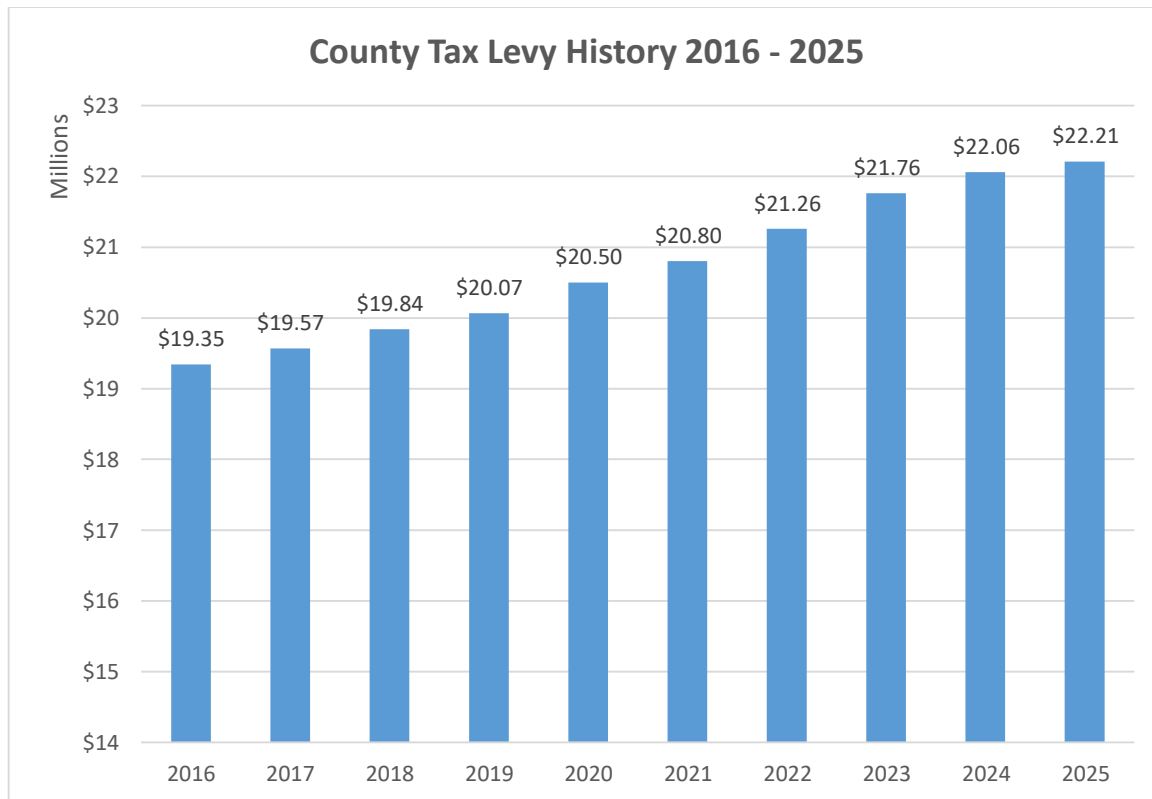




The property tax levy is the foundational financial piece from which each budget is prepared. The total tax levy increased by a modest \$146,809 or .7% from 2024 as seen in the table and graph below. Within the past 10 years, the tax levy went up \$2,859,133 or 14.8%. The increase over the last five years has been \$1,404,126 or 6.7%.

The property tax rate and tax levy are controlled by the state-imposed levy limits. The County is only allowed to increase the levy by the annual net new construction percentage provided by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, which averages 1.45%. An exception is for debt service, which the County by a super majority vote, initially increased the levy by 25 cents to fund the Law Enforcement Center.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
2016	\$19,346,112	5.8%
2017	\$19,569,576	1.2%
2018	\$19,841,178	1.4%
2019	\$20,069,211	1.1%
2020	\$20,501,647	2.2%
2021	\$20,804,119	1.5%
2022	\$21,261,905	2.2%
2023	\$21,763,570	2.4%
2024	\$22,061,436	1.4%
2025	\$22,208,245	0.7%



In addition to Property Taxes, the county relies on several other funding sources to balance the budget and pay for capital improvements and equipment.

Sales Tax Revenue

The Oconto County Board of Supervisors approved the ½ cent county sales tax in 1994. Since July 1, 1994, the county has collected over \$51 million that has been used largely for purchasing heavy equipment and vehicles, building improvements, technology upgrades, infrastructure, and up until 2024, partial debt payments for the Law Enforcement Center. In 2024, the amount of sales tax collected was over \$3 million, which is \$2 million more than the \$1 million collected just seven years earlier in 2017. Just over \$3.61 million in sales was allocated in 2025 for a variety of major repairs to the county courthouse complex, heavy equipment, communication improvements, squad cars, and hardware and software upgrades.

Shared Revenue

Shared Revenue comprises the third largest funding source received by Oconto County. The legislature passed and Governor Evers signed Act 12 in 2023, which returned 1 cent from the 5 cents in sales tax collected by the state back to counties and local units of government. For the 2025 budget, the county received \$745,471 in shared revenue with an additional \$642,329 in combined supplemental, personal property, and computer aid. These figures compare favorably to the prior year of \$730,447 and \$559,126 respectively.

Interest Income

Oconto County has benefited greatly from the higher interest rates over the past few years. Being in a strong financial position with a healthy fund balance, the interest income collected in 2024 was vital in maintaining services and retaining a very knowledgeable staff. A total of \$1.8 million in interest income was applied to the 2025 budget. The \$350,000 in additional interest received from the ARPA account reduced the amount of money transferred from the General Fund to balance the budget by nearly \$115,000 from 2024 to 2025.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed in 2021 by the Federal government. Funds were distributed the following year to states, counties, municipalities, tribes, schools, etc. to stimulate recovery from the pandemic. Oconto County received 7,367,458 to fund a variety of initiatives. Many of the projects would not have been possible without this additional money. These Federal dollars paid for improvements to the county's communication network, remodel of the county boardroom, establish a northern service location in Riverview, repaired infrastructure, and provided financial assistance to local communities to complete their recreational facilities to name a few. As required by the grant, the county's original allocation of funds was properly allocated by the end of 2024. All project funds are to be spent by the end of 2026.

Other Budget Revenue Sources

Staff have been able to leverage millions of dollars annually from other revenue resources to include grants, contracts, charges for service, and pass-through funds that pay for critical staff positions and for ongoing essential programs and services. Approximately 42 percent of the \$54 million adopted 2025 budget is derived from these funding sources.

2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 Budget approved by the County Board of Supervisors was \$54,175, 875. This includes all funding sources noted above and reflects an increase of eight percent or just over \$4 million from the \$50,157,268 budget approved for 2024.

The three most notable reasons for an increase in the total overall budget:

- ✓ Salaries and benefits
- ✓ Technology upgrades (hardware and software)
- ✓ Equipment purchases (ex. 3 trucks, paver, loader, grader)

Revenue sources to cover additional expenses:

- Allocation of the remaining ARPA Grant for equipment and maintenance \$631,000
- Utilization of the ARPA Fund interest \$350,000
- Highway Department Depreciation use for trucks \$805,000
- Increase in Revenues received from the state \$101,227
- Tax Levy Increase from increase in Net New Construction \$146,809
- Fund transfer from Health and Human Services \$400,000

- Allocation of Sales Tax Revenues not spent on previous projects \$\$875,000

Annual Debt Services for the Law Enforcement Center \$1,273,500

RISK MANAGEMENT

The staff attend regular meetings and participate in required training courses made available by the Human Resources Department that are designed to identify, analyze, prioritize, address/remediate, and monitor risks to control liability, property, and workers' compensation insurance costs. The county emphasizes these efforts to make jobs safer, facilitate project success, reduce unexpected issues, save time and money, enhance culture, and guide decision-making processes.

Liability Claims

For 2024, there were three liability claims, which is the lowest number recorded over the past 10 years. Two of the claims were closed in 2024 while one case remains open. The settlement cost to the county was \$537 for these two cases. By comparison, there were 11 liability claims in 2023 and seven remained open at the end of 2024. The total settlements for the four closed claims cost the insurance company \$3,036 with no cost to the county. The ten-year average for claims was 10 per year, with an annual average loss paid out by the county in the amount of \$9,334.

Property Damage Claims

There were nine property damage claims made in 2024. Three of those claims remain open and six cases were closed resulting in a cost to the county in the amount of \$28,662 because each claim came in under the \$10,000 deductible limit. In comparison to 2023, there were 10 property claims with a total paid out of \$150,496. The insurance company paid \$114,178 and the county's share was \$36,318. Most of that cost involved a plow truck hitting the door and framing at the highway building in Oconto that resulted in insignificant damage to the structure. The 10-year average for claims made was 15.7 with an annual average cost to the county in the amount of \$47,562.

Workers' Compensation

The number of workers' compensation claims for 2024 was 24 and similar to the number of claims made in 2022 (21) and 2023 (18). These 24 claims equated to \$240,300 in incurred costs paid by the county's workers' compensation provider. The settlement of claims can range from a few dollars to over \$100,000. Last year, the largest payout was \$104,000 to a worker injured in the highway department. Depending on the incident, the insurance company will work to recoup all or some of the payment from the party that the company is believed to be at fault. The county's workers' compensation policy rate is set based on the number and size of claims made annually. The 10-year average in claims was 23.4 with an average amount paid out of \$271,742 per year, ranging from a low of \$19,789 in 2020 to a high of \$664,138 in 2017.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed and now occupying the Northern Office in the Town of Riverview.
- Finished and adopted the *2025-2029 Library Services Plan*.
- The Opioid Settlement Ad-Hoc Steering Committee formed and started approving funding for organizations requesting use of the opioid abatement settlement funds.
- The Broadband Taskforce initiated the approval of \$360,000 in local funding for expansion of broadband through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Planning program.



- Closed on and made initial improvements to the buildings in Oconto Falls.
 - The Oconto County Recreation Committee approved nine local projects using ARPA funding that leveraged \$1.36 million in additional money for these projects.
 - Nearing completion of the emergency communication network, including tower construction and connections.
 - Successfully allocated the county's \$7.37 million in ARPA funding by the December 31, 2024 deadline.
- Transferred elderly services to Health and Human Services and secured contracts with Marinette County Elderly Services and Menominee Transit.
- Crime Prevention Fund Board Awarded grants for two projects from the Crime Prevention Fund.
- Signed a contract with Barrientos Design & Consulting to evaluate the current highway department facilities and propose alternatives for new and/or renovated buildings.



ON THE HORIZON

There are several initiatives that will be happening in 2025 and beyond including:

- Implementation of the McGrath Wage and Compensation Study recommendations.
- Review and set a direction on building and/or renovating new highway facilities.
- Continued installation of fiber through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Planning program and the Bug Tussel Facilities Access Agreement.
- Completion and maintenance of the emergency communication network and fulfillment of the Facilities Access Agreement with Bug Tussel.

- Comprehensive assessment of the condition and need of all county-owned buildings and their function in future county operations.
- Investments in technology (hardware and software) to best support and protect county departments and offices.
- Finish the county's strategic planning process building on the adopted mission, vision, and value statements.
- Ensure all safety plans are current and communicated to the staff.

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

With no crystal ball available, the county will certainly see its share of future challenges, as well as opportunities.

- The unpredictability of future Federal funds may transfer the financial burden to maintain those services and programs to the county.
- Any prolonged tariffs will translate to higher costs for vehicles, supplies, utilities, technology, etc.
- Significant projected costs for steel and aluminum may play a factor in whether the County Board approves moving forward with a new highway facility.
- Remaining competitive with salary and benefits to attract and retain qualified staff.
- The county's strong financial standing will allow it to withstand any shorter-term economic slowdown.
- The past investments made in county assets have negated the need to plan and pay for large capital improvements aside from a highway facility.
- The positive intragovernmental relationship the county shares with its local municipalities and neighboring counties will facilitate collaboration and the sharing of resources in areas such as public safety, integration of technology, project management, services, and recreation.

If anyone has questions or comments about this report, please contact the County Administrator's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Heath, County Administrator

**CORPORATION COUNSEL
Annual Report for 2024**

I. Corporation Counsel Department and Duties

A. Department Overview and General Duties: The Corporation Counsel is responsible for the following matters, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §59.42. The Department consists of one full-time attorney and one full-time Legal Assistant III (see attached Exhibit A for Organizational Chart). Currently, this Department is overseen by the Administration Committee.

1. Processing the following cases on behalf of the Department of Human Services:
 - a. Child In Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS)/Juvenile Guardianships/Termination of Parental Rights)

Filed 17 new petitions for Children in Need of Protection/Services in 2024, and 2 petitions for Termination of Parental Rights
 - b. Alcohol and Mental Commitments – **filed 36 Emergency Detention matters in 2024.**
 - c. Guardianship and/or Protective Placement – **filed 16 Adult Guardianship cases in 2024.**
2. Providing legal advice to the Board of Adjustments and representing the County Board on litigation matters.
3. Handling collection actions and bankruptcy matters on referrals from all County offices.
4. Updating/maintaining the County Code of Ordinances and other County policies.
5. Contract reviews for all County offices.
6. The Corporation Counsel attends all County Board Meetings and advises the County Board on legal issues when they arise. Attend committee meetings and give legal advice to committees when requested. Corporation Counsel is responsible for approving all resolutions and ordinance agenda items for the County Board and coordinates the preparation of the County Board agenda with the County Clerk and Deputy County Clerk.]
7. Gives legal advice to Departments when requested including action on responses to open records requests and closed meeting sessions.
8. Provides legal services to the Oconto County Child Support Agency, attending court for paternity, support and maintenance and contempt proceedings.
9. Except for claims covered by liability insurance, represents Oconto County in all litigation matters, including zoning enforcement actions and County Health Department enforcement actions. **In 2024, filed 140 zoning violation citations and 12 welfare fraud citations.**
10. Provide various legal services related to the acquisition and disposition of all County real property.
11. Collaborate with the County Treasurer to complete the annual tax deed procedure, preparing all documents for transfer of property to the County and to property owners.
12. Assist Departments with responses to open records requests.

B. Specific Court related activity in 2024:

1. **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

	2022	2023	2024	2022 Court Appearances	2023 Court Appearances	2024 Court Appearances
CHIPS/JUVENILE GUARDIANSHIPS/TPR	41	20	18	245	249	295
ALCOHOL & MENTAL COMMITMENTS	56	54	36	36	33	14
GUARDIANSHIPS & PROTECTIVE PLACEMENT	21	16	16	97	82	106
TOTAL	116	90	70	378	364	415

2. **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – PUBLIC HEALTH**

	2022 Court Appearances	2023 Court Appearances	2024 Court Appearances
HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD CITATIONS	0	2	2

3. **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – PUBLIC BENEFITS FRAUD**

	2022 Court Appearances	2023 Court Appearances	2024 Court Appearances
PUBLIC BENEFIT FRAUD CITATIONS	0	4	12

4. **CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY**

	2022 Court Appearances	2023 Court Appearances	2024 Court Appearances
CHILD SUPPORT	120	138	129

5. **LAND & WATER RESOURCES – ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

	2022 Court Appearances	2023 Court Appearances	2024 Court Appearances
ZONING VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT	20	45	92

TOTAL NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES FOR 2024: 650

C. Financial Overview:

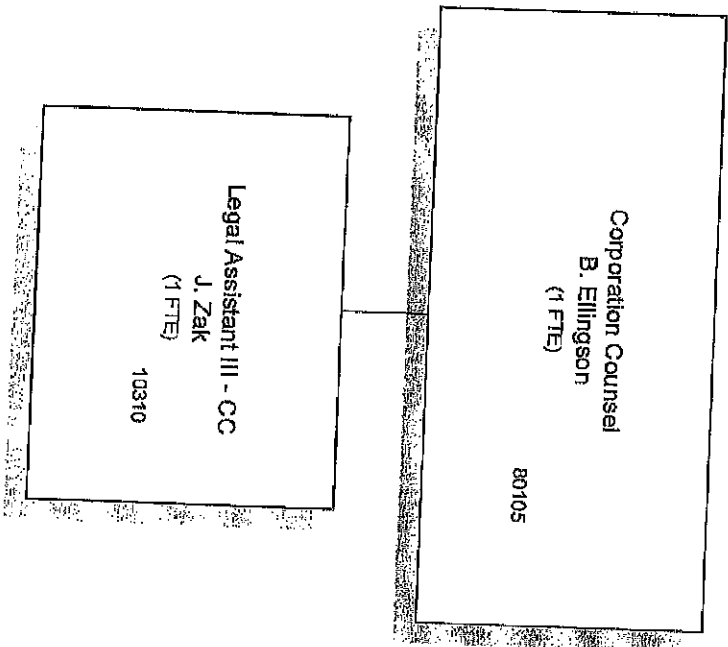
Attached as Exhibit B is the Department's Financial Overview. The majority of expenses for this Department are wages and fringes. Aside from a small amount of revenue captured by Human Services grant payments (approximately 27% of costs expended for CHIPS/Juvenile cases), and

a reimbursement for services under contract with the Child Support Agency, this Department does not currently generate any independent revenue.

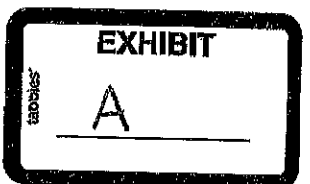
Dated this 19th day of March, 2025.

Electronically signed by Beth L. Ellingson
Beth L. Ellingson
Corporation Counsel

CORPORATION COUNSEL



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 2
COUNTY FTE: 2
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0



REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR OCONTO COUNTY
PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2024

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 12/31/2024 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 12/31/2024 INCREASE (DECREASE)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BDT & USED
Fund 100 - GENERAL FUND						
Revenues						
Dept 17-43551 - S/A DCF CONTRACT						
100-17-43551-43626	IV-E REIMBURSEMENT AGENCY REP - TPR	500.00	441.40	612.09	58.60	88.28
100-17-43551-43627	IV-E REIMBURSEMENT AGENCY REP - CHS	5,000.00	2,643.24	2,391.64	2,356.76	52.86
Total Dept 17-43551 - S/A DCF CONTRACT		5,500.00	3,084.64	3,003.73	2,415.36	56.08
Total Dept 17-46193 - CORPORATION COUNSEL						
100-17-46193-46121	ADMIN FEE ON LAND SALES	0.00	1,329.68	0.00	(1,329.68)	100.00
100-17-46193-46193	PHOTOCOPY CHARGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Dept 17-46193 - CORPORATION COUNSEL		0.00	1,329.68	0.00	(1,329.68)	100.00
Total Dept 17-47440 - CHARGES TO DEPTS						
100-17-47440-43802	EXP ALLOCATED TO OTHER DEPT	10,837.00	18,469.83	3,965.72	(7,632.83)	170.43
Total Dept 17-47440 - CHARGES TO DEPTS		10,837.00	18,469.83	3,965.72	(7,632.83)	170.43
TOTAL REVENUES						
		16,337.00	22,884.15	6,969.45	(6,547.15)	140.08
Expenditures						
Dept 17-51320 - CORPORATION COUNSEL						
100-17-51320-51200	WAGES - FULL TIME	171,346.00	172,685.33	22,470.06	(1,339.33)	100.78
100-17-51320-51362	FICA	10,449.00	10,189.19	1,326.05	259.81	97.51
100-17-51320-51363	MEDICARE	2,444.00	2,382.95	310.12	61.05	97.50
100-17-51320-51364	RETIREMENT (ER)	11,628.00	11,919.10	1,554.34	(291.10)	102.50
100-17-51320-51368	HEALTH/DENTAL INS	18,460.00	18,009.31	2,482.75	450.69	97.56
100-17-51320-51370	LIFE INS	146.00	150.12	25.44	(4.12)	102.82
100-17-51320-51372	WORKERS COMP	286.00	292.81	37.41	(6.81)	102.38
100-17-51320-51375	INCOME CONTINUATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-51376	HRA	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
100-17-51320-52120	PROFESSIONAL SVCS-LEGAL	1,500.00	1,082.38	0.00	417.62	72.16
100-17-51320-52122	SERVICE OF PAPERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-52133	E-FILE FEE	300.00	205.00	0.00	95.00	68.33
100-17-51320-52251	LEASE-EQUIPMENT (COPIERS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-53101	TELEPHONE	264.00	356.76	87.25	(92.76)	135.14
100-17-51320-53110	TELEPHONE-CELLULAR	0.00	508.45	106.56	(508.45)	100.00
100-17-51320-53130	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,200.00	1,275.00	133.49	(75.00)	106.25
100-17-51320-53130	POSTAGE/UPS	500.00	1,566.01	290.39	(1,066.01)	313.20
100-17-51320-53250	PHOTOCOPY SUPPLIES/EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-53252	DUES/REGISTRATION	1,000.00	752.00	0.00	248.00	75.20
100-17-51320-53292	PROFESSIONAL LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-53320	PUBLICATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS	350.00	158.50	0.00	191.50	45.29
100-17-51320-53330	MILEAGE	200.00	65.90	0.00	134.10	32.95
100-17-51320-53331	MEALS OVERNIGHT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-53340	MEALS NOT OVERNIGHT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-17-51320-53360	LODGING	300.00	497.69	0.00	(197.69)	165.90
100-17-51320-53660	COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	468.00	360.00	0.00	108.00	76.92
Total Dept 17-51320 - CORPORATION COUNSEL		222,441.00	224,056.50	28,823.86	(1,615.50)	100.73
TOTAL EXPENDITURES						
		222,441.00	224,056.50	28,823.86	(1,615.50)	100.73

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EXHIBIT

B

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR OCONTO COUNTY
 PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2024

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024 AMENDED BUDGET	YTD BALANCE 12/31/2024 NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	ACTIVITY FOR MONTH 12/31/2024 INCREASE (DECREASE)	AVAILABLE BALANCE NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	% BGT USED
Fund 100 - GENERAL FUND						
Fund 100 - GENERAL FUND:						
TOTAL REVENUES		16,337.00	22,884.15	6,969.45	(6,547.15)	140.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		222,441.00	224,056.50	28,823.86	(1,615.50)	100.73
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		(206,104.00)	(201,172.35)	(21,854.41)	(4,931.65)	97.61
TOTAL REVENUES - ALL FUNDS						
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		16,337.00	22,884.15	6,969.45	(6,547.15)	140.08
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		222,441.00	224,056.50	28,823.86	(1,615.50)	100.73
		(206,104.00)	(201,172.35)	(21,854.41)	(4,931.65)	97.61

Office of the County Clerk

2024 Annual Report

Department Overview:

As an elected steward of Oconto County, the County Clerk is both a keeper of institutional history and a catalyst for civic engagement. Guided by Wisconsin Statute §59.23, the Clerk's Office serves as the public's initial point of contact for county-related information and services. Our mission—"Ensuring access to all who wish to gain knowledge and information regarding county government"—reflects our dedication to transparency, service, and empowering the public through accurate information.

The Clerk's responsibilities span a broad range: administering elections, clerking for the County Board, issuing marriage licenses and timber cutting permits, coordinating platbook sales, and managing the Dog License Fund. More than a service hub, the County Clerk's Office is Oconto County's "Information Center"—a trusted source for guidance, clarity, and civic support. As we like to say: When you don't know where to start, start by calling the County Clerk—your Best Friend in Local Government!

Organizational Structure:

The County Clerk's Office is staffed by 2.6 FTEs and overseen by the Administration Committee. It includes the elected County Clerk, the appointed Deputy Clerk, who assists the Maintenance Department with office and security system support, and a deputized Administrative Assistant II, who splits duties with the Finance Department. This collaborative and efficient structure reflects our commitment to maximizing service with lean staffing.

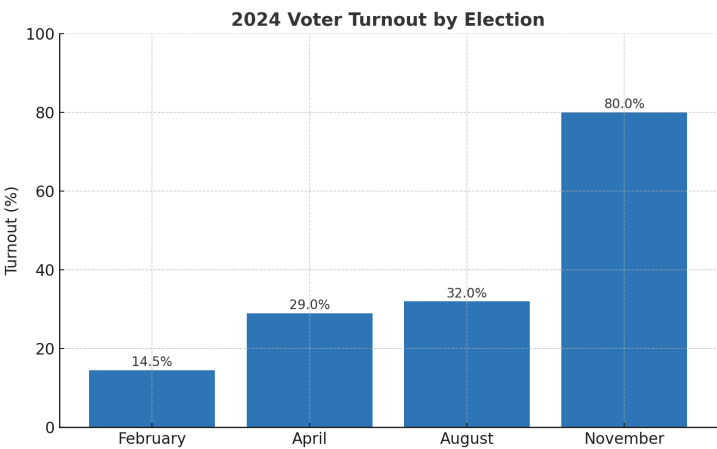
2024 Highlights:

Elections & Civic Engagement:

2024 was a high-profile election year that placed Oconto County at the heart of the democratic process. The year included the Spring Presidential Preference Primary, the Fall General Election, and countywide elections for District Attorney, County Clerk, Treasurer, and Register of Deeds.

Contested Races:

- February: City of Oconto (Aldersperson at Large), Pulaski & Wabeno School Boards
- April: County Board Districts 1, 13, 26, and 29
- August: Partisan primaries for State Assembly Districts 4 & 6, U.S. Senate, and Congress District 8
- November: Nearly all top-ticket races were contested, along with four referendum questions at state, municipal, and school district levels



State & National Leadership:

In response to growing public interest in elections, I was proud to serve as a local and national voice for election integrity. In 2024, I:

- Delivered public presentations on Wisconsin elections across the State of Wisconsin and to the County Board

- Participated in media campaigns to promote voter confidence in the Wisconsin electoral process
- Traveled to Michigan for Ballots and Battlegrounds, a Keep Our Republic media event, where swing-state election officials engaged with national press
- Participated in two convenings hosted by the SNF Agora Institute of Johns Hopkins—a conservative roundtable in Wisconsin Dells and a national convening in Washington, D.C.
- Continue to meet biweekly with the SNF Election Officials Group, a peer network of swing-state clerks and election administrators convened by Johns Hopkins University to stay ahead of national trends and threats to election integrity

Other Key Services:

- Clerk to the County Board: The County Clerk plays a central role in the legislative process as Clerk to the County Board. This includes preparing meeting agendas and packets, attending all County Board meetings, and ensuring accurate and timely minutes are recorded and preserved. The Clerk is also responsible for maintaining compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, providing public notice of meetings, and serving as the official recordkeeper for Board actions and resolutions.
- Marriage Licenses: Issued 146 licenses in 2024, below the five-year average of 172.40, possibly reflecting demographic or regional shifts.
- Plat Books: 2024 sales totaled \$2,559.60. Sales typically decline after the first year of publication; the current edition was released in 2022.
- Wood Cutting Permits: Issued 114 permits under Wis. Stat. §26.03, a 27% increase over 2023's 90 permits. These filings support landowner compliance and sustainable forest product harvesting.

2024 Challenges:

Like many counties, we continue to face challenges related to court rulings on election laws, persistent misinformation, and turnover among municipal clerks. In-person outreach and education remain essential tools. My direct engagement with the public and partnerships at the state and national level help build confidence and ensure Oconto County remains a model of electoral transparency and integrity.

Looking Ahead:

Our collaboration with 29 municipal clerks, election vendors, and the public will continue as we prepare for the 2026 election cycle. Training and outreach—for candidates, officials, and voters alike—remain central to our mission.

In April 2025, I will present a professional development class on handling Open Records Requests to municipal clerks from five northern counties, helping ensure consistency and compliance with Wisconsin's public records law.

In June 2025, I will participate in a regional convening of election officials in Michigan, joining peers to discuss trends, share strategies, and continue strengthening public confidence in our democratic systems.

Finance Department

2024 Annual Report

Betty Bickel, Finance Director

Department Overview

The Financial Accounting Department was established by Resolution #60-90, June 21, 1990. The department was created with broad responsibilities for financial record keeping, overall planning, organizing, directing and controlling of all county financial, accounting, and bookkeeping functions. The department is a service agency providing a full range of services to all departments using financial expertise, and providing staffing and technology solutions to management needs. The department is a processing agency, by processing and generating on a daily and periodic basis, financial information and reports. The department provides management with financial data and recommendations to assist the County Administrator, departments, various committees, and the County Board in making informed financial decisions. This department performs the duties of county auditor as prescribed by WI Stats 59.72. This department works under the direction of the Administration Committee.

The department has been given a multitude of financial duties which include, but not limited to:

- 1.) Establish county-wide uniform policies in financial procedures, financial reporting, accounting methods, payroll procedures, and budget preparation;
- 2.) Provide debt administration, cash management, and investment policies;
- 3.) Develop data information required for bond issuance and debt reduction;
- 4.) Responsible for all county, state, and federal financial reports, budgets, financial analysis and studies of revenues, expenditures, assets, liabilities and equities;
- 5.) Coordinate, maintain, and review all existing and new financial and accounting systems; recommend changes in accounting methods and systems; supervise installation of new accounting systems and procedures;
- 6.) Establish fiscal policies of the county to insure uniform operation; review, develop, and recommend long-range fiscal, financial, and information systems;
- 7.) Supervise and process the central accounting, accounts payable, payroll, and cash management services for all departments;
- 8.) Plan, organize, and supervise all budget preparation activities;
- 9.) Conduct internal audits upon request of the Administration Committee and/or the County Board. Coordinate the required annual independent audit of the county's financial records and the annual indirect cost allocation plan.

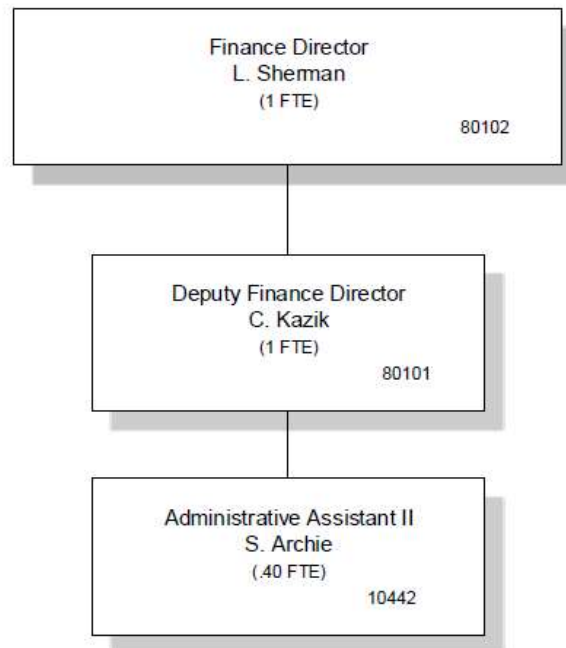
Mission Statement

The mission of the Oconto County Finance Department is to manage and maintain financial records in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and to comply with State and Federal laws, to maintain effective and efficient financial planning and reporting, to provide County Supervisors and Department Managers accurate financial information, and to provide quality service to employees and citizens of Oconto County.

Administration Committee

Alan Sleeter, Chair
Carol Heise
Dennis Kroll
John Matravers
Char Meier
Theresa Willems

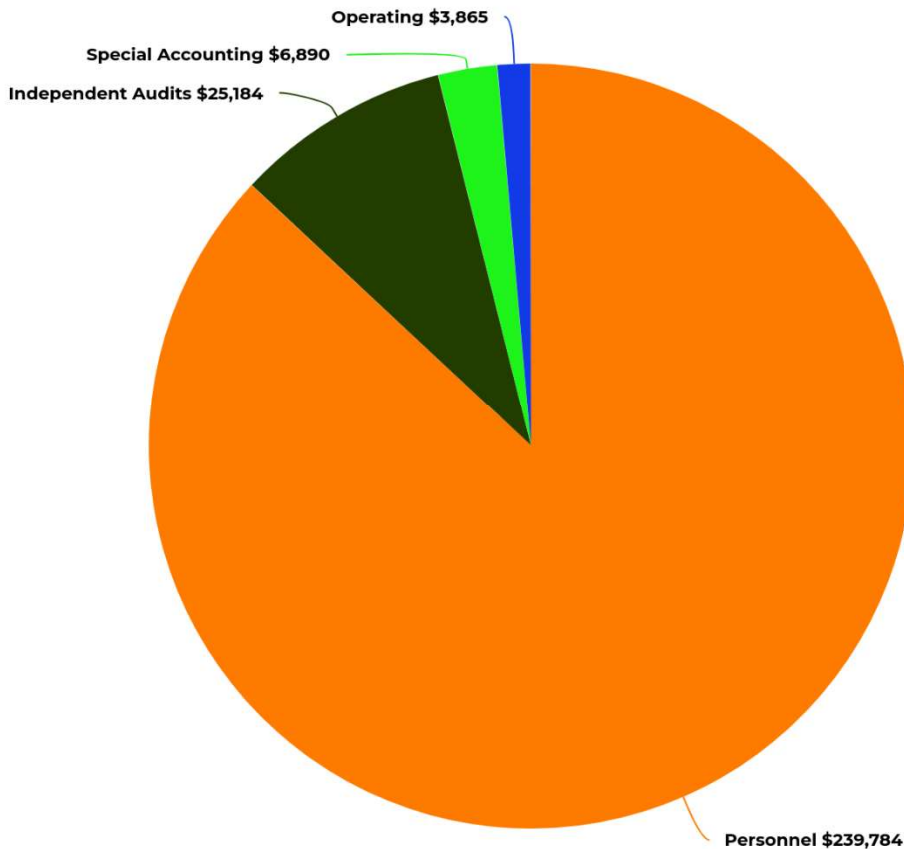
Organizational Chart



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 3
COUNTY FTE: 2.40
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

Financial Overview

Finance Expenditures 2024 - \$275,723



The Finance Department is funded almost entirely through county levy.

Current Year Accomplishments

Payroll: Issued 381 Form W-2's to employees and 157 Form 1099's to vendors.

Accounts Payable: Processed 6712 vendor payments during the year, often with multiple transactions included on one payment. Payments were made via paper check, ACH, and EFT deposits.

Budget: Assisted all departments and outside agencies with budget preparation including worksheets, personnel costs, guidance, cost analysis, etc. Assisted the County Administrator and Administration Committee in the preparation of the budget presentation, including numerous schedules and data preparation. In addition to a hard copy budget book, we also

provided an electronic version of the budget, including an interactive component for outside users. This electronic/interactive version is located on the county's website.

Financial/Statistical Reports: In addition to the numerous ongoing financial and statistical reports, the Finance Department assumed financial reporting responsibility and statistical data tracking for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the Opioid Abatement fund.

Financial Management Policy: The Financial Management Policy was updated for clarification and to reflect current practices. Additional updates will be completed as needed.

Current Year Challenges

Cross-training: With a limited number of staff, cross-training duties becomes quite a challenge. Many of the duties of the Finance Director and Deputy Finance Director are quite different. Deadlines and specific time commitments do not always allow for sufficient time to cross-train on essential duties, such as payroll processing, statistical reporting, and end-of-year closing duties.

On the Horizon

ARPA: Federal reporting and tracking of the American Rescue Plan Act funds will continue through 2025. The Finance Department will continue to complete and assist with all compliance and financial reporting requirements as mandated by the US Dept of the Treasury.

BS&A Software: Continue efforts to increase usage of the financial modules to departments not fully utilizing their benefits. We will begin utilizing project numbers to better account for funds with specific purposes. Finance will assist departments in converting from manual processes to electronic options. We will look to have departments utilize the footnote section of the Budget module for 2026.

2024 Annual Report Oconto County Human Resources Department

Department Overview

The Oconto County Human Resources Department consisted of one full-time Human Resources Director and one full-time Human Resources Generalist.

The Human Resource Department was created by resolution R2020-08-05 to be established beginning in January of 2021 with the hiring of a Human Resources Director. This was in response to the identified increase in the need for a more formal process to address the ever-changing needs of the Oconto County personnel. The Administration Committee has oversight of the Human Resource Department.

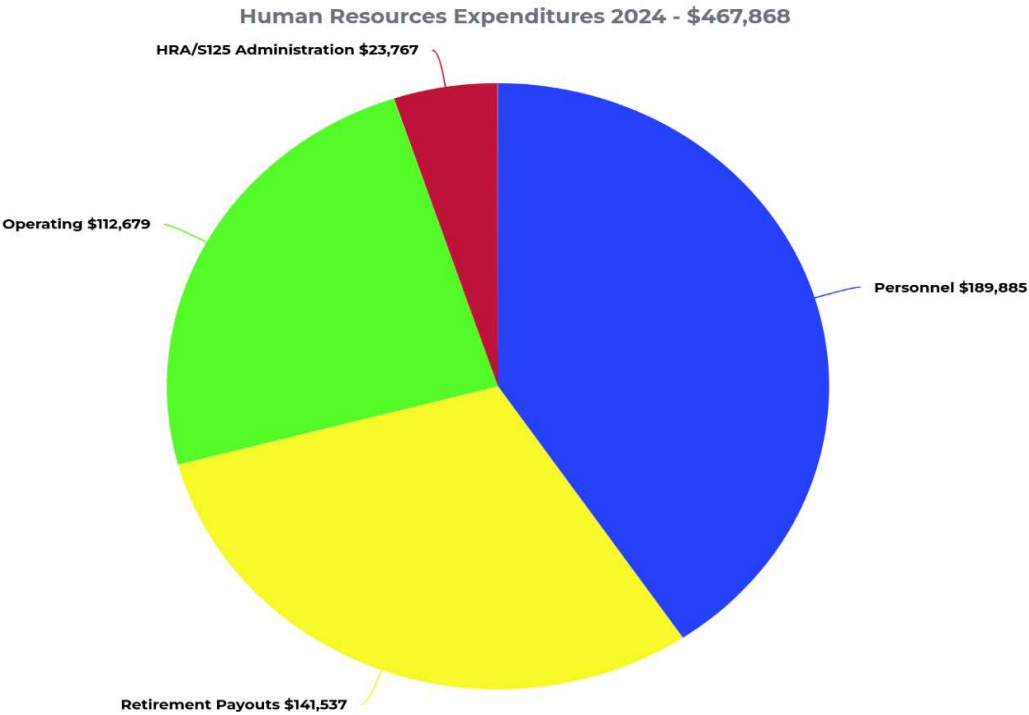
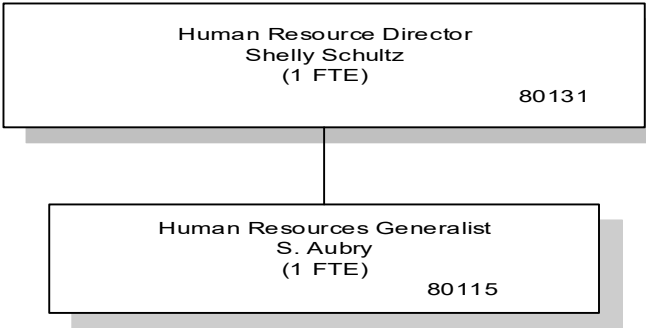
Mission Statement

The Oconto County Human Resources team is committed to develop, implement and support programs and policies for equitable treatment of all employees leading to improved employee welfare, recruitment and retention while remaining committed to the responsibilities of serving in the best interest of the public.

Summary of Responsibilities

- Directing and coordinating an employee position classification and compensation system. Review and update job description.
- Maintaining compliance with employment laws and government regulations and developing policies and procedures to support this.
- Provide training and coaching in the areas of effective leadership, employment law, government regulation, and litigation avoidance.
- Hiring the most-qualified employees by ensuring an effective internal interview process, increasing company visibility in the employment marketplace, identifying the best and most cost-effective recruitment sources, and conducting thorough background checks.
- Retaining our valued employees by assuring effective leadership qualities in our managers; providing competitive wages and benefits, conducting exit interviews and supplying relevant feedback to management.
- Serving as the primary liaison for labor union negotiation, worker's compensation, unemployment, and employment compliance.
- Responsible for plan development, administration and enrollment of all County wide benefit and insurance programs.

Human Resources Organization Chart



2024 Accomplishments

- Negotiated new contract and additional funding source to decrease cost of our benefit consultant (USI) for a \$16,500 savings.
- Implement UKG time and attendance software system and created training and resources to facilitate process.
- Facilitated several department and position restructures and changes within the organization.
- Revised employee handbooks with updated policies and procedures.
- Developed, conducted or coordinated supervisory training in effective performance reviews and set smart goals, improving communication within the organization by identifying personality types (Colors), SharePoint and UKG training.
- Conducted employee benefit meetings at all locations to educate all staff members on new and current benefits provided by the County as well as conducted training at off-site locations to review updated and new handbook policies.
- Coordinated employee events to address the need for increased morale and socialization between the departments such as pumpkin carving, holiday door decorating, ice-cream days and bake sales.
- Facilitated start of new wage and compensation program but updating job description, conducted individual department head meetings and coordinated all necessary data for us by consultant.

2024 Challenges

- Implementation of UKG system to include the whole organization versus the step plan of implementation as originally designed.
- Significant increase in FMLA and unpaid leave processing, along with multiple ADA requests for work accommodations.
- Instability of CPI, the ability to stay competitive with our pay and benefit plans to compete with surrounding public and private employers.
- Maintaining consistency with the administration of policies and protocols between all of the departments to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all employees.

Goals for 2025

- Develop and implement an updated handbook to incorporate new policies and procedures to include the new time and attendance system.
- Collaborate and assist with new policies and updates to the TS County handbook.
- Implement additional UKG module to electronically manage our FMLA and leave programs.
- Negotiation of a new Sheriff Deputy contract for implementation in 2025.
- Continue to develop supervisory training program to include more mid-level management training and first-time manager training.
- Begin to research alternate paid time off programs to ensure Oconto County is not only competitive but also financially responsible.



Office of the County Treasurer

2024 Annual Report

The mission of the County Treasurer is to respectfully serve the people of our county fairly, to support and assist all other County departments with efficiency and attention to detail, and to protect our county's funds by maximizing earnings and maintaining liquidity, as prescribed by state statutes and direction of the County Board of Oconto, and to retain accurate records and up to date (tax) information.

COUNTY TREASURER ORGANIZATION CHART § 59.25

Administrative Assistant

(Full Time)

This position in the Treasurer's office is responsible for the following tasks:

- **County Dept. Receipting** §59.25 / §59.54
- **Treasurer Dept. Receipting**
- **Balance Daily Deposits** §34
- **Process Dept. Accounts Payable Invoices**
- **Process County Expenses** §59.25
- **Land Divisions / CSM's / plats** §236.21
- **Surety Bonds** §70.67
- **Fines/Fees/Forfeitures Report (COURT)** §59.25
- **Real Estate Transfer Report (ROD)**
- **Timber Cutting Permits** §30.44
- **Probate Claims**
- **Bankruptcy Notices**
- **Import 1st installment payments from Muni's.**
- **Dual Control approval process.**

Deputy Treasurer

(Full Time)

This position in the Treasurer's office is responsible for the following tasks:

- **In Rem Tax Foreclosure Process** §75.521
- **Land Sale Process** §75.69
- **Unclaimed Funds Process** §59.66
- **Lottery Credit Process** §79.10
- **Tax Certificates process** §74
- **Ag Use Conversion Charges Invoice** §74.485
- **MFL reports and invoices** §77
- **Tax Account Reconciliations** Audit item
- **Municipality assistance**
- **Department Website**
- **Delinquent Tax Statements**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Positive Payee**

County Treasurer

(Elected—Full Time)

- **Tax Settlements** §74.23-74.31
- **Real Estate / Personal Property Chargebacks**
- **Illegal Taxes**
- **Correction of Errors**
- **Omitted property taxes**
- **Land Information Council Member** §59.72
- **Review In-Rem Foreclosure process** §75.521
- **Review Land Sale Process** §75.69
- **Investments Administrator**
- **Banking Administrator** §59.61 / §59.62 / §219
- **Drainage Board Treasurer** §88.18
- **Process Open Records Requests** §19
- **Legal Custodian Tax & Bank documents** §59.25
- **Management Duties**
- **End of Year Reconciliations – Audit item**
- **Draft Resolutions / Ordinances**
- **Process Debt Service / Bond Payments**
- **Process Dept. Budget**
- **Annual Report**
- **Attend WCTA / WCCO / WGFOA conferences.**

County Treasurer Financial Overview

Tanya Peterson, Treasurer

County Treasurer	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Revenues (Dept 15)	\$929,854.77	\$248,967.98	\$198,503.52	\$158,706.41	\$188,805.01 (^ TAX DEED ADMIN REV.)
Total Expenses (Dept 15)	\$213,323.79	\$218,262.68	\$206,819.43	\$210,218.23	\$239,187.90 (WENT FROM 2.5 TO 3.0 FTE)
Tax Certificates – Real Estate 100.00-12321-12321	\$1,750,140.70	\$1,465,840.21	\$1,416,805.43	\$1,480,410.72	\$1,617,778.01
Interest on Investments 100.00.48110.48110	\$261,810.85	\$146,890.38	\$451,358.05	\$2,021,295.29 *	\$1,806,315.35
					\$1 million budget allocation
Interest on Taxes 100.00.41810.41810	\$570,519.61	\$548,754.98	\$440,077.78	\$423,709.82	\$420,329.46
Real Estate Tax Bill Count				42,062	39,768
Personal Property Tax Bill County				1,449	0 * Eff. 2024 no more PP tax bills

Accomplishments for 2024



Updated Chapter 5 Ordinance – updated with ACT 216 language that effected Wis. Stats. 75.
Unclaimed Funds \$59.66 – created an internal office procedure and necessary templates.
Personal Property Tax Bill Exemption - eff. 2024 tax year – PP tax assessed values moved to the REAL Estate tax bills on certain classification codes. Which means it will be included in the tax foreclosure process.
Work with PMA financial advisors – Investment Advisor Josh Barbian. Laddered \$15 million in county funds over the next 3 years to take advantage of the higher interest rates and to keep interest revenue at \$1 million per year.
Lottery Credit Forms – DOR created an online LC application process in 2024 – LC115 forms will be saved internally as PDFs with a 5-year retention period.
INTEREST REVENUE – Goal was \$1 million in interest, and the goal was achieved again in 2024. Total Interest for 2024 was
Digitized all Treasurer's office notes – cleaned out office binders / paper files / emptied file cabinets / bookcases and moved all into ONE DIGITAL NOTE.

Goals for 2025



Start Succession Planning – work on cross training staff on more Treasurer duties / review office procedures / review all digitized notes and Treasurer's statutes.
Unclaimed Funds task \$59.66 – administer the new office procedure / create office templates / review statute / create master list of unclaimed funds / create EOY reconciliation.
Land Sale - create a new timeline / process to follow the amended Wis. Stats. 75 and Chapter 5 county ordinance.
Work with T-Tech and Land Info Office on a NEW TAX BILL FORMAT for the 2026 tax year – move to a 3-stub tax bill - so there is less confusion amongst landowners mailing tax payments, use plain white letter size paper stock.
Move to one Universal Office Envelope – adjust templates so we can move to using only one type of envelope stock – reduce office supply expenses.
Lease an office printer / scanner / copier – all 3 staff members will be using this one piece of equipment to reduce office expenses.
Promote Vendors to sign up for accounts payable direct deposit vs. paper checks.

**2024 Annual Report
Oconto County Veterans Services**



**OCONTO COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE**

OFFICE

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude.” Harry S. Truman

Department Overview

- Description/Authority for Creation

Chapter 45.80 of the Wisconsin Statutes mandates that each county establishes a **County Veterans Service Officer** and outlines the duties of the Veterans Service Office.

The Oconto County Veterans Service Office is available to assist all resident veterans and their family members. We provide comprehensive support, including information, claims development and submission, and representation in various areas such as:

- Service-connected disability compensation
- Nonservice-connected disability pension
- Vocational training and educational programs
- Home loan guarantees
- Life insurance
- Hospital and domiciliary care
- Healthcare
- Combat veteran readjustment counseling
- Long-term care and veterans' home residency
- Funeral and burial benefits
- Employment/job-search counseling
- Death benefits for surviving dependents
- And many other veterans' benefits

The **VA estimates** the veteran population in Oconto County to be approximately **2,670**.

Chapter 45.81 of the Wisconsin Statutes establishes a **County Veterans Service Commission**, consisting of three Oconto County residents who are veterans, appointed for staggered three-year terms. The Commission is responsible for administering the **Oconto County Veterans Relief Fund**, which provides short-term, temporary financial assistance to resident veterans and their dependents. The Commission reviews claims for financial aid, determines eligibility, and authorizes assistance. Administrative duties are typically delegated to the **County Veterans Service Officer**, who also serves as the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

- Mission

Our mission is to enhance the lives of veterans and their families by connecting them to the benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice.

-Vision

We strive to improve the quality of life for Oconto County veterans and their families by ensuring they receive all available benefits, honoring their dedication and service to our country.

- **Committee**

The Veterans Service department appreciates the collaboration and support of the Administration Committee, which consists of the following members:

Mr. Alan Sleeter (Chair)	Ms. Theresa Willems	Mr. Dennis Kroll
Mr. John Matravers	Ms. Char Meier	Ms. Carol Heise

- **Staff**

Ron Christensen began employment on November 28, 2016, as the full-time Veterans Service Officer. Ron's military service includes 20 years of active duty in the United States Marine Corps from 1985-2005. Ron is accredited by the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion (AL).

Sandy DeCleene began employment on March 2, 2015. Sandy serves as the full-time Deputy Veterans Service Officer. Sandy is accredited by the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion (AL).

The **VA accreditation** granted to our staff members is specifically for the purpose of representing claimants in their VA claims. To maintain accreditation, our staff undergoes continuous education and training. This accreditation also provides staff with access to VA management systems, allowing for more efficient assistance to veterans and their families.

Professional Representation Matters

Formal studies consistently show that veterans who utilize professional veterans service representation, such as the services provided by the Oconto County Veterans Service Office, receive **more benefits** and **larger awards** than those who file claims independently or with non-professional representatives.

Financial Overview 2024

Estimated Revenue	\$15,550.00	Actual Revenue	\$14,229.76
Budgeted Expenditures	\$204,814.75	Actual Expenditures	\$194,296.70
Total Budget Rev/Exp	\$189,264.75	Actual Budget Rev/Exp	\$180,066.94

Our Impact: (most current data available – dates indicated) - (source: <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/expenditures.asp>)

Bottom Line Up Front: In 2023, Oconto County veterans and their family members received a total of **\$39.4 million** in combined Federal VA benefits (the most recent data available). These non-taxable funds are used by veterans and their dependents to pay taxes and purchase goods and services within Oconto County. By receiving these federal payments, veterans and their families contribute to the local economy while also reducing reliance on local resources.



FEDERAL BENEFITS

US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

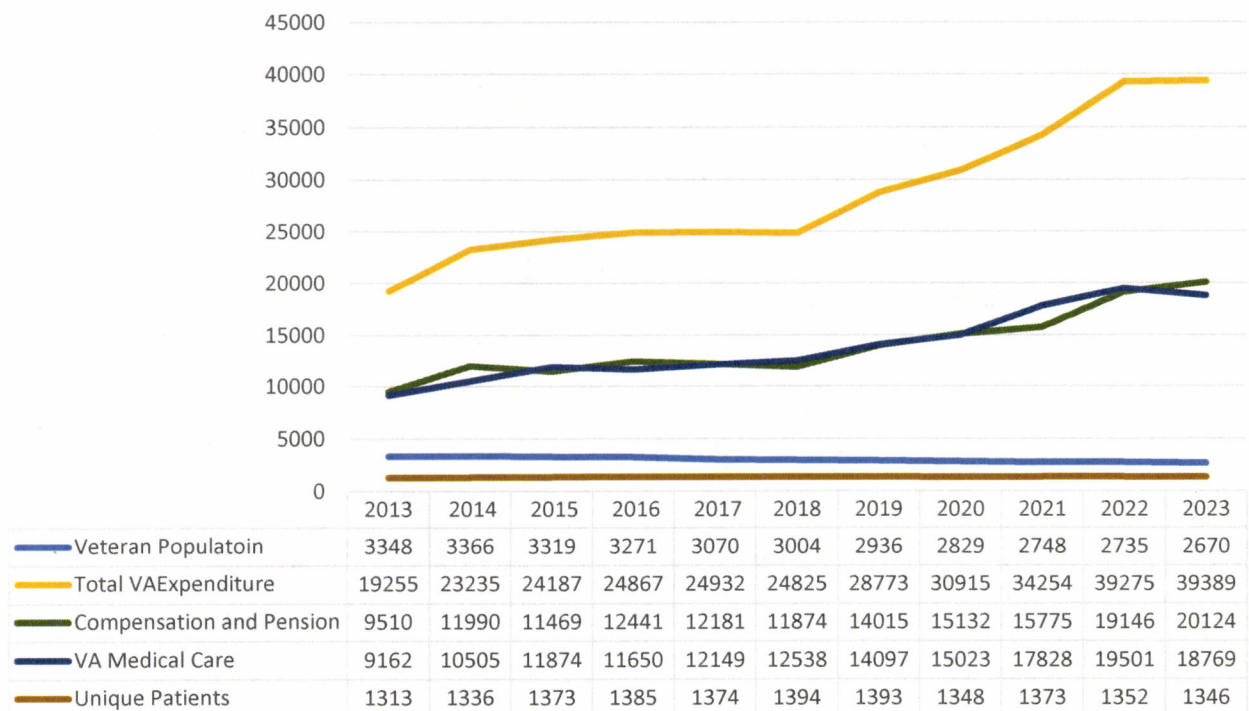
(2023 Data-Most recent available)

<u>Type of Benefit</u>	<u>Amount</u>
▪ Compensation & Pension	\$20,124,000
▪ Readjustment & Vocational Rehabilitation	\$478,000
▪ Insurance & Indemnities	\$19,000
▪ VA Health Care	\$18,769,000
Total	\$39,390,000

Federal VA Statistics: The following chart illustrates key statistics for Oconto County from 2013 to 2023. While the veteran population has shown a steady decline over this period, there has been a notable increase in the total dollar amount received in VA benefits. Additionally, not reflected in the chart, Oconto County saw **36 home loans granted in FY23**, totaling **\$9,711,655**. This equates to an average loan amount of **\$269,768** per loan.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Data Governance and Analytics, United States Veterans Eligibility Trends & Statistics (USVETS) 2023 (most recent available). Prepared by National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics

Oconto County Veteran Statistics 2013 - 2023



CVSO Measure of Efficiency in Delivering Federal VA Benefits		
Oconto County Total CVSO Budget Investment (net) (2022)	Total VA Expenditures in County (2022)	Return on Investment
\$180,066	\$39,389,000	21,774%
ROI=((gains-cost)/cost)x100		



STATE BENEFITS

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Our office assists veterans and their families in navigating the application process for Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) benefits. Applications for various benefits are submitted, reviewed, and adjudicated based on eligibility requirements, with awards or denials issued accordingly.

2024 WDVA Grants

In 2024, our office received two significant grants from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs:

1. A **\$13,750 block grant** to enhance services for veterans and their families.
2. A **\$3,482.02 reimbursement grant** to offset costs associated with our transportation program, further supporting the mobility needs of veterans.

Property Tax Credit for Veterans

Veterans with a 100% VA disability rating, and potentially their surviving spouses, are eligible for the **Property Tax Credit**. This program allows veterans to pay their property taxes upfront and later receive credit when filing their Wisconsin income tax return.

The following chart provides an overview of Oconto County veterans who have received the state property tax credit over the past ten years: (note State of Wisconsin Fiscal Year runs 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024)

WI Property Tax Credit	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OC Vet Pop	3366	3319	3271	3070	3004	2936	2829	2748	2735	2670
OC Vet PTC	114	124	131	142	164	186	187	204	221	239
Total Amt	\$262,528	\$268,851	\$291,258	\$314,971	\$360,297	\$418,772	\$436,795	\$523,042	\$581,205	\$620,675
Average Amt/Rtn	\$2,302.90	\$2,168.20	\$2,223.30	\$2,218.10	\$2,196.90	\$2,251.00	\$2,335.80	\$2,563.90	\$2,629.00	\$2,597.70



LOCAL BENEFITS

Oconto County

In 2024, the office provided \$2,481.84 in Emergency Relief Funds to assist Oconto County Veterans in need. This fund is managed by the Oconto County Veterans Commission. Our appointed Veteran Commissioners for 2024 were Andy School, Renee Dietrich and Bruce Hansen.

Current Year Accomplishments

Goal I: Provide Exceptional Customer Service and Support to Maximize Veterans' Benefits

The office remains committed to delivering exceptional customer service and offering flexible meeting schedules to effectively address the needs of our veterans. We continue to strengthen our presence within the community by fostering local partnerships, attending community events, and providing monthly activity reports to ensure that we reach all veterans and their dependents.

Goal II: Veteran Outreach and Engagement

Our office remains dedicated to providing comprehensive outreach to veterans and their families, aiming to increase benefit utilization and ensure that veterans are connected to the resources they deserve. We engage with the community through a variety of channels, including public meetings, special events, and home visits, to ensure accessibility and reach to as many individuals as possible.

Monthly outreach locations in Gillett, Mountain, and Lakewood are key in offering in-person assistance. These meetings allow us to maintain strong connections with veterans, answer questions, and offer guidance on available benefits.

We also continue to engage in community events, including Veterans Organization meetings, Youth Government Day, the County Fair, Veterans Breakfast, and a local Radio Show. These events provide us with valuable opportunities to interact with veterans and their families and share important information about available services.

Additionally, our office places a strong emphasis on reaching veterans where they are, through regular visits to Assisted Living Centers and Skilled Nursing Facilities. This approach ensures that we can connect with veterans who may have limited mobility and need assistance accessing benefits.

In 2024, we successfully closed out a supplemental grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. This funding helped us meet our outreach and marketing goals, further

expanding our ability to serve veterans and their families and ensure they receive the benefits they've earned.

Through these ongoing efforts, our goal is to provide consistent, accessible, and compassionate service to veterans and their families across the region.

Goal III: Continue Transportation Assistance for Veterans' Scheduled Medical Appointments

The office remains committed to supporting veterans in accessing essential healthcare by continuing transportation assistance for their scheduled medical appointments at VA Clinics and Hospitals in Green Bay, Iron Mountain, Menominee, Appleton, and Milwaukee. To address the transportation needs of veterans, we have successfully recruited fellow veterans as volunteer drivers, ensuring veterans can attend their appointments without logistical barriers. In 2024, our office logged 15,457 miles and provided 138 rides, facilitating veterans' access to crucial health care services. We aim to sustain and expand this initiative to ensure that no veteran faces transportation challenges in obtaining the care they deserve.

Goal IV: Continuing Education

Our commitment to professional growth is demonstrated through consistent engagement in a variety of learning opportunities. We strive to maintain up-to-date knowledge by participating in online training sessions, fulfilling the required continuing education credits, and attending semi-annual training conferences. In 2024, our Association successfully hosted two key training conferences, one in Green Bay and another in Keshena—providing valuable opportunities for networking and skill enhancement.

Goal V: Provide Support to Veterans in Need through the Emergency Relief Fund

We remain dedicated to supporting veterans facing challenging circumstances through our Veterans Emergency Relief Fund. By collaborating closely with our Veterans Commissioners, we ensure that veterans receive timely and essential assistance. Additionally, we strengthen our efforts by leveraging the support of community organizations, which provide valuable resources to further assist those in need.

Current Year Challenges

Veterans Administration (VA) Backlog. Our office provides a significant role between the veterans we serve and the federal government. In fiscal 2024, the VA processed millions of claims and granted benefits to 1.1 million veterans and their survivors. This was a record for the VA. The backlog is coming down and on average it takes 145 days to process a standard claim.

On the Horizon

Staffing Update - As of now, Sandy is planning to retire in early 2026. Given her invaluable contributions and the significant role she plays, finding a suitable replacement will be challenging. To ensure a smooth transition, I will begin working closely with Human Resources to initiate the hiring process for her replacement in advance.

Outreach – We are excited to announce the opening of our new outreach location in Riverview! This location will be staffed every Tuesday, offering residents in the northern part of the county a convenient, closer-to-home option to access our services

Summary

This report presents a variety of statistics related to budgets, expenditures, and numerical data, all of which are crucial for assessing our performance and guiding future efforts. We acknowledge that while there is an infinite amount of work to be done, time remains finite. The veteran population may be declining, but the expansion of benefits has resulted in an increased workload for our office. However, this increase also means significantly more funds are being deposited into the accounts of veterans and their families. This ongoing financial boost is a valuable contribution to the local economy.

Once a veteran accesses VA services or benefits, the impact is profound. It not only helps to reduce homelessness and suicide rates but also alleviates economic and financial stress. Most importantly, it strengthens the community as federal and state dollars flow into the local economy, enabling veterans and their families to purchase essential goods and services—whether it's paying rent, settling bills, buying vehicles, or buying food, all of which benefit local businesses and the broader economy.

While financial numbers and statistics are important, we always remember that behind each figure is a real person whose life can be transformed. Our office holds each of them in the highest regard. Through our efforts, we are privileged to make a meaningful and lasting impact, improving the lives of veterans and their families within our community.

OCONTO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

2024
ANNUAL REPORT

...promoting healthy and responsible families

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MISSION

To responsibly serve, support, and protect the people and places throughout our community.

VISION

An empowered community where safety, sustainability, and well-being are enhanced by our work.

VALUES

- Accountability—Ensuring decisions become actions
- Excellence—Providing the highest quality services
- Respect—Valuing the differences and perspectives of all
- Integrity—Being honest, fair, and trustworthy
- Teamwork—Collaborating to create effective and efficient solutions

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Health and Human Services Board Members:

The 2024 Annual Report highlights the outstanding accomplishments of the Oconto County Department of Health and Human Services under the guidance of the Oconto County Health and Human Services Board.



The Administrative Support Division provides valuable administrative support to all staff and divisions including front desk calls and walk in client management, coordination of clinical appointments, prescription management, billing, accounting, ordering, and other functions. Seven leased fleet vehicles are managed by this team for scheduling use for county staff doing home visits and appointments which has proven to be cost effective transportation within the county. The 2024 financial summary highlights again a positive fiscal year in meeting consumer needs all within budget.

The Public Health Division has been extremely active in 2024 developing new services in the county. The Child Death Review Team was initiated by Public Health to review childhood deaths and examine as a multi-disciplinary team if the deaths can be preventable. The Senior Falls Prevention Program continues to be strong and added Bingocize in 2024 to help promote stability and wellness within our aging population. 2024 marked a move of our satellite WIC office over to the Oconto Falls Encompass Daycare to be co-located where children and families receive daycare services. A need identified by the Oconto School District and many other schools was to develop a vaping curriculum which has been launched in every district that requests this presentation. Coalitions that include Substance Use, Transportation, and Safe Kids are back to meeting and are making excellent progress to make changes and improve resources in our community.

For the 3rd year, the Economic Support Division coordinated the Healthy Loving Environment curriculum jointly with the Public Health Department addressing environmental, food safety, and other topics to enhance childcare providers' knowledge base in the important work of caring for children. Fraud investigations continued to be a priority and in 2024 captured \$139,322 in overpayments. Economic Support staff covered many call center shifts and caseload increases that resulted in a recommendation to add an additional economic support worker after careful work volume and cost analysis. The Economic Support Team works together as a team and continues to provide high quality economic support services and is very high performing within the five county Bay Lake IM Consortium.

The Family Services Division consistently ranks at the top of State averages on several measured metrics regarding Child Welfare performance. As one of the highest-ranking counties statewide, Oconto County met monthly with out-of-home-placement clients 99.79% of the time with the federal benchmark at 95%. The division continues to offer parenting classes to the community at the New Heights building in Gillett. A great success was receiving renewed funding for the Youth Justice Innovation Grant offering mentoring to youth justice clients to help reduce recidivism. Management and staff aggressively pursue state grants to provide additional services and support to child welfare and youth justice families with a goal of keeping children and youth with their biological family or family members whenever possible. Targeted efforts include developing new services and creative case planning to reduce high cost out of home placements.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The Community Services Division continues to manage 24/7 crisis services during daytime and after hours under contract. Strong collaborations with internal partners and community stakeholders occurred in a multitude of services delivered this year by the division. Staff manage adult protective services and increased staff support to help screen calls related to APS inquiries upfront. OWI assessments continued and an added contractual staff was hired to serve these cases referred to for substance use treatment. The Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program saw growth and partnered with Marinette County for enhancing service delivery. 2024 saw trending growth in the Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) caseload resulting in the need to hire contracted staff mid-year due to State and Federal requirements to not have a waitlist. Even with this adjustment, there continues to be high caseloads in this program area that will require remedy in 2025. Staff continue to meet with vulnerable citizens to assist them and offer support.



The Vocational Services Division located at New View celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. An outdoor covered seating area was built in remembrance of past clients served. Several maintenance and upgrade projects were completed to improve the grounds. Production programming continued this year providing opportunities for disabled adults to have meaningful work. Staff engage with the employees on the production floor to guide them in their important work. Recent trends have been to take work teams to businesses to provide work experience with the goal of businesses hiring them on. This summer, the CLTS summer program served twenty-two youth with some form of disability or impairment to provide a summer camp experience that provides high quality educational and experiential recreational opportunities to go places in the northeast region.

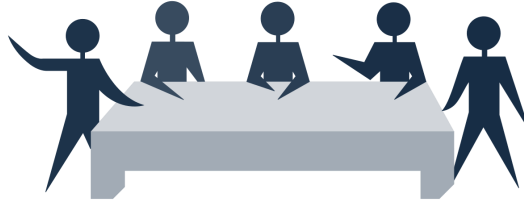
On 10/31/24, the County Board established an Aging Unit within the Oconto County Department of Health and Human Services to oversee transportation, nutritional services, elderly benefit specialist and caregiver programs in 2025. From October to December 2024, contracts were developed for transportation services with Menominee Regional Transit and with Marinette County Elderly Services to provide congregate and home delivered meals. Work began to partner with the Wolf River ADRC in transitioning the Elderly Benefit Specialist position to the Oconto Falls ADRC location which allows for nearly full compensation for this position utilizing a federal drawdown for the salary costs. The Alzheimer and Family Caregiver programs are coordinated within the Economic Support Division, and other aging programs including the nail clinic and aging exercise programs are being coordinated by Public Health. Oconto County Department of Health and Human Services transitioned these essential services in a relatively short period of time and thanks goes out to the Vocational Manager, Public Health Manager, Deputy Director/Operations Manager, and to the staff within the divisions that took the challenge, developed the programming, and will continue to enhance these services in 2025.

As you see from our annual report, there is an expansive range of mandated and essential services being delivered by our county and contracted staff. As director, I continue to be amazed by the dedication of our employees to deliver high-quality, cost-effective services to our citizens. 2025 will have challenges, however, through strong unwavering partnerships with our Health and Human Services Board, our County Board, and our other county departments, we will possess the grit, endurance, and determination Oconto County is known for in providing quality services for our community.

Regards,
Scott Shackelford

Director - Oconto County Department of Health and Human Services

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Health and Human Services Board

Tom Bitters, Chair
6509 Sprise Road
Lena, WI 54139

Kathy Gohr
8811 Gohr Road
Krakow, WI 54137

Jolene Barkhaus, Vice Chair
7122 County Road E
Abrams, WI 54101

Karl Ballestad
5585 Elm Avenue
Oconto, WI 54153

Barton Schindel
235 S Franklin Street
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

David Van Zeeland
11915 Bunn Lane
Crivitz, WI 54114

Stephanie Holman
127 S Oakland Avenue
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Tracy Winkler
12336 Rusch Lane
Gillett, WI 54124

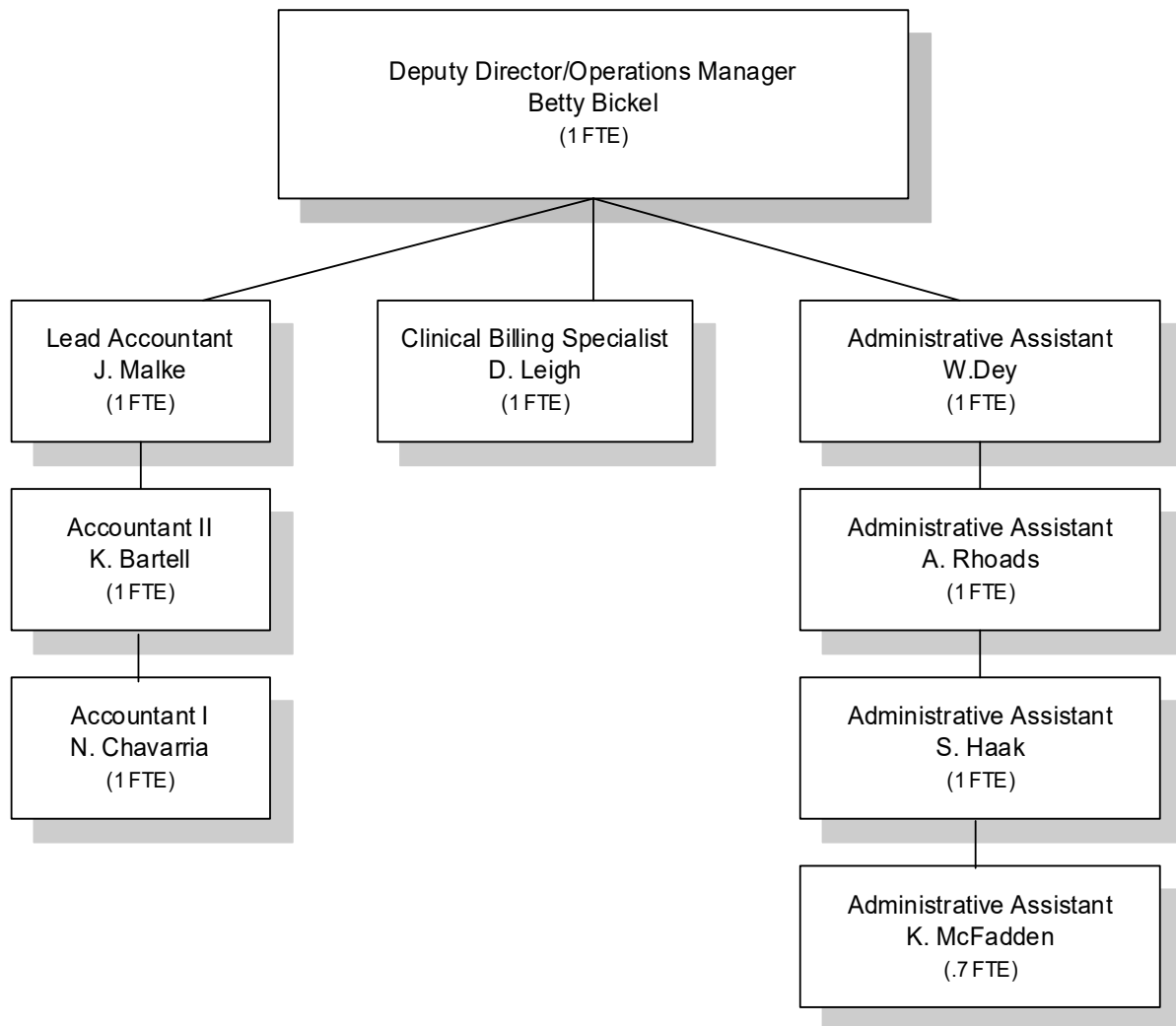
Carolyn Barke
6048 State Highway 32
Gillett, WI 54124

Aging and Disability Resource Center Governing Board Representatives

Carolyn Barke
Stephanie Holman

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT DIVISION

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

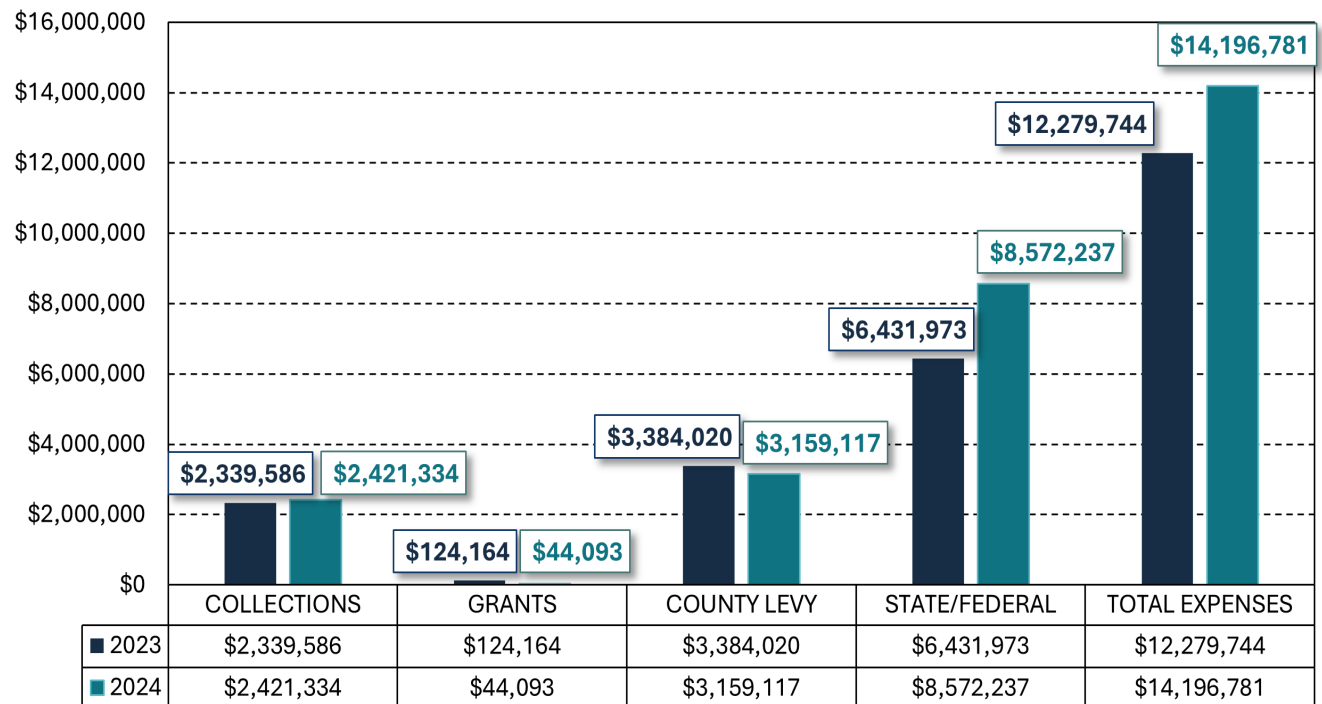


AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 9
COUNTY FTE: 8.7

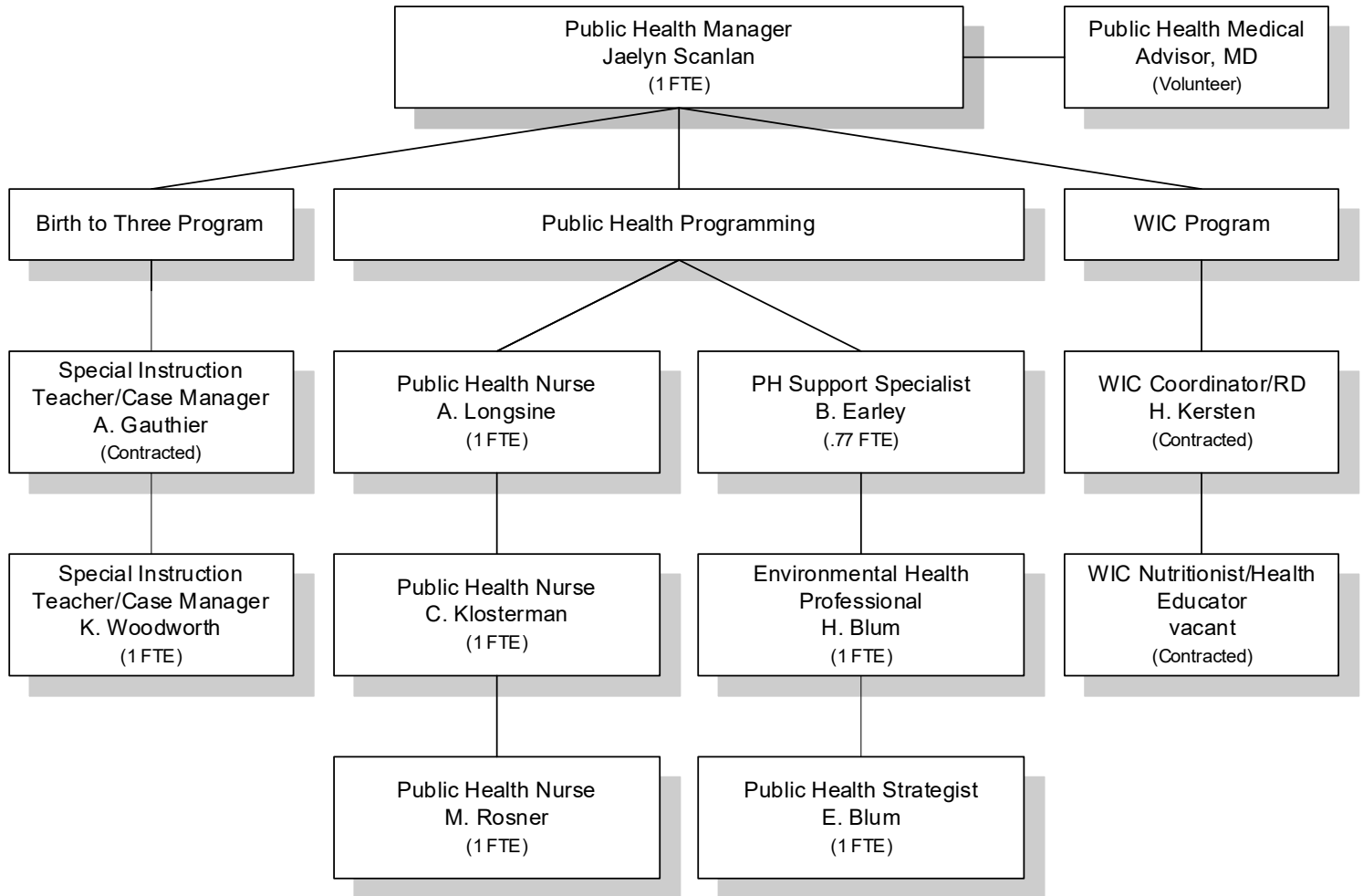
12/31/2024

2024 Financial Summary

Oconto County Department of Health and Human Services



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 8
COUNTY FTE: 7.77
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 3

As of 12/31/2024

Communicable and Vaccine Preventable Disease Prevention and Control



Communicable Disease Cases by Category

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control is the investigation and implementation of measures to contain communicable diseases.

**See Appendix for disease by category.*

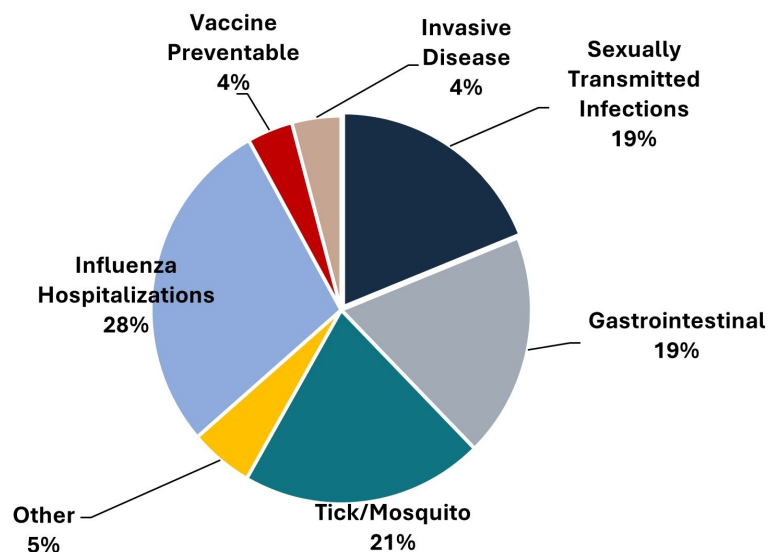
Total Cases Reported

745

Total Confirmed/Probable Cases

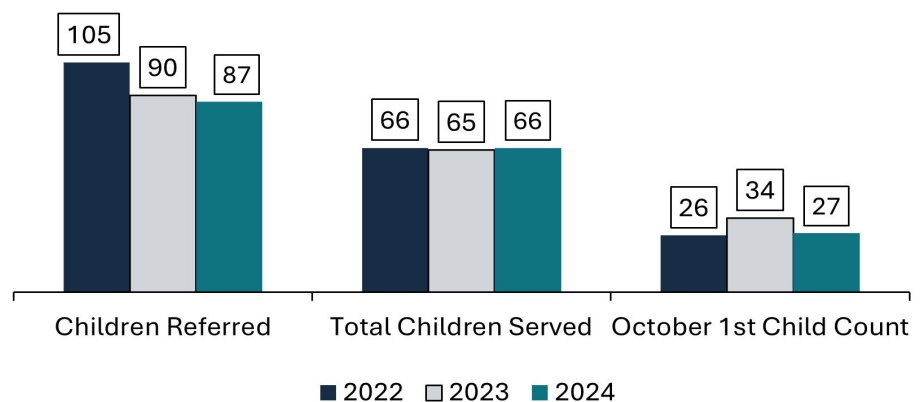
339

**percentages are based off of confirmed and probable cases*



Birth to 3 Program

Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities.



In October 2024 the State of Wisconsin notified Oconto County after it's annual review that its program is compliant for the required indicators and no findings of non-compliance were issued.

Healthy Oconto County

The Healthy Oconto County Steering Committee continued oversight of the implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan. The purpose of Healthy Oconto is to mobilize people, organizations and stakeholders in our county to collaboratively address issues that impact health. Partners include—Bellin Health Oconto Hospital, CESA #8, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, NorthLakes Community Clinic, Sheriff 's Office, Public Health, Tri-County United Way and Libertas. Highlights of the activity in the three workgroups included:



Alcohol & Other Drug Misuse

- Attended the Oconto County Fair, Waterfest, and the Fly-in as part of the Recovery in the Community Campaign
- Surveyed 384 community members about substance use issues
- Procured 400 Deterra medication disposal units for community distribution

Mental Health - Health and Wellbeing Community Action Team

- Hosted the second annual Walk in the Woods: Mental Health for Men event
- Became an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Sponsored the Health, Empowerment, Resilience (HER) program

Transportation

- Supported and promoted the integration of Oconto County Transit into the community
- Wrote letters of support to Oconto County to support the procurement of a new vehicle for Oconto County Transit
- Attended Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Committee (NEWTC) to learn about neighboring communities/resources
- Held meetings with private service providers to build a pool of specialty medical transport providers— promoted resources to hospital staff and community agencies



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION (continued)

New Initiatives

Vaping Prevention Program

Oconto County Public Health started teaching a vaping prevention program called CATCH My Breath to middle school students within the county. This program empowers students with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions about e-cigarettes and resist the social pressure to vape. It is the only school-based vaping prevention program proven to reduce the likelihood of vaping among youth. Public Health is working on getting the curriculum into the other districts.

- Since December of 2024, 264 middle school students at Suring and Oconto School Districts have participated
- After the course 100% of students felt comfortable saying no if a friend asked them to vape

Safe Kids Worldwide

- Safe Kids Worldwide is a nonprofit organization that works to reduce unintentional injuries to children ages 0-19 in over 20 countries. Oconto County is 1 of 10 coalitions in the State. Locally Safe Kids Oconto County had success in 2024 by securing grant monies to strengthen our child passenger safety program. We continue to work on strengthening local partnerships to address community safety needs.
- Safe Kids educates families, raises awareness of childhood dangers, help create safer environments and advocates for improved laws to protect children.
- Life jacket loaner stations were also established in additional locations for our “Kids Don’t Float” program.



Child Death Review Team

Oconto County formally established the Child Death Review Team in September of 2024. The Public Health approach helps to improve understanding of all causes of preventable child deaths. Each case that is reviewed contributes to the wider picture of how our youngest residents are dying, allowing for prevention efforts at the local, state and national levels.



The Goals of our team are to:

- Improve our understanding of how and why children unexpectedly die
- Identify the need to influence policies and programs
- Improve child health, safety and protection
- Prevent other child deaths

Bingocize

Members from Public Health and UW-Extension became certified to teach Bingocize as an addition to our Fall Prevention and Reduction Program to educate the public on fall prevention and incorporate exercise. Clients participate two times a week for ten weeks and receive fall prevention education, play bingo for prizes, and participate in graded exercise. Implemented in late 2024, one 10-week class was completed at the Oconto Falls Senior Center and had 9 participants.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION (continued)

Environmental Health Overview

Public Health's environmental program assisted in more than 41 cases of persons or agencies needing assistance with general environmental health issues. Popular topics included business licensing, water questions, air quality concerns (wildfire smoke, mold, and air purifier questions), food safety, and vermin. Environmental Health currently sits on one national working group, The Rural and Frontier Environmental Health group. This group is active in pushing Environmental Health priorities forward to help create safer and healthier communities

Human Health Hazards (not counting lead cases)

- 15 cases were opened, 13 were worked and closed, 1 required new placards. 2 previous placards were resolved as the orders were met and the case was closed.
- 6 cases were worked with Adult Protective Services and 3 were with Child Protective Services.

Well Water

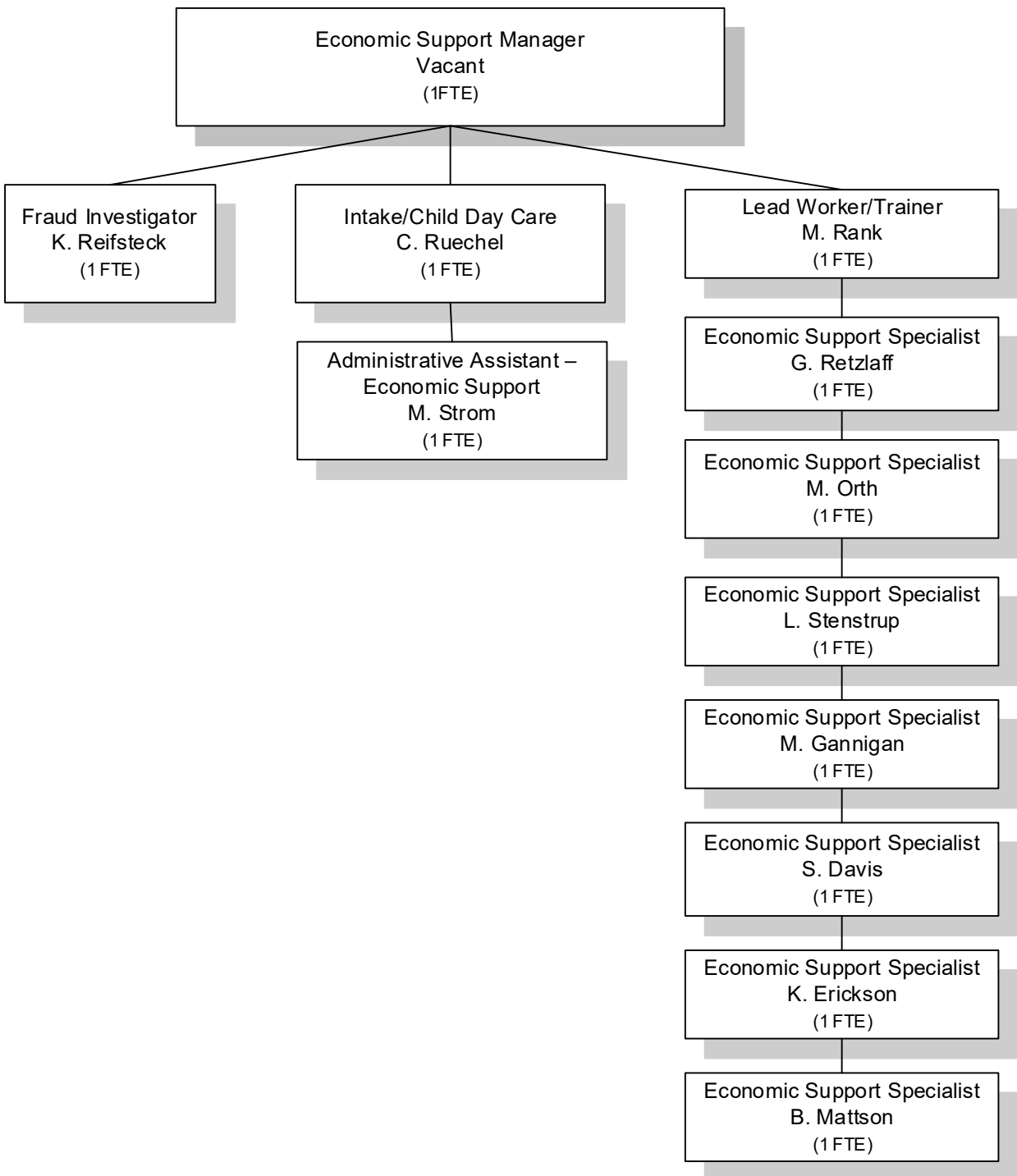
- 33 tests given out, 26 completed with a 79% completion rate.
- Public Health participates in a Health Conservation working group made up of county Land and Water Conservation and Public Health Departments statewide. This partnership identifies solutions to groundwater issues.

Radon

- 259 tests were purchased.
- Total of 125 tests completed with a 48% completion rate.
- 9 completed mitigation that Public Health was made aware of.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT DIVISION

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ECONOMIC SUPPORT



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 12

COUNTY FTE: 12

CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

As of 12/31/2024

ECONOMIC SUPPORT DIVISION (continued)

Fraud Investigations

2024 Fraud Statistics

Foodshare Overpayments \$139,322.00

We were unable to capture approximately an additional \$71,000 in Medical Assistance overpayment funds due to new State & Federal policies.

78

Investigations

2

Criminal Referrals

16

Intentional Program Violations/Citations

2024 Fraud Focus

- Based on new rules and regulations that came into effect in 2023, Fraud Investigations can no longer be conducted the way they have historically been processed. The new State rules and regulations mandate that all Intentional Program Violations must be processed via the Court System or by an Administrative Hearing. This puts extreme additional time processing strain on not only the Fraud Investigator, but also Corporation Counsel and the County Court System.
 - ◇ As a result, our Fraud Investigator; Kim Reifsteck, with our County Corporation Counsel; Beth Ellingson, and Court Commissioner, all collaborated diligently to craft a successful, streamlined process that would be permissible under the new State rules and regulations.
 - ◇ The internal new process crafted, allows Oconto County to impose both a court ordered Intentional Program Violation Sanction as well as court ordered restitution/repayment.
 - ◇ The ultimate goal is that the Oconto County - Economic Support continues to be the best advocate of public-funded dollars. Oconto County Fraud Investigator, Kim Reifsteck, ensures those funds are properly allocated and/or recouped and shuts down fraudulent activities successfully and diligently.
- Per Federal Regulations, if a client does not show for court, we are not able to capture the overpayment. Additionally, an Intentional Program Violation could not be imposed because the client was not present to testify to the evidence. The other way to then obtain the overpayment and Intentional Program Violation is to process via an Administrative Hearing which is a straining time processing practice.
 - ◇ The Economic Support Fraud Investigator, also collaborated with the Court Commissioner and Corporation Counsel on this matter. Both determined that since our Fraud Investigator submits to the court all-encompassing evidence that would be testified to, the Court Commissioner is at liberty to issue a conviction based on the evidence submitted, and not dismiss on the basis the client in question did not appear in court.
 - ◇ This is a substantial aid in time reduction to fraud processing for all parties as well as not having the need to conduct additional Administrative Hearings. This process meets Federal Regulations so the overpayment can be captured, an Intentional Program Violation can be issued, and restitution/repayment can be collected.

2024 Child Care Program Highlights

Healthy Loving Environment Education Series

In HLE's third year of implementation, 10 out of 16 Oconto County regulated child care providers participated. Participants grew since our program's inception in 2022 from 26 to 31. We had 100% participation and all 31 successfully completed the program during the months of March, April and May of 2024. Being fiscally responsible, the program was administered in 3 months rather than over 5 or 6 months. Subjects taught in this series were:

- Meet Birth to 3 Program
- Emotional Intelligence
- Perception
- Bed bugs and Integrated Pest Management

Collaboration in Oconto County DHHS continued with subjects taught by B-3 Coordinator, Amanda Gauthier, Service Coordinator/Special Instruction Teacher, Heather Blum, Environmental Health Professional and Carla Ruechel, Child Care Coordinator. All 31 participants earned continued education credits. Each regulated provider received a 2024 sticker for their HLE yard sign. Provider feedback was very positive.



Provider feedback was very positive. On the post-program survey,

100%

of respondents said they would recommend HLE to another childcare provider.

Child Care Provider Statistics

Currently, Oconto County has 8 Licensed Family, 7 Licensed Group and 1 Certified Child Care Provider. Out of these 16 Regulated Providers, one certified provider voluntarily closed on 3/27/24 and became a licensed family provider on 3/28/24. Four providers are not participating in the YoungStar Quality Rating system to be able to have children authorized to their facility.

Not included in the 16 providers, was a licensed public school program that voluntarily closed on 4/24/24.



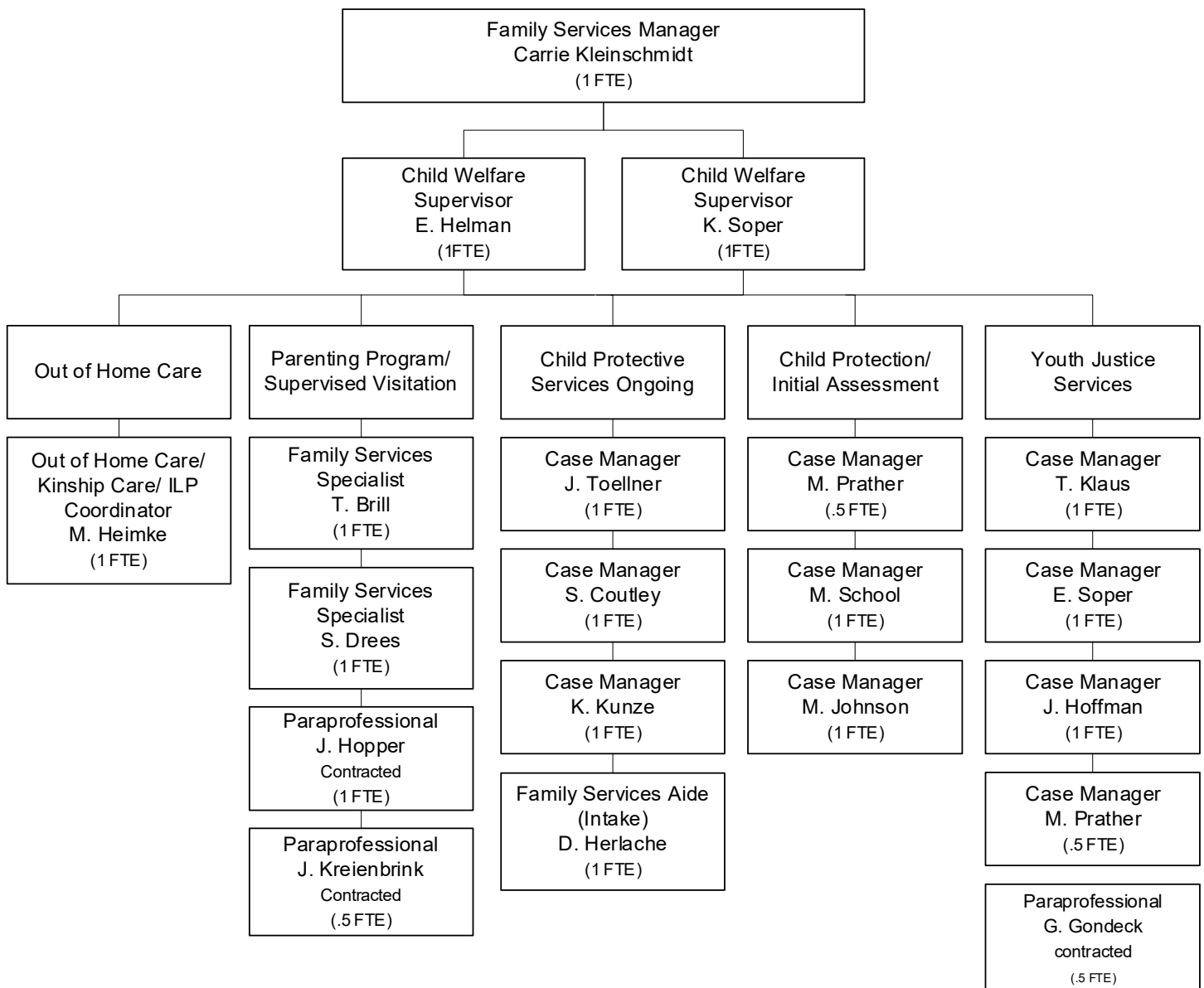
Child Care Counts Stabilization Program Continues

In November 2023, Gov. Tony Evers allocated \$170 million in emergency funding and directed Wisconsin Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) to continue the Child Care Counts through June 2025. This Stabilization Program is done in rounds. Round 1 funding period was Nov. 2021-July 2022, Round 2 was Aug. 2022-April 2023, Round 3 was May 2023-Jan. 2024, Round 4 runs February 2024-June 2024, and Round 5 runs July 2024-June 2025. Once approved for payments, eligible providers may continue to receive ongoing monthly payments, providing the financial stability they need to stay open, to recruit and retain qualified staff, and to continue providing high-quality care for children.

These funds will be distributed through two programs to stabilize the early care and education field-Payment Program A – Increasing Access to High-Quality Care, Payment Program B – Funding Workforce Recruitment and Retention.

FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FAMILY SERVICES



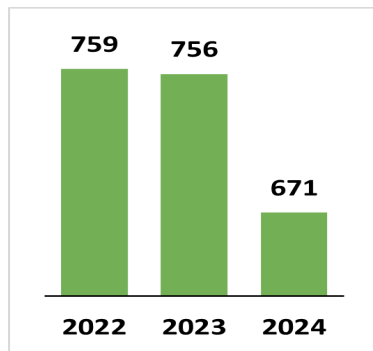
AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 16
 COUNTY FTE: 16
 CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 2

12/31/2024

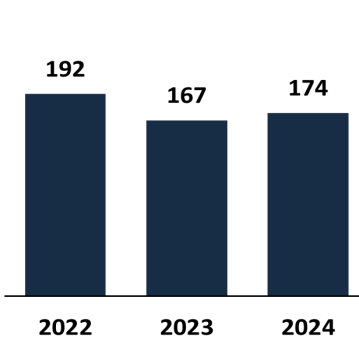
Child Abuse and Neglect/Service Reports

A child abuse and/or neglect report is assessed by the division to determine the course of action. The types of abuse and/or neglect and the investigation results are tracked. At times, case managers offer voluntary services to families where there are concerns in the home that do not rise to the level of requiring a Child Protective Services investigation.





of Reports



of Screened In Reports



Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations in 2024 (Children Affected)

Neglect	 194
Physical Abuse	 68
Sexual Abuse	 23
Emotional Damage/Abuse	 10
Drug Affected Infant	0
Unborn Child Abuse	2



When a report is received by the Department and screened in, the assigned case manager has 60 days to complete the investigation and write the initial assessment report.

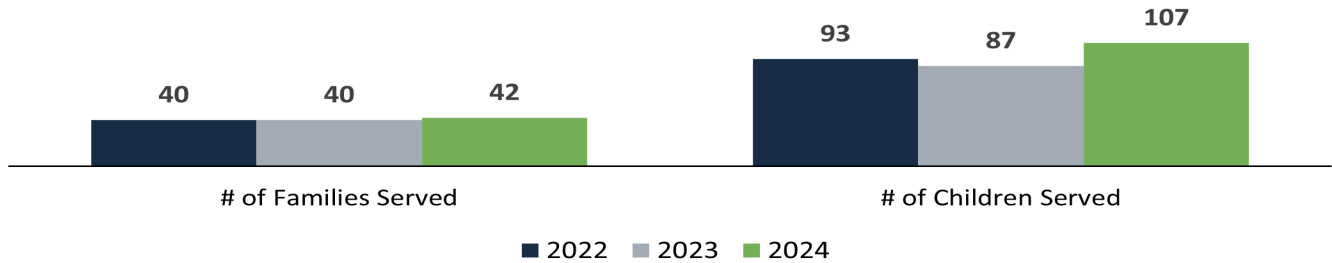
Oconto County case managers are completing initial assessments

100%

timely as compared to the state average

81.6%.

2024 Parent Education and Supervised Visitation



Oconto County currently offers two different parenting programs.

- The Parent Empowerment Program is Oconto County's primary parenting program that is offered year-round. The goal of this program is to empower parents to raise happy, healthy children. This is done by teaching skills to parents, building confidence, positive role modeling, connecting to available services in the community, and providing information to gain knowledge to be a better parent. These services are currently being offered in the home of the parents. The amount of time that the program takes to complete can vary depending on the participation of the parent.
- The Parent Project® is a program for parents with children ages 10-18 who have challenging behavior issues. This is a 12-week group-based program that is offered two times per year. In the Parent Project model, facilitators work directly with parents to help improve their child's school attendance and performance, reduce family conflict, curb drug and alcohol use, prevent runaways, stop violent behavior, and develop strong in-home prevention and intervention strategies.



Out of Home Placements



The Department of Children and Families recognized Oconto County's successful efforts at completing and documenting casework contacts for children in out-of-home care. The efforts of staff have directly contributed to Wisconsin exceeding the federal requirement that at least 95% of children in out-of-home care have face-to-face contact with a caseworker at least once a month.

As one of the highest performing counties statewide, Oconto County demonstrated the exceptional performance of **99.79%**. The state average is 97.2%.

FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

Foster Homes	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	35	30	38
Cost	\$208,486.29	\$301,394.53	\$332,494.31
Treatment Foster Homes	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	5	1	4
Cost	\$82,756.88	\$32,965.64	\$19,085.85
Group Homes	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	2	2	0
Cost	\$37,680.40	\$145,893.42	\$0
Shelter Care	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	0	2	1
Cost	\$0	\$9,506.88	\$3,025
Secure Detention	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	10	15	5
Cost	\$25,290	\$18,250	\$7,320
Respite	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	12	18	21
Cost	\$13,760	\$12,760	\$9,800
Correctional Facilities	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	0	0	0
Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0
Residential Care Centers	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	2	3	4
Cost	\$115,019.70	\$310,968.44	\$358,734.42
Subsidized Guardianships	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	18	18	18
Cost	\$82,391.24	\$140,828.78	\$148,200
Kinship	2022	2023	2024
# of Children Voluntary	49	53	58
# of Children Court Ordered	22	21	14
Cost	\$204,035.49	\$192,812.26	\$238,309.71
Supervised Independent Living	2022	2023	2024
# of Children	0	1	1
Cost	\$0	\$480	\$3,680

2024 Licensed Foster Homes



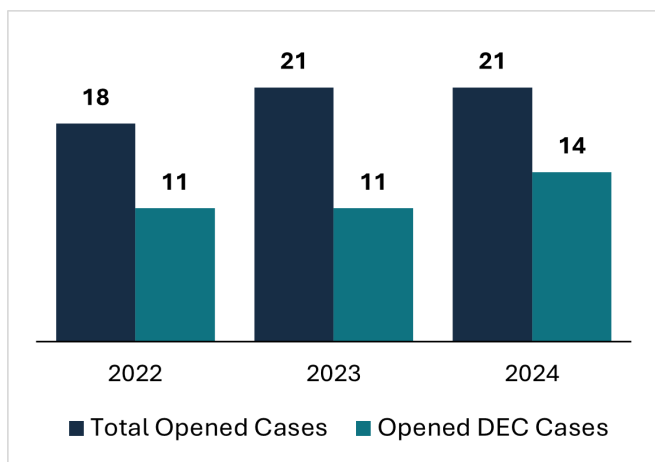
- Throughout 2024, Oconto County had a total of **21** foster homes.
- **5** of these homes were licensed for child specific placements.
- **16** of the homes were licensed to accept any children placed in out of home care.

FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

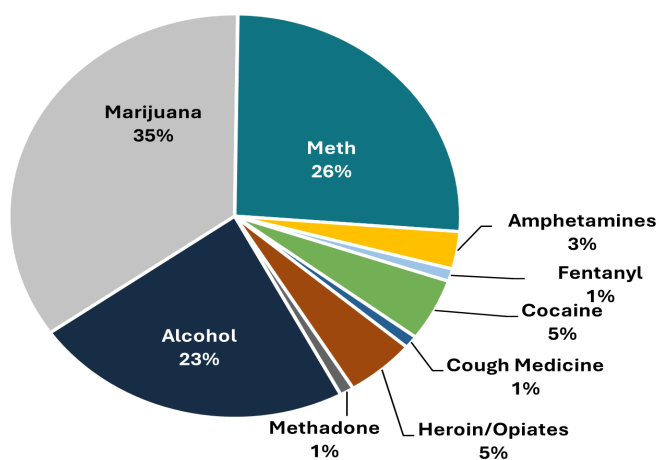
Oconto County CPS Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Data

The Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program is a multi-disciplinary team to enhance the response to Child Protective Services cases and criminal cases involving drug endangered children. Drug endangered children are children who are exposed to caregiver drug use or lack of protection from their caregiver from other people's drug use. The program has a national level, a state level, and county level. Oconto County's program includes child protection, law enforcement, probation and parole, and public health.

CPS Cases Opened for Ongoing Services

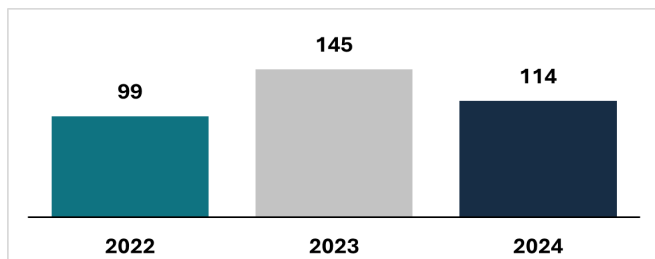


Caregiver Drug Use in DEC Investigations

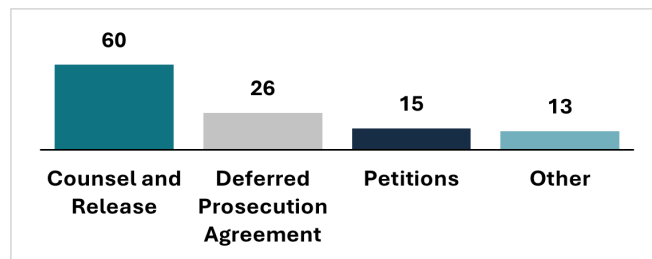


Youth Justice Services

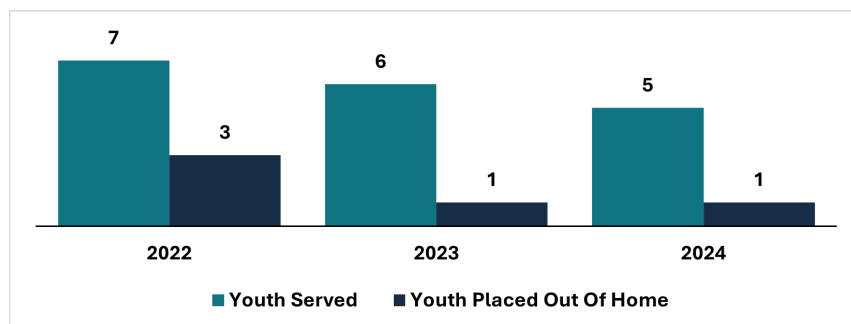
of Reports



2024 Outcomes

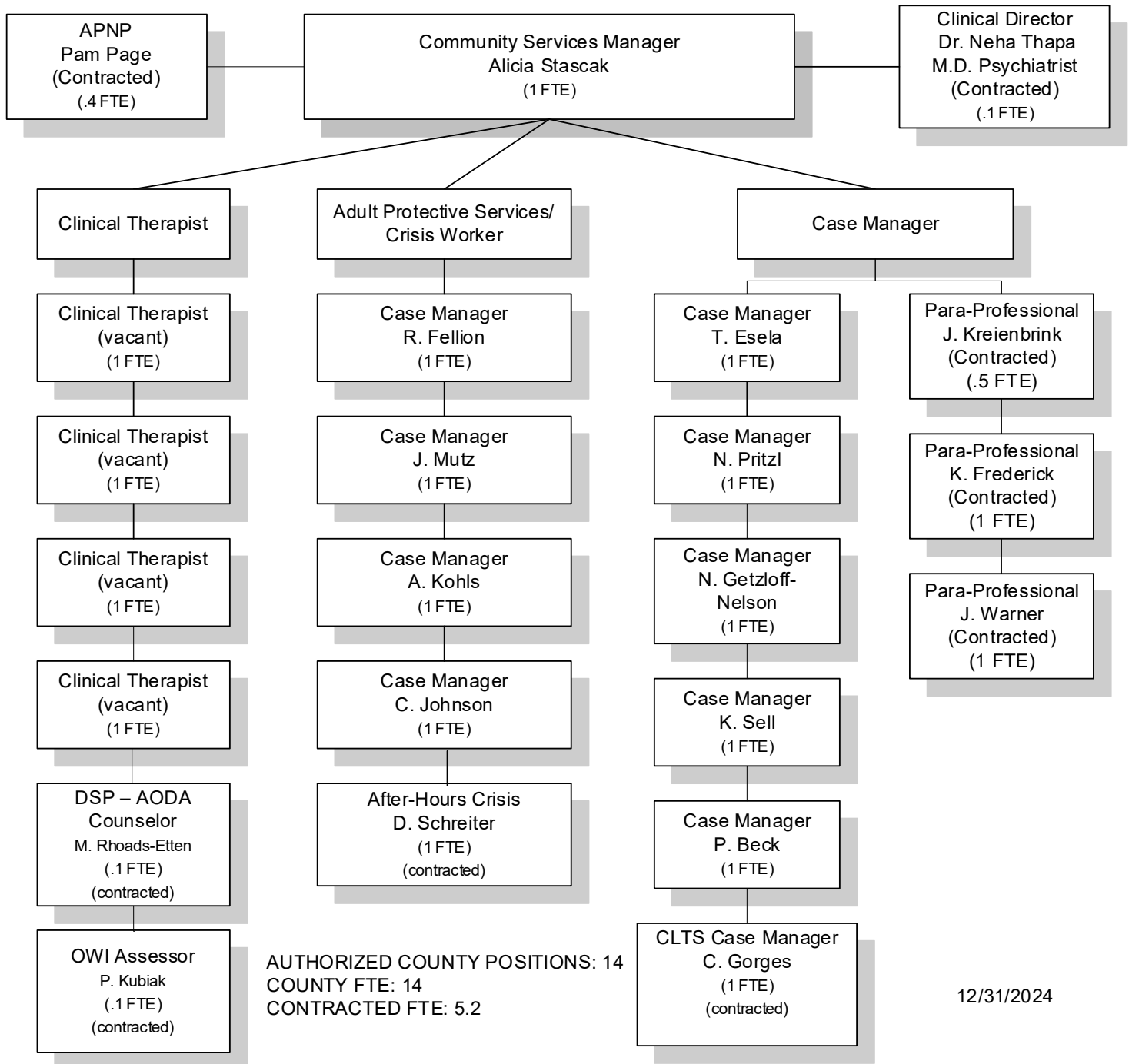


Intensive Supervision Program



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICES



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

2024 Crisis Services/Adult Protective Services (APS)/ Elder At Risk Programs

Program	# of Adolescent Clients	# of Adult Clients	# of Elder* Clients	Total
Crisis Services	139	379	52	570
Adult Protective Services	0	47	0	47
Elder At Risk	0	0	99	99
Total	139	426	151	716

* Elder is defined as any adult over the age of 60

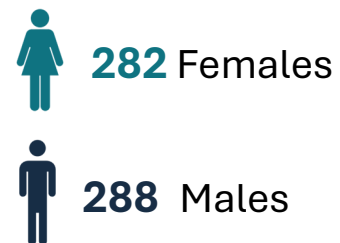
Crisis Services

A mental health crisis can take many forms. Crisis Workers assess for safety risks and attempt to provide urgent assistance. A mental health crisis does not always mean someone is a danger to themselves or others.

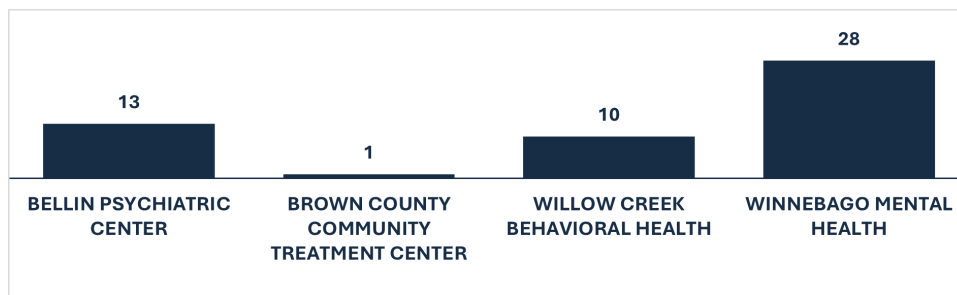
2024 Achievements:

- Community outreach for Crisis Services 24/7 serving all of Oconto County.
- Connecting youth and adults with mental health and substance use recovery services within the county.

The Crisis Services Program served:



2024 Emergency Medical Detentions (EM-1's)



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

Adult Protective Services

Adult protective services investigate allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation to vulnerable adults ages 18-59. Interventions may include referral to outside resources/agencies, education, referral to law enforcement, guardianship or emergency protective placements.

The Adult Protective Services Program served:

 **24** Females

 **23** Males

Elder At Risk Program

Elder at Risk staff work with any person who is 60 years of age or older who has experienced, is experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.

In 2024 Program Staff:

- Hosted Spring Elder Abuse Awareness events with local banks and community partners, and facilitated quarterly meetings for the Elder at Risk I Team involving banks, managed care organizations, law enforcement, and public health.

The Elder At Risk Program served:

 **52** Females

 **38** Males

Children's Long Term Support Program (CLTS)

The Children's Long Term Support Program helps children with disabilities and their families. The services help children live their best lives at home and in the community. The program provides case management and funding for support services, skill development, physical aids and home modifications to help meet the children's needs.

In 2024, the CLTS Program served

160

Children
(143 Served in 2023)

The number of children in need of these services continues to grow. To support the needs of the children in Oconto County and comply with State mandates to eliminate the current waitlist, Oconto County added a contracted CLTS position in August 2024.

Month	# of Children Eligible for Program but on Waitlist
January, 2024	12
February, 2024	18
March, 2024	22
April, 2024	23
May, 2024	19
June, 2024	26
July, 2024	28
August, 2024	33
September, 2024	34
October, 2024	28
November, 2024	29
December, 2024	18

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

Outpatient Clinic

Our outpatient clinic offers counseling services for youth and adults who are experiencing mental health challenges and/or substance abuse issues.

■ MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

A mental illness is a condition that disrupts a person's thoughts, feelings, social skills, and/or daily living.

	Number of Mental Health Clients	
	2023	2024
• In 2024 therapist vacancies significantly impacted the number of clients serviced	201	100

■ SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING

A substance use disorder is a pattern of use of an intoxicating substance leading to significant impairment or distress. The substance is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.

	2023	2024
• Number of Substance Abuse Clients	232	60
• Number of OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) Assessments	136	130

**Assessments were referred out due to staff vacancies*

■ MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

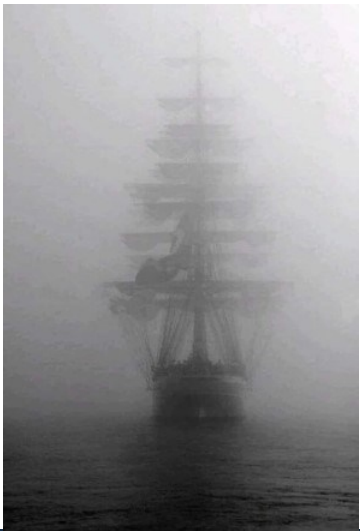
The clinic offers medication management for individuals who require medication to manage their mental health symptoms

	2023	2024
• Number of Medication Management Clients	220	217

Changing Course Program

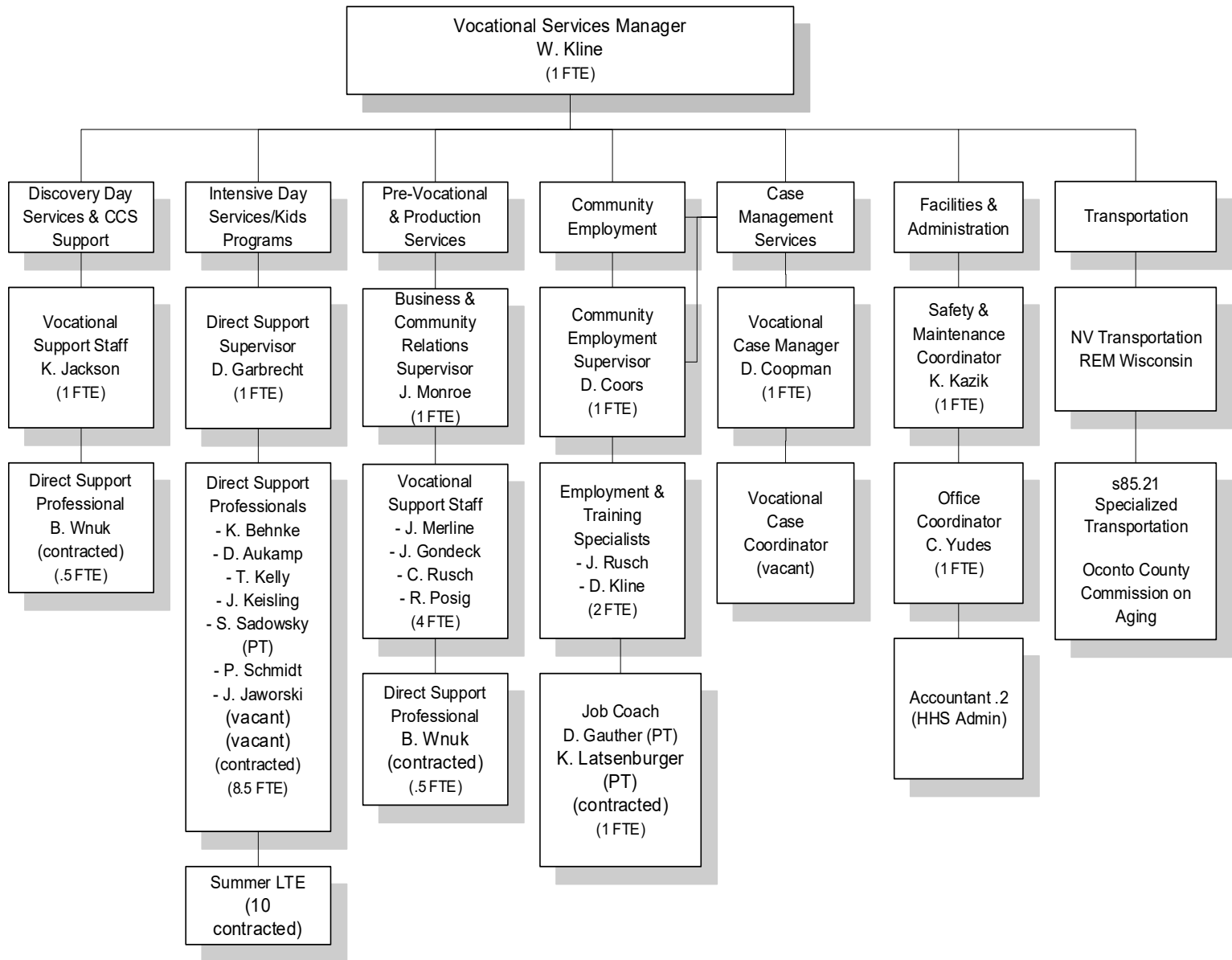
Changing Course is a voluntary program that is provided in conjunction with the Oconto County jail to provide education on substance abuse and addiction to inmates who wish to pursue true recovery from substance abuse addiction. A recovery focused curriculum helps participating inmates make efficient use of time while incarcerated and abstinent.

53	27	21	1
Total # Referred to Program	Number Accepted	Number Rejected	# Released before screened



VOCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES VOCATIONAL SERVICES



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 13
 COUNTY FTE: 13
 CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 12.5
 LTE'S: 10

As of 12/31/2024

New View Industries

New View Industries

New View Industries is a community rehabilitation program (CRP) that is a County operated division of Health and Human Services. New View serves disabled adults and youth as well as individuals with mental health needs from our County as well as some from surrounding Counties with the mission of developing greater independence, increasing vocational skills, and providing meaningful days. New View has operated in Oconto County since 1974.



Highlights of 2024

- New View served a total of 185 clients in all of our programming in 2024 including facility– based programs and community based programs.
- We celebrated our 50th anniversary this year. An open house was held in October for the public and stakeholders. An outdoor covered seating area was erected and dedicated in remembrance of past clients.
- Several maintenance projects were tackled this past year including sidewalk leveling, installation of new building and road signage, and the replacement of a main rooftop air conditioning unit. Three County Board resolutions were also passed for projects for 2025 including the replacement of several exterior doors, new VCT flooring, and rubber roof coating. Other major projects will be on the agenda over the next several years including parking lot reconstruction, boiler and other HVAC updates, bathroom upgrades, and other exterior needs of the facility.
- Successfully completed a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) State compliance review.
- Held 2nd annual cookout/bake sale fundraiser to raise funds to offset costs of client outings.
- Received delivery (after 20 months!) of a 2024 Ford Transit 15 passenger van purchased from federal provider relief funds.
- Applied for and will be receiving state 5310 DOT grant funds for the purchase of a new ADA van for New View. Delivery should be some time in 2025.
- Closed the New Beginnings Re-Sale store due to financial difficulties. New Beginnings will be transformed into a resource center beginning in 2025 to support community and Health and Human Services clients. New View is partnering with Leadership Oconto County in the development of this service.
- Completed an RFP to procure a transportation provider for Oconto County’s State s85.21 Specialized transportation funds. Menominee Regional Transit will become the new provider in 2025.
- Participated in a facility wide fishing excursion/picnic at Peter’s Pond. Peter’s Pond is a newly opened facility in Angelica that is operated by Challenge the Outdoors, a longstanding organization that provides outdoor activities for people with disabilities.



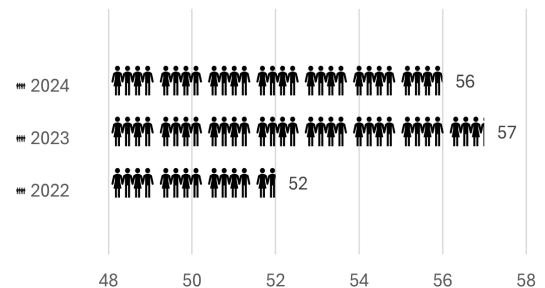
Program Areas

Pre-Vocational Services

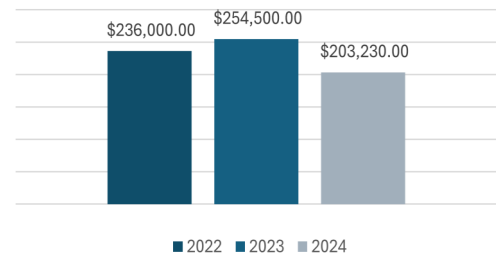
Pre-Vocational Services are designed as a training for clients whose goal is to work in the community. The program is set up to be able to pay clients for work completed but also as an opportunity to learn other work skills such as soft skills, interacting appropriately with others, and other job readiness skills. Successful clients are referred to Supported Employment (SE)/ DVR, if deemed appropriate by the care team

- ◇ Clients are being integrated more into the production processes by assisting staff with product pickups and drop-offs in the community.
- ◇ Continued efforts to serve non-funded client residents who need assistance based on disability or mental health needs.
- ◇ Maintained janitorial placement working at the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Oconto Falls location.
- ◇ Increased Comprehensive Community Services (CCS). This program is involved in volunteer opportunities at the local humane societies as well as work related activities.
- ◇ Continued with job development opportunities to increase workload availability for clients. A longer-term job was lost this year due to operations being moved across the state.
- ◇ Volunteer efforts in 2024 included: Humane Society (on-site) and donation drive, Victory Olympics, Valentines for Vets, Nursing home/assisted living visits, assisting with delivering meals for the OEC fundraiser, Gillett Spring Clean-Up, and Toys for Tots.
- ◇ Examples of other business tours and group outings include: visiting the Bond Center, bowling, pumpkin farm, Empire Beauty School, thrift stores, apple orchard, Botanical Gardens and many more.
- ◇ Retained our membership and participation in local Chambers of Commerce including Oconto, Oconto Falls, Shawano, and Gillett. New View also remains a member of DSPN (Direct Support Provider Network), an organization that advocates for disability services and shares information regarding state/federal regulations, changes, and trends in services.
- ◇ New View maintains a working business relationship with the following entities: Deluxe Plastics, Endries International, Midwest Textiles, Nicolet Plastics, Diversified Wood Craft, Velocity Machine, Modern/ Wisconsin Plastics, and Wisconsin Bench.

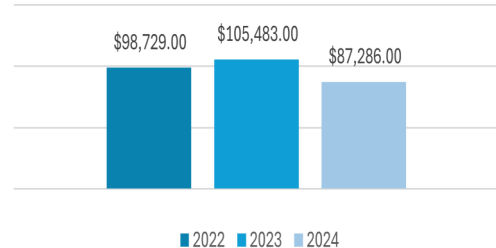
Program Participants



Overall Production Revenues



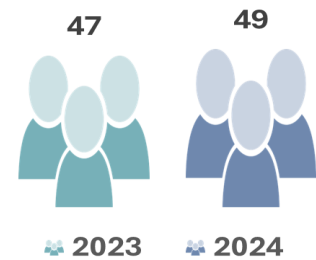
Wages Paid Out to Disable Workers



Discovery Day Services

Discovery Day Services (1:8 staff ratio) is programming for adult clients that promotes independence, daily living skills, life skills, social skills, volunteering, and recreation. This service takes place both at our facility and in the community. Programming is completed in groups and changes throughout the year based on input from our clientele.

Highlights of 2024 are as follows:



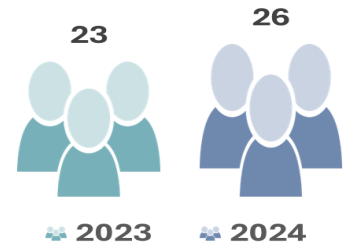
- Community Based Outings:
 - ◊ Volunteering at Serenity Gardens, assisted living
 - ◊ Gillett Public Library-community games
 - ◊ Sturgeon Park in Shawano to view Sturgeon fish
 - ◊ Shawano Rec Center
 - ◊ Rummage sales and thrift shops
 - ◊ Games at local parks
 - ◊ Bowling in Shawano and Suring
 - ◊ Gillett Historical Society
 - ◊ Earth Haven Museum
 - ◊ Beyer Home Museum
 - ◊ Oconto Falls Community Garden
 - ◊ Grocery store shopping
 - ◊ Bond Community Center
 - ◊ NEW Zoo
 - ◊ Local restaurants
 - ◊ Barkhausen Preserve
 - ◊ Giant Hamburger in Seymour
 - ◊ Wildlife Sanctuary
- Facility Bases Activities:
 - ◊ Arts and Crafts group - painting, art therapy, eclipse viewers, holiday cards, and drawing
 - ◊ Games group - dice games, bingo, word games
 - ◊ Discussion group - current events, sharing good news, coffee clutch
 - ◊ Learning about science - experiments, northern lights, sink or float, what's inside a geode
 - ◊ Cooking basics - ways to cook, basic recipes, shopping basics, meal making
 - ◊ "Survival" skills - basic math, health, internet safety
 - ◊ Soft Skills group - socialization, sportsmanship, emotional regulation
- Guests and Volunteers
 - ◊ Steve C. - weekly volunteer at facility
 - ◊ Steve J. - volunteers on outings and swim group
 - ◊ Shannon - Gillett Librarian
 - ◊ Don - retired navy seal, spoke to group about his experiences
 - ◊ Jess - dental hygienist - did work group
 - ◊ Lakeland Industries - collaborated on community outings
 - ◊ Emily - bank branch manager - monthly volunteering and discussions on finance
 - ◊ Gabe - helped with fundraisers, animal visits



VOCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

Intensive Day Services

Intensive Day Services programming (1:4 and 1:1 staff ratio) is designed for adult clients and kids who need extra supervision and support throughout the day. Programming is focused on learning basic living skills, social skills, communication skills, as well as maintaining skills. Emphasis is put on developing fine and large motor skills, daily living skills, awareness, social integration, sensory integration and independent living skills. Each client has individual goals to work on to increase or maintain their skills. Community integration is also encouraged in this program. Highlights of 2024 are as follows:



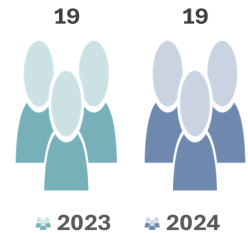
Clients were able to participate in the following community outings:



- Daily facility-based activities to improve skills
- Utilization of New Heights gym for physical activities
- Weekly swim groups – Bond Center and Shawano Rec Center
- Various park outings
- Fishing at Peter's Pond
- Pumpkin Patch
- Shawano Movie theatre

Youth Services

New View provides youth services in the form of Daily Living Skills Training to children enrolled in the Children's Waiver program, part of the Community Services Division of Oconto County. 19 youth, ages 8-18, participated in the 6th year of this program. Services were provided at the New Heights Training Center. A total of 10 summer LTE staff were hired to assist in this program as many of the children required 1:1 attention. The program continues to focused on:



Daily Living Skills Training/Independent Living Skills

- Cooking skills
- Cleaning skills



Social Skills/Communication Skills



Leisure Skills



Community Integration

Visited:

- Titledown Green Bay
- Splash Pads in Shawano and Green Bay
- Various parks
- NEW Zoo
- Doc's Harley Davidson
- Tour of Sievert Farms
- Dairy Barn and other lunch outings
- Clintonville Aqua Park



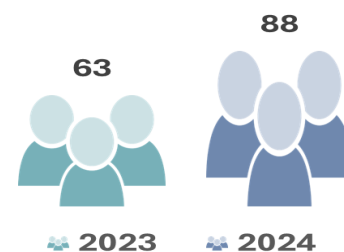
- In addition to summer programming, New View has also served other children throughout the year in collaboration with local schools, CLTS case managers, and Family Care case managers.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

Supported Employment

The Supported Employment program works with the State of Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as well as Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) to offer a variety of services depending on the referred client's needs. Some of these services include soft skill training, setting up temporary work experiences, job placement, job shadows, customized employment, career profiles, Explore Work, benefit analysis, job coaching, and job prep plans (assisting with resume's, interviews, etc.)

The majority of our efforts are with Oconto County clients but we do also serve some clients from Shawano, Menominee, and Marinette Counties.



Explore Work completed:

1

(1 in 2023)

Temporary work experiences set up:

12

(18 in 2023)

Skills to pay the bills:

6

Benefit Analysis completed:

8

(9 in 2023)

Clients placed in permanent jobs:

12

(3 in 2023)

Job Shadows completed:

50

(55 in 2023)

Total job coaching hours in the community

2,628**

(2,346 hours in 2023)

**** Due to another increase in the amount of job coaching, we hired on an additional part time job coach to keep up with the demand.**

Thank you to the following local businesses that help support our clients:

- * Bonduel - Meadowview Senior Care
- * Gillett - Public Library, Subway, OJ's Midtown
- * Green Bay - Salvation Army Kroc Community Center, Festival Foods, Thario Building Services, KI, Alwin Manufacturing, Fleet Farm, Fiberglass Solutions, Writer to the Rescue, Delaware North
- * Keshena - Menominee Casino
- * Lakewood - Super Valu, Waubesa Lodge
- * Oconto - Dockside, Door Dash, Oconto Pharmacy, Unlimited Services, Brothers Three, Oconto County TS department
- * Oconto Falls - Oconto Falls School, Piggly Wiggly, BP Gas Station, Subway, Burger King
- * Pound - Patz Corporation
- * Seymour - Public Library
- * Shawano - Goodwill, Shawano Ambulance, Boarders Inn, Birch Hill Health, Tractor Supply Co., NewCap, GT Independence, NWTC, Sweet Fire Tobacco, Mojo's, Humane Society, Luigi's, Old Glory Candy, Lakeland Industries, Charlie's Market, Marion Body Works
- * Suring - Suring School District

VOCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (cont.)

Specialized Transportation Program

OCONTO COUNTY TRANSIT for Residents of Oconto County

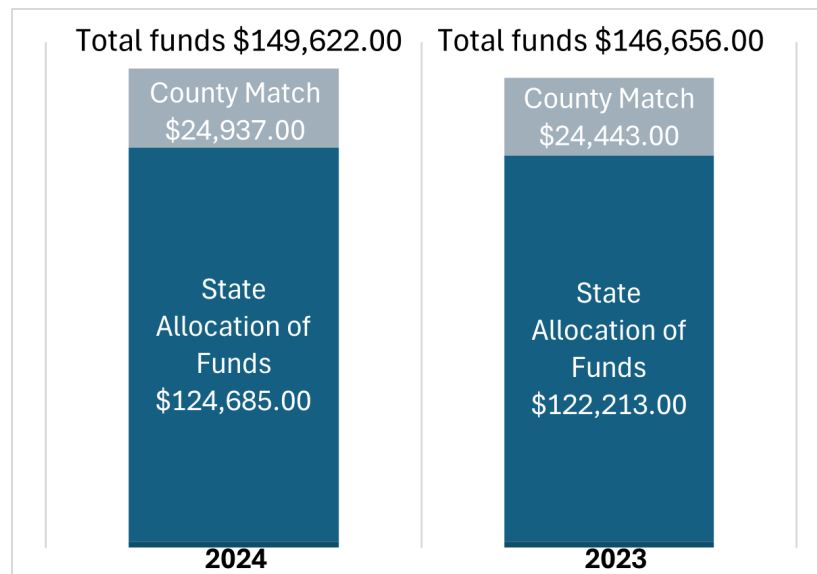
CALL 1-877-648-9287 (Menominee Regional Transit)



Each year, Oconto County applies for and receives \$85.21 grant funds through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. These funds are utilized for the purpose of providing access to affordable transportation options for the elderly and disabled. Oconto County is required to provide a 20% match for the funds.

Most of these funds were transferred to the Oconto County Commission on Aging through a contract to provide transportation options for the county's elderly and disabled population. With the funds, the COA provided three transportation routes including an In-City Oconto route, a rural route, and a volunteer escort program to assist with medical appointments. New View also uses some of the \$85.21 funds to help cover the costs of transportation for clients utilizing New View services. The following is a summary of the average number of round-trip rides per month provided in the programs:

Oconto In-City Route:	New View:	Rural Route:	Volunteer Escort Program:
42	119	13	3
Rides per month	Rides per month	Rides per month	Rides per month



**In 2025, due to an RFP process, Menominee Regional Transit will become the new provider for transportation services in this program*

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

OCONTO COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



Milling on CTH BB rehabilitation project

Department Overview:

The Highway Department's primary function is to develop, operate and maintain a safe and reliable transportation system in a fiscally responsible manner in Oconto County, which consists of 638 county lane miles. We also contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to maintain 483 lane miles of state and US highways, which a large portion is 4-lane. We also maintain two state owned waysides, both on Hwy 32. One located in the town of Gillett, and the other in the town of Lakewood. In addition, we contract with 10 of Oconto County's 23 townships for their winter maintenance which is an additional 1,082 lane miles. These 10 towns also provide us with additional work outside of the winter months to satisfy the Intergovernmental Agreement we have with them. We also provide construction and maintenance work for many of the remaining towns as well as the cities and villages in our county.

The department's home committee is the Highway Committee, consisting of the following members: Mr. David Christianson - chair, Mr. Elmer Ragen- vice chair, Mr. David Behrend, Mr. Joel Lavarda and Mr. Robert Wolf.

Some of the work activities the highway department performs include the following:

- Asphalt pavement resurfacing
- Snow and ice control on 2,203 lane miles of road
- Mowing and vegetation management on over 1,100 miles of road
- Sign repair, new installation, and monitor 3,100 county road signs in addition to 3,610 on the state system
- Monitor, maintain and repair 44 state and 44 county bridges
- Monitor, manage and repair culverts and associated drainage ways
- Pothole patching
- Crack filling operations
- Storm response and cleanup
- Incident response, traffic control and detour installation

To maintain this transportation system, we operate four shop facilities located in Oconto, Suring, Sampson and Mountain with 54 full-time employees and 10 limited term employees (LTEs), nine summer, one winter. The number of LTE employees varies from year to year. During a winter storm event, plowing operations utilize 33 plow trucks along with four graders if necessary.

In addition to the four shops, we have a location in Spruce where our hot mix production plant and crushing operations are located. We produced 54,824 tons of hot mix last year and our crushing operation supplies the materials needed for hot mix, shouldering road projects and other maintenance needs on roadways in the county. Additionally, gravel is purchased from private contractors where material is closer to the projects to save labor and equipment costs.

Current Year Accomplishments

1. Hot mix asphalt

- Produced 54,824 tons of bituminous hot mix for paving projects on county, state and local roads; this is up from 52,872 tons the previous year. Additionally, we purchased 11,633 tons of asphalt from a private contractor to satisfy the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requirements.
- Paved 14.3 miles of county roadways, up from 11.7 miles in 2023. LRIP funds in the amount of \$744,498 and \$350,000 in ARPA funds approved by the County Board allowed for the increase in miles paved.
- Paved 15.9 miles of local roadways, up from 13.1 miles in 2023.

2. Fuel Handling

- Inventories must be recorded on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis or a moving average cost basis.
- Procured and disbursed 152,406 gallons of diesel fuel at an average cost of \$2.61/gallon. Usage was 13,582 gallons less than in 2023.
- Procured and disbursed 40,009 gallons of gasoline at an average cost of \$2.94/gallon. Usage was 2,570 gallons more than in 2023.



Surface paving on CTH WW rehabilitation project

3. Construction and Maintenance

- The mild winter with above average temperatures and below average snow allowed us to run our crusher a few days in January and most of the month in February and March.
- We began our first paving project, CTH BB, the second week of May and began paving the week prior to Memorial Day.
- The last day we ran our asphalt plant for the year was October 23 to produce asphalt for patches.
- Performed construction and routine maintenance work on 638 lane miles of county roads at a total cost of \$4,767,262.
- Performed maintenance and construction services for townships at a total cost of \$2,590,718. The highway department invoices for these services in which the towns issue monthly checks to the highway department.
- Performed construction and routine maintenance work on the state system at a cost of \$859,409. These services are invoiced and uploaded into the state's database for payment each month, and payments are received electronically.
- Performed maintenance and construction services for others and county departments at a total cost of \$259,453. Services for internal departments are invoiced and paid for via journal entries by county staff.

4. Equipment and Facility Operations

- Maintain over 358 pieces of equipment with a total value of over \$18,953,912 million dollars. The Highway Department depends on quality equipment to make the transportation operations of the department run smoothly and efficiently. As in the past few years, the County Board approved funds to upgrade our aging trucks, and funding to begin replacing some of our older equipment.
- The 2024 plow trucks that were ordered in September of 2023 are scheduled for build dates to install hydraulics and plow equipment in the summer of 2025. It is taking approximately 24 months to acquire plow trucks. In 2024 we placed our order for 2025 trucks, and they have tentative build dates the summer of 2026.
- In August the County Board approved the use of ARPA funds to fund a Facility Condition Assessment of the Oconto Highway Shop and high-level review of Suring and Mountain shops.

5. Safety and Training

- We held our annual safety day and our annual Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training to meet yearly requirements.
- Provided flagger training internally with staff that are part of “train the trainer” group resulting in savings.
- Conducted on site CDL training for two individuals that were hired without a Class A CDL.
- Conducted quarterly Highway Safety Committee meetings. The committee is made up of operators, a mechanic, and management and meets quarterly to discuss safety issues staff may see and any actions felt to be unsafe. All staff can submit an anonymous safety card that will be discussed at the next meeting to determine a resolution.

6. Snow and Ice Control

- During the 2024-2025 winter season through March 31, a total of 6,809 tons of salt, an increase of 109% from last winter, and 134,415 gallons of salt brine, a decrease of 19%, was utilized on county and town roads. 4,229 tons of salt, an increase of 88% and 252,016 gallons of salt brine, a decrease of 8% was applied to the state system. The decrease in brine usage is due to less anti-icing as storm events started as rain or freezing rain before switching to snow and less direct liquid application.
- Snow and ice control charges for 2024 on county highways totaled \$869,267, down from \$1,020,654; state highways totaled \$623,273, down from \$750,812; and town roads totaled \$464,111, down from \$763,321 all from 2023. These services are invoiced and paid monthly.
- Salt cost for this winter was \$82.26/ton, up from \$79.10 for the 2023-2024 winter and was purchased utilizing the state contract. WisDOT has not decided if they will renew the current contract or go out to bid for next

winter. We have submitted our salt request of 7,848 tons to WisDOT for the 2025-2026 winter season.

- The last plowable snow event for the spring of 2024 began on April 2 and continued into April 3, where an average of 9" of snow fell in the county. The first plowable event for 2024-2025 winter was November 21, where an average of 2" fell.



Plowing on town road

7. Local Bridge and Culvert Maintenance

- No local bridges were constructed in 2024 within Oconto County. However, one of the three townships that we assisted with acquiring funds to design and construct bridges, is funded with 100% federal dollars, saves the county and town their 10% project match, will begin construction in 2025. The department is the local sponsor of these projects, so design consultant selection and project design oversight are administered by our department in coordination with the town and WisDOT. The local bridge program is a state administered program that takes several years to complete and typically provides 80% funding for bridge rehabilitation and replacement and requires 20% local match.
- Coordinated the County Bridge Culvert Aid Program that resulted in \$49,603 of work completed. Townships participate in this program by submitting a petition for 50% reimbursement.

- Inventoried the 6 ft > 20 ft small structures located on the county system and submitted all 6 ft > 20 ft structure information in the county to WisDOT for reimbursement.
- A design consultant was selected to design plans for rehabilitation work on the CTH CC bridge in the City of Oconto Falls. This project will utilize \$575,640 in LRIP funds with construction anticipated in 2026.

8. Administration

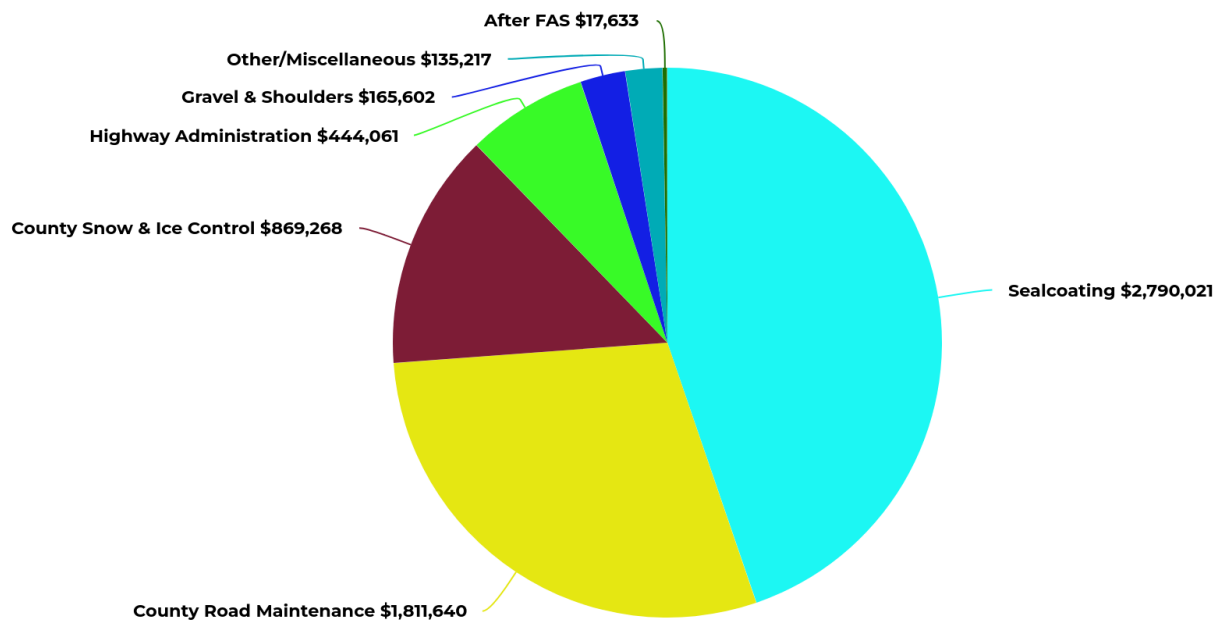
- Highway office provides bookkeeping for \$11,117,471 which includes county, state, and local work.
- Processed 44 driveway permits and received \$3,250 in fees
- Issued 64 utility permits and received \$8100 in fees
- Recovered \$486 in costs from accident damage on county roadways
- Continue working with our design consultant on the CTH C STP-Rural project from Brown County Line to CTH S, construction is scheduled for 2026. This project will receive 80% federal funding for design and construction with a 20% local match required.
- One of the two STP-Rural project applications submitted to WisDOT in 2023 was selected for funding with an award amount of \$4.09 million. Design and construction will be later than requested due to overprogramming in state fiscal years 2025 and 2026.
- We began the implementation process of electronic timekeeping software, RT Vision, for all highway employees. This will be more efficient by saving on manual entries and reviewing paper timecards while improving data accuracy.



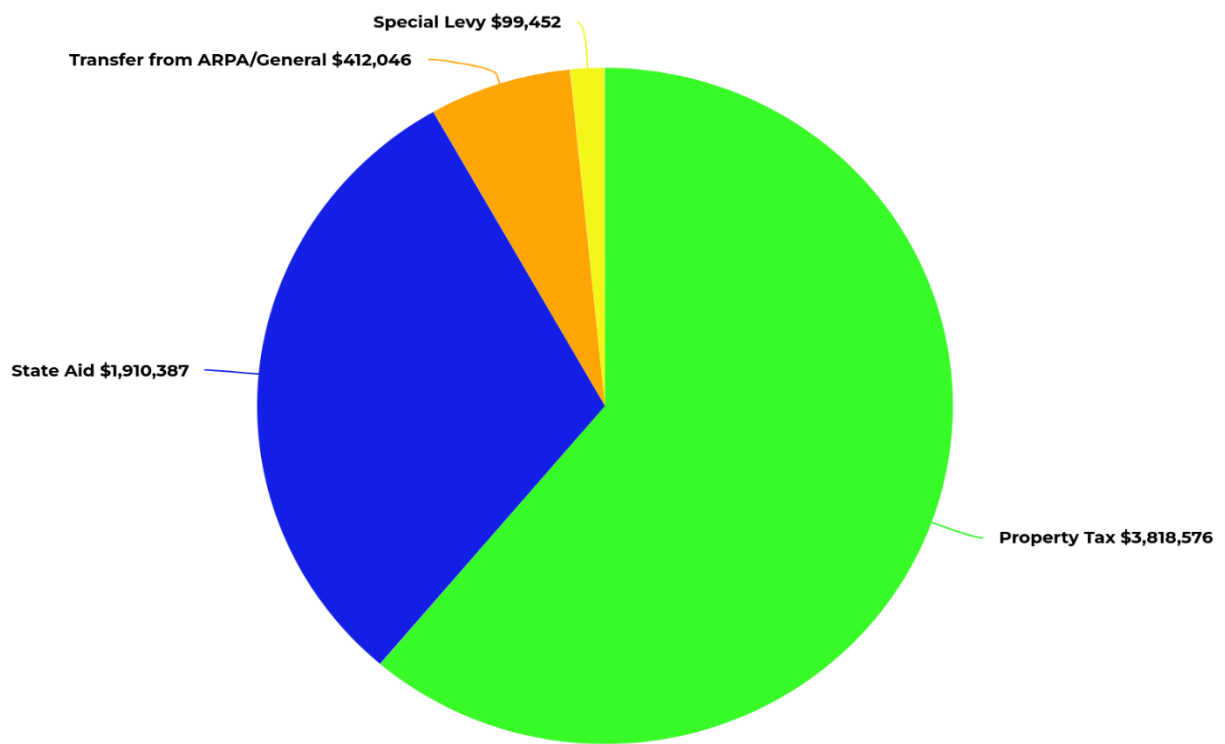
Governor Evers patching on CTH BB

Financial Overview

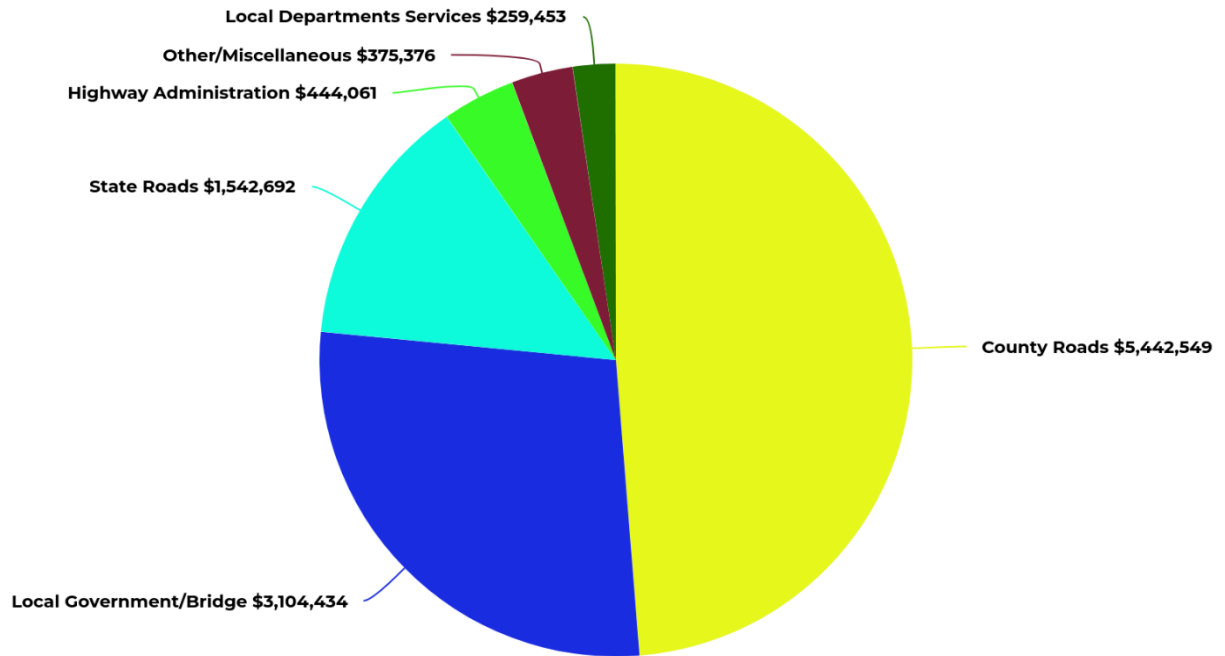
Road & Bridge Expenditures 2024 - \$6,233,442



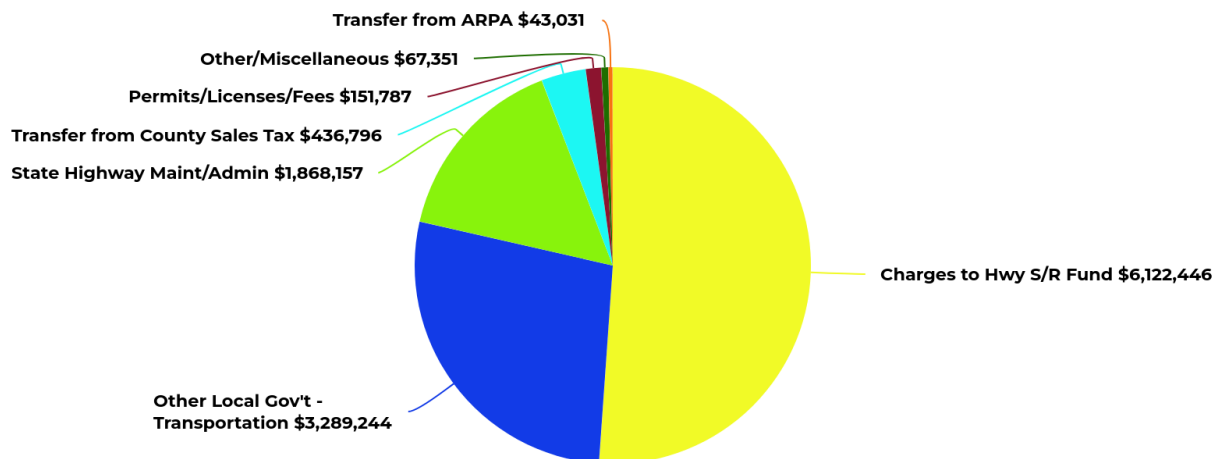
Road & Bridge Revenues 2024 - \$6,240,461



Highway Expenditures 2024 - \$11,168,565



Highway Revenues 2024 - \$11,978,812



On the Horizon

Our plan for paving projects this year is to pave CTH A from Hwy 32 – CTH G (4.9 miles) and CTH J from Liegeois Rd. to Oconto River (3.35 miles). This is a total of 8.25 miles.

With little increase in funding, we continue to fall behind with the county's paving needs, which makes for more costly improvements when made. Oconto County will continue looking for additional funds or funding to help with our aging infrastructure and the backlog of resurfacing needs on the county system. Our department will continue to apply for funding opportunities available through WisDOT, Federal Highway Administration, FEMA, etc. and collaborate with other departments where funding opportunities exist.

The department continues updating our aging truck fleet and has begun replacing old equipment. We are seeing improvement in our truck fleet due to the County Board's funding commitment, but we must continue to fund the replacement of our old equipment. An older fleet is less efficient overall with increased downtime and vehicles frequently out of service. Truck and equipment wait times and availability of repair parts continue to be an issue. We will continue to explore leasing and renting versus purchasing where applicable.

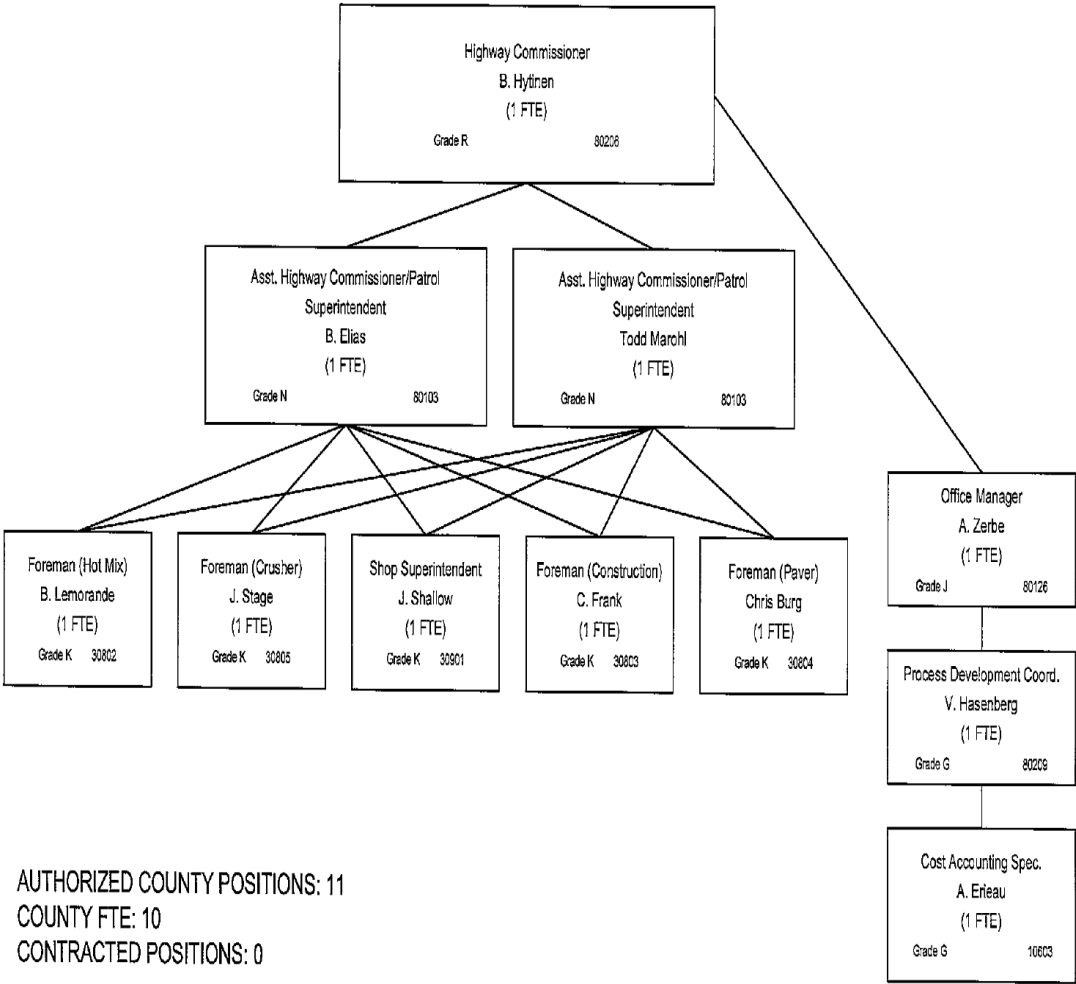
It is essential we continue to attract strong and well-qualified employees to replace those same qualities being lost to retirement and turnover, which is a challenge in today's job market but improving. This department would struggle without these dedicated employees.

The findings of the Facility Condition Assessment of the Oconto Highway Shop will be shared with the County Board.

Respectfully submitted by Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commissioner



HIGHWAY



TOTAL HWY AUTHORIZED POSITIONS: 70
COUNTY FTE: 55.75
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

HIGHWAY

Asst. Highway Commissioner/Patrol Superintendent
Bill Elias

Asst. Highway Commissioner/Patrol Superintendent
Todd Marohl

Sign & Road Marking
Spec.
C. Ondik
(1 FTE)
Grade I 30501

Summer Help
15 Positions
(.25 FTE Each = 3.75
Total)
n/a 80308

LTE Truck Driver
T. Schubert
Snow & ice removal
n/a 80309

LTE Truck Driver
Vacant
n/a 80201

Hwy Operator 2
M. Fischer
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
C. Phillips
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
L. Steffek
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
K. Kuhn
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
G. Gajewski
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
J. Helmle
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
J. Zak
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
R. Swenty
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
R. Nasgovitz
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80101

Hwy Operator 2
A. Dey
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80201

Hwy Operator 2
M. Conlon
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80101

Hwy Operator 2
I. Schoen
(1 FTE)
Grade G 80201

Hwy Operator 2
J. Maye
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80101

Hwy Operator 2
R. Washbisch
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80101

Hwy Operator 2
J. Rost
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80101

Hwy Operator 2
B. Mahoney
(1 FTE)
Grade H 80101

Hwy Operator 2
B. Klezka
(1 FTE)
Grade G 80201

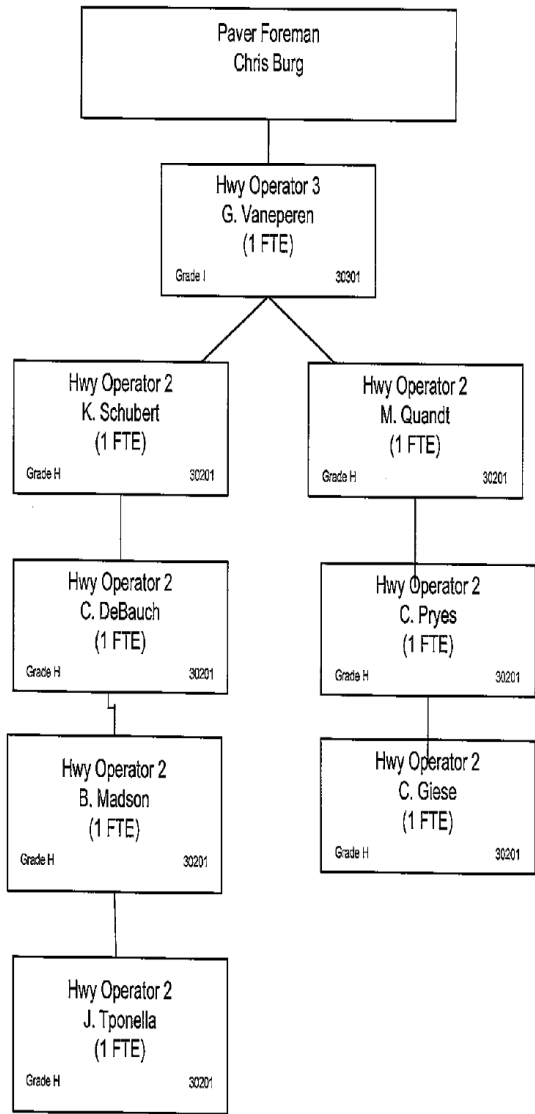
Hwy Operator 1
Logan Calewerts
(1 FTE)
Grade G 80201

Hwy Operator 1
Vacant
(1 FTE)
Grade G 80101

AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 39
COUNTY FTE: 23.75
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

3/21/2025

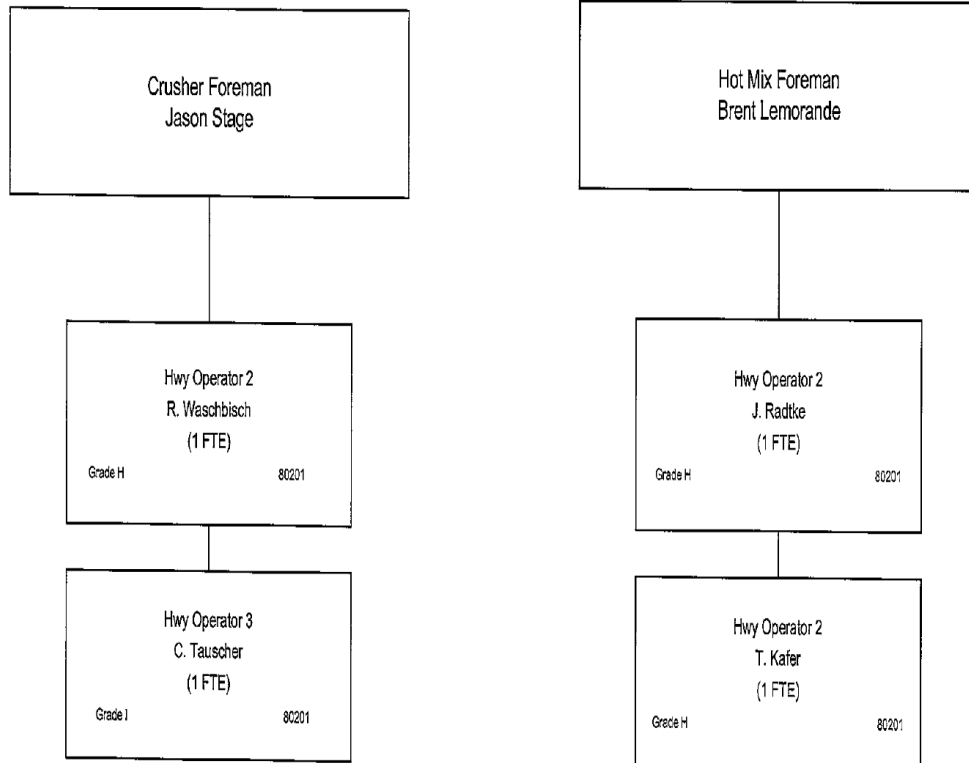
HIGHWAY



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 8
COUNTY FTE: 8
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

3/21/2025

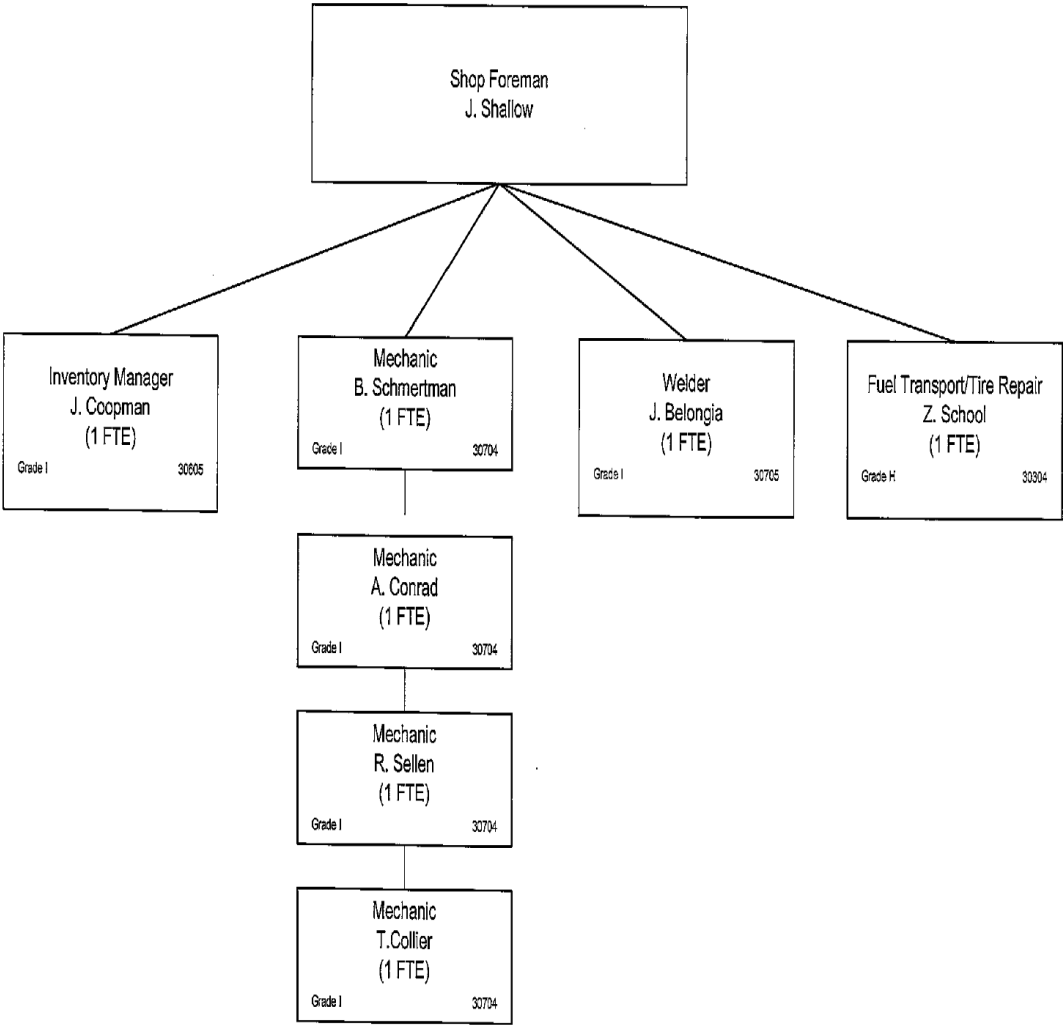
HIGHWAY



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 4
COUNTY FTE: 4
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

3/21/2025

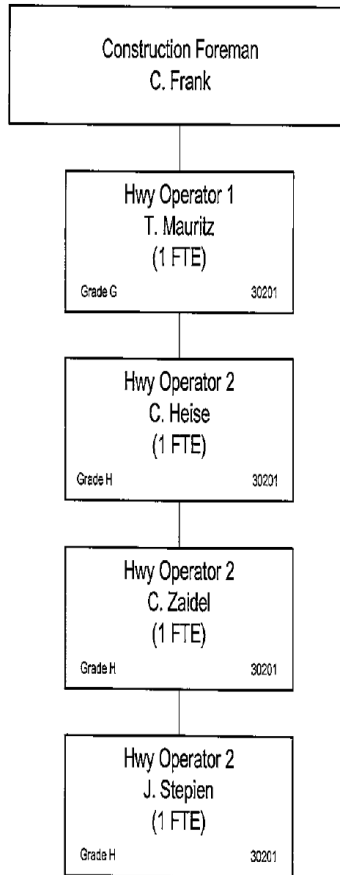
HIGHWAY



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 7
COUNTY FTE: 7
CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

3/21/2025

HIGHWAY



AUTHORIZED COUNTY POSITIONS: 4

COUNTY FTE: 4

CONTRACTED POSITIONS: 0

3/21/2025

2024

Forest, Parks & Recreation Department

ANNUAL REPORT



Monty Brink

Forest & Parks
Administrator



Overview

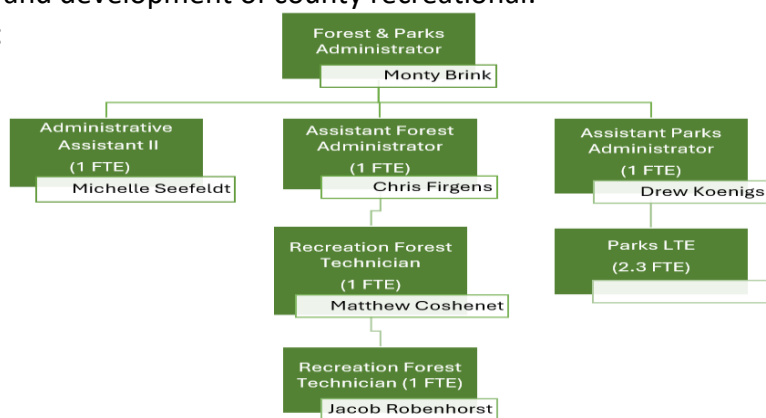
The Forest, Parks and Recreation Department reports to the Land & Water Resource Committee of Oconto County Board Supervisors, which consists of Tim Cole, Chair; Keith Schneider, Mike Beyer, Pat Scanlan and Wayne Kaczrowski.

- **Authority**

The Oconto County Code of Ordinances Chapter 9 County Forest & Chapter 10 Parks and Recreation outlines the rules and regulations for the administration of county powers and duties as provided in Chapters 19, 26, 28, 59, and 82 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

- The Comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plan was prepared for the 15-year period encompassing 2021 – 2035 and approved by the County Board on December 17, 2020 this plan is the authority for management on the county forest lands enrolled under Wisconsin County Forest Law s.28.11 Wis. Stats.
- The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared for the 5-year period of 2022 – 2026 and passed by the County Board on February 24, 2022 will guide the recreational management and development of county recreational.

- **Organizational Chart**



Forestry

- **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Oconto County Forestry Department is to promote the planned development and management of the county forest for optimum production of forest products, together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection, giving full recognition to the concept of multi-use for maximum public benefit.

- **Overview**

The Forest & Parks Department manages 43,791.83 acres of county forest and 37 miles of county forest roads. The Oconto County Forest is divided into six management units. Oconto County continues our commitment to third party Forest Certification as the standard for sustainable forestry. Most of the County's plantations were planted in the early 30's and have had many timber sales over the years. The vast majority of county forest acres that are harvested rely on natural regeneration through seed, root suckers, and stump sprouts to return the site to a fully stocked condition.

- **Current Year Accomplishments**

- Great Lakes Forestry LLC planted 99,550 red pine seedlings. 32,350 trees were planted (4,750 bare root, 27,600 containerized) on 34.3 acres on Kurtz Lane. 25,200 containerized seedlings were planted on 22.4 acres on Herning Road. 42,000 seedlings were re-planted on approximately 70 acres on Swenty Road and Butler Springs Road. Nine men and 1 supervisor completed the planting project in 3 days with a 97.74% success rate.
- Purchased the 40-acre Daus Property in the Town of Brazeau and entered it into County Forest Land Program.
- Completed maintenance on 36.82 miles of Forest Roads certified by the DOT.
- Entered into an agreement with Koerner Forest Products, LTD to treat 191 acres for planting furrow scarification via disc trench or bracke in Section 18, 19, and 30, T30N, R18E; Town of Bagley and/or to treat 191 acres with herbicide in Section 18, 19, and 30, T30N, R18E; Town of

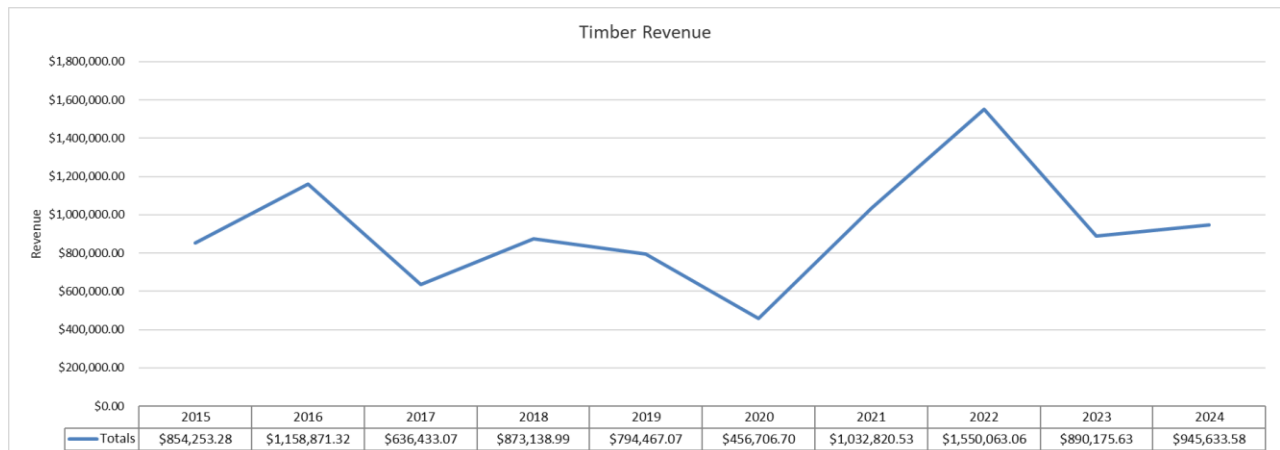
Bagley. This must be completed by September 13, 2025.

Timber Sale Administration

Timber Sales were held on May 6, 2024. Oconto County used reconnaissance data to schedule stands for examination. Timber sales were established with the assistant of the WI DNR staff with 1070 hours. The department entered into contracts with loggers for the following:

Tracts Offered	13	Total Appraised Value of Tracts Sold:	\$ 335,682.12
Tracts Receiving Bids	11	Total Bid Value of Tracts Sold:	\$ 382,576.09
Unqualified Bids	16	Percent Increase Over Appraised Value:	13.97%
Qualifying Bids	25	Acres Sold	394
Avg Qualifying Bids per Tract	2.27	Average Acres of Sold Tracts:	36
		Average \$ per Acre Sold:	\$ 971.01

- 13 timber sales were closed out that encompassed 480 acres.
- 6 timber sale contracts were due to expire and were extended for 3 months to one additional year with anywhere from a 0% - 5% increase in stumpage rates. One sale received a 2-year extension because it was a 4 year contract.
- 9 firewood permits were purchased to cut firewood in closed out areas. Revenue received \$308.08
- Timber revenue in 2024 was \$945,633.58 vs budget of \$690,000. There are 12 Oconto County townships that receive 10% of the timber revenue based on percent of county forest acreage within the town, 2024 Payments totaled \$94,563.36.
- The following chart compares the previous year revenues.



Parks & Recreation

Mission Statement

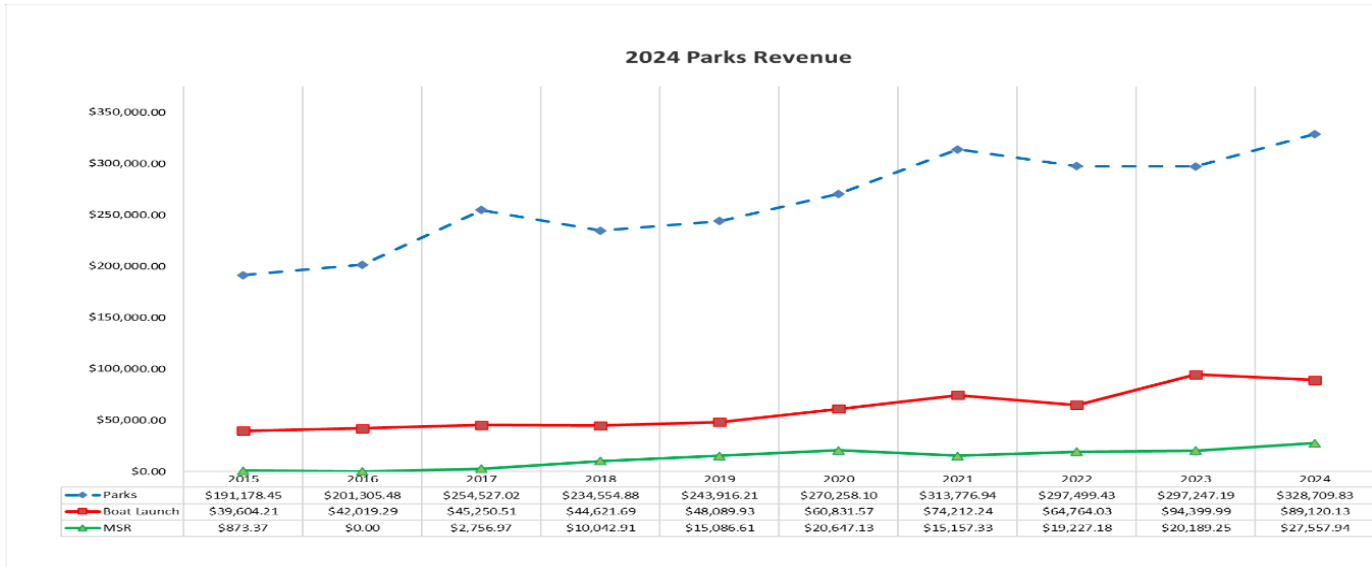
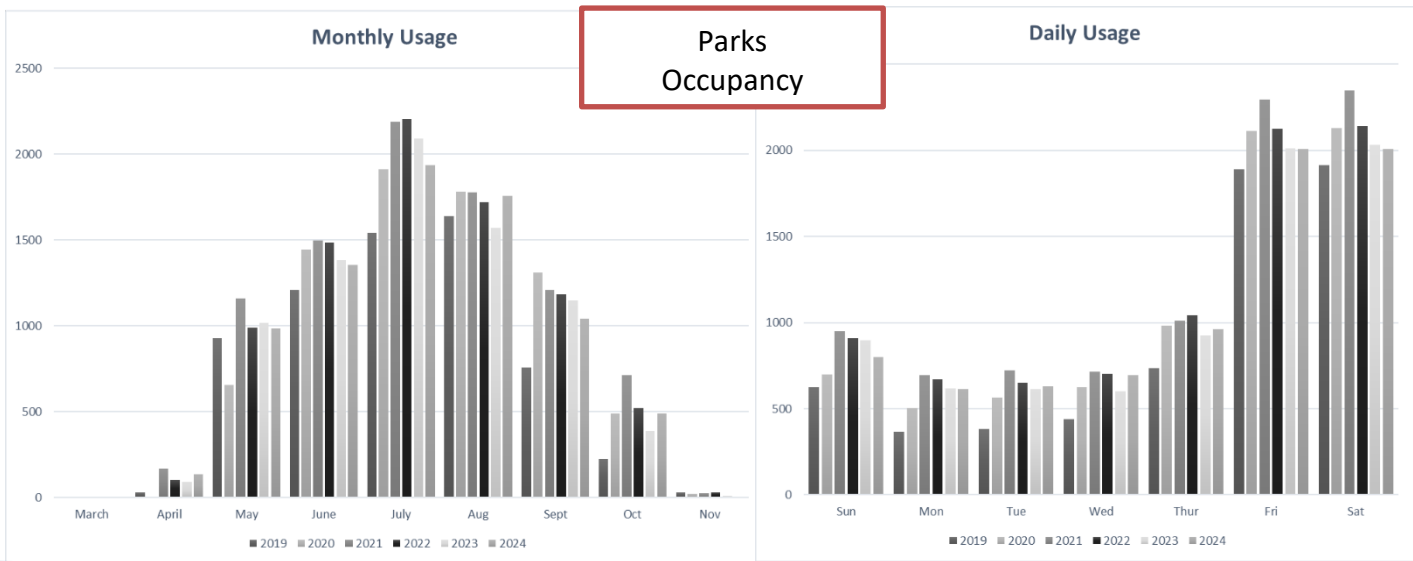
The mission of the Oconto County Parks Department is to provide recreational opportunities by developing, managing, and programming all parklands and trails to promote an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural resources.

Overview

- The Forest & Parks Department manages 15 parks including 2 campgrounds, 11 boat landings, 10 county dams, 25+ miles of bridle trails, 7.2 miles of x-skiing, 447 miles of snowmobile trail, 116 miles of ATV trail, and 50.1 miles of County maintained state trails and a 4 lane shooting range.
- Oconto County contracts with user groups to keep the trails safe and maintained. Non-motorized sports are cross-country skiing and horseback riding. Motorized sports continue to grow and are an important economic impact to the county.
- Oconto County manages 2 State Recreational Trails. The Oconto River and the Nicolet State Recreational Trail. These trails are owned by the WI DNR, in which Oconto County has a 20-year easement to maintain these trails. Trail inspections of these trails this year yield minor concerns that were passed on to the clubs that manage those trail sections.

- Current Year Accomplishments**

- There were several projects done at the Chute Pond Campground and Chute Pond Seasonal Campground in 2024. A new bathroom, well and electrical upgrade was done at the River Sites and Lee Recreational installed new playground equipment at the campground. All seasonal campers were asked to remove their campers and personal belongings by October 15, 2024 for Electrical Service and Supply and WPS to work on the electrical upgrade project. Staff removed trees, fixed pads and roads, and landscaping after ESS/WPS were finished. Seasonal campers were given the option to park their campers on the daily side and will be able to move back to their sites once the project is finished by May 2025.
- The Department started the development of the Armstrong Campground and Trailhead off of Torsci Lane in Riverview. The County Board passed the rezone from Forestry to Parks and Recreation on February 22, 2024, the Committee approved the final design layout for phase I-Trailhead and put it out bids. The Trailhead bids were rejected at County Board on November 21, 2024.
- Outback Riders obtained a Horse Council Grant and the County received County Conservation Aid Grant to replace the well and rehab the horse parking lot in the Machickanee. Luiser Well Drilling replaced the well and the Forestry Department crew hauled loads of gravel to expand the parking lot. The project was completed in the fall of 2024.
- Contracted with the Reese Group to construct a pavilion at the Riverside BB Boat Landing



- The following projects were awarded grant funds in 2024:

○ Nicolet State Bridge 23 Rehab	\$800,000.00
○ Nicolet ST Surface Rehab	\$90,595.02
○ RTP Nicolet ST Bridge 24 25 Rehab	\$28,700.00
○ Total 2024 Awarded Grants	\$919,295.02

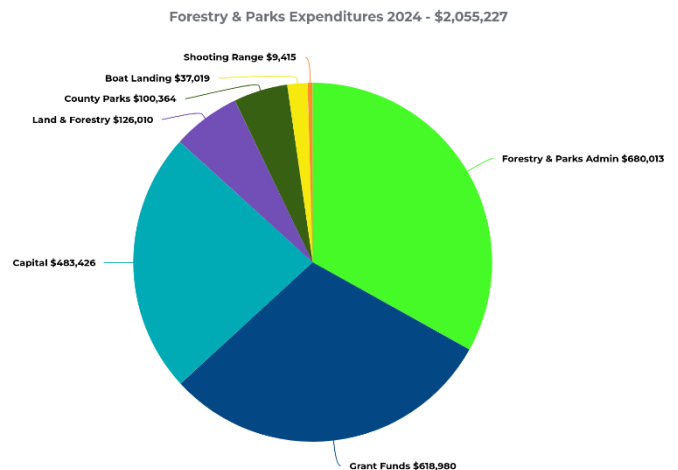
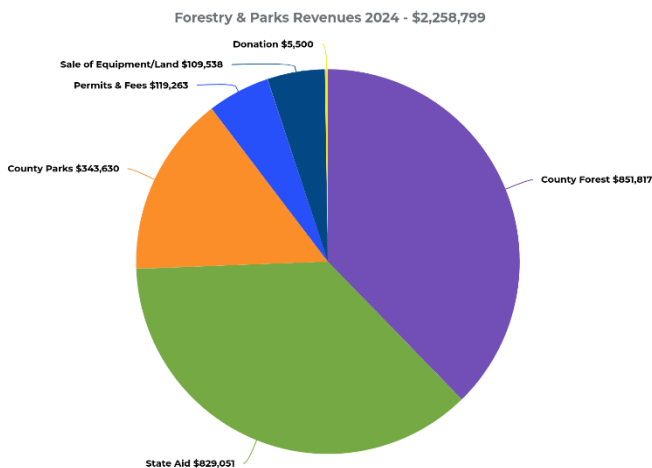
- North Bay Shore Campground and Boat Landing harbor and launch area detail plans were developed to dredge and reconstruct the landing area. The park had an ash salvage timber sale to remove the hazard of trees falling on camper or cars.
- Overall, 2024 was a positive financial year for Forestry and Parks with revenues exceeding expenses. Timber sales are the major reason Forestry/Parks exceeded revenue. Timber is a commodity that ebbs and flows with market supply and demand.

Current Challenges

- One of the bigger projects being worked on is deciding on the best way to collectively display signage at boat launches as having individual signs scattered around the launch area is unsightly and not easy for users to understand expectations.
- Replanting the forest is a multiple year and step process that takes different specialties to finish. Aligning each individual part, to have a successful replant, has and will continue to be problematic. The most recent hang up is locating enough red pine seed for nurseries to plant and grow seedlings.
- Timber harvest and revenue down turn. With a lot of high ground and good timber already harvested leaves us with wet sites and low quality wood to sell in the coming years.
- Power loading at the boat launches creates a wash out at the end of the launch ramp. With the current low water levels, this causes problems for users when they back off the ramp.

On the Horizon

- Dredge the North Bay Shore Harbor
- Enhance Pioneer Park with additional campsites, bathroom, well, electricity and a disc golf course
- Continue with the replacement sign project at the boat landings & county parks
- Electrical and water improvements at North Bay Shore
- Additional Seasonal Sites at Chute Pond to reduce the waiting list back up starting to occur
- Park development at Bedora Mounds
- Shooting Range Lead Reclamation to ensure compliance





Oconto County

Land & Water Conservation
Department

2024 Annual Report

Department Overview

The Oconto County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) receives the department authority under Chapter 92 WI State Statutes. 92.06 is the creation of the Land Conservation Committee and 92.09 references staff.

92.06 Land Conservation Committees.

(1) CREATION; MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Creation. Each county board shall create a land conservation committee.

(b) Membership.

1. The county board shall appoint to the land conservation committee at least 2 persons who are members of the committee on agriculture and extension education created under s. [59.56 \(3\) \(b\)](#).

2. The county board shall appoint to the land conservation committee a person who is the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee created under [16 USC 590h](#) (b) or other county farm service agency committee member designated by the chairperson of the county farm service agency committee.

3. The county board may appoint to the land conservation committee any number of members who are also members of the county board.

4. The county board may appoint to the land conservation committee up to 2 members who are not members of the county board.

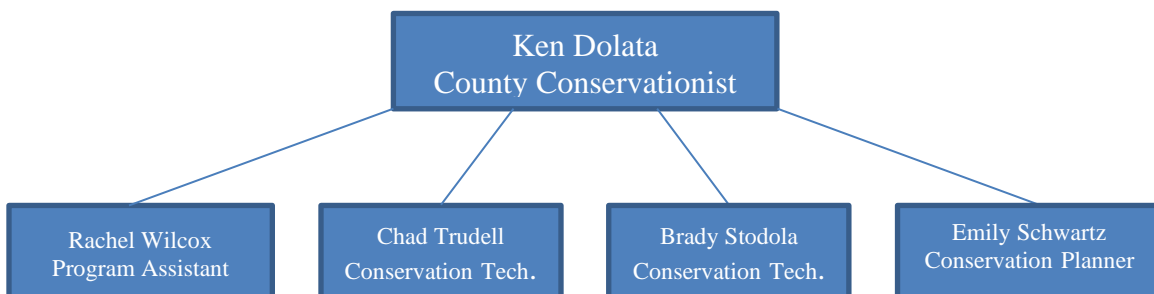
92.09 Land Conservation Committee staff. The land conservation committee may employ county soil and water conservation staff, subject to the approval of the county board. The county soil and water conservation staff is responsible for the administration of the county soil and water conservation program and may exercise the powers granted to the land conservation committee.

The department reports to the Land & Water Resources Committee, listed are the members of the current committee.

Tim Cole – Chair
Pat Scanlan – Vice Chair
Keith Schneider
Wayne Kaczrowski
Mike Beyer

Mission Statement - “To serve landowners of Oconto County to manage, protect, and improve land and water resources through cooperation with federal, state, and private agencies, and secure funding to provide technical and monetary assistance to achieve sound environmental practices to permanently benefit our land and water resources.”

Land & Water Conservation Department Organizational Chart



Financial Overview

2024 Revenues: \$764,689

The LWCD revenues come from various avenues including Federal, State and Private Entities. In 2024 we received our primary funding from the following:

- WDNR European Frogbit Response - \$20,581
- USDA Collaboration Grant/Planner - \$54,673
- USDA Demo Farm Network - \$40,083
- WDNR Lake Study - \$21,239
- Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection - \$200,034
- WDNR Wildlife Damage - \$5,325
- Ag Waste Permits and Other - \$2,000
- County Tax Levy - \$290,273
- Funds for Lake Michigan- \$52,553
- US Fish & Wildlife Service - \$77,928

2024 Expenses: \$764,689

The LWCD expenses are comprised of 3 primary categories:

- Staff Cost: \$424,240
- Operating Cost: \$31,126
- Program Cost: \$309,323

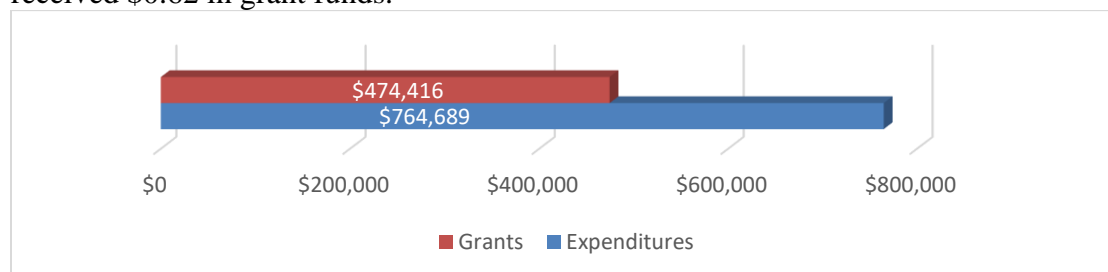
2024 Other Funds:

Oconto County LWCD provides technical assistance to landowners applying for federal funding through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service CSP and EQIP program. The assistance helps move landowners to the category ranked “high” which greatly improves the chances of receiving their grant. In 2024 Oconto County landowners received \$3,147,063 in EQIP and \$1,474,298 in CSP funds.

2024 NRCS Program Total = \$4,621,361

I feel it is important to note that part of the LWCD’s mission is to help acquire funding for the people of Oconto County. The program funds listed above go primarily to landowners and municipalities for conservation projects consisting mainly of state and federal funding acquired by the department.

Overall, the LWCD is very efficient in fulfilling its mission and goals while trying to minimize the cost to the taxpayers. In 2024 for every \$1 spent the LWCD received \$0.62 in grant funds.



2024 Accomplishments

Animal Waste Ordinance – 10 permits were issued for 2 animal waste storage, 9 animal housing, 3 waste transfer systems, 2 animal waste closures and 1 variance

Animal Waste Storage Designed & Constructed – 2 units totaling 3.22 million gallons

Animal Waste Transfer Systems Designed & Constructed – 2 transfer systems

Animal Waste Storage Closure – 2 units closed

Milking Center Wastewater Control Design & Constructed – 1 unit

Nutrient Management Planning – 80 new acres planned

Cover Crops – 1,757 new acres planted

No-till Cropping – 1,530 new acres planted

Clean Water Diversions – 250' installed

USDA NRCS Contracts for Farm Practices – Completed 4 contracts

Green Bay West Shore Demonstration Farm Network – 3 field days, 1 annual meeting

Shoreline Protection Riprap – 1,675 lin.ft. installed

Riparian Buffers – 700 sq.ft. installed

Rain Gardens – 1 installed

Healthy Waters Cost Share Program – 8 applications awarded

AIS Control by County & Partners – 26 miles of Green Bay shoreline inventoried and monitored and 6 boat launches

County Wide Lake Study – 6 new lake studies started, 6 Lake Mgmt. Plans finished

Lake Level Monitoring Program – 5 lakes with gauging stations monitored

Youth Education Program – 8 programs reaching 425 students

Public Meetings – 13 informational/training meetings for lake groups, 1 Snapshot Day training, dissolved oxygen testing on 6 lakes

Lake Districts – formation of 1 lake district

Wildlife Damage Program – 7 farms were issued deer shooting permits, 1 bear damage complaint, 1 Sandhill Crane damage complaint

LumberJack RC&D – 3 community grants received. Suring School District, Town of Underhill and Oconto Falls Community Garden. Total \$26,513

Natural Resource Damage Assessment – 5 stream restoration projects opening 33.9 miles of stream for fish passage

2024 Challenges

For the last several years some of our agricultural challenges have been the high cost of materials, unavailability of materials and lack of contractors. While this continues to be an issue we have adjusted and are now planning around these “inconveniences”. A project that once took 1 year from design to finish construction now takes 2-3 years depending on the complexity and type of material. We have seen an increase in animal waste runoff violation complaints in 2024 which consume a significant amount of our staff time. On the “non-agriculture” workload our biggest challenge has been contractors to install shoreline restoration projects on our lakes and streams. Projects that cannot be completed by the landowner require them to get on the contractor’s waiting list, which is usually 2-3 years out before they get to the top of the list. My other top challenge is managing staff time to prioritize areas that are of greatest need whether it be an agricultural issue one day or an invasive species issue the next, though it does make the job interesting every day!

A Glance Looking Forward

The Green Bay West Shore farmers demonstration project is an agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service that covered a 5-year period. This current agreement expires at the end of 2025 and we are in the process of creating a new 5-year agreement. This program has 4 farmers, 3 in Oconto County and 1 in Shawano County, that demonstrate new and innovative conservation practices. With the current state of affairs at the federal level it is unclear at this time if the new agreement will be completed.

Currently the department is working on a 9 Key Element Watershed plan for the North Branch of the Little River that is waiting to be certified by Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Once the watershed plan is approved it opens up greater funding opportunities from state and federal agencies to help correct water quality issues within the watershed. We are hoping for final approval.

Our department is required to write a Land and Water Resource Management Plan every 10 years with our current plan expiring in 2025. This plan is a guide to what is seen as areas of concern for Oconto County’s natural resources and how we plan to address them. We are currently holding citizen advisory meetings to gather public concerns and issues which will be addressed in the plan. This plan will be presented to the state in August.

One of our most up and coming tasks in the future is to address the need to provide technical and educational assistance to our lake groups and organizations. As we see an increase in aquatic invasive species in the county’s lakes the organizations are being challenged to keep them contained to maintain water quality and recreational values. They face many challenges, including an ageing membership with board turnover creating a loss of experience for applying and managing grants, most being nonresidents, so they are not available full time and most do not have the technical skills of lake management. Our near future goal is to create a position in our department to work with

the organizations in assisting in grant writing, lake management, education and organizational management. Our intention is to use the current WDNR funds we receive (\$18,700) and county funds for this position. I feel the benefits of this position far offset the cost, with the potential loss of water quality and recreational activities the county could face that directly ties into the amount of revenue to the county through taxes. A fact that most people don't realize is that the great lakes are the primary source of aquatic invasive species that are transported to our inland lakes. Oconto County has 26 miles of shoreline on the Bay of Green Bay with 3 major rivers and 9 boat launches that are not actively monitored by anyone for AIS transport. This position would greatly assist in improving this issue.

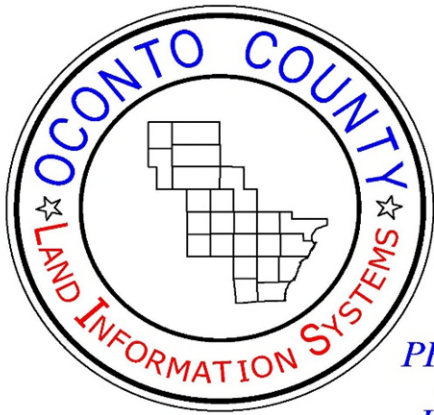
We are continuing to work on our fish passage project in cooperation with WDNR and the Fox River Trustee Council with the grant active through 2027. This grant allows us to fund fish habitat projects and stream impediments that restrict fish movement. We have been awarded grants from the council over the last several years to work on fish passage projects. Since the start of the program in 2018 we have opened up 121.5 miles of stream for fish passage, 0.3 miles of full stream restoration and created and restored 5.2 acres of wetlands for fish spawning.

In closing, the Land & Water Conservation Department is here to protect the natural resources of Oconto County. It is in my opinion this is being accomplished in an efficient and effective manner through dedicated and educated staff.

Respectfully, Ken Dolata County Conservationist

2024

*Land LI*nformation S*ystems*



*PROPERTY LISTING
SURVEY / GIS
LAND RECORDS
PHYSICAL ADDRESS*

ANNUAL REPORT

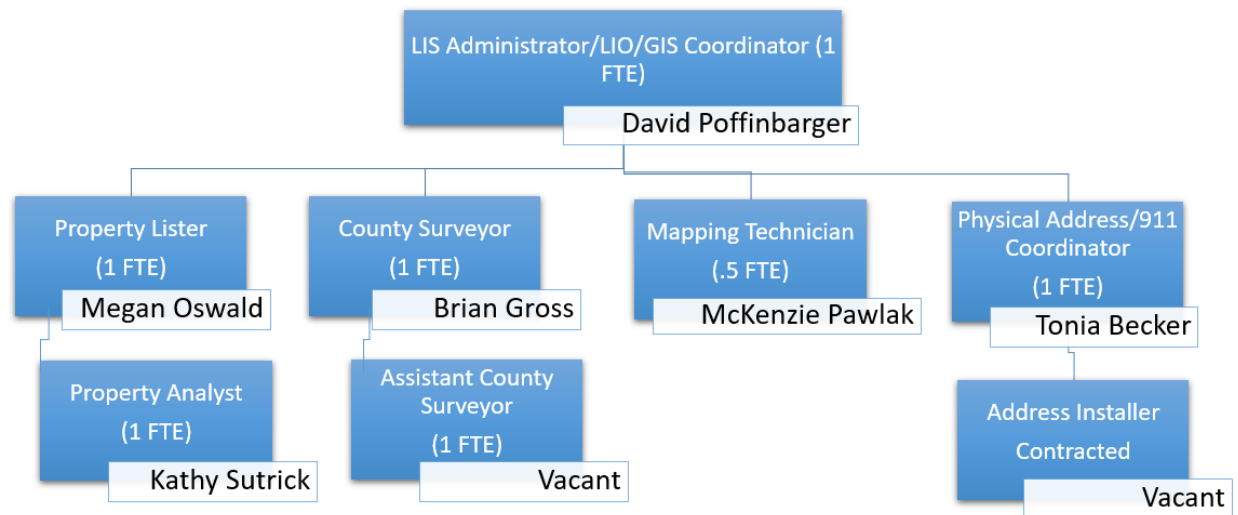
David Poffinbarger

LIS Administrator/LIO/GIS Coordinator

OVERVIEW OF THE DIVISION

The Land Information Systems is a Division of the Land and Water Resources. The division is made up of GIS/Land Records, Physical Address, Property Listing and Survey.

Organization Chart



G.I.S. - (Geographic Information Systems)/Land Records Overview

To act as the Land Information Officer and administer the counties involvement with the Wisconsin Land Information Program. To provide guidance, coordination, and technical assistance to users of Oconto Counties GIS and Land Records systems for the implementation, development, analysis and distribution of GIS/Land Records information. Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 59 governs GIS/Land Records program.

- The GIS Division has mapped approximately 42,000 parcels.
- In the surveyed townships, the mapping is in real time coordinates. All these maps are linked to the tax information database via the parcel number provided by Property Listing.
- This data is published to the SOLO website <http://ocmaps.co.oconto.wi.us/SOLO/> allowing access to information such as owner, parcel size, volume and page or document number of deed reference, brief legal, address, taxation status and tax bills.
- SOLO map layers include soils, wetlands, zoning, ortho-photography, hydrography, and contours, just to name a few.
- Local municipalities, private businesses and citizens utilize the SOLO/Tax Records to access their municipality reports and parcel information.
- SOLO is available to the public to access parcel data and maps.
- Maintains and updates the Sheriff's Department E-911 Dispatch mapping and address data utilized by Oconto Counties law enforcement software (Spillman).
- Provides GIS data, analysis and mapping to support daily functions of many county

departments including Planning/Zoning, Land Conservation, Forestry/Parks, Highway, Sheriff, Emergency Management, County Clerk and others. Also provides this assistance, information and services to other government agencies such as TEDCOR, Towns, Villages and Cities.

- The Division also prepares additional maps for the County Clerk's office for SVR (Statewide Voter Registration), and annually assists the local municipalities with the U.S. Census Consolidated Boundary and Annexation Survey (C-BAS) for Oconto County.

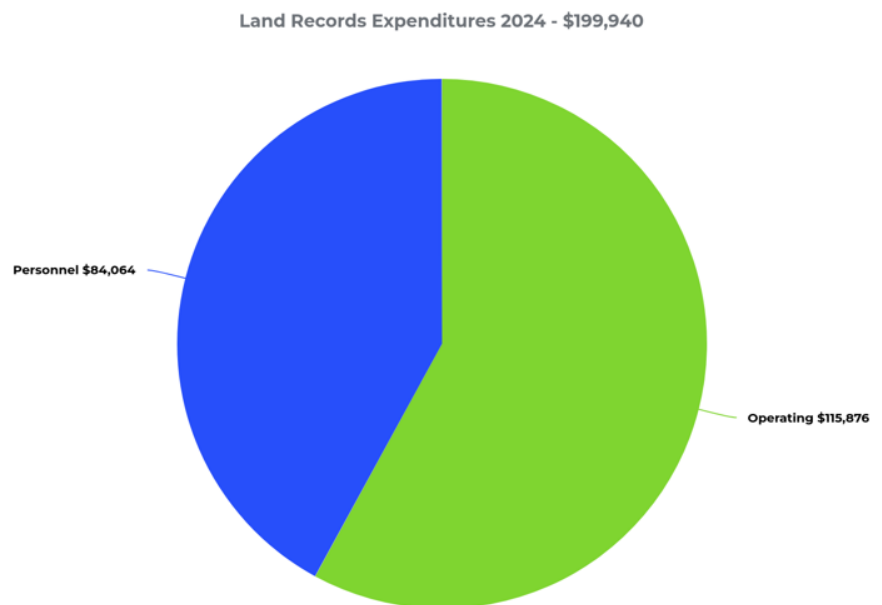
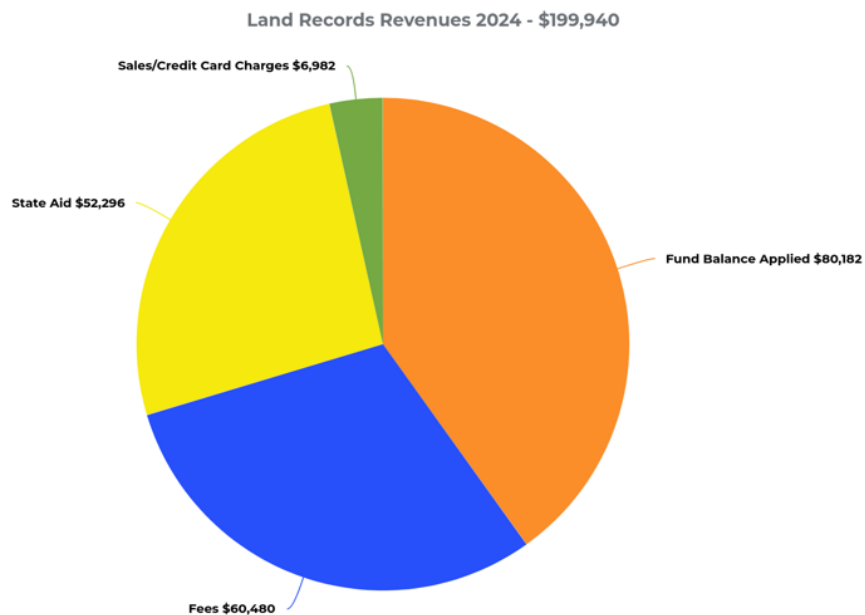
Current Year Accomplishments

- Applied for and was granted 2025 NG911 GIS grant in the amount of \$161,357 for server upgrades and 2025 3" pixel Orthophoto flight.
- Began the transition of GIS software, databases and services to support NG911.
- Created multiple web applications/maps for various projects.
- Worked with TEDCOR and the BEAD planning committee to provide assistance, data analysis and maps.
- Created 2025-2028 Land Records Modernization Plan.
- Evaluated and chose future vendor for tax records and permitting software (2026 implementation)
- Worked with multiple departments on various projects including Administration, County Clerk, Emergency Management, Forestry & Parks, Highway, Land Conservation, Planning and Zoning, Technology Services, Sheriff's Department.
- Assisted many other public and private parties involving mapping and data analysis.
- Converted Parcel editing environment to the ESRI parcel fabric and ArcGIS Pro.

Land Records Financial Overview

The Land Records program is a non-lapsing program that does not have an impact on the tax levy. Oconto County has been very successful in obtaining numerous grants over the past years to help with development, implementation, and maintenance of the GIS system, SOLO, the Register of Deeds Land Shark, Zoning Department permit tracking, Highway Department sign inventory, Sheriff's Department 911 mapping and the Forestry Department Emergency Shadow of the Dam program.

GIS/Land Records continued...



PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Overview

This program will coordinate and maintain the systematic physical address numbering for existing and new development. In addition, to assure proper development of future road names as outlined in Ordinance #265-1996. This Division continually works with E-911 Dispatch to resolve address and road conflicts. Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 59 governs the Physical Address program.

Current Year Accomplishments

- There were 165 new physical addresses issued through the County.
- There were 62 new signs issued for those that were worn, damaged or missing.
- There were 35 physical addresses that were changed from the original issued number.
- 210 Plats of Survey were scanned, indexed and filed along with 144 CSM's.
- Reviewed 2,620+ address and/or road name issues between the various County and Telephone Company databases as part of the NG 911 implementation process.

PROPERTY LISTING

Overview

The Real Property Lister's office is responsible for approximately 42,000 parcels listed in computer files that are used to maintain accurate lists and descriptions of all parcels of real property in the county that are subject to tax and those exempt from such tax. The office provides lists, maps and descriptions for use by assessors, municipal officials, and the public. Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 70 governs Property Listing.

- On an annual basis a combination of over 8,200 changes, splits, and parcel combinations are entered into the system from January to December.
- The Division continually works with the local municipalities and assessors to transfer assessment data over the internet for uploads to the tax program. Data is annually transmitted in XML format to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to comply with Statewide Standard for Property Information.
- We continually work with the LandNav/GCS tax program developer to provide new enhancements and upgrades.

Current Year Accomplishments

- There were 39,768 real estate tax bills printed and mailed.
- Approximately 8,200 combos, splits and documents recorded in 2023.
- There were 6 assessment revaluations in 2024. (towns of Breed, Lena, Mountain, Stiles and Underhill, and the city of Oconto)
- The Property Listing staff, along with the Survey Division and Physical Address Coordinator, reviewed 143 land divisions (CSM's and Plats) in 2024.

SURVEYING

Overview

The purpose of the Survey Department is to re-establish, perpetuate, and maintain the physical and record evidence of the original government survey and to preserve the (PLSS) Public Land Survey System and the records thereof, as a basis for an accurate land title and boundary location. This also includes annually working with all 29 municipalities to assure the preservation of these

PLSS section corners and land ownership monuments that may become endangered of being destroyed due to construction and development. Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 59 & 236 governs the Survey Department.

- Provides technical assistance to other county departments, municipalities on land ownership and land location issues.
- Provides the base mapping and control for all parcel mapping and GIS (Geographic Information System) applications.
- Reviews and approves CSM's, Plats etc to make certain that they comply with the Oconto County Land Division Ordinance, additionally Plats of Surveys and other misc. maps where we do not have statutory review authority are also filed and made available to the public.
- Two-thirds or more of the County has been fully surveyed and re-monumented. Only portions of Townsend, Lakewood, Doty, Riverview, Mountain, Brazeau, Breed, and Bagley remain.
- Guidance is given to local surveyors in the form of survey records, documents, and other notes.

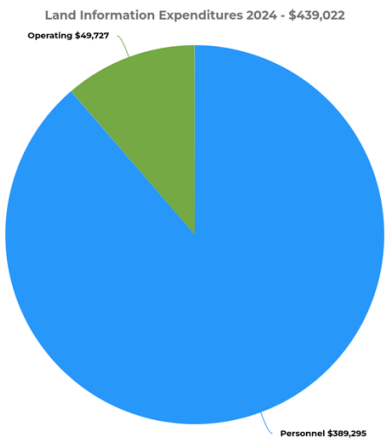
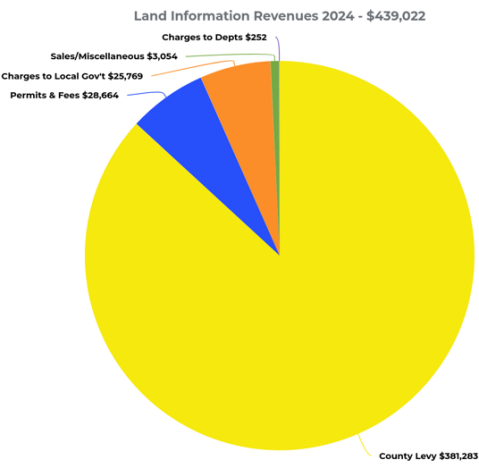
Surveying Continued...

- Continuously obtaining coordinates on section corners in populated areas where they are needed for development reasons. When complete, we can begin to survey the less populated or public land areas.

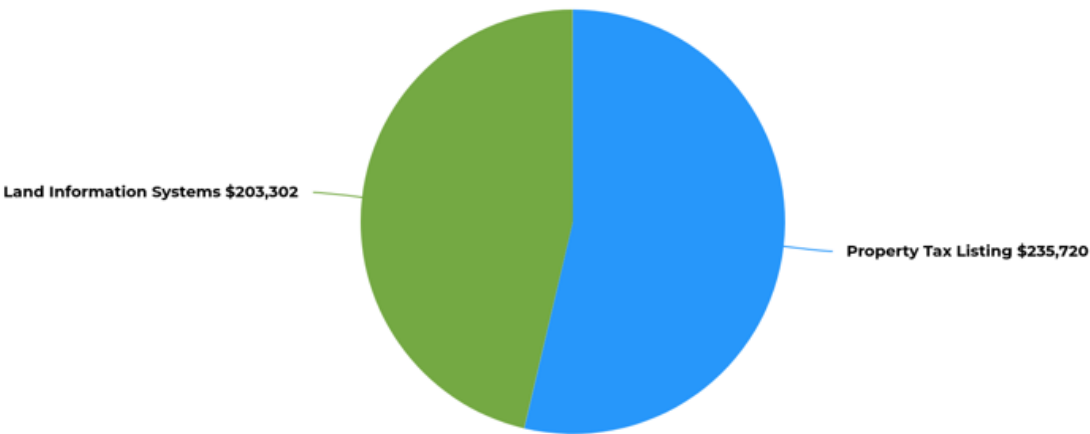
Current Year Accomplishments

- Last year the Division was able to check, preserve and/or restore approximately 152 PLSS (Public Land Survey System) "section corners" in road right-of-ways in addition to 15 +/- new off-road PLSS corner observations.
- Most of Breed has been re-monumented. We will be using the re-monumented PLSS framework to re-map Breed's parcels more accurately
- Assisted Forestry/Parks on multiple issues involving marking property lines and elevations.
- Assisted Highway department in analyzing, remapping, and fielding countless calls from organizations relying on Highway Right of Ways for utility installations and various other projects within these areas.
- Reviewed 131 CSM's and 2 State Plats. 1 in the Village of Suring, 9 in the City of Oconto, and 121 throughout the rest of Oconto County.

Land Information Financial Overview



Land Information Expenditures 2024 - \$439,022



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Department Overview:

Planning & Zoning Department administers the County's general zoning, shoreland, floodplain, private sewage system, airport, subdivision, nonmetallic mining and other ordinances. These ordinances are administered and enforced county wide within the townships of Oconto County. The ordinances are adopted under the authority granted to the County Board under various sections & chapters of WI Statute 59.69, 144, 145 and Chapter 236.

The mission of the Oconto County Planning and Zoning Department is to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of Oconto County. Through the planning efforts and plan implementation with various ordinances, the department guides and regulates land use activities as Oconto County works toward a vision of being a family centered destination in which to live, work, and recreate.

The Land & Water Resources (LWR) Committee oversees the departments of Forestry & Parks, Land Conservation, Land Information/Records, Planning, Zoning & Solid Waste, Register of Deeds and UW Extension. The Committee consists of 5 members of the county board and 2 alternate members whom may attend public hearings in the absence of a committee member.

Land & Water Resources Committee:

Tim Cole - Chair

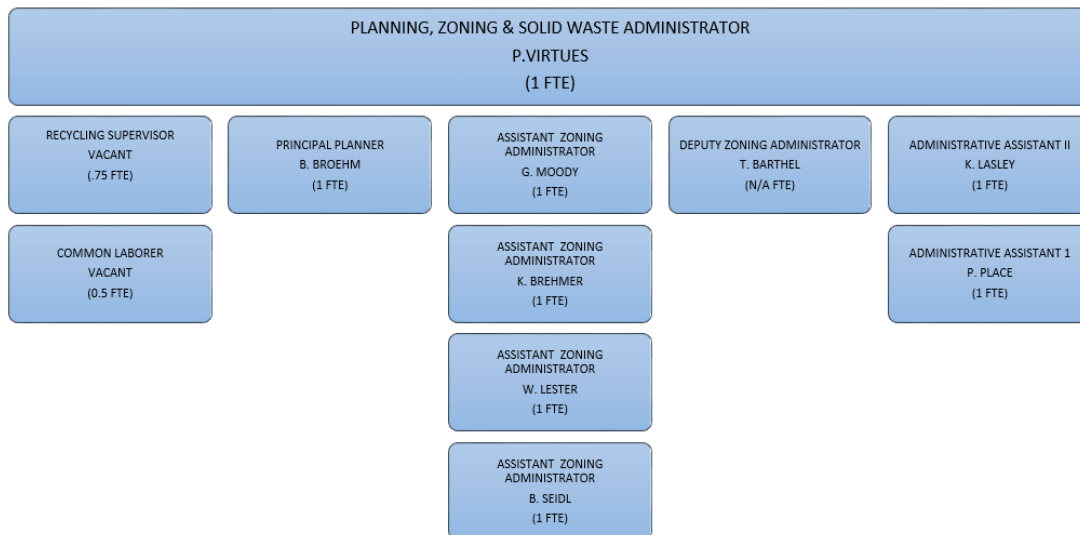
Wayne Kaczrowski

Mike Beyer

Pat Scanlan - Vice Chair

Keith Schneider

ZONING/PLANNING/SOLID WASTE



Financial Overview

Revenues for the department are generated via permit application fees for land use, sanitary, nonmetallic mining, land division permits, public hearing fees, etc. The fee schedule was last updated in January 2024. Sanitary & land use permit revenues met the budgeted revenues in 2024. Personnel costs is a major expense to run the department.

The goal of the department was to assure fiscal responsibility with budgeted county tax levy dollars while furthering the orderly development of properties within the towns of Oconto County and protection of the counties' many natural resources. The department did not exceed the

amount of levied funds to manage the mandated programs. The final department figures showed the actual levy amount reduced by \$25,606 from the budgeted amount of \$369,889 to \$344,282.

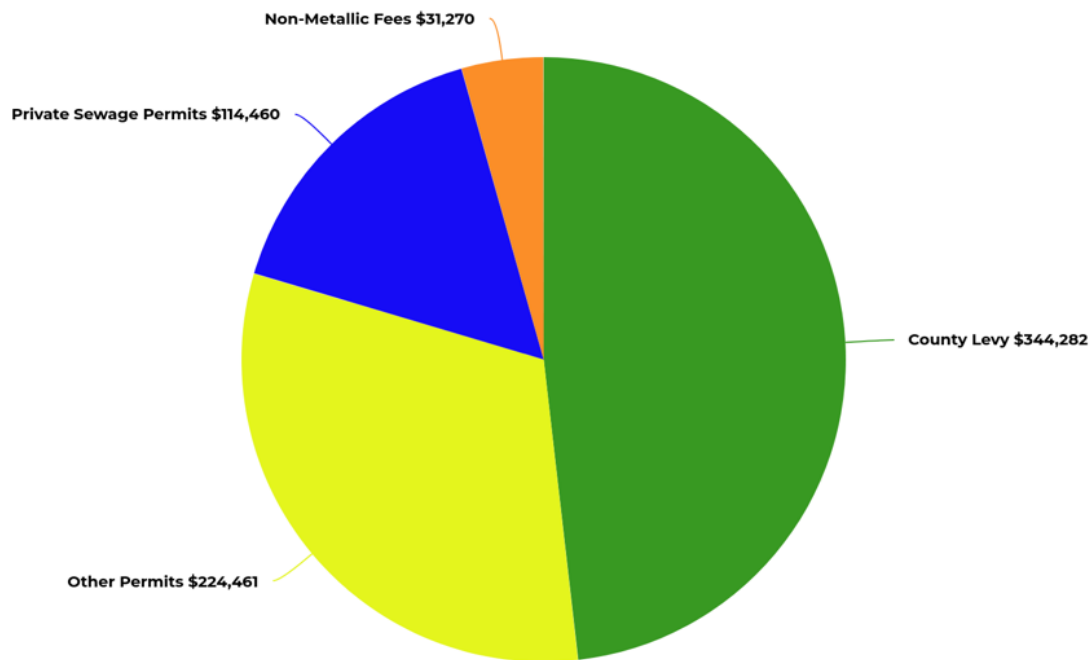
Adjusted Budget Expenses	\$733,919
Adjusted Budget Revenue	\$364,030

Actual Expenses	\$714,473
Actual Revenue	\$370,190

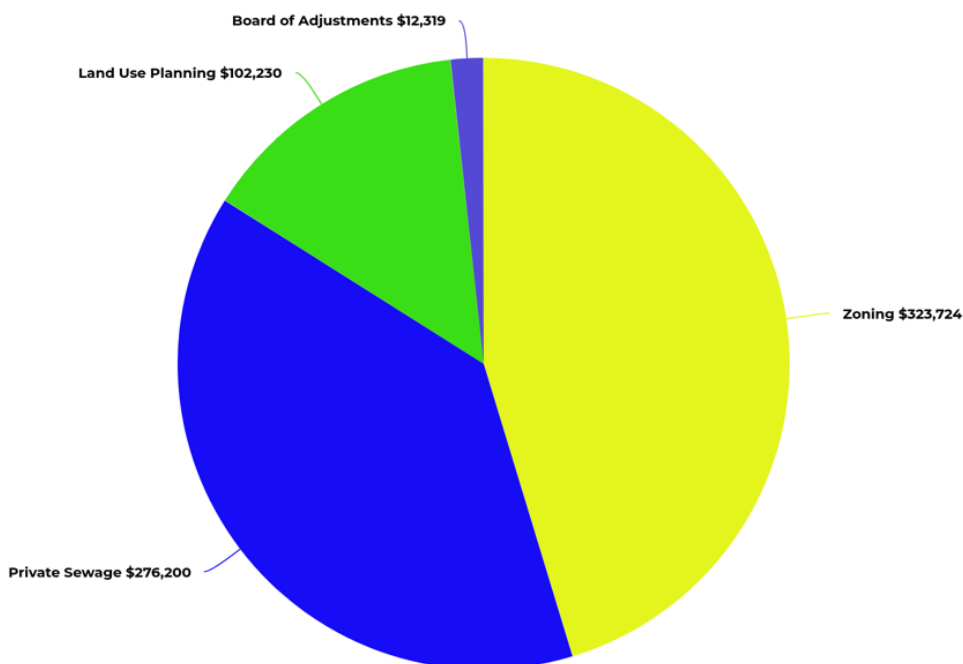
Budgeted Levy Amount **\$369,889**

Actual Levy Amount **\$344,282**

Zoning Revenues 2024 - \$714,473



Zoning Expenditures 2024 - \$714,473



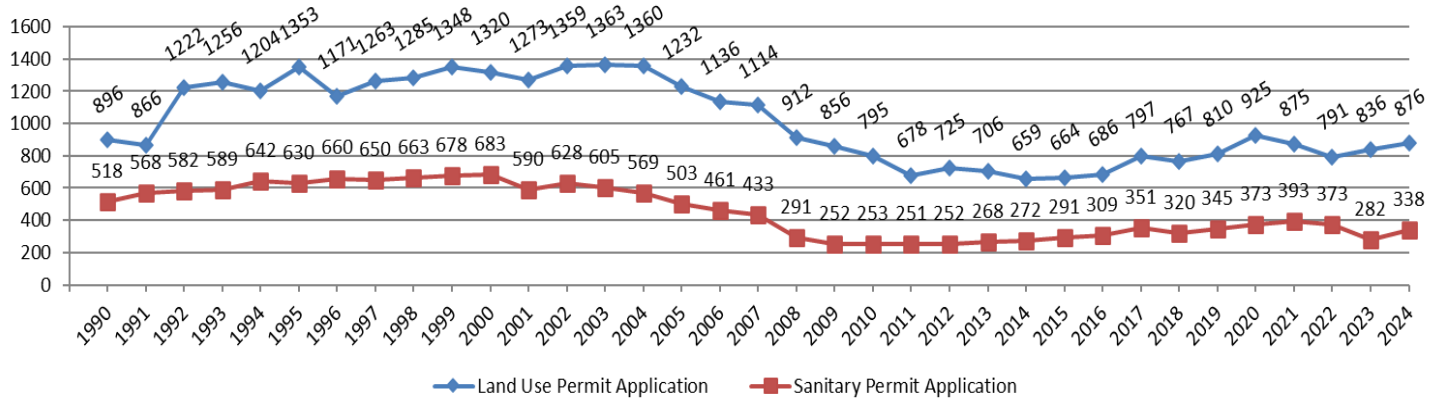
2024 Accomplishments

Land Use and Sanitary Permits

The Planning and Zoning Department regulates certain land use activities through the issuance of land use permits and sanitary permits in compliance with the Oconto County Zoning, Shoreland, Floodplain, Non-Metallic Mining and Sanitary Ordinances. The following charts further break down permits issued historically by the department including the northern satellite office and deputy zoning administrator.



Permit Applications



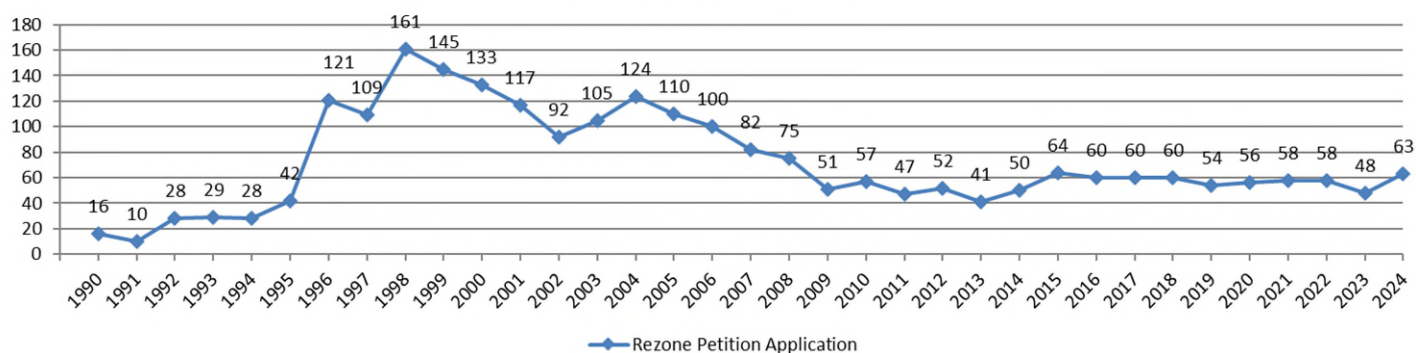
Land Use Permits (LUP)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total LUP	925	875	791	836	876
Issued by: Zoning Office	602	546	481	536	525
Northern Office	211	226	223	236	287
Deputy Zoning Admin.	112	84	87	55	64
New Single Family Homes (Non-Shoreland)	153	124	122	81	82
New Single Family Homes (Shoreland)	17	44	19	26	40
Floodplain Development	15	19	6	9	6
Sanitary Permits					
# of Sanitary Permits issued	373	393	373	282	338
# of Sanitary Permits Inspected	355	362	360	268	197
WI Fund applications	7	0	-	-	-
WI Fund Grant Funding	\$23,125	\$0	-	-	-
Sanitary Permits by Type					
New Construction	147	166	158	114	131
Reconnects	35	35	36	31	42
Replacements	158	164	157	106	125
Replace tank only	26	27	18	15	10
System Modifications	7	1	4	3	4

	2022		2023		2024			2022		2023		2024	
	LUP	Sani	LUP	Sani	LUP	Sani		LUP	Sani	LUP	Sani	LUP	Sani
Abrams	60	15	49	6	45	12	Maple Valley	9	6	14	5	19	5
Bagley	8	7	9	1	7	6	Morgan	13	6	19	5	17	4
Brazeau	62	23	65	7	50	24	Mountain	60	31	49	19	50	20
Breed	19	7	27	9	31	13	Oconto	34	12	39	12	43	9
Chase	56	23	52	13	40	25	Oconto Falls	16	5	23	7	21	4
Doty	19	14	21	12	28	10	Pensaukee	25	9	32	11	42	8
Gillett	12	12	26	6	23	6	Riverview	62	46	63	28	83	38
How	8	5	12	6	15	5	Spruce	25	7	18	3	28	4
Lakewood	71	34	70	27	63	34	Stiles	29	10	22	18	30	16
Lena	6	3	11	6	17	5	Townsend	83	50	81	30	101	45
Little River	15	5	26	7	19	6	Underhill	17	15	34	21	30	13
Little Suamico	82	30	74	23	74	26	Cities or Villages	0	0	0	0	0	0

Petition to Rezone Applications

The Planning and Zoning Department provides assistance to the LWR Committee in reviewing petitions to rezone lands within Oconto County. In 2024, the Oconto County Principal Planner provided the LWR Committee with a thorough review and report on each of the 63 rezone petitions. Beginning in 2023, the department began utilizing a consent rezone process for inconsequential areas that are part of parcel realignments where no new lots are created in an effort to reduce cost and time for the towns and property owners. The department processed 15 consent rezones in 2024. The staff reports prepared assist committee members in the review process to ensure decisions are consistent with the Oconto County 20-year Comprehensive Plan as required by s. 66.1001 Wis. Stats. In addition, the Principle Planner provided numerous preliminary staff reviews to landowners and town officials for consideration in determining plan and ordinance consistency for development proposals and rezone petitions.

Rezone Applications

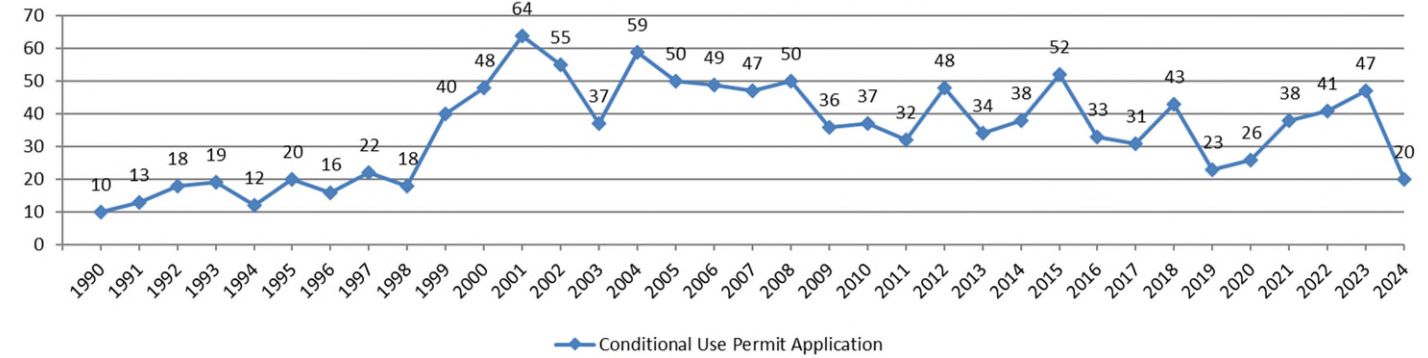


Conditional Use and Variance Applications

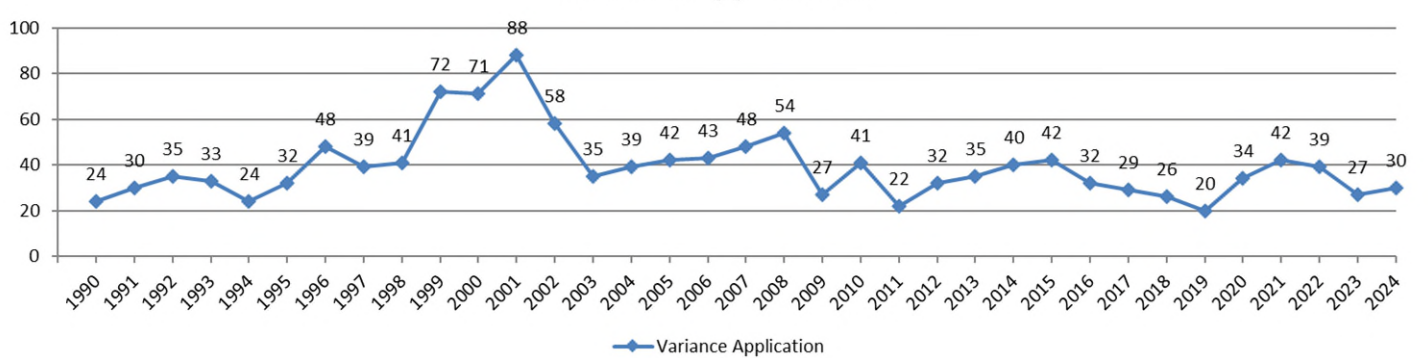
The Planning and Zoning Department provides assistance to the Oconto County Board of Adjustments in reviewing conditional use permit applications. In 2024, department staff provided the Board of Adjustment with a thorough review and report on 20 conditional use permit applications. A conditional use permit is a special permit issued by the Board of Adjustments that may contain unique conditions in order to permit the proposed use. The department staff provided the Board of Adjustment with a thorough review and report on 29 variance applications. The department also provided the LWR Committee with a thorough review and report on 1 land

division variance. A variance is a relaxation of the dimensional standards of the Oconto County Zoning Ordinance and the Oconto County Land Division Ordinance.

Conditional Use Applications



Variance Applications



Nonmetallic Mining & Reclamation Permits

The Oconto County Nonmetallic Mining Program has been in existence since August of 2001. Activities for 2024 included collecting annual fees for actual unreclaimed acreage for field season 2023. The department collected a total of \$39,690.00 in fees of which \$5180.00 was allocated to the WDNR. Utilizing the 2022 orthophotos, the department was able to better assess the actual active acreage for each site. New 2025 orthophotos flown this Spring will provide additional data to assist with compliance. The department performs onsite inspections, violation investigations, and data collecting to maintain the program. Staff has been reviewing each nonmetallic mining site's Financial Assurance to assure the County



would have no financial responsibility in the event the operator defaults or leaves the pit in an unreclaimed condition. To date we have \$2,706,785.00 in Financial Assurance on the books. In 2024 we will be increased annual fees to assure the NMM fees are adequate to administer the program. The department also maintains a database to keep track of Quarry Conditional Use Permits and Financial Assurance expiration deadlines.

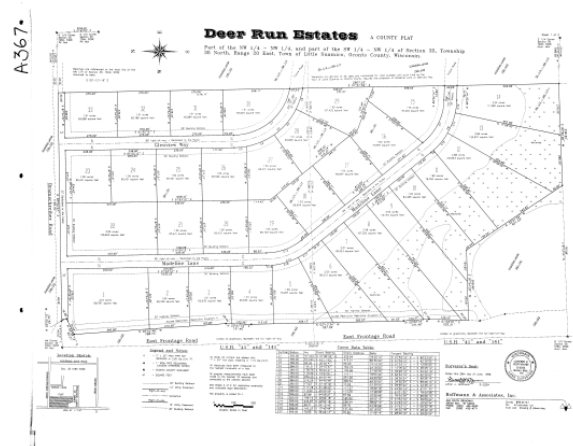
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
# of New NMM Permits Issued in fiscal year	0	1	1	1	2
# of Active Nonmetallic Mining permits in fiscal year	47	47	49	48	49
# of Acres currently being mined	898.66	904.00	941.00	881.00	947.93
# of Total affected acres	3321.43	3372.05	3179.00	3220.00	3287.844
# of acres that have been reclaimed in fiscal year	18.45	5.00	13.00	77.00	13.00
# of In-Active Nonmetallic Mines	8	6	7	7	5
# of In-Active Nonmetallic unreclaimed acreage	35.60	27.25	14.80	14.80	11.8

Ordinance Development and Amendments

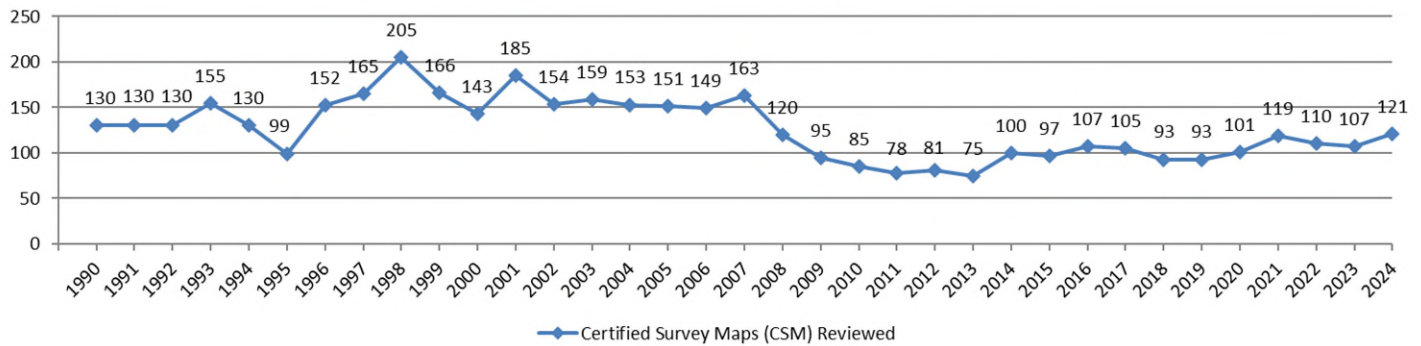
The Oconto County Zoning Ordinance regulates land uses and development within all the towns in Oconto County. Being that Oconto County is a rural county, ordinances are construed to be the least restrictive as compared to ordinances within cities and villages. In addition, legislative bills may bring about changes to regulations for consistency across the state. One such change pertained to the regulation of fowl on small residential parcels. The current ordinance for the housing/raising of 8 or less chickens/ducks was reviewed by the LWR Committee and recommendations were made to relax the restrictions to permit easier use of back yard chickens & ducks for personal use. As the bird flu has created a pandemic with large commercial chicken farms, more families are looking to raise their own fowl. In June, the County Board approved O2024-06-01 which relaxed the standards for residentially zoned properties to raise a limited number of fowl. The LWR Committee also reviewed the standards for dwelling size and age. Where the current zoning standard required a burdensome conditional use permit review process for any existing dwelling older than 15 yrs proposed to be placed on a parcel, the department realized that this extended timeframe for permit applicants to obtain approvals could be shortened with modifications to the primary dwelling standards. In July, the County Board approved O2024-07-01 which eliminated the 15yr conditional use review and modified the dwelling size standards to be more in line with the state Uniform Dwelling Code. Both ordinance amendments reduced an applicant's timeframe to obtain permit approvals while continuing to assure the intent and purpose of the Zoning Ordinance which is to further orderly development of lands and to ensure that lands allocated to a zoning district shall not be usurped by other inappropriate uses.

Land Division Reviews

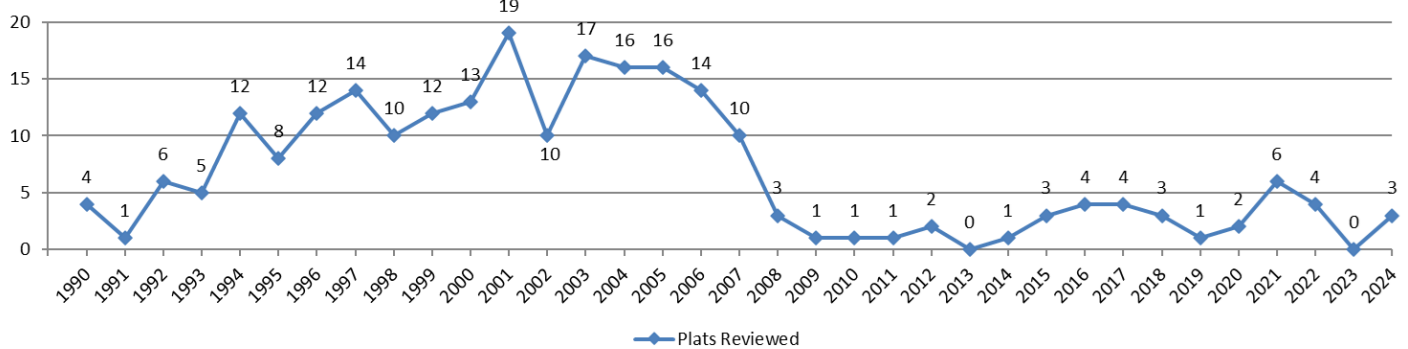
In 2024, the Principal Planner managed the review of 121 Certified Survey Maps (*40 Certified Survey Maps, 36 Retracement Certified Survey Maps, 43 Realignment Certified Survey Maps*), 1 Condo Plat and 2 State Plats. Of the 40 Certified Survey Maps submitted 33 have been finalized, creating 47 new lots. The remaining 7 Certified Survey Maps submitted, and pending approval will create an additional 16 new lots. Of the 36 retracement certified survey maps (a combination of existing lots) submitted and reviewed, 29 have been approved and recorded. Of the 43 Realignment Certified Survey Maps, 36 have been approved and recorded. The 1 condo plat reviewed and approved created 11 new units and the two state plats reviewed and approved created 22 new lots. In addition to the formally submitted land division reviews, numerous preliminary land division proposal reviews were provided to surveyors, developers, and landowners.



Certified Survey Maps Reviewed



Plats Reviewed



Zoning Enforcement

The department receives many complaints throughout the year. Most complaints are in regards to construction without obtaining proper Zoning permits or a use of property not permitted within the zoning district. Many enforcement cases are easily resolved through correspondence to the property owner to obtain the proper permits. Department can impose after the fact (ATF) fees to seek conformance with Zoning standards. While compliance with the ordinance standards is the ultimate goal in a timely manner, a number of violations required stepped up enforcement with the use of citations. The department issued 163 citations of which 95 were dismissed as compliance with the enforcement order was achieved prior to the court date. The following data summarizes complaints and enforcement cases created or acted upon in 2024 as compared to previous years:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
# of Complaints Filed with Zoning Dept	141	195	204	177	155	267	299
# of Pending Cases end of 2023	6	7	20	22	20	30	
# of Pending Cases end of 2024	4	0	6	6	14	24	37

Planning

In 2024, the Principal Planner provided assistance to developers, consultants, town officials and landowners in the review of development proposals, rezone petitions, conditional use and land divisions applications for consistency with adopted plans and compliance with all applicable ordinances. Providing assistance with GIS functions to the Planning and Zoning Department and other county departments through data development, data maintenance, and fulfilling data and mapping requests is and will continue to be provided by the Principal Planner. Throughout 2024, the Principal Planner continued assisting Towns with plan updates and plan implementation.

2024 CHALLENGES

2024 presented several challenges for the department. Again, illegal land development by landowners continued to be the number one challenge. As the department investigated citizen complaints and sought out compliance for unpermitted development, there will be certain

developments that the Zoning Ordinances just cannot permit. In some case-by-case unique parcel situations, variances were granted so that the department can approve permits for the construction. In 2024, there were 5 variance applications that were denied for various reasons. Most of these variance denials involved shoreland structures built without any permits. It is most unfortunate that citizens use invalid reasons for why a permit was not first obtained. Many explain that they did not know a permit was needed, the contractor should have known to obtain a permit or my neighbor constructed something similar and thought that they could do the same. The challenges for the department come about when violators attempt to validate their wrongful decisions with the use of social media as their platform to seek public acceptance for their ignorance of the rules and regulations. This has been a unique challenge in 2024 for the department and is anticipated to continue in 2025. Fortunately, the silent majority of public opinion supports the land use tools that the department has in place to enforce the county adopted ordinances so as to further the orderly use of lands and the conservation of its natural resources.

Also in 2024 was a transition year for the northern satellite office. For years the department has had a satellite office in Lakewood. This service has provided an opportunity for the citizens up north to consult with Zoning staff on development and obtain permits efficiently. In early spring, construction began on a Northern Oconto Riverview Town Hall (NORTH) facility. This shared facility with the Town of Riverview provides multiple county services. Throughout the summer



months, construction decisions were made on office layout and facility use. By December of 2024, the Zoning Department along with HHS, Veterans and Sheriffs Departments were in place to better service the northern community.

ON THE HORIZON

Development within the county has gradually increased over the last 10 years. Land use changes across the county continue to evolve from residential & commercial development in the southern towns, agricultural land uses in the central towns and increased recreational uses of our lakes and streams within the northern towns. Large scale uses such as solar farms have the potential to create concerns with our limited agricultural resources and the unknowns of how a large-scale use may change the dynamics of rural living in Oconto County. This will challenge the department and L&W Resources Committee with how best to manage land uses across Oconto County. Future updates to the Oconto County Comprehensive Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan and local Comprehensive Plans will further guide the department with the land use tools necessary to meet the purpose and vision for Oconto County.

In 2026, new permit tracking software is proposed to be in place to better assist staffing with consultations for future development proposals, compliance inspection reporting and overall flow of department permitting procedures.

REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE

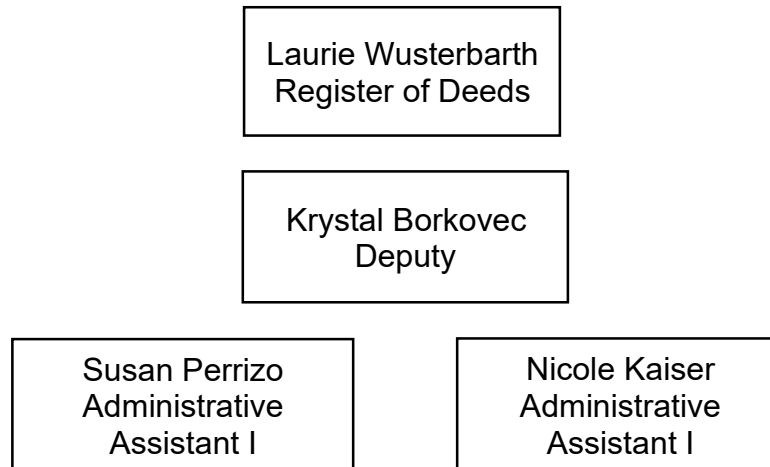
2024

ANNUAL REPORT to THE OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Respectfully submitted by

*Laurie Wusterbarth
Register of Deeds*

Organizational Chart



Department Overview

The office of the Register of Deeds in Wisconsin is older than our state itself, having been established in 1836 to protect the integrity of land ownership.

The Wisconsin Constitution established the Register of Deeds as a permanent element of the county-level government structure in 1848.

In 1907, the Register of Deeds statutorily became the designated office where all vital records for birth marriage death and military discharge would be accepted, indexed, filed, stored, and issued.

The Register of Deeds office serves as the official county repository for all real estate and vital records, as well as for the storage of and access to these records for the public, and over the past 175 years has filed, recorded, and issued a multitude of land record instruments and documents of significance to both the community as a whole, and individual residents.

Mission Statement

The Register of Deeds Office reviews, records, and scans documents into safe, archival storage, and indexes, provides access to, and maintains real estate records while complying with Wisconsin State Statutes (59.43) and (69.23). This office also serves the public by issuing copies of all real estate documents, vital records, and military discharges. In doing so, the office strives to maintain high standards of service and customer satisfaction.

The Register of Deeds Office reports to the Land & Water Resources Committee of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors, with members consisting of Chairperson Alan Sleeter, and Supervisors Tim Cole (Chair), Pat Scanlan (Vice Chair), Keith Schneider, Wayne Kaczrowski, and Mike Beyer.

How the Register of Deeds Serves the Public

* **Property Ownership:** our office records deeds, mortgages, satisfactions/releases, land contracts, right of ways, easements, agreements, federal tax liens, termination of decedents interest, certified survey maps, and plat maps. Generally, anything that has to do with real estate and land ownership can be found filed or recorded with us.

* **Vital Records:** birth, marriage, divorce, and death certificates are available in our office. Currently, all birth and marriage certificates are now available statewide.

* **Military Discharges:** DD-214 records are recorded at no charge per WI State Statute and permanently stored for our military veterans.

Financial Position

At year end, the revenue generated by the Register of Deeds office was \$357,084.00, while expenses totaled \$286,394.00, resulting in a \$70,690.00 credit. In addition, \$58,480.00 was generated for the Land Information fund, therefore a total of \$415,564.00 went to the county via the Register of Deeds office.

Current Year Accomplishments

- *Recorded 7,570 real estate documents: 4,321 electronically (57%) and 3,249 as paper (43%)
- *Issued 5,242 vital records: 671 birth certificates, 4,079 death certificates, 489 marriage certificates, and 3 divorce certificates
- *Preparation of the enforcement of Act 235/Judicial Privacy law
- *Back-indexing of historical documents
- *Knowledge of tract searching by staff continues to improve

Current Year Challenges

- *Preparation for the enforcement of Act 235/Judicial Privacy law which will require the shielding of a judicial officer's real estate and vital records, if requested. This law will necessitate a modification to our current software and will require our office to shield those records to the public.
- *The economy affects the number of recordings our office receives, since the majority of the documents we record are deeds and mortgages. When interest rates are up, recordings are generally down due to home sales and refinances being down, and when recordings are down, our revenue is down.

On the Horizon

- *Working with Technology Services to implement Laserfiche, the county's new imaging system
- *Update to our online records searching program, LandShark
- *Update to our in-house software program, LandLink
- *Implement the use of Point & Pay credit card system, in conjunction with the LandLink update
- *Make tract books available online in LandShark
- *Continue making modifications to our department webpage

Fee Schedule

Recording Fee

- *\$30 per document

Real Estate-Related Uniform Commercial Code Financing Statements

- *UCC-1 Financing Statement (fixture filings only): \$30 per document
- *UCC-3 Financing Statement Amendment (fixture filings only): \$30 per document

Federal Tax Liens

- *Filing or recording: \$30 per document

Copies of Recorded Documents, UCC filings, Federal Tax Liens

- *\$2 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page, per document. An additional \$1 is charged for certification.

Filed Plats

- *Plats (Cemetery, Condominium & Subdivision): \$50
- *Transportation Project Plats: \$25

Vital Records

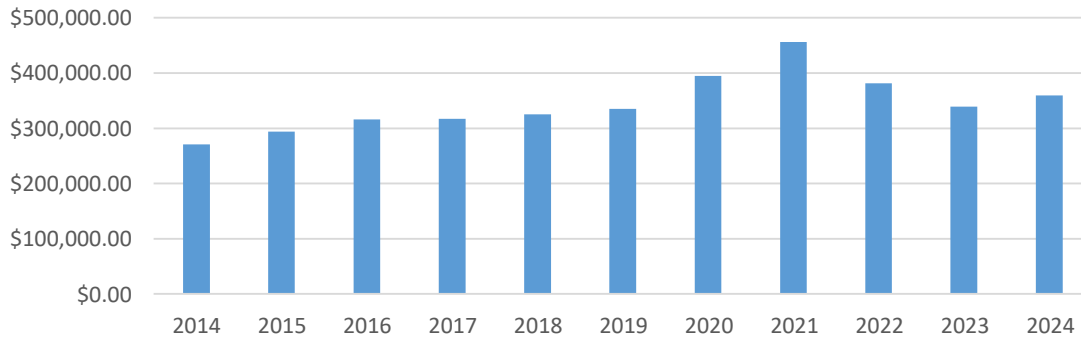
- *\$20 for the first copy and \$3 for each additional copy, ordered at the same time

Register of Deeds Annual Report to Oconto County Board of Supervisors

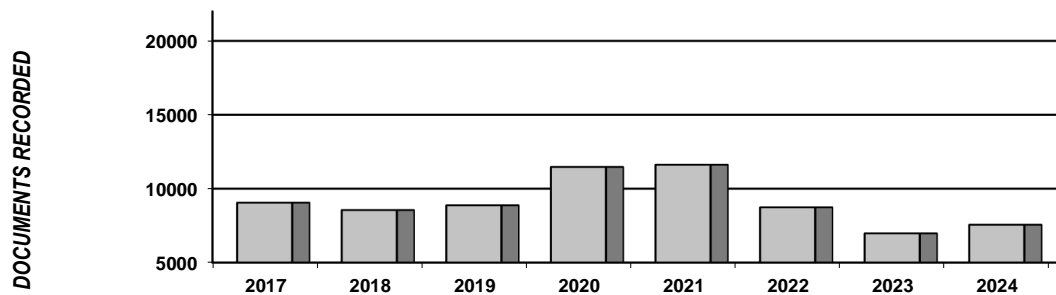
FEES COLLECTED BY REGISTER OF DEEDS IN 2024

FEE CATEGORY	COUNTY Regular Fees	COUNTY Land Information Funds	STATE	TOTAL REVENUE
REAL ESTATE RECORDING FEES	115,650.00	58,480.00	52,920.00	227,050.00
REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX	151,997.49		603,288.00	755,285.49
REAL ESTATE COPY FEES	18,638.00			18,638.00
REPORTS/POSTAGE/MISC/SEARCH FEES	36.25			36.25
ONLINE ACCESS FEES	53,985.00			53,985.00
VITAL RECORDS COPY FEES	18,881.00		14,631.00	33,512.00
TOTALS	359,187.74	58,480.00	670,839.00	1,088,506.74

FEES RETAINED BY OCONTO COUNTY GENERAL FUND 2017-2024



VOLUME OF REAL ESTATE RECORDINGS 2017-2024

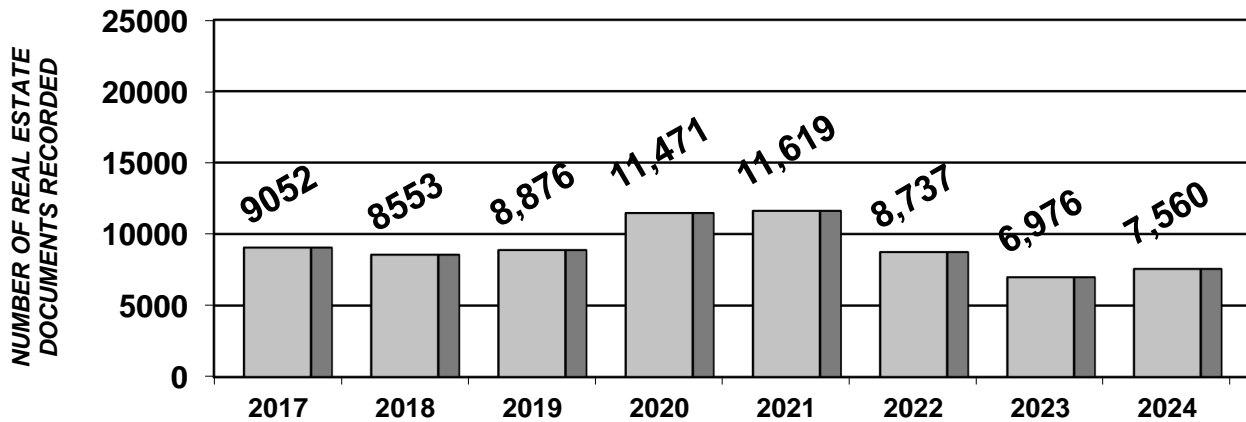


	Total Number of Documents Recorded	Electronically Recorded Documents	Percent Electronically Recorded	Average Number of Monthly Documents
2021	11,619	6,043	52%	968
2022	8,737	4,820	55%	728
2023	6,976	3,848	55%	581
2024	7570	4321	57%	631

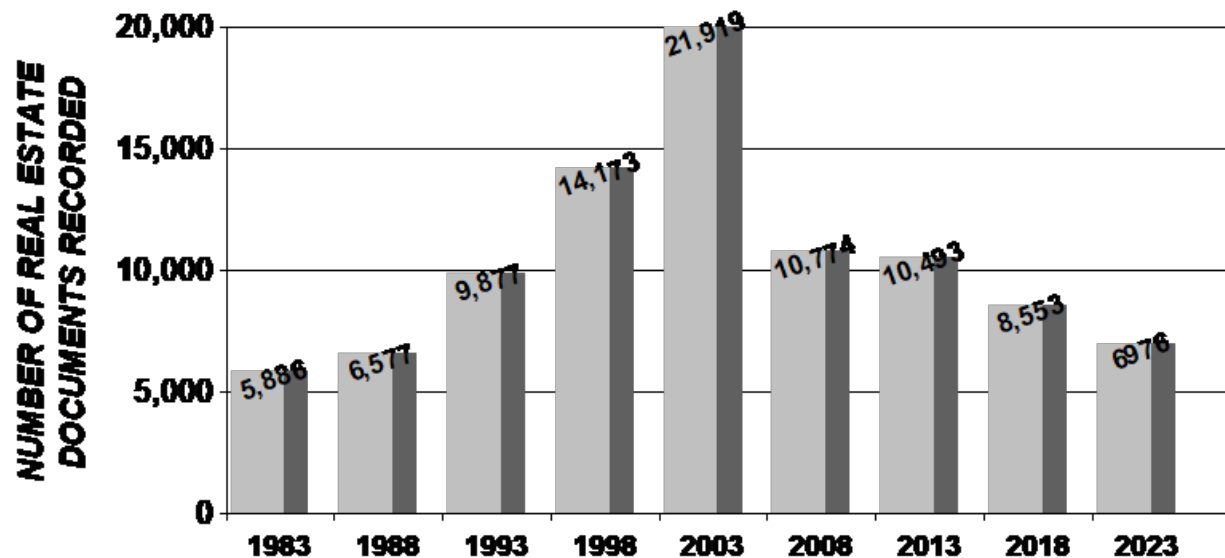
***Respectfully submitted by Laurie Wusterbarth, Register of Deeds
April, 2025***

Register of Deeds Annual Report to Oconto County Board of Supervisors

**VOLUME OF REAL ESTATE RECORDINGS
2017 - 2024**



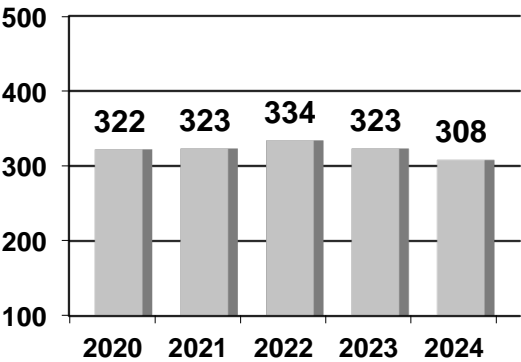
HISTORICAL DATA 1983-2023



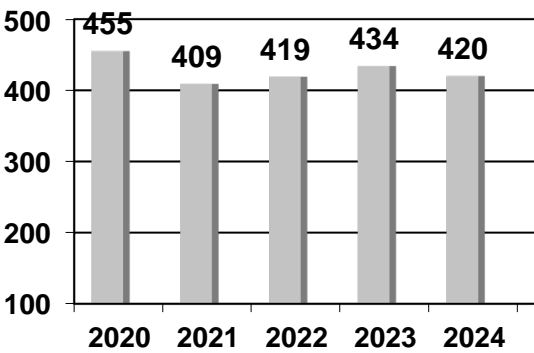
VITAL RECORDS ACTIVITY IN 2024

2024 VITAL RECORDS	ORIGINAL RECORDS PROCESSED		TOTAL ISSUED	
	First copy	Add'l copies	This year	Last Year
<i>BIRTHS</i>	409	262	671	765
<i>DEATHS</i>	530	3,549	4,079	4,240
<i>MARRIAGES</i>	207	282	489	688
<i>DIVORCES</i>	3	0	3	3

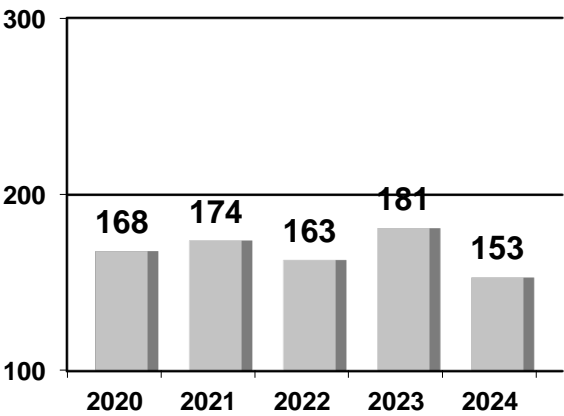
BIRTH RECORDS FILED



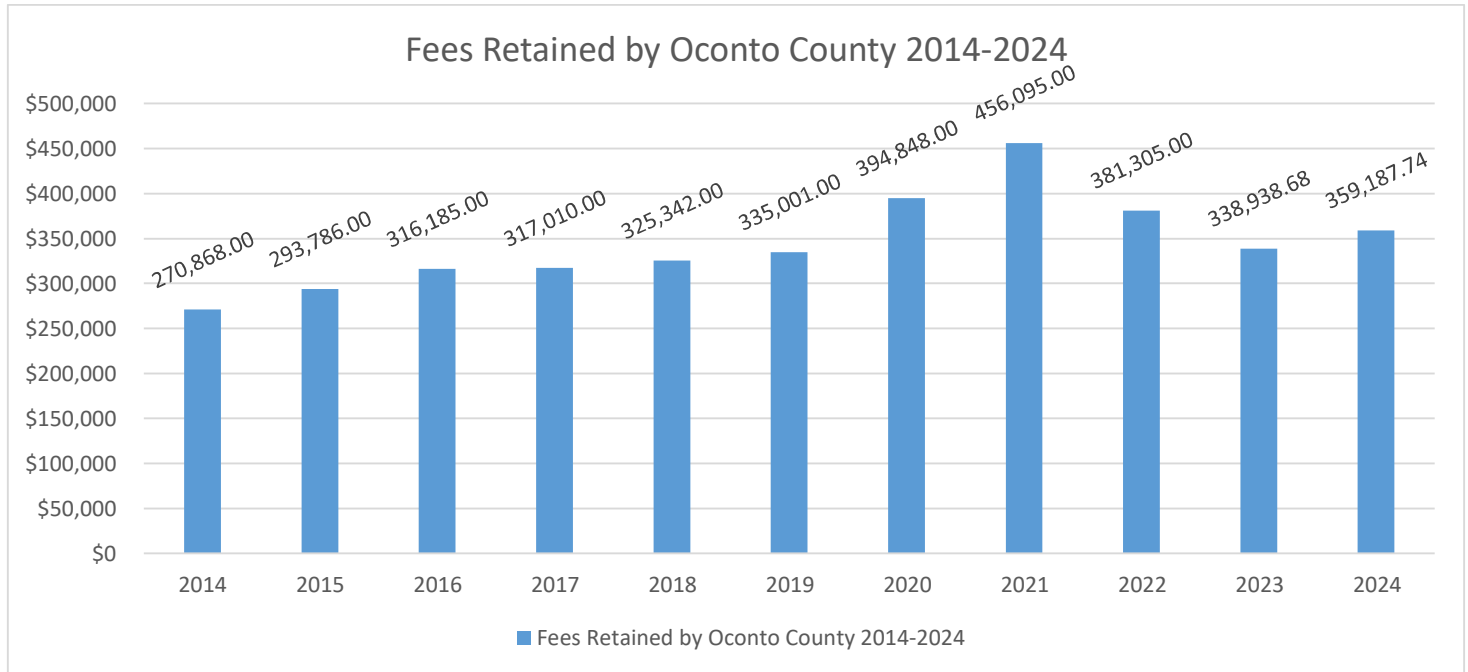
DEATH RECORDS FILED



MARRIAGE RECORDS FILED



Register of Deeds Annual Report to Oconto County Board of Supervisors



INCLUDES:

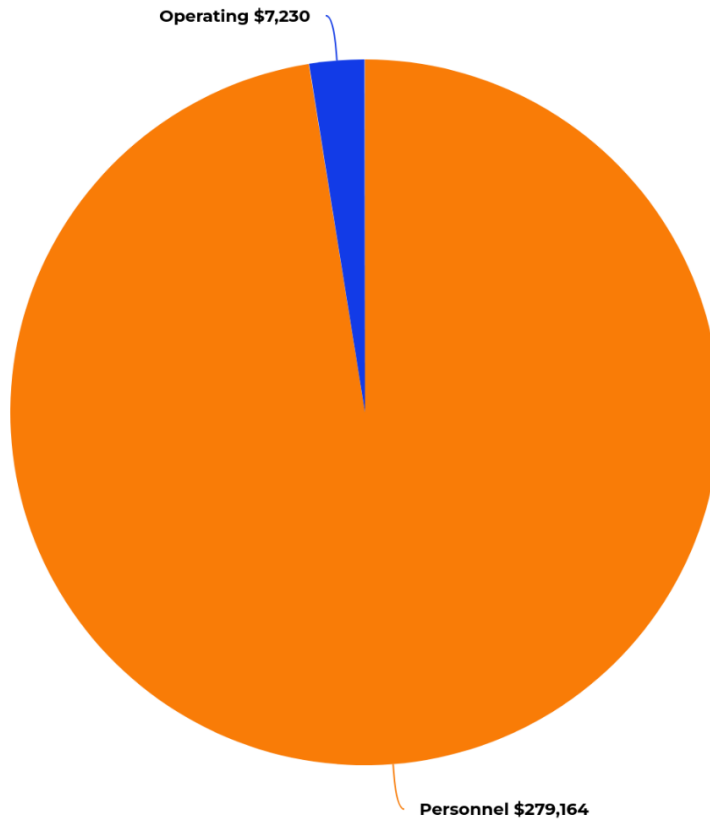
- **COUNTY SHARE OF RECORDING FEES**
- **COUNTY SHARE OF VITAL RECORDS FEES**
- **LANDSHARK ONLINE ACCESS REVENUE**
- **REAL ESTATE COPIES AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES**
- **COUNTY SHARE OF TRANSFER TAX**

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

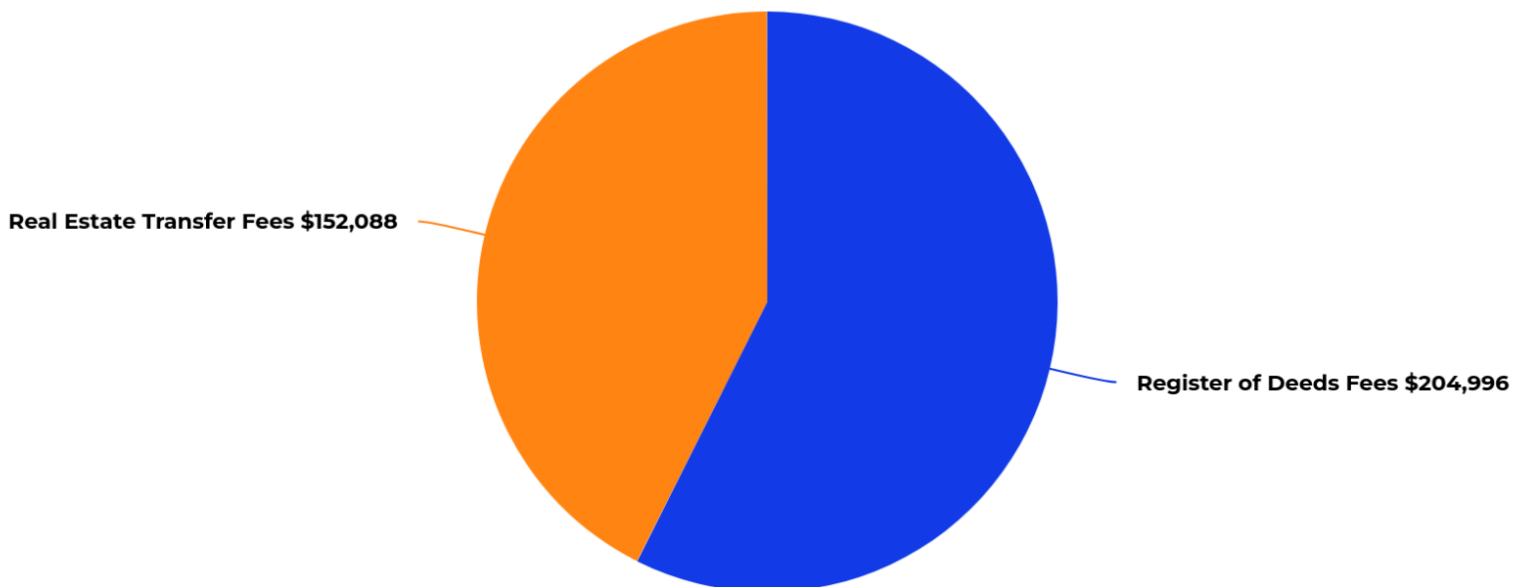
- **FEES COLLECTED FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**
- **COUNTY LAND INFORMATION PROGRAM REVENUE**

**IN 2024, THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE RECORDED
9 VETERAN'S DISCHARGE/SEPARATION PAPERS FOR NO FEE.
WE ALSO FULFILLED 91 VITAL/REAL ESTATE RECORD COPY REQUESTS
FOR VETERAN'S BENEFITS AT NO CHARGE PER WI STATE STATUTE**

Register of Deeds Expenditures 2024 - \$286,394



Register of Deeds Revenues 2024 - \$357,084



2024 SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW:

The Oconto County Solid Waste Department administers the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Ordinances of the Oconto County Code of Ordinances. The purpose of the ordinances are to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people and communities and to promote recycling, composting and resource recovery through the administration of an effective recycling program under the authority granted by WI Statute 287 and Chapter NR 500 & NR 544 Wi Admin. Code.

The 2024 Oconto County Recycling Program was in its 8th year of conversion to a Single Stream recycling program. With the conversion to single stream, Oconto County maintained its status as a Responsible Unit for its member municipalities. The following municipalities committed to work with Oconto County under a new 3-year intergovernmental agreement: Abrams, Bagley, Doty, Village of Lena, Town of Lena, Little Suamico, Maple Valley, Morgan, Oconto, Riverview, Stiles, How, Village of Suring, Oconto Falls, City of Oconto Falls.

Land & Water Resources Committee:

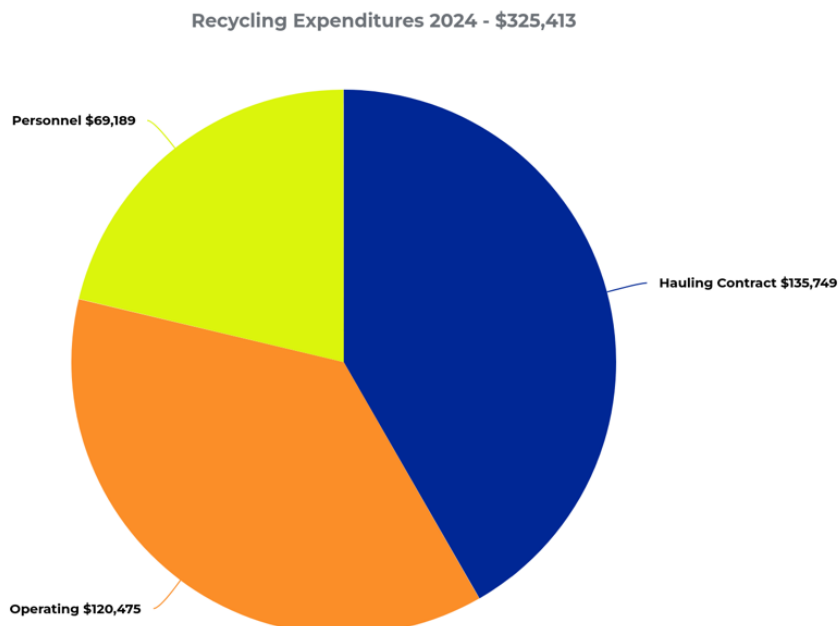
Tim Cole - Chair	Wayne Kaczrowski	Mike Beyer
Pat Scanlan - Vice Chair	Keith Schneider	

Solid Waste Department Staff:

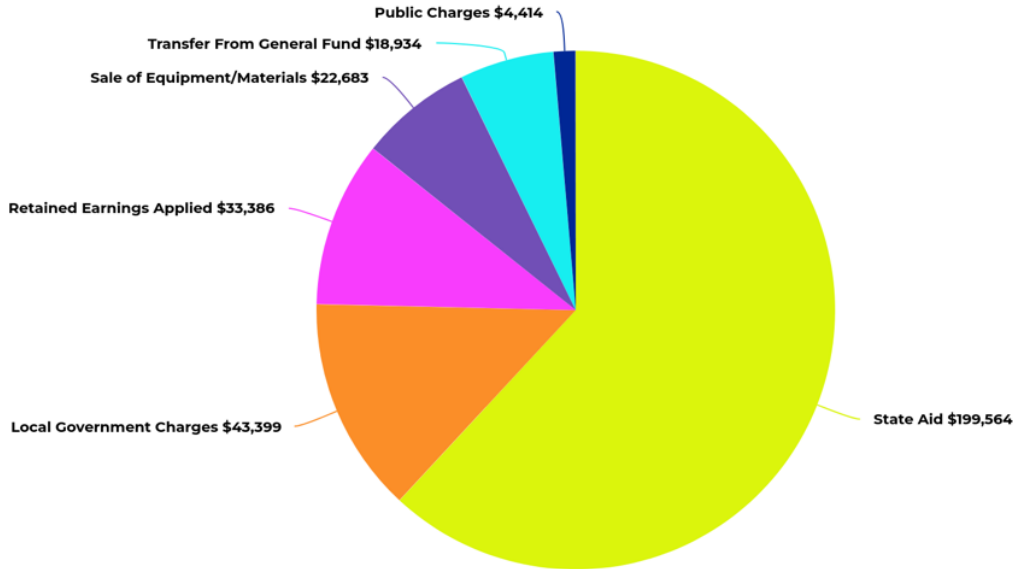
Pat Virtues- P&Z/SW Administrator
Kaylynn Lasley - Administrative Assistant II
Paula Place - Administrative Assistant I

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

The Solid Waste Department annually receives DNR grant funds to administer the Oconto County Recycling Program for its member municipalities. Grant funds awarded in 2024 were \$167,472 and are to be used for expenses related to single stream recycling of the residential waste stream and other recyclables banned from landfills. The majority of expenditures is from operating cost that involve hauling contracts to move recyclables to facilities where they can be processed into marketable materials. The graphs show the breakdown of revenues & expenses for the Recycling program.



Recycling Revenues 2024 - \$325,413



Grant funds and revenue from sales of single stream recyclables were not sufficient to cover all the actual costs and Retained Earnings were used to balance the budget. The Recycling Program operates with no tax levy dollars. At the end of 2024 the restricted retained earnings in the Recycling Reserve account sits at \$213,627.

CURRENT YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Agricultural & Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Event

On May 10th & 11th, the department held Clean Sweep events for the general public to properly dispose of their hazardous waste. The event was a joint effort with Marinette County providing multiple locations for disposal in each county. A DATCP Grant of \$32,091 supported the efforts of both counties. Staff from both counties assisted in gathering participants' information and survey questions. Veolia Environmental Services collected, categorized and packaged all hazardous materials which were then destined for proper disposal. Since Oconto or Marinette Counties do not have a permanent Hazardous Waste Disposal site, the temporary events are held every 4-5 years so citizens have a resource to properly dispose of unwanted chemicals instead of tossing the items in the garbage or leaking out at their properties. Most survey results from participants suggested that the event should be held annually. Both counties supported the event by funding \$18,934/county to dispose of the hazardous chemicals. Below are the results of the 2024 event along with comparisons from events held in the past.



CLEAN SWEEP SUMMARY OF MARINETTE & OCONTO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL/HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM COLLECTIONS SINCE 2006

	2006			2011			2019			2024		
Participation:	AG	HHW	Total	AG	HHW	Total	AG	HHW	Total	AG	HHW	Total
Marinette County	19	389	408	8	179	187	24	165	189	20	150	170
Oconto County	28	134	162	6	88	94	21	99	120	17	128	145
Total Participants	47	523	570	14	267	281	45	264	309	37	278	315
Waste Totals (lbs):												
Marinette County	5,360	17,061	22,421	1,286	12,649	13,935	2,276	15,103	17,379	206	11,578	11,784
Oconto County	4,097	10,127	14,224	1,980	10,749	12,729	3,710	10,379	14,089	201	14,859	15,060
Total lbs.	9,457	27,188	36,645	3,266	23,398	26,664	5,986	25,482	31,468	407	26,437	26,844
Disposal cost/lb			\$2.58			\$2.65			\$2.56			\$3.29



Single Stream Recycling with Committed Municipalities:

Oconto County is the responsible unit for 15 committed municipalities. With the conversion to single stream recycling, all services are provided via contracts between Oconto County and licensed haulers to properly transport and dispose of recyclable items at designated recycling facilities. The drop off sites provide for convenient locations for citizens to dispose of their recyclables. The contracted hauler collects single stream recyclables from 8 yd containers located at the municipal drop-off centers weekly. Each site requires a certain number of 8 cu yd. containers to collect a week’s worth of single stream recyclables. The City of Oconto Falls maintains a county owned compactor and roll off for single stream recyclables as well as a curbside collection service. All single stream materials are processed at the Tri-County MRF in Outagamie Co. The department also administers the collection of used tires, scrap metals including appliances, waste oil & used oil filters, antifreeze, electronic waste items such as televisions, computer-related equipment, lamps & bulbs, batteries and other miscellaneous electronic items through contracts. 2024 tonnage reporting of single stream materials collected at the drop off centers are provided below. 2024 Single Stream tonnages of 1148.81 tons are up from the 2023 tonnage amount of 950.51 tons.

2024 Oconto Co. Single Stream Recycling	8yd container ct.	Municipal tonnages
ABRAMS	6	101.54
BAGLEY	1	16.92
DOTY	4	67.70
LENA-VILLAGE/TOWN	4	67.70
LITTLE SUAMICO	8	135.39
MAPLE VALLEY	2	33.85
MORGAN	3	50.77
OCONTO TOWN	5	84.62
RIVERVIEW	11	186.16
STILES	7	118.47
SURING & HOW	4	67.70
*OCONTO FALLS CITY/TOWN		218.00
Total Tons		1148.81

* Oconto Falls utilizes rolloff containers & compactor to reduce hauling costs.



The Tri-County Materials Recovery Facility (BOW) MRF Composition report provides a summary of materials that are recycled throughout Northeast Wisconsin communities. Below is the percentage of materials that were processed at their facility from multiple communities.

TRI-COUNTY (BOW) MRF COMPOSITION							
Commodity	Percent						Average
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Newsprint	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Cardboard	20.18%	22.17%	25.03%	22.72%	25.53%	23.18%	23.14%
Mix Paper	37.34%	36.66%	33.31%	37.14%	37.15%	33.36%	35.83%
Aluminum	1.21%	1.19%	1.56%	1.51%	1.58%	1.95%	1.50%
Plastics 3-7	~	~	~	~	~	0.08%	0.08%
HDPE - Natural	1.21%	1.10%	1.12%	0.79%	0.94%	0.81%	0.99%
HDPE - Color	1.24%	1.20%	1.15%	0.70%	0.75%	1.27%	1.05%
PET	3.79%	3.80%	3.68%	3.45%	3.46%	4.13%	3.72%
Steel	2.42%	2.40%	2.33%	2.19%	2.28%	2.14%	2.29%
Cartons	0.03%	0.01%	~	~	~	~	0.02%
Glass	24.01%	22.35%	23.10%	22.53%	21.54%	21.23%	22.46%
Residual	8.56%	9.12%	8.72%	8.97%	6.77%	11.86%	9.00%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	
BOW Tonnage	103,924	103,827	109,505	104,886	97,374	* 77,738	99,542

*BOW tonnage is down. GFL opened a new MRF in Mayville south of Fond du Lac and WM retooled their MRF in Germantown. Both companies are now diverting all their tonnages statewide to those facilities and skipping the Tri-County MRF.

Residents from the committed municipalities also recycled the following items as compared to prior years.

OCONTO COUNTY BATTERY, WASTE OIL, SCRAP METAL, TIRES & ELECTRONICS COLLECTION TOTALS

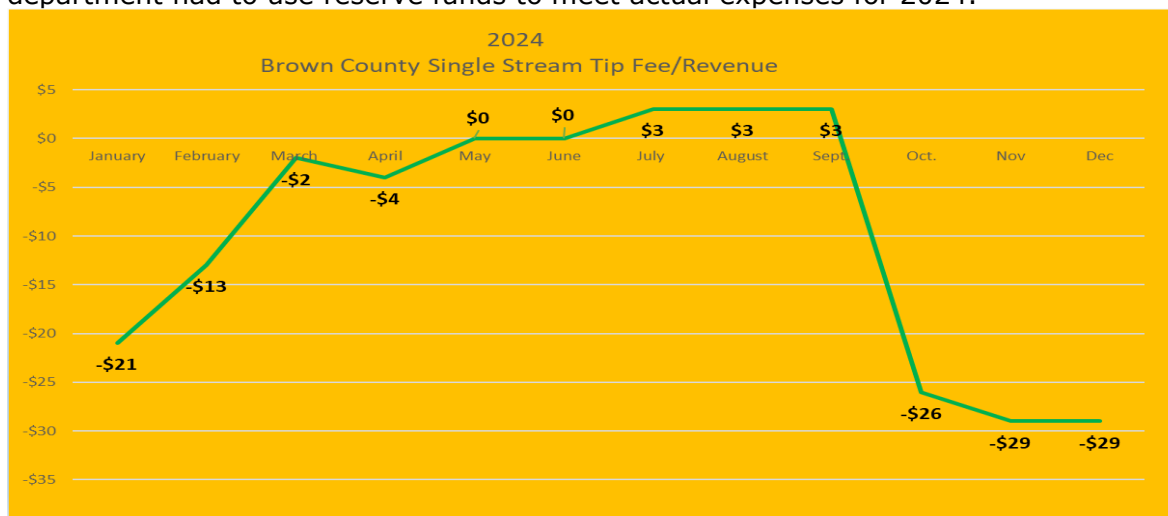
		2022	2023	2024
FREON APPLIANCES	Count	500	431	490
BULBS (FLUORESCENT, LED, Specialty)	Count	1418	1946	505
USED TIRES (21 to 70 lbs/vehicle tire)	Tons	29.51	21.28	28.82
ELECTRONICS (TV's, PC EQUIP, DVD, VCR, ETC)	Tons	20.13	22.7	11.8
BATTERIES, VEHICLE (39.5 to 53.3 lbs/battery)	Tons	1.09	1.3	1.6
SCRAP METAL	Tons	252.3	228.6	231.7
USED OIL	Gallons	3025	3700	1550
OIL FILTERS (Drum = 235 uncrushed filters)	Drums	1.67	4.5	4
USED ANTIFREEZE	Gallons	50	150	55
SOP (shredded office paper)	Tons	3.9	0	12.08

Private businesses such as Waste Management and GFL Environmental collect recyclables via individual private contracts with residences for rural curbside pickup of their waste and recyclables that total more than 350 tons of recyclables annually.

2024 CHALLENGES:

Replacement of locks & keys at municipal drop off centers: In 2024, the department coordinated replacement of all locks and keys at the municipal drop off centers. Locks & keys to the sites have not been updated since 2007. It is critical that all sites have locks keyed the same as there are at least 6 private haulers who need to access the sites for collection of solid waste and recyclables. Over the years as prior municipal employees may have had access to the sites, municipalities had requested a change in locks to control site access. In early June all old locks were transitioned to the new locks and keys provided to the private haulers. In turn the municipalities were then able to delegate keys to their current staff.

Single Stream Recycling Cost Money: Single stream recycling once again is a commodity that is impacted by the economy. For 7 of the 12 months there was a tipping fee to dispose of single stream materials. This amounted to an expense of \$11,129 and a small revenue of \$748 when there was a credit for recyclables. Other revenues from collections of items at the drop off sites generated \$23,251 in revenues. The department's largest expense continues to be the cost of collecting and transporting single stream recyclables. The hauling contract includes a fuel surcharge due to high gas prices which amounted to \$20,815 compared to \$23,691 for 2023. With these added expenses, it absorbs most of the DNR grant funds just to cover transportation and disposal costs. As the expenses to run the program increase, the department had to use reserve funds to meet actual expenses for 2024.



MAROCO LANDFILL FUTURE DISCUSSIONS: In 2023 the MAROCO Landfill had opened its last permitted cell for disposal of solid waste. This cell is anticipated to last between 8-12 years depending on the avg tonnages of materials brought in for disposal. Discussions were held throughout 2024 with the MAROCO Landfill Committee, department heads, County Administrators and Committees from both counties on the future options and logistics to either explore other areas of the landfill for additional space, utilize the site for a transfer station and/or a C&D(Construction & Debris) site. After much deliberation, the MAROCO Committee decided to not look for additional landfill space at this time. There is still time to review and reconsider future options but the window to submit for a future expansion without landfill operation disruption is only a few years since the DNR permitting process can take up to 7 yrs before approval. Future discussions will continue into 2025.



ON THE HORIZON:

2025 starts the last year of our agreements with 15 Committed Municipalities to have Oconto County administer their state-mandated recycling program. The Solid Waste Administrator and LWR Committee will be meeting with the municipalities to consider a new agreement. Single Stream disposal costs and transportation services remain the greatest impact to managing the recycling program. The municipal intergovernmental agreements do stipulate that if expenses outweigh revenues and state grant funds, then the municipalities may be required to cover additional expenses in lieu of utilizing reserve funds. Oconto County will continue to find efficiencies in managing and overseeing the responsibility of state mandated recycling for the committed municipalities as future grant funds & reserve funds remain available.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OCONTO COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Oconto County

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UW-MADISON EXTENSION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES *with* THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

As a statewide engagement arm of UW–Madison, the Division of Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea to extend university knowledge to every corner of the state. That mission started in 1912 with Extension’s first agent making farm visits and continues today along with community and business development, youth engagement, and well-being programming. Our statewide network of educators and specialists with the UW–Madison College of Agricultural & Life Sciences and on UW campuses across Wisconsin is responding every day to emerging and longstanding hurdles residents are overcoming to compete and prosper. We’ve identified key opportunities to leverage local resources and leading research to affect change and improve lives through:

Supporting Wisconsin’s Agriculture Industry))

We use applied research from UW-Madison’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in addition to other Campuses along with educational outreach to support an economically viable agricultural industry that produces safe food in an environmentally responsible manner.

Fostering Leadership and Civic Engagement))

We work with communities across the state to support individuals, groups, and organizations to enhance quality of life and improve overall well-being, leading to stronger communities today and for generations to come.

Creating Positive, Healthy Change))

We catalyze positive change in Wisconsin families through evidence-based programs focused on nutrition, food security, food safety, chronic disease prevention, mental health, and substance misuse.

Empowering Families and Communities))

We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding, enhance aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents, and help families put technology, mindfulness, and financial awareness to use.

Enhancing Resilient Natural Resource Systems))

We help individuals and communities make informed decisions that support the state’s rich land, water, and mineral resources. We’re working to ensure that our resources remain at the heart of our communities, economies, and state identity.

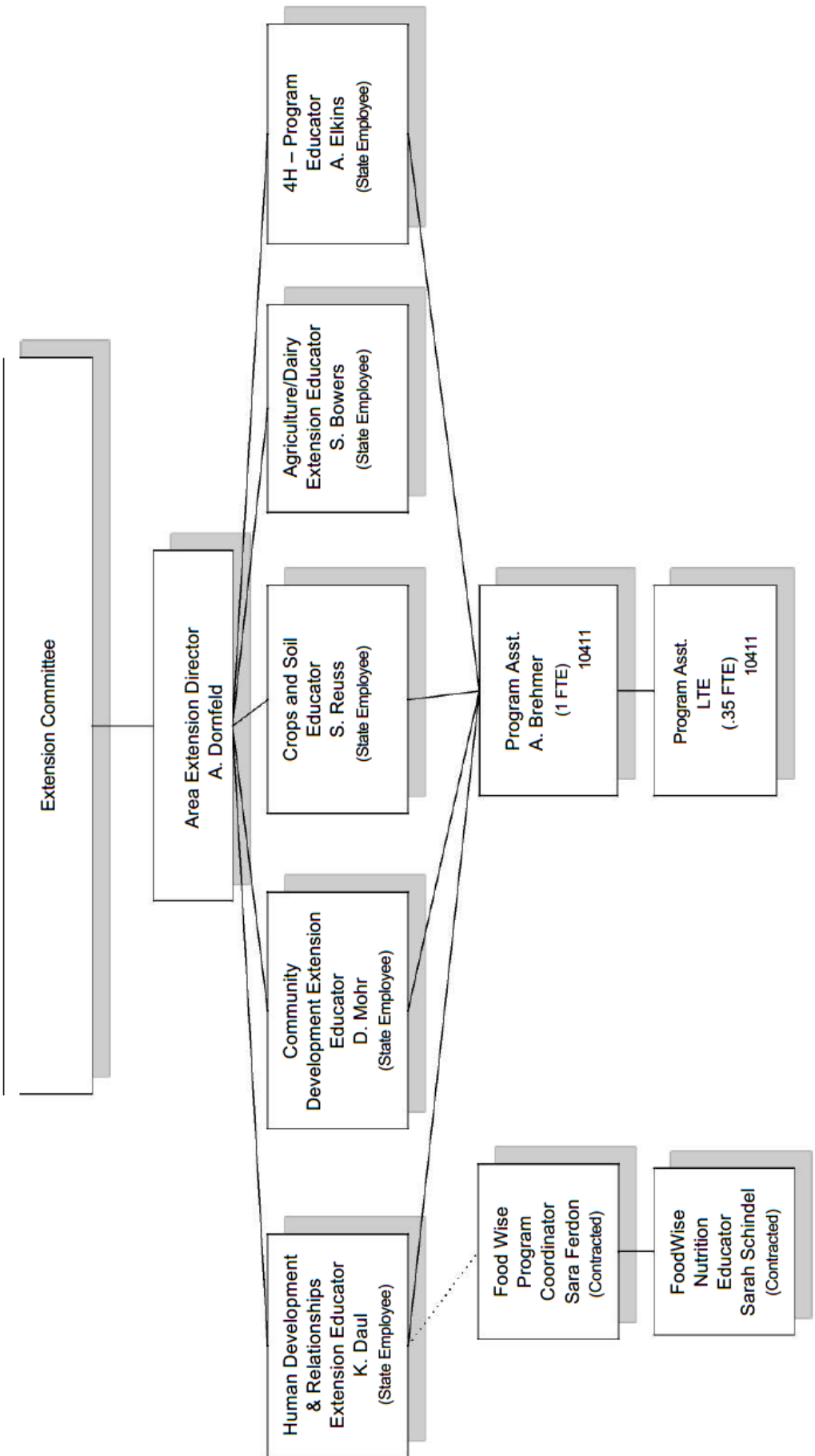
Furthering Positive Youth Development))

We prepare the youth of today to become effective, empathetic leaders of tomorrow. From teens advising local government to Wisconsin 4-H clubs, we offer diverse educational opportunities that put youth on the path to success in Wisconsin and beyond..

Home Committee))

Extension reports to the Land & Water Resources committee. They meet the first Tuesday after the first Monday of each month. The members of the committee are; Mike Beyer, Tim Cole, Wayne Kaczrowski, Pat Scanlan, and Keith Schneider.

EXTENSION OFFICE





Agriculture

Agriculture Programming: The regional model

2024 Agricultural Extension programming was delivered through the recently adopted regional educator model. Scott Reuss served Crops/Soils programming needs (Langlade, Marinette, Oconto & Shawano Counties) and Stephanie Bowers served as the Dairy Educator for Oconto County, along with Shawano, Outagamie, and Winnebago. Horticulture programming is not generally delivered through this model, although Reuss does provide invited topical presentations when merited & available.

Both in-person and virtual events (webinars) are utilized to provide convenient and accessible means for farms and agricultural service providers to engage with Extension programming. Local field days, workshops, and printed materials are still the cornerstone of Extension Agriculture programming. Webinar series that are managed by groups of educators across the state provide access to the latest research findings and recommended practices in a wider array of topic areas.

Regional educators coordinate local events and information transfer and assist with state-wide efforts. Not all state-wide efforts are webinars, as numerous conferences, workshop series, and educational resources are developed to reach a broader audience. Extension educators serve as a bridge between academic knowledge and practical application, helping farms stay updated on industry advancements and improve their operations.

Collaboration drives Extension educators' ability to efficiently provide high-quality programming to Oconto County farms and agricultural service providers. Partners include the Green Bay West Shores Demonstration Farm Network, Land & Water Conservation, Farm Service Agency & Natural Resources Conservation Service, Breakfast on the Farm committees, County Fairs, and local producer groups. This collaborative approach allows for the pooling of resources and expertise, resulting in programs that effectively address the needs and interests of the agricultural community.



Waterhemp
regrowth after
3 herbicide
applications

Ag Research

Research data drives Extension educational information. Reuss adds to local and state-wide programming by conducting many different on-farm research projects.

2024 projects included:

- Winter wheat sulfur rate effects on yield;
- Manure and nitrogen rate impacts on corn grain yield.
- Soy non-dicamba herbicide efficacy.
- Nitrogen rates/sources effect on winter triticale yield; Site also in place for 2025 data collection.
- Berseem clover cover crop after winter wheat effects on corn nitrogen needs.



Agriculture

Crops/Soils Programs delivered in 2024

Ag Newsletter articles, field days and events drive programming at the county level. The reality of the regional model means that programming within the county will vary annually. When coordinating events, Reuss makes sure to provide a mix of local research data/expertise in conjunction with state-wide Extension specialists' expertise and perspective to broaden the scope and improve the applicability of information.

Program topics delivered through 2024 events held in or very near Oconto County included Soybean Mgmt.; Grain Crop Marketing & Risk Mgmt.; Pesticide Applicator Training; Youth Machinery and Tractor Safety Certification (8 Oc. Cty. Youth); Manure Applicator Training; Cover Cropping Systems; Alfalfa Mgmt.; Land Rent Contracting; Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Development; Winter annual forages; Corn Silage and others.. Reuss provided information on alfalfa quality changes and pest issues to approximately 360 regional producers via the first-crop alfalfa management project. This project and the corollary corn silage moisture monitoring project help forage producers achieve optimal forage quality and production on their alfalfa and corn silage acres, while receiving other management resources.

The opportunity to contact Reuss directly to get specific information or request in-field consultations is another advantage of having local educators. Reuss' 2024 direct contact approximately 275 Oconto County farms via agricultural programming efforts, approximately 110 individuals at the Breakfast on the Farm and 45 at a well water quality and nitrate testing display at the County Fair; and 48 individuals via horticulture topics. Reuss indirectly contacts many residents through the monthly radio show (1st Friday, 8-9 a.m. on WOCO) which is used to discuss agricultural situations, programming, and Q & A, as well as newspaper articles and social media posts.



Cover Crop Research Plots at LeMere Farms. Testing Impact of cover crops on following corn yields.

Program Area Goals for 2025

The overall goal of 2025 programming is to maximize on-farm profitability and year to year sustainability. Specific goals include:

- Maximizing crop income return to fertilizer investment and train farms to write their own Nutrient Mgmt. plans.
- Maximize farm return to forage production through optimized harvest timing and storage.
- Minimizing opportunity for nitrates to enter ground water from crop fertilization practices.
- Improving agronomic practices (planting date, rate, selection) in all crops.
- Increase usage of IPM principles within pest management decision-making.
- Improve management of new cropping practices, such as use of cover crops and alternative forage species.

Scott Reuss

Crops and Soils
Extension Educator
Langlade, Marinette,
Oconto, and Shawano
Counties

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Agriculture

Dairy Programming in 2024

2024 was a great year for dairy programming as Stephanie Bowers settled into her second year as Regional Dairy Educator. With her focus on dairy heifer grazing, a practice which can help improve economic efficiencies of dairy producers and maintain & improve water quality in Oconto County, Bowers partnered with a variety of local agencies to bring relevant research and cutting-edge technologies to Oconto County. Her passion and expertise in the area of virtual fencing was caught on a local, statewide, and national level; with invitations to speak and share information regarding virtual fencing.

Beyond virtual fencing, Bowers collaborated on pasture walks, educational events, and 1:1 farm visits to address the most pressing issues our dairy producers face. Some of these activities are as follows:

- Grassland 2.0 Academy
- COMET Mental Health Training for local Dairy Producers
- Dairy Feeder Workshop
- Winter Beef Management School collaboration with Scott Reuss & Bill Halfman
- Ag Professionals Update
- Badger Dairy Insight Webinar
- Professional Dairy Producers Webinar
- Many pasture walks with producers

In addition to Bowers, additional Extension resources were deployed in Oconto County to assist our dairy producers. This includes Farm Succession Planning, Financial Management, State Grazing Specialists and more.



Virtual Fence Panelists at the National Grazing Lands Coalition Conference in Tucson, Arizona.

Dairy Program Goals in 2025:

- Dairy heifer grazing pasture walks
- Virtual Fence & Vegetation Density Technologies tested on farms

Contact: Stephanie Bowers, M.S.
Regional Dairy Educator serving
Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano &
Winnebago Counties.

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Community Development



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**BRINGING COLLABORATION & COST
EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO OCONTO
COUNTY THROUGH...**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,

ORGANIZATIONAL & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT,

& LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITY BUILDING

My Mission: Work alongside you identifying critical local needs, strategize doable solutions, organize responses, create actionable steps, and roll up my sleeves to make positive things happen and to positively transform local organization, business or community.”

My Purpose:

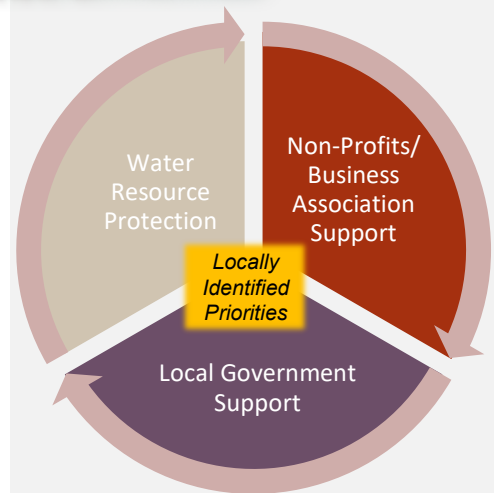
- ☐ Cutting local costs to mandated services;
- ☐ Training Local Officials to maximize their community resources;
- ☐ Collaborating with County Depts. to lower their project costs;
- ☐ Supporting non-profits to lower costs and save resources.

KEY LOCAL PROJECTS IN 2024:

- 1. Working with Local Municipal Courts** to offer a Restorative Justice Program reaching from City of Oconto to Suring;
- 2. Collaboration with Land & Water Conservation Dept.** by studying 6 local lakes and cost sharing our resources while keeping lakeshore owners informed with a quarterly Status Overview publication;
- 3. Provided support to Leadership Oconto** with facilitating the Real Colors temperament assessment to this year's class;
- 4. Local Government Education** – ‘One-on-One’ Plan Commission Trainings for Local Government Officials while providing resources to local municipalities on zoning and land use concerns;
- 5. Working with the Mountain Historical Society** to preserve and rehab the historic Fireman’s Park and get the recreational pond dredged this year;
- 6. Support to the Recycling Department** with the 2024 Hazardous Waste Collection Program and detailed needs survey with 121 participants;
- 7. Support to the Land and Water Conservation 10 Year Plan,** preparing to facilitate the discussions with local Stakeholders on their hopes and concerns for the natural environment.



Dale Mohr,
Your County Agent.



156 PEOPLE SERVED:

- Riparian Owners;
- Local Government Officials;
- Non-Profit Members;
- Youth Jurors & Respondents During Cases;

PARTNERED WITH:

- Local Municipal Judges & Law Enforcement;
- County Staff/Department Heads;
- Wis. Department of Natural Resources;
- UW-Stevens Point;
- Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Assoc.
- Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council
- Leadership Oconto County

GRANTS PARTNERED ON:

- WDNR Grant;
- Oconto County Healthy Waters Grant.



Community Development



PRESERVING SURFACE WATERS THROUGH THE COLLABORATION OF MULTIPLE AGENCIES

Going on the 10th year since our concerned group of residents identified the need ***“to have the healthiest waters in Wisconsin”*** our team of UW-Extension, Land & Water Conservation Department, non-profits, lake Associations & Districts, UW – Stevens Point, WI Department of Natural Resources, and Oconto County Lakes and Waterways Assoc., have pooled our limited resources and at no actual costs to the county have studied more than 60 lakes regarding their respective ecosystems while gathering information about the hopes and concerns of property owners and lake users.

This year we studied another six lakes and held 12 planning & informational meetings with lake groups while applying for additional WDNR grant funding. Additionally, winter dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature readings were recorded on six lakes during February, 2024.

Meet your Scientist “MYS” Lake Planning Sessions - Trainings



My focus was on instruction and facilitative approaches to decision making with six lakes this year. To design, invite, deliver information about the five goals of the research project, and to identify local concerns, develop contact lists, identify volunteers, present baseline information and to introduce the members of the team.

TEEN COURT - PROGRAM

Teen Court is established within the Wisc. State Statutes, affording local Judiciaries the option to defer a judgment in lieu of sanctions completed. In short, this is a second chance for youth ages 10 to 17 yrs.

Dale Mohr provides this County service (monthly during the evening at the Courthouse) which promotes volunteerism, leadership opportunities, team building, and community healing with members of the Teen Jury.

This year was a rebuilding year, the program materials and trainings were being researched to be similar to other Court Systems within the State. Meetings held with local Municipal Judges identified timelines and procedural steps, that made sense for all parties involved, in order to make the process seamless.



Oconto County Land Use - Workshops

Yearly, I develop, deliver and evaluate this program to towns. I teach the newly appointed Plan Commission members per ss. 66.1001. Teaching curriculum includes roles and responsibilities, staying legal, Robert's Rules, plan interpretation, legislative/Judicial & Quasi-Judicial decision making.

MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ASSISTANCE

I worked closely with the Mountain Historical Society this year to further help them plan and design their improvements to Fireman's Park in the Town of Mountain. We were able to get all required permits to dredge the site's pond which led to further landscaping being completed so that it will be ready for the 2025 kids' fishing event.

Healthy Choices Healthy Lives

FoodWise in **Oconto County** is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed). With local strengths, we support healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents experiencing limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.



Oconto County Landscape

Whether people are healthy or not is affected by systems, policies, and environmental factors.

46%

of children in schools were eligible for free or reduced price meals.[^]



9%

of county residents use SNAP benefits to purchase food for themselves and their families.*



Achieving More Together

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin throughout urban and rural communities to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work. In Oconto County, FoodWise partners with schools, after-school programs, Head Start programs, senior meal programs, and food pantries to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

Community

Impacts in 2024

Engaged with **750+ learners** around nutrition education topics in a variety of settings, including early care and education centers, K-12 school settings, and food pantries.

Worked with Kingdom Come Food Pantry to support the Oconto Falls Community Garden & donate over **6,000 pounds** of produce to numerous sites serving community members with limited income.

[^]Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

*WI Dept of Administration and WI Dept of Health Services

Inspiring Collaborations



FoodWise teamed up with NewView in FY24 to provide one series of the Strong Bodies strength training program. New View Industries is a workforce and adult day center for cognitively disabled adults. Nine participants were led through a Strong Bodies class 2 times per week for eight weeks where they learned how to safely strength train, improve strength, improve balance and increase flexibility.

After several rounds of practice, participants were able to participate with near perfect form in most cases, even with the cognitive barriers participants faced. Results indicate 100% of participants that were surveyed agree their physical health is better, have become more active and feel physically stronger! Strong Bodies class at NewView has proven to be a safe, effective way to reach low income, cognitively disabled individuals who otherwise would not have an opportunity to learn valuable information, spark behavior change, make new healthy habits and improve their overall health long-term.

Client feedback:

"I have more confidence! At first I thought I couldn't achieve it the program, but I did!"

"My strength is improved, I lost 6 pounds!"

Vocational Services/Discovery Leader feedback:

"My clients gave you rave reviews. You should be very proud of that. It's not always easy to motivate this group of women."

Multi-level Program Efforts

The Oconto Falls Community garden continues to grow and thrive. One half of the garden, approximately 1.5 acres, is a dedicated food donation garden which serves Kingdom Come Food Pantry, a food storage hub for other county food pantries. The goal was to improve many aspects of community and individual health such as improved fruit and vegetable consumption, improved access to local produce, increased physical activity, improved mental health through physical activity and being outside and a sense of community and belonging. The volume of produce donated was enough to serve over 450 families each week at Kingdom Come Food Pantry.



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Sarah Ferdon
Nutrition Coordinator



Sarah Schindel
Nutrition Educator



Human Development & Relationships

Lifespan and Financial Security Resources for all

Increasing confidence associated with personal finance skills, norms, and habits

Children are in stores and retail venues an average of two to three times weekly, exceeding in a standard week the time dedicated to reading, church attendance, youth group and household activities, and outdoor play. (Suiter, M. and B. Meszaros (2005)) Extension's Money as You Grow program and FDIC's Money Smart for Young People address financial literacy from K-12. Implementation of this in Oconto County has been very successful by partnering with Oconto Summer School and Farnsworth Public Library. Youth financial education must permeate the entire K-12 setting rather than wait until the middle or high school years for introduction; hence the efforts of Money as You Grow (K-4), Money Smart for Young People (1-12) in 2024. Learning about students' feelings and behaviors towards money, through the Mind over Money survey helped educators better understand how to support and engage students in the future.

Planning AHEAD is a unique comprehensive curriculum focused on end-of-life planning that is designed for people of all ages. Ninety nine percent of participants who completed an evaluation felt they had gained necessary knowledge to carry out their end-of-life planning. Additionally, 89 percent reported feeling more confident about discussing these matters with their loved ones. Katie was a part of the team that offered the program statewide in Spring and Fall with nearly 100 people registered. In a 4-month follow-up survey 93% said they are either done with their plans, actively working on them, or committed to completing their plans (compared to 37% before the course).

Increasing social connection, improving social cohesion in communities, and increasing community capacity

Social isolation and loneliness are critical concerns for both physical and mental health and are experienced at a higher rate for those who live in rural areas versus urban areas. The impacts of isolation and loneliness result in a cascade of stress hormones and inflammation in the body, and has been associated with increased risk of depression and anxiety, physical conditions such as heart disease, and even increased risk of premature mortality (National Academies of Sciences & Medicine, 2020).

52%

Local high school students who feel their mental health would improve if they had more money

300

Participants in falls prevention/strength training programs for older adults

89%

People reported feeling more confident about discussing end of life matters.

Hundreds

Little Heart Project crocheted hearts delivered with messages of hope and mental health resources



Human Development & Relationships

*Increasing social connection, improving social cohesion in communities, and increasing community capacity
(continued)*

Programming to support social cohesion and connection done in Oconto County include the mental health awareness night "Men's Event," training on assisting those who made be headed toward a mental health crisis back to a place of wellness, using COMET - Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory. One of the participants shared that "You and [co-facilitator] really inspired me, and I'm glad that more of my colleagues can benefit from that Wisconsin magic!" as he is bringing this resource to University of California Cooperative Extension to support the farming community as they suffer devastating loss from wildfires. Through the AARP Cupid Crew campaign, simple acts of conversation, flower and card delivery, and messages of hope were delivered to some of the aging population in Oconto County, reaching approximately 300 people.

Increasing utilization of healthy coping skills and strategies through positive self-management practices, Improving health outcomes

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wisconsin has the highest fall death rate among older adults in the United States. As part of a response to this, Extension has offered StrongBodies (low-impact strength training for older adults) classes nonthreatening partnered with Oconto County Public Health to offer Bingocize (exercise combined with the classic game of bingo). Virtual and in-person classes were held and was experienced by just under 300 participants. When asked about how the StrongBodies program has impacted you, one respondent replied, "I've always been a bit shaky on my feet , now I have more balance and feel stronger on my feet." Another participant shared, "The class was encouraging and nonthreatening. The pace Katie worked with us."



Delivering AARP's Cupid Crew flowers, cards, and Little Hearts.



Attending annual Senior Wellness Fair

Student "graduate" of Money Smart at summer school



Men's Health Event – mental awareness gathering.



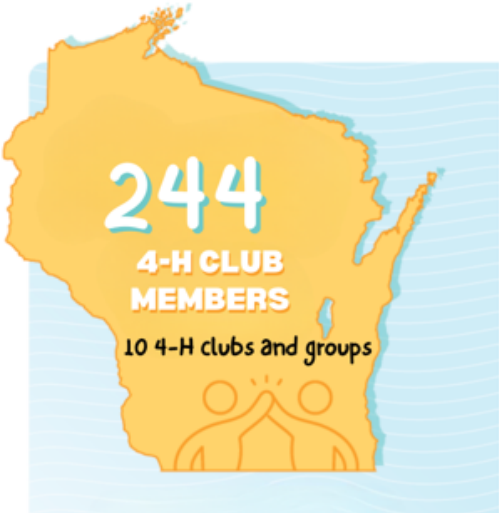
Positive Youth Development

When youth join 4-H, they're a part of something big! 4-H is the nations largest youth development organization, with more than six million members and over 90,000 clubs across the nation. Oconto County 4-H ended the year with 244 youth members participating in 10 clubs and groups illustrated to the right. This was a slight decrease from the year prior due to a decrease in the amount of classroom club opportunities based on the 4-H Educators capacity. Overall, the Oconto County 4-H membership numbers have continued to trend upward since the COVID-19 pandemic.

4-H provides the opportunity for youth to explore more than 500 distinct project-based activities to spark lifelong learning, including: Science, technology, engineering and math, civic engagement, health programs, agriculture, and more! On the right we see the top 10 project selections for Oconto County 4-H members.

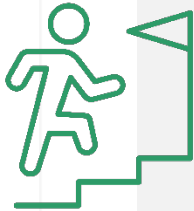
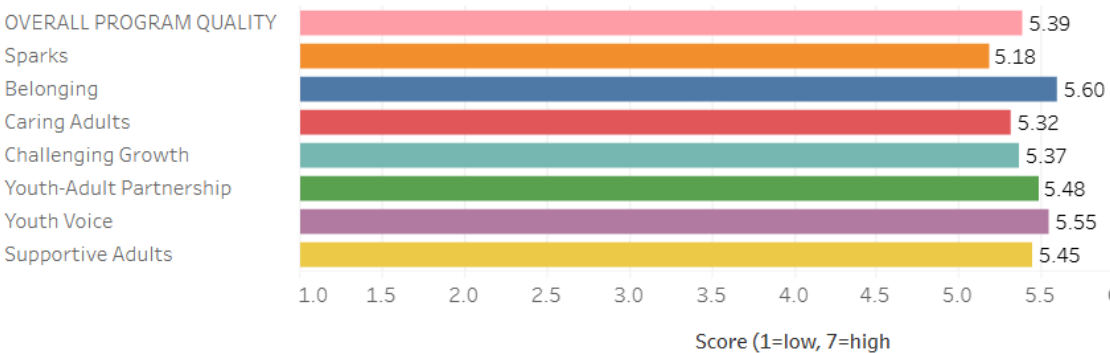
It is a goal of our program to meet the needs of our members. We strive to provide additional support and learning opportunities in the top areas of interest. These include holding an annual acrylic paining night for our art members, sharing photography contest information, and incorporating top areas of interest in county-wide clinics and camp events. Last year I introduces a new "ChickQuest" program that provided hands on STEM learning while learning about the life-cycle of a chicken. This program was featured in a classroom setting as well as open to the community at the County Fair.

"I learned that giving back to my community is very important in my life"



Top 10 Enrolled 4-H Projects	
PROJECT	MEMBERS
Art	87
Vegetables	85
Photography	70
Food & Nutrition	70
Cloverbuds	64
Poultry	58
Woodworking	52
Drawing and Painting	50
Flowers	50
LEGO	49

Program Quality





Positive Youth Development

Highlights of 2024 Oconto County 4-H educational opportunities throughout the year.

- Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies
- OHS Business Student Career Mentorship
- Summer Camp MarOcoSha
- State-wide Virtual Learning Community
- Oconto County Youth Fair
- School Marketing Campaign
- Creative Arts Festival
- Animal Project Day
- Youth Thriving Survey

- *ChickQuest
- *Earth Day Tree Planting
- *Take and Learn Kits
- *Family Recreation Events
- *Project Learning Days
- *Camp Counselor Training
- *Adventure Day Camp
- *Community Family Nights
- *Annual Achievement Night



Left to right: -Camp Counselor Training - Family Night Fun - ChickQuest Program Collage

In addition to providing support and programming to my Oconto and Marinette County 4-H programs I have also been able to participate on several teams and workgroups to support 4-H at the state and National levels, all of which have led to several professional opportunities including:

- Chair of the WI 4-H Program Quality Youth Thriving Education Sub-committee
- Recipient of Achievement in Service Award for work in Positive Youth Development field
- Contributing Author to a Positive Youth Development Academic Text
- Member of the Disability Champions Work Group
- Lead Presenter for National Extension Conference on Volunteerism Workshop
- Obtained a Bond Foundation Grant to Support Youth Summer Camp



Contact:
Aimee Elkins, 4-H Program Educator,
Marinette and Oconto Counties
301 Washington St.
Oconto, WI 54153
920.834.6847
aimee.elkins@wisc.edu



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OCONTO COUNTY



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OCONTO COUNTY



Mandi Dornfeld
Area
Extension
Director –
Marinette,
Menominee,
Oconto and
Shawano
Counties

Extension’s mission is to connect people with the University of Wisconsin. We teach, learn, lead and serve, transforming lives and communities. As you can see by our 2024 annual report, we are working alongside those who live and work in Oconto county to support strong, resilient people and communities. We are ready to continue to teach, lead, learn and serve the people of Oconto County.

In 2024 Extension was fully staffed and made significant contributions to the community. As you can see by our annual report, we are committed to being flexible and innovative in our programming. We are engaging with people where they live and work and supporting their goals. We have expanded our service and educational efforts to provide professional development to county department leadership teams and we look forward to creating and deepening our relationships with those who work for Oconto County.

Extension’s funding includes a combination of county, state, federal, as well as research/programming funds. During 2024, Oconto County continued the contract with Extension agreeing to co-fund faculty and staff through a flat fee for services. This flat fee covers a portion of each educator’s salary and benefits. In addition, Extension also provides resources such as the area director, state specialists, professional development, human resources, onboarding support, as well as technical and programming support to assist our educators in meeting the educational needs of this county.

Our team is grateful for the continued support and look forward to deepening our collaborative efforts. Our goal is to move beyond being the “best kept secret” and towards a trusted and sought after resource.

With gratitude,

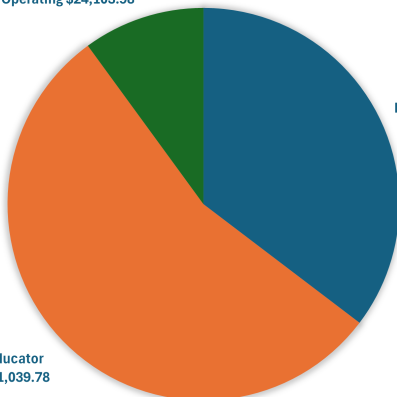
Mandi Dornfeld

UW-EXTENSION EXPENDITURES 2024 - \$239,912.74

Operating \$24,103.98

Personnel \$84,764.98

Extension Educator
Contract \$131,039.78



Educational Program Areas

Agriculture
Community Development
Human Development & Relationships
4-H Youth Development
FoodWise

Extension Expenditures
Operating Expenses \$24,104
Extension Educator Contracts \$131,040
Personnel \$84,765



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

www.extension.wisc.edu info@extension.wisc.edu

Maintenance Department
Scott Krueger, Maintenance Engineer
301 Washington Street, Oconto, WI 54153



2024 Annual Report

Department Overview:

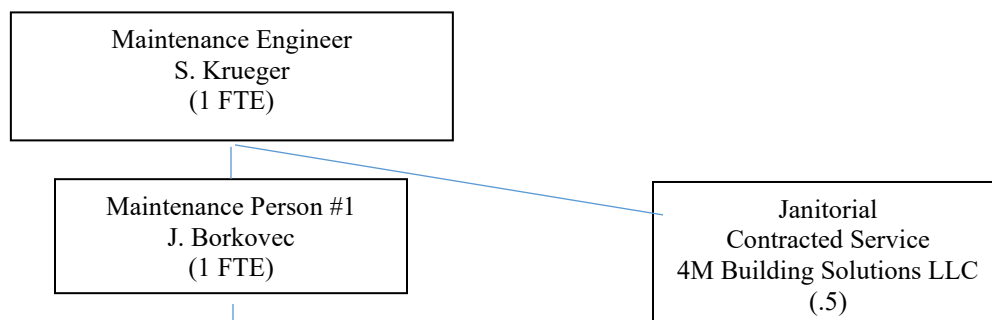
The Oconto County Maintenance Department consists of four full-time staff members with an annual budget of \$2,617,808.00 for the general maintenance and repair of courthouse buildings, grounds and equipment. The Property & Technology Committee oversees the operations of the Maintenance Department and all county projects at their monthly meeting.

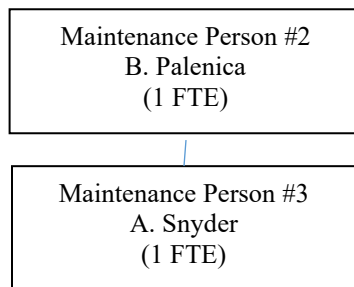
- The safety of employee and visitors entering the County owned buildings and premises.
- The cleanliness of the buildings and the grounds owned by the County.
- Lawn, sidewalk, and parking lot maintenance, including grass mowing and snow removal.
- Inspection and maintenance of HVAC systems, electrical and plumbing.
- Minor renovations and remodeling.
- Planning or coordination with vendors/contractors.
- Sort and distribute UPS, mail, and other deliveries at the courthouse, ensuring timely processing and delivery.
- Coordination of special projects and assignments.
- Repair and maintain doors, locks, and openers.
- Fleet vehicle maintenance and cleaning.
- Painting.
- Adjust and monitor air circulation/quality.
- Clean up spoils, messes, etc.
- Replace lighting fixtures and bulbs.
- Move/rearrange equipment (desk, files, etc.)
- Repair, replace, adjust, and aim security cameras as needed.

Mission Statement:

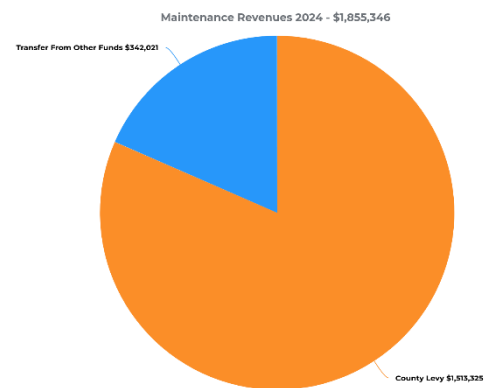
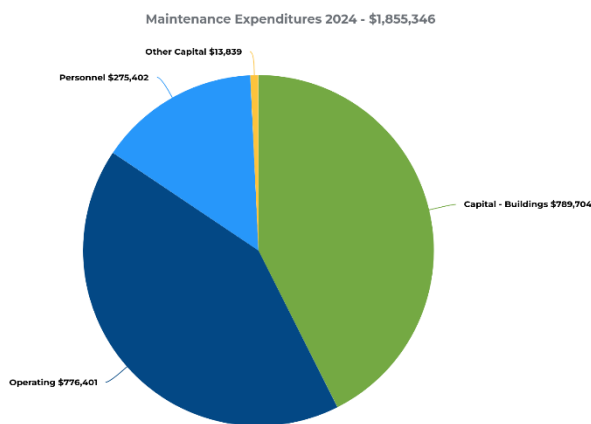
It is the objective of the Maintenance Department and staff to maximize the availability and reliability of all operating systems to ensure safety and high operational standards.

Organizational Chart:





Financial Overview:



Current Year Accomplishments:

Additional projects above and beyond daily maintenance operations, over-seen by or accomplished by the Maintenance Department in 2024 are:

- HVAC Replacement of Building.
- Repaired LEC water leak issue.
- Continued Landscaping.
- Building Security – Three doors in Building A and two doors accessing skywalk all need to be ADA compliant.
- Sidewalk Repair.
- Extensive light replacement to LED, Buildings A, B, C.
- Extensive work on three other offsite buildings (Beyer Home, Oconto Falls, Riverview).
- Carpet replacement Clerk of Courts, 2nd Floor Building C, and conference rooms.
- Painting of offices (County Clerk, Finance), and hallways Building A, B, C.
- Continuation of Fire Door and Fire Panel Upgrade, ADA Compliance.
- Fire Panel Upgrade Beyer Home.
- Dispatch Console Upgrade.
- Mechanical Equipment Upgrades and repairs.

- Service Pro: received over 400 tickets from departments for various duties (move room around, paper requests, etc.)
- Took on buffing and waxing of floors for the entire complex (cost savings to county).
- S2 System: Continuously programming ID badges and doors due to employee turnover.

The addition of Maintenance Person #3 in October 2024 strengthened the Maintenance Department's ability to maintain the courthouse buildings and handle additional tasks.

Current Year Challenges:

The maintenance department will be challenged this year with the increased workload from additional buildings and radio towers with the same staff.

To stay within budget with rising cost.

On the Horizon:

Goals, objectives, tasks for the following year:

- Dampers on HVAC to Electric-Building A.
- Carpet Replacement – Building C 3rd Floor.
- Tuck Point Buildings A, B, & C.
- Seal and Cap 1891 Chimney.
- Repair Outside Skywalk Stucco Walls.
- Radio Tower Maintenance.
- Boiler Replacement Buildings A, B, & C.
- Additional Funds for A/C Replacement.
- Kitchen Appliance Replacement for Jail.
- Northern County Office/Riverview (first year operation and for signage).
- Power Wash Buildings A, B, & C.
- Annex A/C Replacement.
- Window Replacement Buildings A, B, C.
- Sidewalk Repairs.
- Clock Tower Painting.
- Fire Panel upgrade/5 doors ADA Compliant.
- Child Support Office Remodel.
- Building B & C Stucco Skywalk/Boiler Room

Oconto County Technology Services 2024 Annual Report

By: **Melissa Schwaller, Technology Services Director**
Submitted April 2025

INDEX	1. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW
	2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
	3. CURRENT YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	4. CURRENT YEAR CHALLENGES
	5. ON THE HORIZON

1. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The 2024 Technology Services (TS) Annual report is to serve as a means to summarize the past year’s activities of the Technology Services Department.

Technology Services Mission Statement

The Technology Service Department provides a coordinated and standardized set of computer technology management services to all maintained public service departments of Oconto County. The Technology Service Department will ensure that the County receives the maximum benefit from its investment in technology.

Responsibilities:

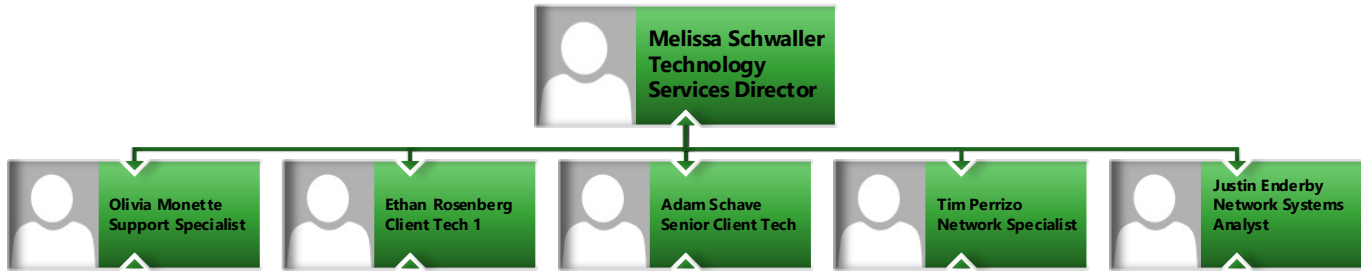
The Technology Service department serves all of Oconto County Public Service departments with computer, phone, cellular, audio/video, network, hardware. Web, applications, and project management expertise. We install, configure, analyze, and manage the public county computer resources.

T.S. plans, research, recommends, implements, manages, and maintains all aspects of information systems for Oconto County.

Listed below are the 2024 and 2025 TS Department staff.

2024	2025
Olivia Monette, Support Specialist (2+ years)	Olivia Monette, Support Specialist (2+ years)
Ethan Rosenberg, Client Tech 1 (4 months)	Ethan Rosenberg, Client Tech 1 (4 months)
Adam Schave, Sr Client Tech (4 months)	Adam Schave, Sr Client Tech (4 months)
Tim Perrizo, Network Specialist (10+ years)	Tim Perrizo, Network Specialist (10+ years)
Justin Enderby, Network Systems Analyst (1 year)	Justin Enderby, Network Systems Analyst (1 year)
Melissa Schwaller, Director (20+ years)	Melissa Schwaller, Director (20+ years)

Technology Services Organizational Chart



In 2024 TS Committee consisted of the following members:

- Guy Gooding, Chairperson
- Brandon Dhuey
- Wesley Kobylarczyk
- John Wittkopf
- Richard Pillsbury

Thank you so much for the committees and the County Board's past support. Currently, the committee normally meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:30am.

2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Major revenues – We receive approximately \$48,000.00 in revenues from the departments for internet and network use. We also receive revenue from VOIP phones to pay for the phone invoices and keep the system up to date. We received approximately \$21,000 in revenues from municipalities for them to use our Spillman system and VPN into our network. In 2024 we are expecting more revenue from Fire Departments and possibly all municipalities to be on our network to access the Spillman Fire module.
- Major expenses – Annual maintenance contracts such as software agreements have been the largest expense and continue to grow. We are now seeing more and more subscription-based licensing costs as well, which means we pay each year to use the software.
- Financial position at end of year – we came in under budget.
- Briefly explain any significant over/under – nothing major to report.

3. CURRENT YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1) **Annual Ticket Summary** - Tickets are down from last year but we concentrated on projects more in 2024 & no longer do the everyday Spillman Tickets. Please note for every ticket that is entered, there are approx. 3-5 that are not entered due to phone calls that come in. Examples would be password resets for user accounts and office phones.

2023	ServicePRO Tickets	% of Tickets		2024	ServicePRO Tickets	% of Tickets
Administration	38	1.53%		Administration	2	0.12%
Child Support	27	1.09%		Child Support	22	1.35%
Circuit Court	18	0.73%		Circuit Court	17	1.04%
Clerk of Courts	31	1.25%		Clerk of Courts	19	1.16%
Corporate Counsel	18	0.73%		Corporate Counsel	14	0.86%
County Clerk	125	5.05%		County Clerk	109	6.67%
District Attorney	30	1.21%		District Attorney	19	1.16%
Economic Development	3	0.12%		Economic Development	3	0.18%
Emergency Management	17	0.69%		Emergency Management	5	0.31%
Finance	10	0.40%		Finance	17	1.04%
Health & Human Services	584	23.59%		Health & Human Services	523	32.03%
Highway	35	1.41%		Highway	21	1.29%
Land & Water Resources	142	5.74%		Land & Water Resources	130	7.96%
Land Conservation	16	0.65%		Land Conservation	23	1.41%
Maintenance	0	0.00%		Maintenance	2	0.12%
NVI/NBS	23	0.93%		NVI/NBS	41	2.51%
Register of Deeds	45	1.82%		Register of Deeds	41	2.51%
Sheriff Dept	388	15.67%		Sheriff Dept	138	8.45%
Jail	87	3.51%		Jail	23	1.41%
Technology Services	577	23.30%		Technology Services	371	22.72%
Treasurer	53	2.14%		Treasurer	50	3.06%
UW-Extension	25	1.01%		UW-Extension	20	1.22%
Veteran Services	10	0.40%		Veteran Services	14	0.86%
Muni Services	101	9.90%		Muni Services	2	0.12%
Other	77	3.11%		Other	7	0.43%
	2476	105.98%			1633	100.00%

Problem tickets do not include projects. I have listed below the major projects completed this past year:

- 2) **Mobile Device Management** – Migrated all mobile devices from IBM MaaS360 to Microsoft Intune to integrate county owned devices with Office 365.
- 3) **Multifactor Authentication (MFA)** – Migrated from Cisco Duo to Microsoft MFA. Setup Microsoft MFA for use with NetMotion VPN, FortiClient VPN, and 365 conditional access. Setup new RADIUS server for use with NetMotion.
- 4) **365 Email Migration** – Planned and coordinated migration of all users' emails to 365 Exchange online. Also migrated shared mailboxes and calendars.

- 5) **Office 365** – Moved all users from Microsoft Office Professional 2016 to Office 365.
- 6) **Microsoft Defender / Sophos Replacement** – Uninstalled Sophos from computers. Pushed Defender to computers and servers.
- 7) **DigiCert Certificate Renewals** – Renewed external certificate for all websites, applications, and servers.
- 8) **.GOV Domain** - Switched all users email addresses and 365 accounts to point to ocontocountywi.gov or their respective new .gov domains.
- 9) **Domain Controller** – Migrated all Domain controllers to new servers.
- 10) **Certificate Authority** – Implemented Certificate Authority server. All domain users and computers are now assigned certificates when accessing network resources.
- 11) **DigiCert Certificate Renewals** – Renewed external certificates for our websites, applications, and servers.
- 12) **UKG** – Provided insight from the TS perspective on the new time and attendance project. Configured and mounted 2 physical timeclocks to be used at NVI and the jail.
- 13) **Fiber Installation** – We continue to work on completing this project. We are utilizing contractors and subject matter experts to assist with this project. Town of Riverview is up & running on the new fiber.
- 14) **UPS replacements** - Worked with vendors to replace the battery backup unit at New View, and 3 units at the courthouse.
- 15) **PSAP / Dispatch Furniture** – Setup equipment at each station on new furniture and tested
- 16) **Forestry Internet** - The forestry building had a history of poor internet connectivity. We moved them over from Cellcom to Spectrum.
- 17) **Core Network Switches** – Switched Core switches in Data Center with New Cisco 9500X switches.
- 18) **Riverview Setup** – Connected Riverview network on our private fiber network. Setup computers and equipment for offices with furniture. Setup Internet/VLAN for Town of Riverview.
- 19) **Meraki Wireless Setup** – Setup Meraki Dashboard. Configured networks for Meraki APs at Courthouse and Riverview.
- 20) **Keeper** – Cleaned up and imported passwords into Keeper.
- 21) **PC Replacement/Windows 11 Upgrade** – 2nd year of replacing desktop & laptops that are not able to upgrade to Windows 11. We will finish this project in 2025.

4. CURRENT YEAR CHALLENGES

- 1) **Imaging Replacement** – Replace IMS/21 with Laserfiche & bring on new departments. Lots of planning & migration of files.
- 2) **SQL Server** – Migrating & upgrading the 3 SQL servers to Windows Server 2022.
- 1) **Windows 11 Upgrade** – Finish upgrading all compatible laptops and desktops from Windows 10 to Windows 11. Replace laptops, toughbooks & desktops that are not compatible.
- 2) **365 File Migration** – Finishing moving office & adobe files from OCNETAPP5 to SharePoint Online.
- 3) **OneDrive** – Move all the users personal/home (K:Drive) over to One Drive.
- 4) **Domain Controllers** – Raise the Domain & Forest function level
- 5) **NetApp Retirement** – Retire the NETAPPs that are at/near end of life. Replace the NETAPPs with SharePoint & a file server.

5. ON THE HORIZON

- Upgrade VMWare environment
- Replace FortiGate 100F – 2028-2030 (Estimated end of Support, no official end of support yet).
- Purchase a new SAN for Storage
- Move Domain Controllers to Azure
- Replace current backup system
- Spillman Server Replacement in 2030
- Milestone Camera Replacements
- Move Jatheon Archiving from an appliance to the Cloud
- Upgrade the Cisco VOIP system to the Cloud
- Move BS&A Financials to the Cloud
- Replace Wireless Controllers

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the TS staff looks forward to serving the County Board of Supervisors, Departments, and residents of Oconto County. As a team, we will continue to do the best we can. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support!

Melissa Schwaller
Oconto County Technology Services Director

2024 ANNUAL REPORT
Oconto County Child Support Agency



Department Overview

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Oconto County Child Support Agency to offer effective, high-quality services that will strengthen the lives of children. We do this through the establishment of legal paternity, child support & medical support orders, and enforcement of those orders. It is our goal to provide excellent customer service in a timely and respectful manner, and we strive to provide quality child support services in accordance with all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION /AUTHORITY FOR CREATION

Authority for the creation of the Wisconsin Child Support Program began in 1975 under Title **IV**, part **D** of the Social Security Act and, for this reason, child support is frequently referred to as the “IVD” program. Shortly thereafter, in 1977, the Oconto County Child Support Agency (CSA) was created. Via contract with the Department of Children and Families, and specifically the Bureau of Child Support, the CSA provides a myriad of services to ensure adequate financial and medical support for families with a reduced reliance on public assistance to meet basic needs. To achieve this goal, administrative as well as judicial actions are effectuated to establish and enforce financial child support and health insurance orders.

The Child Support Program has key responsibilities:

- Establish paternity on behalf of children whose parents are not married to each other at the time of the child’s birth
- Establish court orders obligating parents to pay child support and provide health care coverage for their children
- Locate absent parents and income/assets necessary to establish, enforce and collect child support as well as health insurance obligations
- Take administrative and judicial actions necessary to enforce a support order when payers fail to meet their court ordered obligations, up to and including the loss of civil liberties

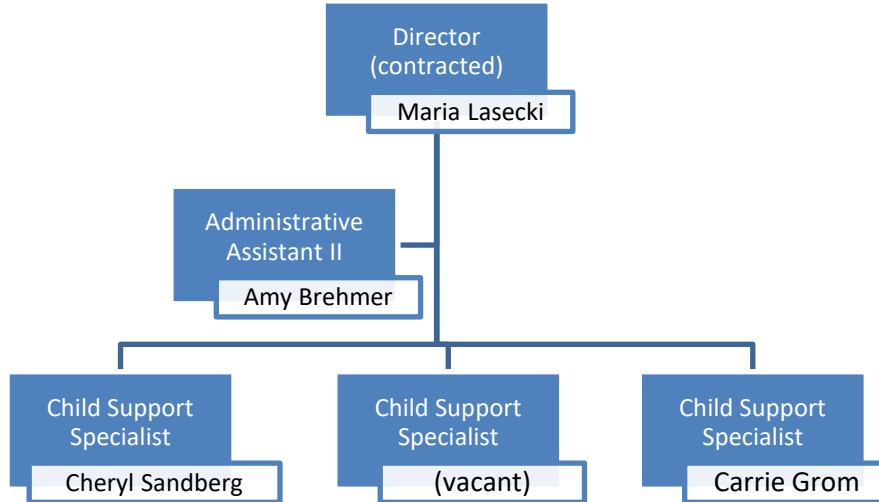
The Oconto County Child Support Agency is one of 72 county child support agencies and is considered a medium sized county based upon caseload size. Locally, services are provided to approximately 1,550 IVD cases. This does not include NIVD (non-IVD) cases; those that do not have an application/referral on file, are not eligible to receive services, or have closed. Such cases are still required to be maintained in our statewide computer system known as KIDS (Kid Information Data System).

REPORTING STRUCTURE

The Child Support Agency is a ‘stand-alone’ department which reports to the Public Safety Committee in Oconto County.

The department consists of 4 FTE Oconto County employees: three Child Support Specialists and one Administrative Assistant II. This small, collaborative team is led by a shared Director under an intergovernmental agreement with Brown County, in place since August 2023.

Oconto County Child Support Table of Organization



The department works closely and collaboratively with three internal agencies: the Family Court Commissioner's Office, the Clerk of Courts team, and Corporation Counsel. Services from these agencies are time studied, quarterly, for state billing purposes under formal cooperative agreements. Execution of those mutual agreements is a federal requirement necessary to authorize charge backs to the IVD program. All cooperative agreements must be renewed, approved, and filed with the Bureau of Regional Operations every two years.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

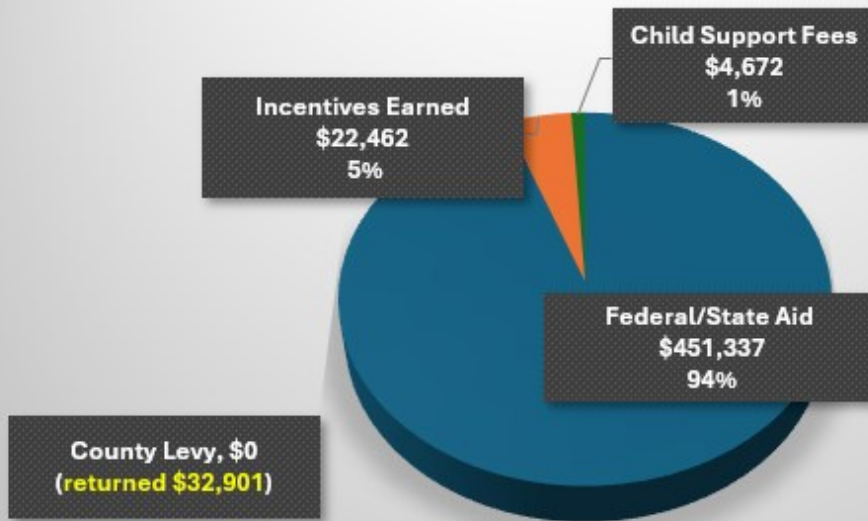
The Child Support program, on whole, is funded through a combination of federal, state, and local dollars although the principal funding source is through federal administrative cost reimbursement. The federal reimbursement rate for administrative costs is 66% and the amount which can be "pulled down" and reimbursed is **unlimited**. The only caveat to this lies in the county's willingness to contribute the necessary ratio; for every dollar the county invests in the Child Support program, we receive another \$2 in federal and state funds. In addition, the agency also receives revenue as performance incentives based upon specific incentivized measures as well as caseload size. Subsequently, the agency relies on a very small amount of local levy dollars to fund its operational costs annually. When considering the amount of money collected, child support is a very cost-effective program for the local investment and staff work, tirelessly, to achieve (and exceed) the same success every year.

FUNDING

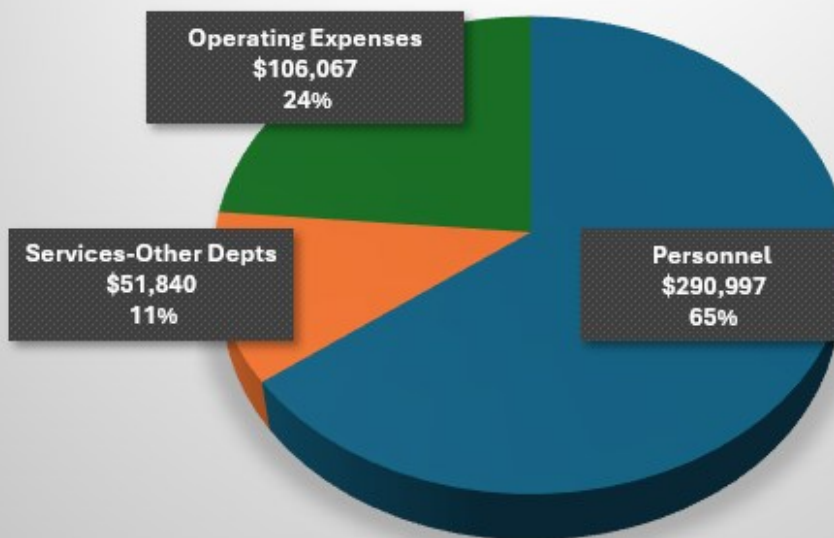
With the support of the Joint Finance Committee, Governor Evers signed the **2023-25** state budget into law which included an additional \$1 million in GPR (plus \$1.4 million in unallocated GPR in DCF's budget) for 2023-24. An additional \$5 million GPR was allocated in 2024-25 for child support enforcement. Base state GPR funding for the child support program will equal \$15.7 million at the end of the biennium. For the Oconto County CSA, this amounted to an increase of \$22,823 in GPR and an additional \$44,305 in federal match at 66% for a total of \$67,128 combined in 2023-2024 revenue; a 43.15% GPR increase.

The following charts represent unaudited revenue and expenses for the Oconto County CSA for 2024:

2024 Child Support Revenues-unaudited \$478,471



2024 Child Support Expenses-unaudited \$448,904



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Organizational Evaluation

Given vacancies in the Director role and the Financial Specialist position, an opportunity to re-evaluate the table of organization presented itself. Through an Intergovernmental Agreement with Brown County, the Director role was assumed by the Brown County Child Support Director on a 50/50-time share. This proved to be a cost-effective and successful way to provide leadership and consultation services to the department. Spending time in the agency afforded an outside perspective as it related to workload division, volume, duties, and mandated timelines associated with the administration of the child support program. After a thorough review of the pros, cons, and possible alternatives, the previous Financial Specialist position was adjusted to more appropriately reflect the needs of the department and recruitment to fill an Administrative Assistant II position was successfully accomplished.

Performance

Child Support agencies operate within the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), from October 1-September 30, versus a calendar year. Despite the fact that the agency experienced staffing changes in key positions including the Specialist and Administrative Assistant II roles, the Oconto County CSA continued to out-perform state averages in all four performance categories, which is an incredible accomplishment!

Oconto County Child Support Performance Comparisons

Federal Performance Measures	Oconto FFY 9/30/22	Oconto FFY 9/30/23	Oconto FFY 9/30/24	Agency Target	2024 State Average	Oconto County vs. State
Paternity Establish	102.52%	97.72%	103.94%	90% or greater	98.91%	5.03%
Court Order Rate	91.66%	91.72%	90.56%	80% or greater	83.82%	6.74%
Current Support	78.71%	78.41%	77.93%	80% or greater	74.38%	3.55%
Arrears Collection	74.45%	72.79%	74.73%	80% or greater	67.78%	6.95%

	Oconto County 09/30/23	Oconto County 9/30/24	Difference 2023 vs 2024	State variance	% of change
Caseload size	1,521	1,515	-6	4,799	1%

Caseload Size

Oconto County's caseload size has stabilized; we have not experienced a significant decline throughout 2024. This is an important data element to monitor as 65% of incentive funding is based upon caseload size (current support collections earns 20% and arrears collections comprises the balance of 15%). Discussions continue at the state level which would further contribute to reduced caseloads in counties across the state. The agency is grateful to be able to contribute to these conversations as, like anything, there will be pros and cons to such decisions.

Above and beyond capturing incentive revenue for department operations, money collected and distributed through agency endeavors goes directly back into the community-the homes of children and custodial parents. This effectively aids in the ability of families to be more self-sufficient, thus reducing reliance on public assistance and other federal, state and even county funded programming. Statistics below demonstrate the diligent efforts of the department over the past Federal Fiscal Year:

Oconto County Child Support Statistics-FFY 2023-24

Collections & Disbursements

\$2,751,039 was collected as **current support**, of **\$3,529,950** due

\$595,813 was collected as **arrears payment**, of **\$7,191,607** due

Children Served

1,544 children were in open cases

985 children in open IV-D cases were born out of wedlock

1,494 children in open IV-D cases have had paternity resolved

Children yet to be Served (carried into FFY 24)

Paternity needs to be established or acknowledged for **50** children

Orders required to be established for **64** cases

On a broader scale, Child Support agencies across the state of Wisconsin achieved the following success over the past year:

IV-D Program Impacts on [Wisconsin](#) Families-FFY 2023-24

- **343,586** children served statewide
- **\$502.4** million in support collected; 97% collected went directly to families
 - **Note: more than \$2.415 billion is due in past support and remains uncollected**
- **263,878** children in open IVD cases as of the end of the FFY born out of wedlock
- **29,311** children requiring paternity establishment services at the end of the FFY
- **21,915** new support orders established
- **\$5 million** in cash medical support assigned to the state (birth costs)-down from \$7.6M in '22
- **155,071** children in IVD cases eligible for Medicaid
- **55,231** children in IVD cases covered by private health insurance
- Approximately **20.9%** of Wisconsin's children live in a single-parent home (2022 Census data)
Families that receive child support have fewer substantiated child protective services referrals

CHALLENGES

Vacancies

The biggest challenge in 2024 was maintaining the operation despite two key vacancies on a small five person team. Meeting federal timelines, achieving previous performance measures, and continuing to provide the exceptional customer service the agency is no easy task even when an agency is fully staffed. Our remaining veteran staff did a tremendous job rising to the unforeseen circumstances. In every challenge lies an opportunity, particularly as it relates to solidarity, organizational cohesiveness, teamwork, and continuous improvement efforts. The collective efforts to cover areas and duties were nothing short of remarkable. We ended the year fully staffed although we have recently experienced two more vacancies. Positions in the child support program can take up to two years to learn so it is important to fill these positions and begin the process of onboarding new individuals to the unique world of child support service delivery.

Abusive Customers

Another challenge encountered throughout 2024 involved dealing directly with volatile and/or abusive participants, both in person (in office) and over the phone. Post pandemic, abuse and threats of violence worsened tremendously; not an uncommon issue in other places like retail establishments, hospitals, call centers, and society in general. With stellar support from the Sheriff's department and a zero tolerance policy for abusive treatment as part of our customer service plan, we will continue to set expectations and impose consequences which include limiting interactions with the agency other than written communication when warnings are not heeded.

ON THE HORIZON

Child Support Modernization Efforts

The Bureau of Child Support continues modernization efforts focusing, particularly, on replacing the outdated, DOS based KIDS computer system. Aptly named THRIVE, there will be many improvements incorporated into a more intuitive, user friendly, web-based system. The Director continues participation as an appointed member of the Child Support Modernization Centralized Mail and Document Process Workgroup; one of many stakeholder groups contributing to system development. The opportunity to share both Oconto and Brown County's experiences (and ideas) to inform future policy is very important and a privilege not taken for granted.

Manuals & Policy

As a carryover from 2024, efforts to codify policy will be of utmost importance. It goes without saying: an important component of any organization is written policy/procedure although our agency currently does not have formalized manuals as reference material. To get there, we will continue to vet current process against state/federal law to arrive at best practice. Ultimately, the goal is to establish protocols that are firm, fair and consistent. Moreover, by documenting processes and creating manuals, we will effectively develop training tools for the future. While we have initiated this project last year, the team will continue to review "current" and "future state" procedures, mapping next steps and eliminating waste wherever possible.

Conversion to Laserfiche Record Retention

Secure retention of child support records in an easily accessible, virtual platform (Laserfiche) is a goal that the agency has for 2025. We are very excited to begin this initiative and have taken steps to adopt the templates the Brown County CSA developed and implemented back in 2013. Next steps involve the purging unnecessary hard copy documents along with appropriate/secure destruction. Once we obtain Laserfiche access, we'll back scan into the system utilizing meta data to make searching virtual records simple, secure, and easily accessible. The opportunity to utilize Laserfiche as the repository of record for child support purposes is one that will be very efficient and effective although there is a great deal of work that must be accomplished in 2025 to get there.

Confidential Interview Room Construction

An outcome of our state triennial review included a recommendation to pursue confidential but accessible/secure interview room space to meet with participants who may have appointments or walk in for services. Discussions with administration ensued and much needed support was availed to obtain architectural renderings and proposals for the construction of space immediately adjacent to our lobby. We are extremely excited that the board has approved a proposal and can't wait for this project to get

underway. The creation of dedicated space will solve multiple considerations associated with escalated clientele, privacy, departmental coverage, and personal safety.

SUMMARY

In summary, the Oconto County CSA is resilient, collaborative, customer service focused and positioned to achieve many milestones over the upcoming year. While we are well into our federal fiscal year, the department continues to out-perform last year's agency collections and continues to exceed state averages in the four main performance measures: court order establishment, paternity establishment, current support and arrears collection. Additionally, we are anxious to fill recent vacancies and welcome new team members to our work family. While there is a great deal to accomplish in 2025, there is no doubt that we'll do so, perhaps surpassing even our own expectations! This positive outlook and anticipated success would simply not be possible without the unwavering support we receive from the administration as well as the county board and, for this, the team remains overwhelming grateful.



2024 OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



The Oconto County Clerk of Court is an elected public official, whose constitutional duties are defined in Wisconsin State Statute, section 59.40. The Clerk of Court Mission is to serve and assist the Court System of Oconto County and the public in the most efficient way possible.

The Purpose of the Clerk of Courts office is to be the keeper of all court records that involve the following, but not limited to: family, civil, criminal, paternity, traffic, conservation, small claims, transcript and group judgments, tax liens and jury management. This office is completely automated with CCAP (Circuit Court Automation Project). The Clerk of Courts office disburses all funds generated from fines, costs and filing fees and answers all incoming inquiries by phone and in person. Additionally, the office has regular contact with the District Attorney's Office, Circuit Judges, Family Court Commissioner, Probation, Probate, Sheriff's Department, Child Support, Human Services and various other county, state and federal agencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collection through the State Debt Collection Program continued, bringing the total collected in 2024 to \$186,132. A grand total of \$740,411 has been collected since starting SDC. A restitution total of \$145,088 was collected by various means in 2024 and paid to victims.

The updates made to the Oconto County website and Clerk of Courts page have been a huge success, allowing the public to access information regarding procedures, records requests, payments, and family, small claims, criminal and traffic court actions.

CCAP Phase I of Financial Application was implemented. CCAP Support staff were on site for training in March 2024.

Small Claims Clerk participated on a committee with Court Operations to update Small Claims Model Record Keeping.

JURY

In 2024, there were seven jury trials for a total of fourteen days. Jury expenses were \$28,475, compared to expenses in 2023 of \$19,499. A total of 335 jurors were sent to voir dire, with a total of 165 being questioned and 170 not questioned. We had one jury trial in which a defendant did not appear.

PERSONNEL

Register in Probate/Family Court Commissioner Peggy Miller was appointed Judge in Marinette County. Jacob Evans was hired as her replacement.

STATISTICS

Year	2023	2024
Case Filings	4559	4315
Revenue	\$423,426	\$439,235
Grants/Reimbursements	\$212,817	\$239,243
Total	\$636,243	\$678,478
Expenses	\$1,178,778	\$1,197,97

FUTURE GOALS

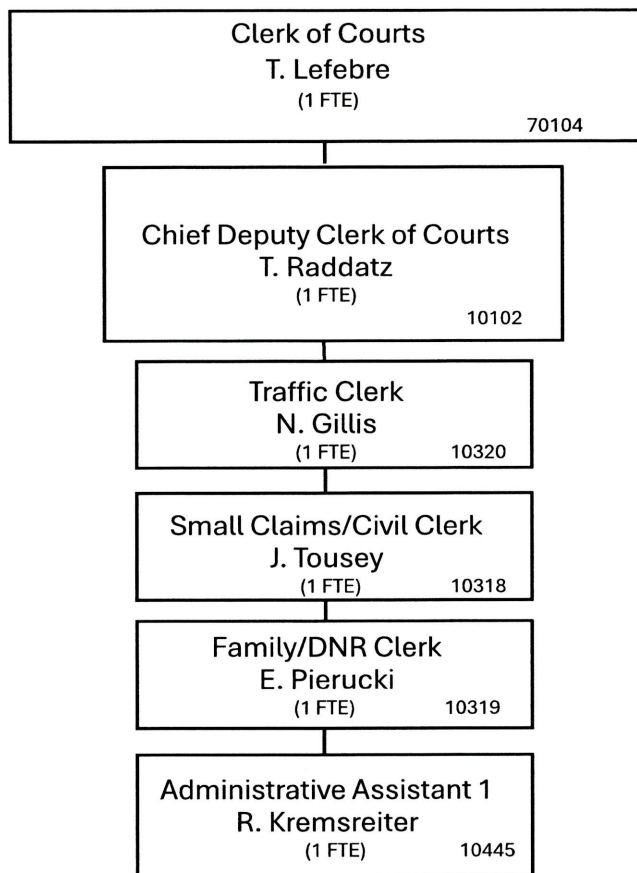
- To keep updating Clerk of Courts page on Oconto County website to increase user-friendly features for the public.
- To continue to collect outstanding debt through State Debt Collection and tax intercept.
- To continue cross-training of all employees in all areas.
- To work in coordination with Court Security, Sheriff's Department, and Jail to ensure effective communication.
- To implement CCAP Phase II of Financial Applications.

Respectfully submitted by the Oconto County Clerk of Court,

Trisha L LeFebvre

March 28, 2025

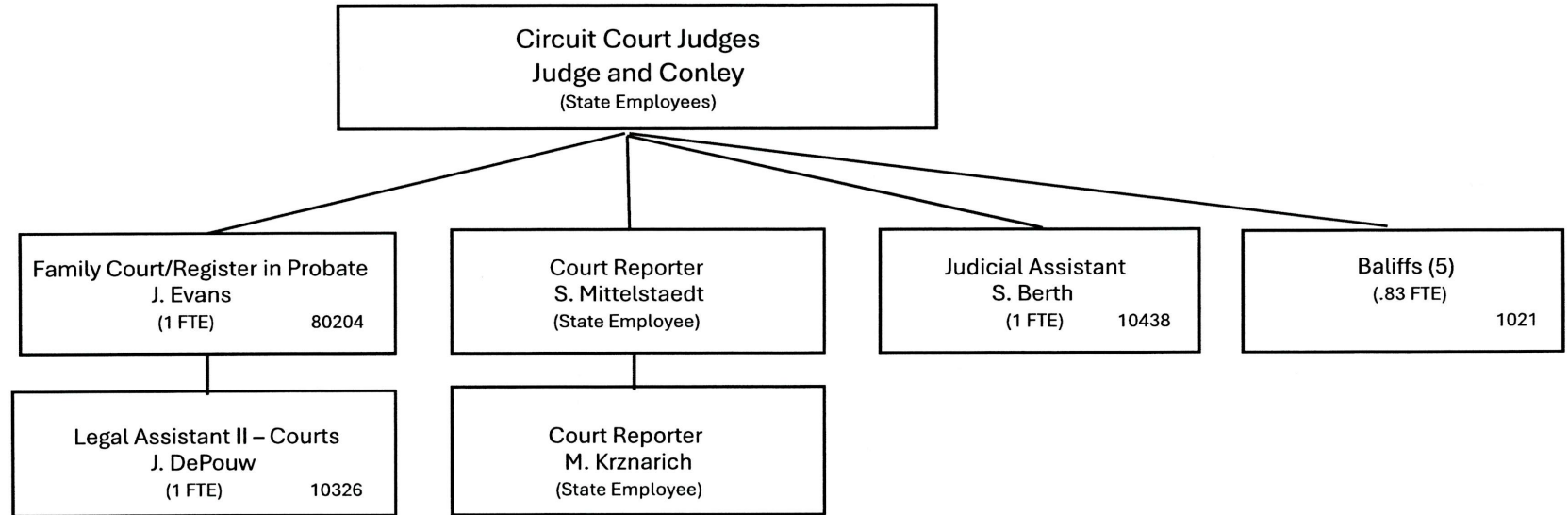
CLERK OF COURTS



Authorized County Positions: 6
County FTE: 6
Contracted Positions: 0

March 2025

CIRCUIT COURT



Authorized County Positions: 14

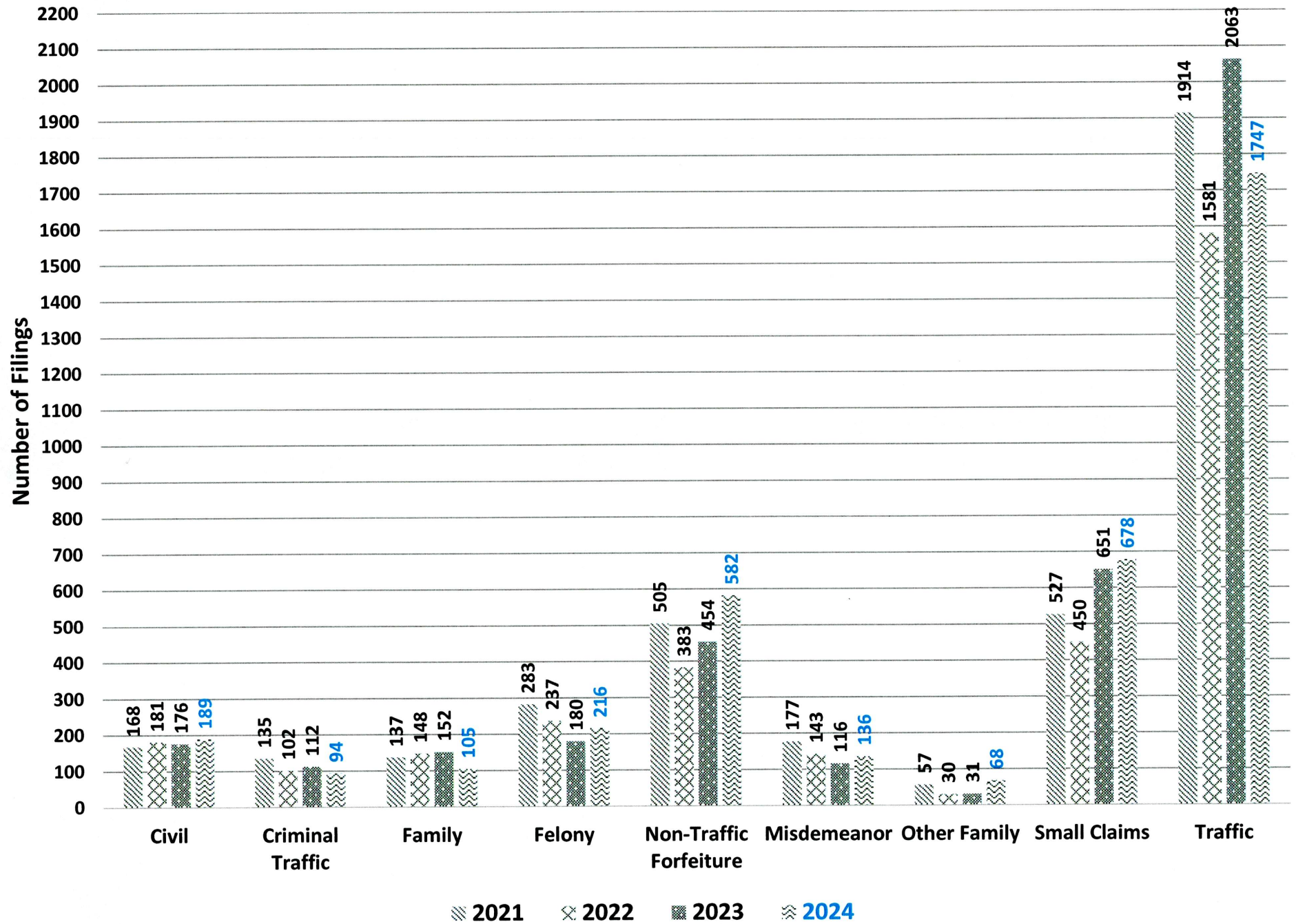
County FTE: 3

Contracted Positions: 0

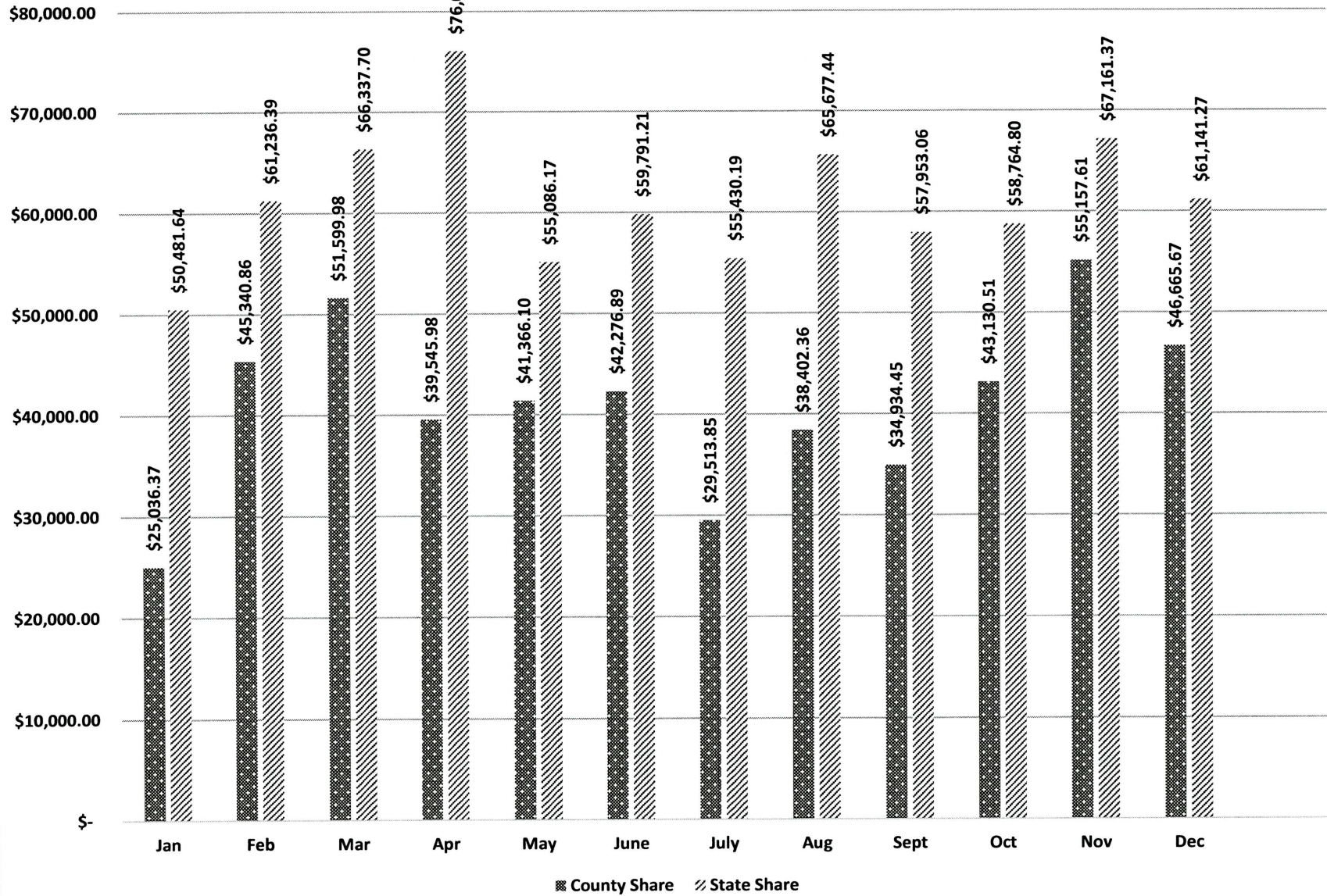
March 2025

2024 Year-to-Date Filing Statistics - District 8										42 - Oconto County			
Case Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly Total
Civil - CV (less AM)	8	17	18	22	14	18	17	12	19	15	12	17	189
Criminal Traffic - CT	9	9	13	3	3	13	4	13	5	10	1	11	94
Divorce - FA - 40101/40201	9	6	10	10	6	4	6	6	17	14	9	8	105
Felony- CF	19	23	16	15	17	21	26	12	22	16	12	17	216
Forfeiture - FO	30	30	20	60	57	51	43	76	44	86	45	40	582
Misdemeanor - CM	8	21	6	14	7	14	17	10	9	15	7	8	136
Other Family - PA/FA	4	8	4	6	7	8	2	7	7	9	2	3	67
Paternity Post-Adjudication - PJ	4	1	3	4	3	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	28
Small Claims - SC	55	61	33	57	25	61	64	50	58	78	69	67	678
Traffic Forfeiture - TR	135	168	189	247	130	168	128	148	156	125	72	81	1747
Amortization - 31007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Commitment of an Inmate - CI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complex Civil - CX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Condominium Lien - CO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction Lien - CL	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	8
Foreign Judgment - FJ	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Group File - GF	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Hospital Lien - HL	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
John/Jane Doe - JD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mechanic Lien - ML	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Lien - OL	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Tax Warrant - TW	2	32	33	5	7	13	8	5	16	19	8	1	149
Transcript - TJ	3	2	4	6	2	1	5	2	2	1	2	1	31
UT/UB Warrant - UC	5	1	2	1	2	1	1	4	1	5	1	6	30
Workers Compensation - WC	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	3	13
Adoption - AD	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Commitment - ME	10	3	2	1	3	1	4	3	1	1	1	3	33
Estate - PR	2	1	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	11
Guardianship - GN	1	3	1	3	1	0	2	1	3	3	3	3	24
Informal Probate - IN	5	4	7	5	5	4	5	11	8	10	5	4	73
Juvenile Adoption - JA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Juvenile CHIPS - JC	0	2	0	1	1	2	2	4	1	6	0	0	19
Juvenile Commitment - JM	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	8
Juvenile Delinquent - JV	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	10
Juvenile Guardianship - JG	2	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	4	0	0	14
Juvenile Injunction - JI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Juvenile Forfeiture - JO	3	7	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5	2	24
T.P.R.	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Trust - TR	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total:	327	408	372	467	301	387	343	368	374	428	261	278	4314

Year-to-Date Filings 2021 - 2024



Revenue Collected 2024



2024 State Grants/Reimbursement Monies

S/A Courts: \$145,267

S/A GAL/Public Defenders: \$48,539

S/A Interpreter Fees: \$4,382

IV-E Legal Services GAL: \$8,115

Child Support: \$32,940

Total: \$239,243

2024 State Debt Collection/Tax Intercept

Total Collected Wisconsin SDC: \$186,132

Running Total: \$740,411

Total Collected Tax Intercept: \$6,501

Running Total: \$1,016,742

2024 Restitution Collected

Total Restitution Collected: \$145,088

2024 Other Collections

Monthly Interest: \$35,470

Point & Pay Transmissions: \$79,106

AllPaid Transmissions: \$97,567

Electronic Payments: \$374,802

2024 Family Cases

Divorce Actions Granted: 91

Divorce Actions Dismissed: 18

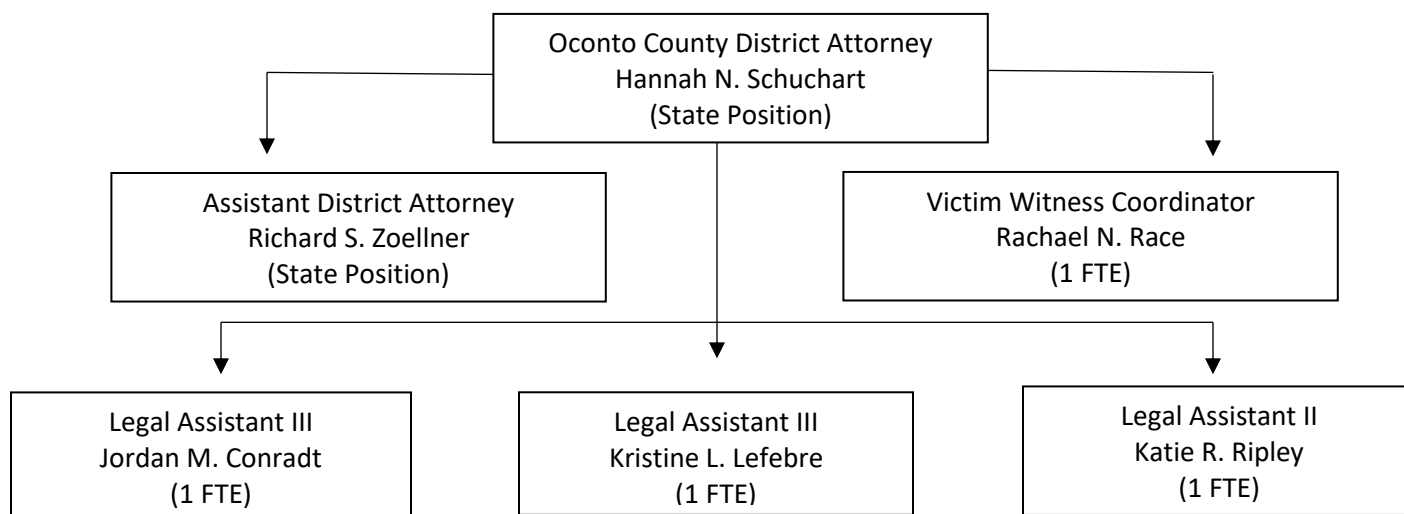
Legal Separations Granted: 0

Legal Separations Dismissed: 2

2024 Annual Report

Department Overview:

- Prosecute all adult felony and misdemeanor criminal acts that occur within Oconto County, including fatalities, murders, arsons, sexual assaults, child abuse, acts of domestic violence, burglaries, thefts, possession and distribution of controlled substances, worthless checks, among others in compliance with Section 978.05 (1) – (6) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.
- Prosecute all juvenile delinquency cases including uncontrollability, and truancy as well as prosecute juveniles in Need of Protection or Services.
- Prosecute state and county traffic and non-traffic violations occurring in Oconto County including forfeitures. This includes ordinances from the Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin State Patrol, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Assists victims in enforcing their rights under Section 950.04 of the Wisconsin State Statutes including accompaniment and notification of all court proceedings when requested, as well as giving victims the opportunity to confer with the prosecutor and making statements to the court. Our office assists victims with submitting restitution requests to the court and provides information regarding the Crime Victim Compensation Program.
- Provides guidance and training to law enforcement agencies.
- The District Attorney's Office reports to the Public Safety Committee whose members include Dennis Kroll, Tracy Ondik, Don Bartels Jr., David Parmentier, and Al Schreiber.



District Attorney Statistics

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Number of Referrals	1143	1342	1405
Number of Court Cases	587	586	593
Number of Court Events	3883	3851	3786
Number of Documents Generated	9083	9311	8710
Number of Jury Trials Scheduled	50	92	66

Victim Witness Statistics

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Number of Victims	646	851	800
Number of Victims Served	326	431	422
Number of Restitution Requests	50	33	34
Total Number of Witnesses	1304	1647	1757
Total Number of Other Parties	1632	1915	2002
Total Number of Subpoenas	756	1005	969
Total Number of Documents Generated	3628	3295	2945

Financial Overview:

District Attorney

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Revenue	\$8,406	\$6,371	\$4,385
Approved Budget	\$221,607	\$239,307	\$251,320
Ending Budget	\$214,331	\$229,598	\$244,323

Victim Witness

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Reimbursement from the DOJ	\$36,683	\$41,088	\$49,243
Approved Budget	\$77,615	\$85,229	\$88,961
Ending Budget	\$81,834	\$85,728	\$90,182

Current Year Accomplishments

- The District Attorney's Office took advantage of educational training opportunities and sent a legal assistant to Class A training in Milwaukee and the State Crime Lab Conference in Green Bay.
- The District Attorney's Office secured a color copier that will make the discovery process while preparing for trial more streamlined.
- Victim Witness Coordinator applied for and received the Basic Credential through the Wisconsin Victim Witness Credential Program.
- The District Attorney's Office secured 6 new laptops from the State to increase flexibility and staff access to materials when off campus.

Current Year Challenges

- The District Attorney's Office is currently dealing with backlogged cases that need to be reviewed for charges. These backlogged cases are in part due to staffing shortages in 2022 and continue as the DA's Office works to review new referrals while simultaneously processing arrests and preparing for backlogged Jury Trials, which include cases from 2019 and onwards.
- Looking into ways to streamline the discovery process as the District Attorney's Office has become fully paperless. This would include using secure online services to effectively share discovery such as evidence.com which can be used by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to securely manage, review, and share digital evidence, streamlining workflows and ensuring evidence integrity.

On the Horizon

- The DA's Office is working to potentially hire another prosecutor who would assist in making charging decisions on the backlog of under review referrals.
- Working to fully train office staff as two legal assistants retired early this year.
- Continuing collaboration with other Departments to streamline processes for bond calls and other court events, cutting down on court delays and scheduling issues.
- Continuing to offer trainings to all local law enforcement agencies, increasing the quality of investigations and cutting down on the number of requests for follow up investigations.

- Updating templates in PROTECT to increase efficiency in drafting common motions and pleadings.
- Offering educational training opportunities for our legal assistants that pertain to their specific job duties and needs.
- Victim Witness Coordinator will attend the training conferences in the Spring and Fall to continue to keep their obtained credentials.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hannah N. Schuchart

Hannah N. Schuchart
District Attorney



OCONTO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2024 Annual Report

Mission Statement

The Oconto County Office of Emergency Management (EM) will ensure, through coordination with State, County, and Local Organizations that the county is prepared to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, all natural and man-made emergencies. This office will provide leadership and support to reduce the loss of life and property, through an all-hazards emergency management program of planning, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery throughout Oconto County.

Our Vision

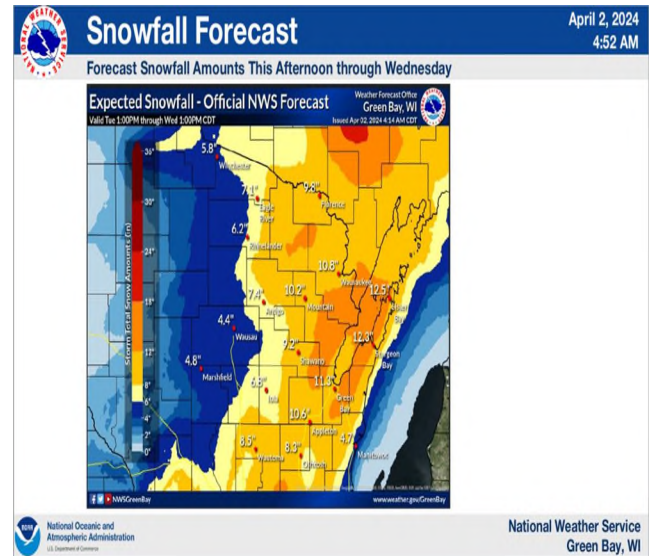
Our vision is to promote safer, less vulnerable communities with the capacity to cope with hazards and disasters. We accomplish this in conjunction with the Oconto County Sherriff's Office, as well as a collaborative effort linking emergency services, private sector, and volunteer organizations. All of which are comprised of motivated, dedicated, and well-trained professionals, with effective plans and the necessary resources for efficient disaster and emergency planning, mitigation, preparation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Our Goals

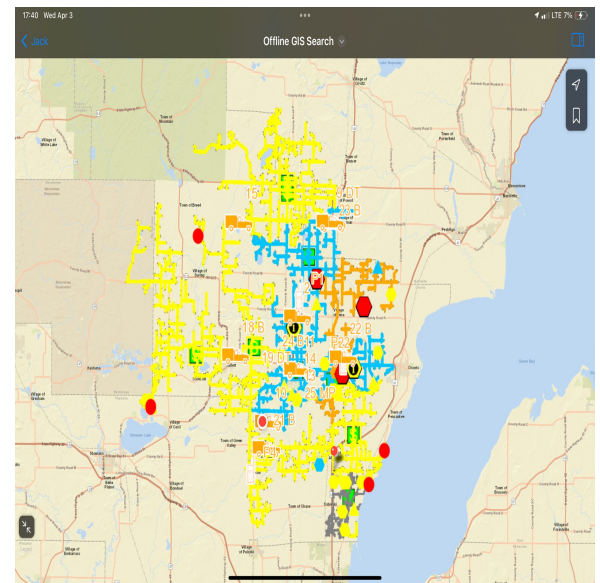
- Identify and assist in the preparedness and mitigation of natural and human-caused hazards.
- Develop and maintain plans for major emergencies/disasters that build on and complement the existing operational policies and procedures of local emergency response agencies.
- Establish an annual training program that develops and maintains necessary emergency management skills, including conducting exercises to test agency/department emergency response plans and procedures.
- Provide the direction and coordination to identify and manage the additional resources needed for a major emergency/disaster response.
- Gather and disseminate information to the public, media and local government agencies to assist in the preparation, response and recovery from major emergencies/disasters.
- Serve as the focal point for coordination and liaison of activities between local, state and federal government in the response to and recovery from major emergencies/disasters.
- Comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) requirements for receipt of program funds.

2024 Emergency Management Highlights

In 2024 Oconto County had to navigate through several challenges, including a severe ice storm (Winter Storm Cora) which resulted in many road closures and a long-term power outage emergency in the center portion of Oconto County. The Emergency Management Office worked in conjunction with the Sheriff's office, HHS, Maintenance, and the Highway Dept to navigate this storm. I was fortunate to be able to assist in many different areas, from restarting the generator here at the courthouse which ran Building C, assisting with the tracking of downed power lines and the traffic control that was needed because of the downed lines, and damage assessments. I also worked with our local municipalities in establishing spaces for citizens to go for warming and the charging of devices if needed. It was a very challenging week,



As a result of this storm, I worked with Oconto Electric Cooperative coordinating traffic control to allow them to place new power lines over the highways, replace broken poles, and re-establish their power grid to deliver power to Oconto County residents. At one point, 98% of their Oconto County power grid was down. I worked with their line superintendent and completed damage assessments for OEC. We then sat down and compiled the data and uploaded it to the state forms. That information was collected and input into the preliminary documentation, and once I was certain we met the minimum thresholds, I submitted the application on their behalf to the State of Wisconsin Disaster Fund for emergency expense reimbursement. Once the application was approved and all of the assessments and documentation was completed, the information was officially submitted into the Wisconsin Disaster Fund for reimbursement for emergency work that had been completed. Emergency Management involvement helped secure \$321,457.82 (Approximately 70% of expenditures) in reimbursements to Oconto Electric Cooperative for the infrastructure damage, and the emergency repairs related to the storm.



Incident Response

In 2024 I was also involved in responding to many incidents. Several vehicle accidents including an unfortunate double fatality on US41, several large fires, individuals trapped on the ice, and searches for missing people in both Oconto and Marinette Counties. I was requested to assist in coordinating resources and providing our EM trailer for drone team support in Marinette County as we searched for a lost elderly gentleman. He was located cold and hungry, but other than that ok on the 3rd day of the search.



In Oconto County we had several additional incidents, most were on a smaller scale. However, in July we had a missing family on a small sailboat that left from the city docks in Oconto and was last seen on Green Island in the Bay of Green Bay. I was notified and immediately reported to the EOC and met with Chief Deputy Angus. We assembled members of the DNR, and Oconto PD in the EOC with us and had a virtual meeting with the Coast Guard, Marinette County Sheriffs Office, and the Duty Officer from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to formulate a plan. Through my connections with Wisconsin Emergency Management, I requested and utilized every resource available to us to aid in the search. Resource requests including fixed wing aircrafts with infrared Flir technology, helicopters with night vision, drones with thermal imaging capabilities, search boats, and even manpower to conduct grid searches on the water and do a foot searches of Green Island and the surrounding areas. Unfortunately, when the boat was located, two of the family members were found deceased. The third member of the family was found several weeks later, also deceased. I will continue to be actively involved with incident response to aid and assist all of the agencies and jurisdictions within Oconto County, and our mutual aid partners statewide.



UPDATE: Monday, July 15, 2024

At approximately 6:23 AM, the Oconto County Sheriff's Office was notified by the Door County Sheriff's Office that an unmanned 18-foot Gulf Coast Sailboat was located in the waters off of Chambers Island. At 11:21 AM, the bodies of two children were recovered about one mile south of where the boat was located. Their names are not being released at this time pending positive identification and notification of the next-of-kin.

Land, sea, and air searches continue. More information will be released via press release as it becomes available.

Implementation of Oconto County Rescue Task Force 1

After all of our School ASHER (Active Shooter Hostile Environment Response) tabletop exercises were completed with the county school districts in 2023, we realized by doing after action reviews, that one of our shortfalls or weaknesses within the Oconto County public safety response matrix was the lack of a county wide Rescue Task Force. In acknowledgement of the shortfall, I began the process of implementing a county wide rescue task force. With the help of a committee comprised of myself, the Oconto County MABAS President, the Oconto County EMS Council Chair, The Oconto County Sheriff and Chief Deputy, and 2 members of East Central WI IMT, we have been able to fully implement the OCRTF1.



A **Rural Rescue Task Force** is a specialized team designed to respond to emergencies in rural areas, focusing on search and rescue operations.

These task forces are typically composed of various emergency response professionals, including firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement officers. Their primary mission is to provide immediate assistance during disasters or emergencies where traditional resources may be limited. The reason this team is so important to Oconto County is because the members play a critical role in enhancing safety and resiliency in our local communities. With very limited access to volunteers in our emergency services, having this dedicated team helps to ensure a calculated and coordinated immediate response when it is needed most, which will ultimately reduce the impact of incidents on our communities. Our team is comprised of 30 very dedicated volunteer members who are all sponsored by their home Fire or EMS agency and have been vetted with background checks, and interviews. We



partner
with
Law

Enforcement for training 2 to 3 times per year to coordinate our ability to mobilize quickly and respond to any type of mass casualty event, be it natural or manmade. We have received several grants throughout the last couple years in which we have been able to acquire ballistic equipment, helmets and Kevlar vests with plates, as well as the necessary medical supplies. I have also successfully secured 2 large grants for specific active shooter response training that we have been able to use for not only our responders, but also our school districts. To date, we have held ASHER tabletop exercises in Oconto Falls,



Oconto, Lena, Gillett, and Suring. We have held functional exercises in Oconto, Oconto Falls, Gillett, and Suring is scheduled for May 4th of 2025.

The Emergency Communications System Upgrade

We are still working our way through this project. A project that started in 2018. We have been through many changes in the last few years which have created delays as we spent some time making sure we are charting the best course for our county and its radio users. In 2022 we were able to set the final plan and work towards project completion. Our current system was placed in service and full operation back in 2006 when the FCC mandated public safety to utilize VHF (narrow band) which switched the frequencies over from the UHF bandwidth. The current system is a simulcast 5 channel, 8 location system, which means it doesn't matter which tower location picks up a radio transmission, it is distributed out of all of the sites to provide a much wider and thorough coverage area. There are currently 7 remote sites plus the communication center located here at the courthouse that make up the current configuration of our simulcast system. Over time, we have found a few spots lacking quality coverage, and one of our goals is to eliminate, or at least reduce those areas. The main goals we have in this upgrade are to increase coverage and public safety communications and try to decrease the excessive costs we incur in leases. We currently lease space on towers owned by other entities at all of our remote sites to make our system operational. The new upgraded system will have 10 sites plus the communication center, which should make a significant improvement in our coverage. We have also established a partnership with Bug Tussel wireless and through some creative funding mechanisms, have been able to eliminate all but 3 of our current leases. In early 2024 I was also able to secure an additional frequency pair (no small feat) to add another repeated channel to our system which will give us 6 repeated channels to handle large incidents. Currently all of our remote sites have completed the construction phase, as in, the towers are up, and the shelters have all been delivered and set in place. All of the radio equipment has been installed at all of the locations, and our dark fiber network with the redundant ring and microwave back up was also completed near the end of 2024. We are currently waiting on the replacement of 3 generators at locations that haven't changed, and the full testing and cutover to operational use of this system. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have regarding this project.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Attended all Oconto County Fire Officer Association and MABAS meetings.
- All Oconto County EMS Council meetings attended.
- Attended the DNR Wildfire preparation and planning meetings in regard to the northern portion of Oconto County hosted by WI DNR.
- Completed the implementation of the Oconto County Executive Training Team.
- Actively participated in the simulated failure of the Oconto Falls and Stiles Hydro Electric Dams TTX.
- Assisted in the Emergency Operations Plan updates and exercises for the Oconto Falls Upper and Lower Dams managed by Eagle Creek and Oconto Electric Cooperative.
- Continued to assist all local Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement in the planning and implementation of training activities, exercises, and incident response.
- Complete Project Management of the multi-faceted, multiple location Emergency Communication System Upgrade and Radio Improvement project.
- Reviewed and updated the Oconto County Municipal Emergency Response Plan template and made it available to all municipalities within the County. Actively working with them on updates.
- Local outreach and public information were also part of 2024. Topics covered at public meetings were tornado awareness, flooding, Emergency Preparedness, how Emergency Management and Law Enforcement work together, the Incident Command System we use, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), Code Red community notification system, and Emergency Management as a career. Emergency Management continues to operate and maintain the command/rehab trailer for Oconto County and have deployed it for various incidents.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING

The EM office is responsible for the planning, development, dispersal, and implementation of the Oconto County Emergency Operational Plan, a County Wide Strategic Plan, and 13 required Oconto County Annex Incident Response Plans. These plans are all updated annually. I am also responsible for 16 Hazardous Material Response Off site Plans. These plans are used to assist the facilities as well as first responders in the event of a chemical release. The facilities that are required to have these plans meet or exceed the TPQ (Total Product Quantity of Extremely Hazardous Substances) set forth by the Federal Government. These facilities are determined through the State of Wisconsin's reporting requirements, which are part of the EPCRA (Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act) grant the EM office receives each year. All businesses are required to fill out a Tier II chemical information form annually to disclose the amount of EHS (Extremely Hazardous Substances) they have on site daily as well as annually. These forms are reviewed by WEM (Wisconsin Emergency Management), then sent to us for review with the LEPC. These forms determine the status of the facility. If the amount of EHS is below the TPQ the facility is labeled "reporting", if the amount is greater than the TPQ the facility is labeled "planning" and is then added to the list of facilities requiring me to complete an offsite plan. I am also required to complete an annual Countywide Strategic Plan which addresses the EHS in Oconto County. These plans are reviewed and approved by the LEPC annually and are then submitted for approval through WEM. Once approved by WEM, the plans are distributed to the facility, the responding agencies, our contracted partners in Hazardous Material Incident Response, and a copy is kept in the EM office.

Oconto County LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee)

An essential function of the Emergency Management Office is being the lead on this committee. The LEPC is a community organization that helps to prepare and plan for emergencies, particularly those involving hazardous materials. This committee is federally mandated based on the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA or SARA Title III). The main responsibilities of the LEPC are to develop and review emergency response plans, provide information to the community about the chemicals stored and used within, conduct training and exercises for the counties first responders, and assess the counties hazard material response resources. I have been delegated by the LEPC to be the spill coordinator for Oconto County. I was required to respond to 14 Hazardous Material releases throughout the County in 2024. The spill coordinator is also responsible for filing all forms and notifying all proper state agencies when a spill occurs. (Contact my office for a comprehensive list of details) These spills ranged from diesel fuel to raw sewage and were the result of issues from both private and commercial entities.



Regional Planning

The Northeast region again continues to update Mutual Aid Response with all County Directors, to form a Mutual Aid Damage Assessment Team to assist each other during a disaster. This also includes a semi-annual training. Our region is also continuing to work together on a Mass Casualty Incident Plan, including Acts of Violence Response and long-term power outage and fuel shortage planning. We are also continuing our close work with the Health & Human Service agency within our County to aid in local planning for a response in the event we have a mass casualty incident.

Financial Review

The Oconto County Emergency Management office is subsidized through grants received through FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management. The grant fund summary and 2024 budget totals are as follows:

The budget summary:

Total Budget Allotment	\$ 179,407.00
Grant funding received	\$ 78,549.00

The actual expenses summary:

Actual expenses	\$173,192.00
Grant funding received	\$ 78,549.00
Actual expenses after grant awards	\$ 94,643.00

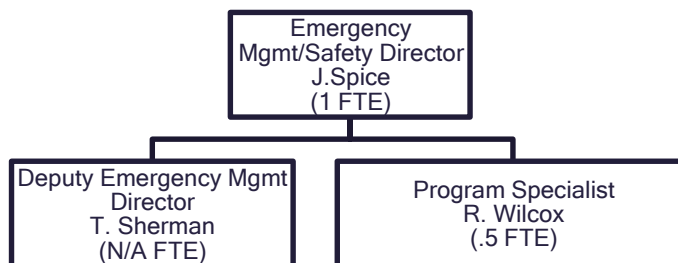
Grant summary:

EMPG Grant	\$39,346.65
EPCRA Grant	\$11,750.04
HazMat Equipment Grant	\$7,514.00
Homeland Security ASHER Grant	\$17,025.00
GRANT AWARD TOTAL	\$75,635.69

Please note, this is only a summary. Please contact my office for a full report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jon T. Spice
Oconto County
Emergency Management Director

Emergency Management/Safety
Organizational Chart



Oconto County Medical Examiner



2024 Annual Report

Oconto County Medical Examiner's Office
3032 Curry Lane
Green Bay, 54311

Last Revised: April 4, 2025

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Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Oconto County

The Medical Examiner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Oconto County. The Office of the Medical Examiner certifies death after postmortem examination and/or investigation and issues the death certificate as required by law. The Medical Examiner's Office is located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and has jurisdiction over three North-Eastern Counties – Brown, Door, and Oconto. Collectively, these three counties account for an expansive geographical area and are a combination of rural, urban, tribal, and suburban living. The total population of these three counties is approximately 350,000, and they are all in a state of growth and expansion. Midway into 2022, Brown County completed construction on a new medical examiner facility and began perform postmortem examinations on site. In August of 2024 Dr. Leah Schuppener, D.O. joined the team.

The Medical Examiner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in the jurisdictions served. The medical examiner certifies death after investigation and/or postmortem examination and issues the death certificate for all deaths which fall under the jurisdiction of the office. As a part of this process, the cause and manner of death are determined by the board-certified physician medical examiners. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families, law enforcement, and other relevant agencies as appropriate. The information obtained from individual death investigations may also be studied collectively to gather information that may be used to address public health and safety issues.

In Wisconsin, a permit is required for all deaths where the final disposition will be cremation. Jurisdiction for the signing of cremation permits is determined by state statute. The Medical Examiner's Office facilitates viewings of all decedent's that are to be cremated under their jurisdiction. Once a request for cremation authorization is received, the death is reviewed by a medical examiner prior to signing. Deaths that were not properly reported or require further investigation are occasionally noted during this process.

Our doctors and investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Medicolegal investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death.

The Medical Examiner's Office is committed to the dignified and compassionate performance of these duties with impartiality and the highest level of professionalism in the service to the citizens of Brown, Door, and Oconto Counties and their medical and legal communities. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Oconto County Board of Supervisors for their support of the Office.

Medical Examiner Staff

Elizabeth A. Douglas, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Leah Schuppener, D.O.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Katelynne Conner
FT MLI

Rebecca Pfeiffer
FT MLI

Kristin Tassoul
Business Manager

Madie Dekeyser
Quality and Accreditation Specialist

Jeri Korth
FT MLI

Heather Pitts
FT MLI

Tricia Rieder
LTE MLI

Heather Ostrowski
LTE MLI

Luke Semrau
LTE MLI

Stephani Thirion
LTE MLI

Aizja Duquaine
Clerk I

Stephanie Jordan
FT Autopsy Assistant

Lisa Jones
LTE Autopsy Assistant

Erin Krachey
Funeral Home Liaison

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner

Deaths meeting the requisite criteria in Brown, Door, and Oconto County must be immediately reported to the Medical Examiner's Office. If the initiating event or injury causing the death occurred in another county, that respective Coroner/Medical Examiner's office must be notified instead.

All physicians and other persons having knowledge of the death of any person who has died under any of the following circumstances shall immediately report such death to the Medical Examiner:

- All deaths in which there are unexplained, unusual or suspicious circumstances
- All homicides, suicides, accidents or unnatural deaths
- All deaths due to poisoning or overdose, whether homicidal, suicidal or accidental
- All deaths following accidents, whether the injury was or was not considered the immediate cause of death
- All maternal deaths following an abortion
- When there is no physician or accredited practitioner who has attended or treated the decedent within 30 days preceding death
- When the physician caring for the decedent refuses to sign the death certificate
- When, after reasonable efforts, a physician cannot be obtained to sign the medical certification
- Deaths occurring in the emergency department of a hospital, outpatient area of a health care facility, or within 24 hours of admittance to a health care facility.
- Deaths of inmates under legal custody of the department and/or confined to a correctional facility
- Deaths of persons in custody of law enforcement agency or any death suspected to involve police action
- Occupational related deaths attributable entirely or in part to external workplace factors
- All cases where human or unidentified skeletal remains are discovered outside of a cemetery or documented burial plot.
- Any death in which there is doubt as to whether it is a Medical Examiner's case should be reported and discussed with a Medical Examiner's Forensic Investigator

The Medical Examiner's Office will respond to all deaths occurring outside of a hospital or nursing home, unless enrolled in a palliative care program under the care of a physician. Reportable deaths which occur in the hospital or hospice setting will often be investigated remotely whereby the investigator will gather information from the reporter, and further information will be collected through review of other methods such as interviews, medical records, facility notes, emergency medical services records, or law enforcement records.

Oconto County Medical Examiner Cases

Population	39775
Cases Reported to Medical Examiner	127
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	23
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	102
C. Number of deaths not certified by Medical Examiner's Office after investigation	2

Definitions

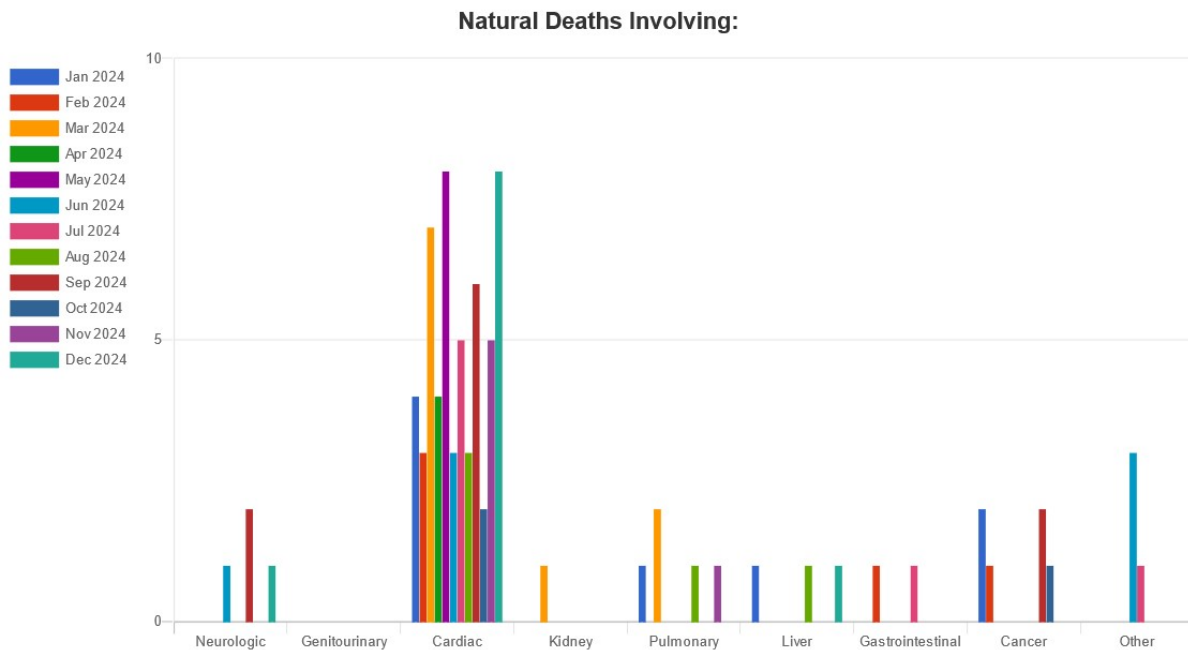
Full Autopsy: A complete external and internal examination of a decedent

Limited Examination: An examination which is focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., heart. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

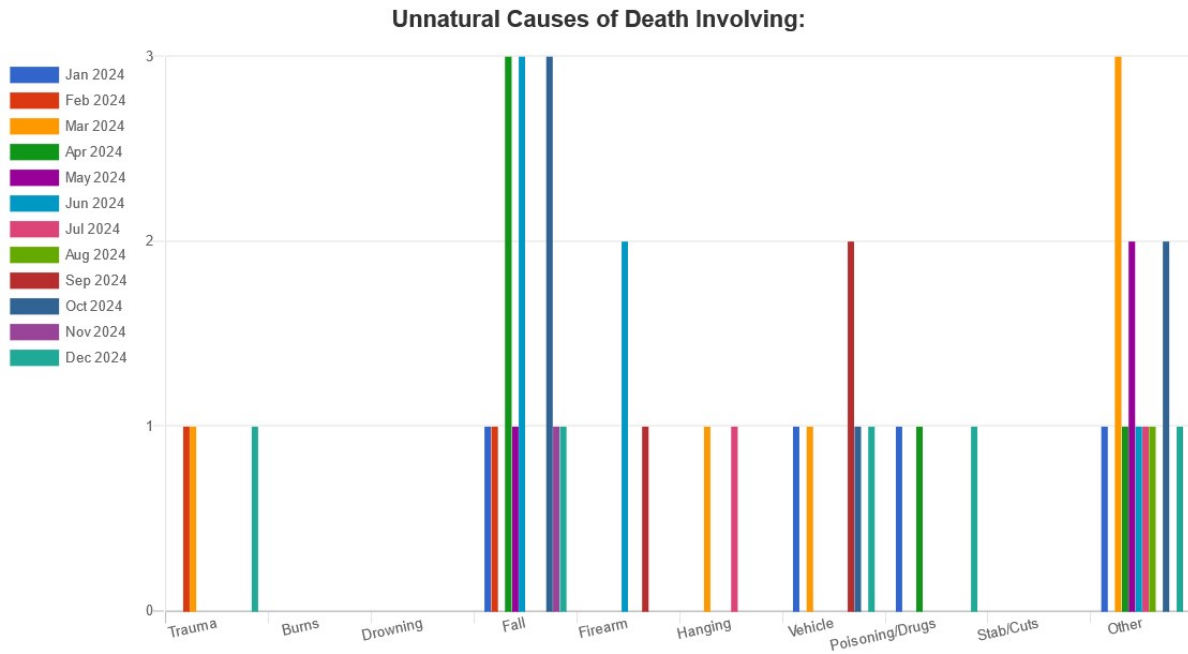
External Examination: An examination of the exterior of a decedent.

Medical Examiner Office Activities

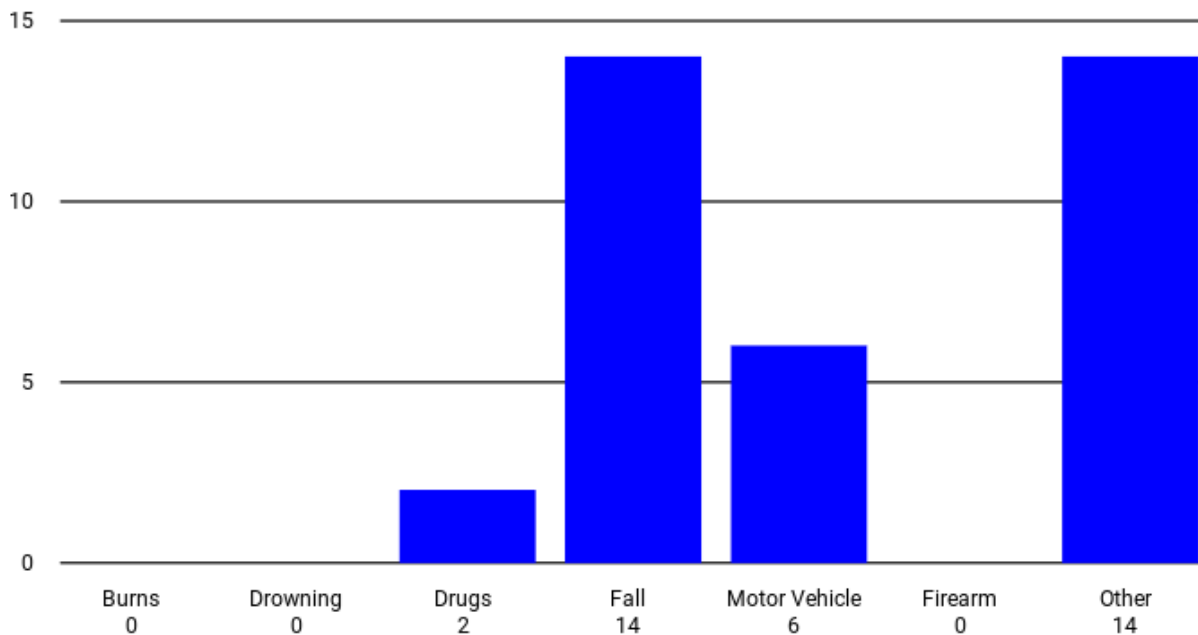
Deaths by Natural Causes



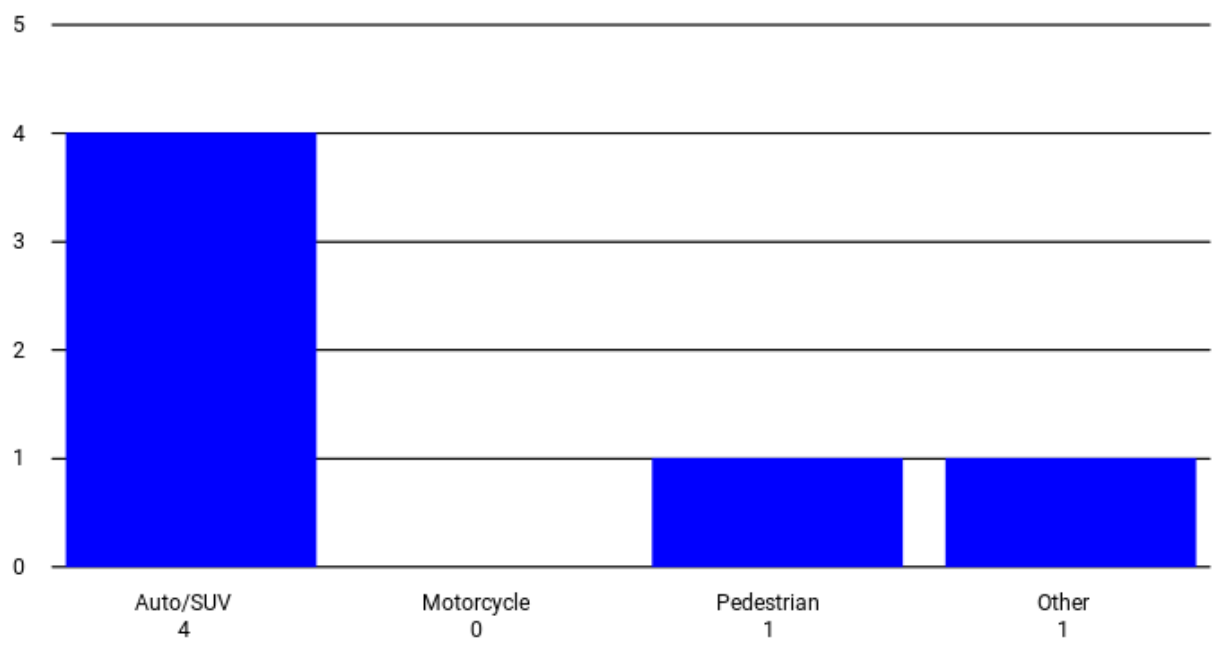
Deaths by Unnatural Causes



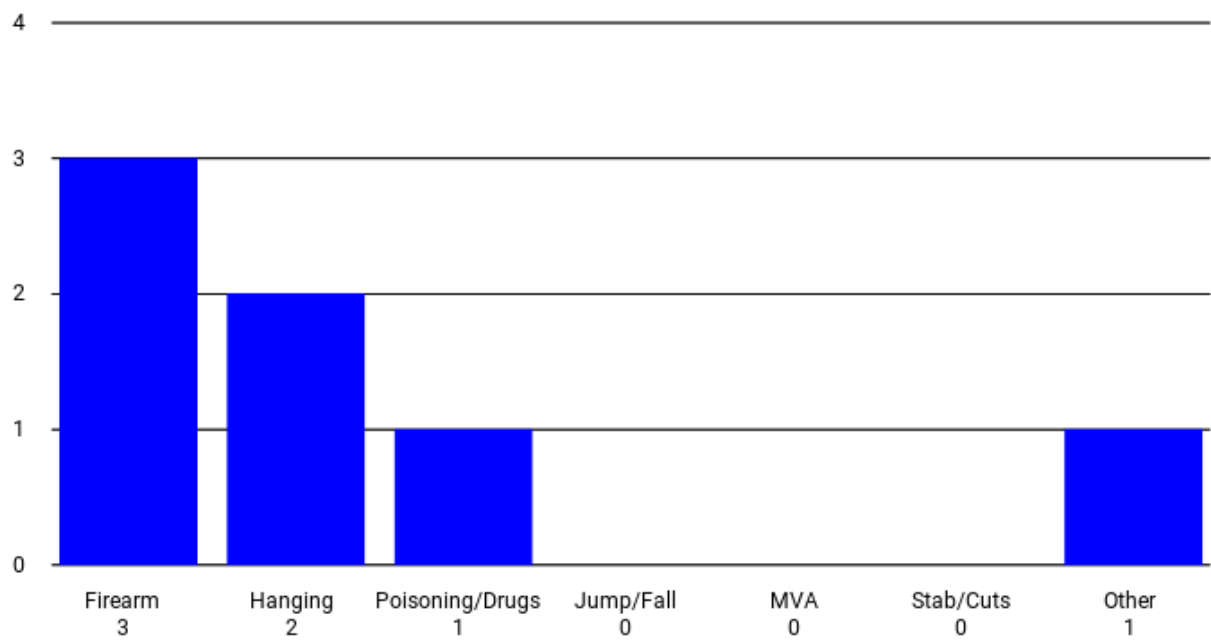
Accidental Deaths by Type



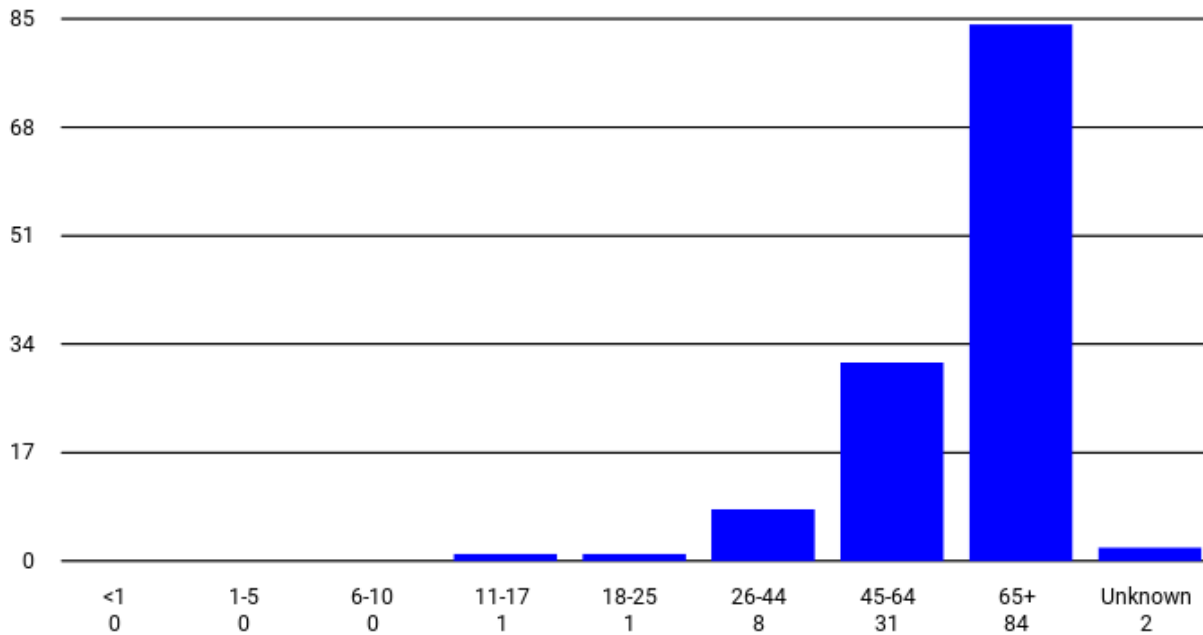
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes



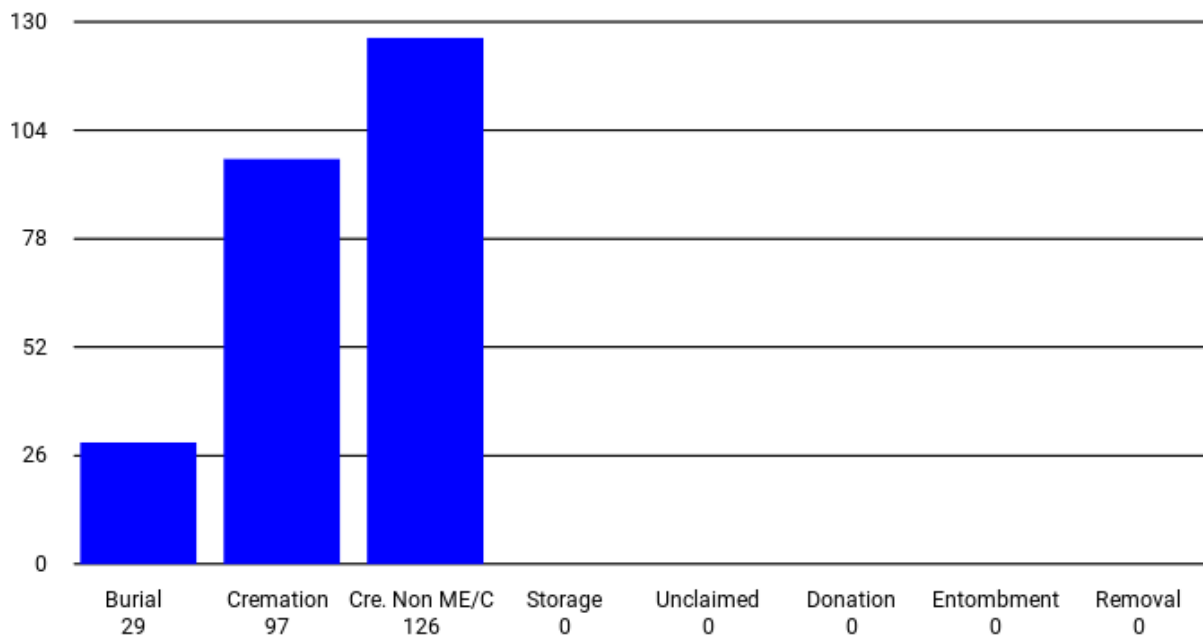
Suicide by Means



Deaths by Age Group



Disposition





2024 Annual Report

Oconto County Sheriff's Office

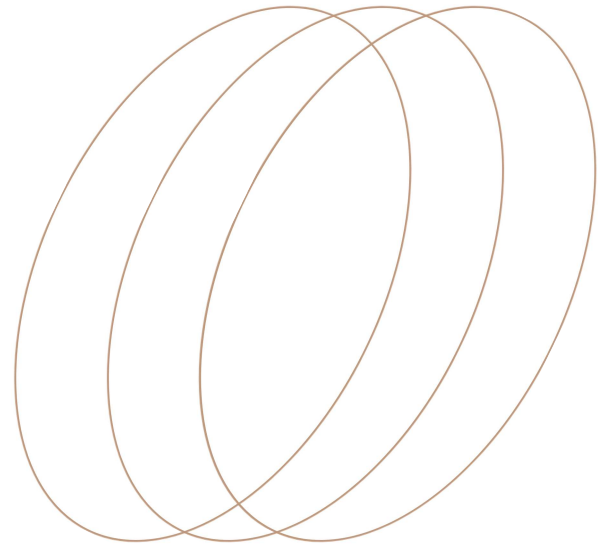


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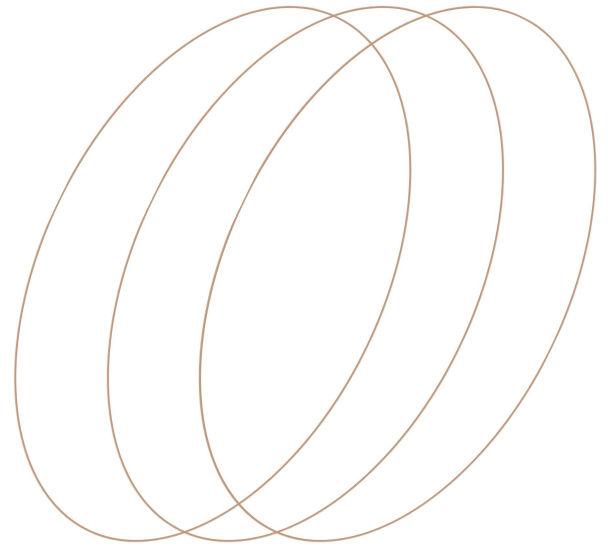
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Looking Forward



Sheriff Summary

Dear Board of Supervisors and Constituents,

2024 was a year of exceptional growth and change at the Sheriff's Office. We continue to uncover issues from legacy programs and update them to bring us into regulatory compliance and align us with industry standards. We have embraced technology in areas that needed efficiencies and eliminated redundancy to reduce errors and wasted time. We launched our very own Sheriff's Office app and have seen great success with the increased transparency with our community. We finished the Riverview Substation and have already occupied staff their regularly. We arguably had one of the safest years on record, with extremely well executed patrol operations and tactics.

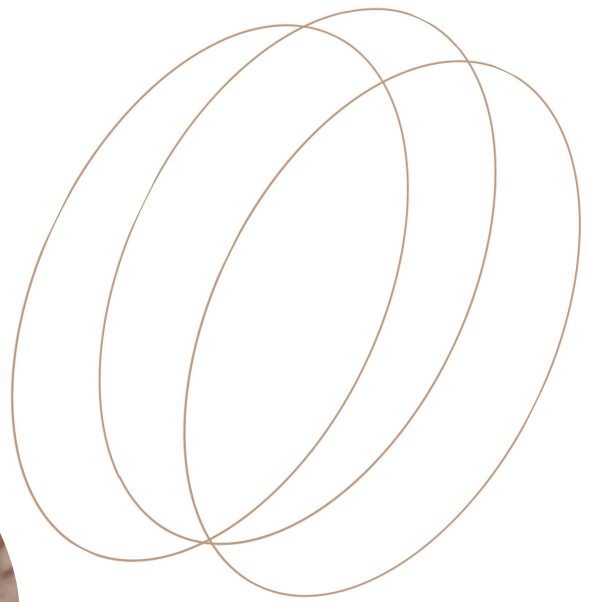
We earned another perfect jail inspection, and generated a recordbreaking year of jail revenue housing out of county inmates for our neighbors. Thank you for another great year as your Sheriff.

I look forward to many more.

~Sheriff Todd M. Skarban



2024 Command Staff



Chad Angus
Chief Deputy/Undersheriff



Carol Kopp
Jail Administrator



Brad Paitl
Patrol Lieutenant



Eric Thomson
Investigations Lieutenant



Nicholas School
Patrol Lieutenant

What We Stand For



Our Mission

The mission of the Oconto County Sheriff's Office is to serve and protect our citizens through fair and impartial treatment. We believe it is our responsibility to uphold the constitutional rights of all citizens. We work to maintain respectful and trusting partnerships within our community to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Our Vision

We resolve to provide a positive, fulfilling and engaging experience for our team. We expect and reinforce leadership behaviors that contribute to that culture. Our workforce is the foundation upon which we achieve our public safety goals for the community we serve. We strive to improve quality of life by understanding and answering the needs of our community. We aim to protect the well-being and safety of the public by being an efficient and effective law enforcement team.

Our Values

Safety - The safety of our team and community is our highest priority.

Excellence - We strive for excellence in employee accountability and community trust.

Innovation - We will seek new innovative solutions to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Trust - If we say we will do it, it will be done.

Respect - We will treat the members of our community the way we would like to be treated.

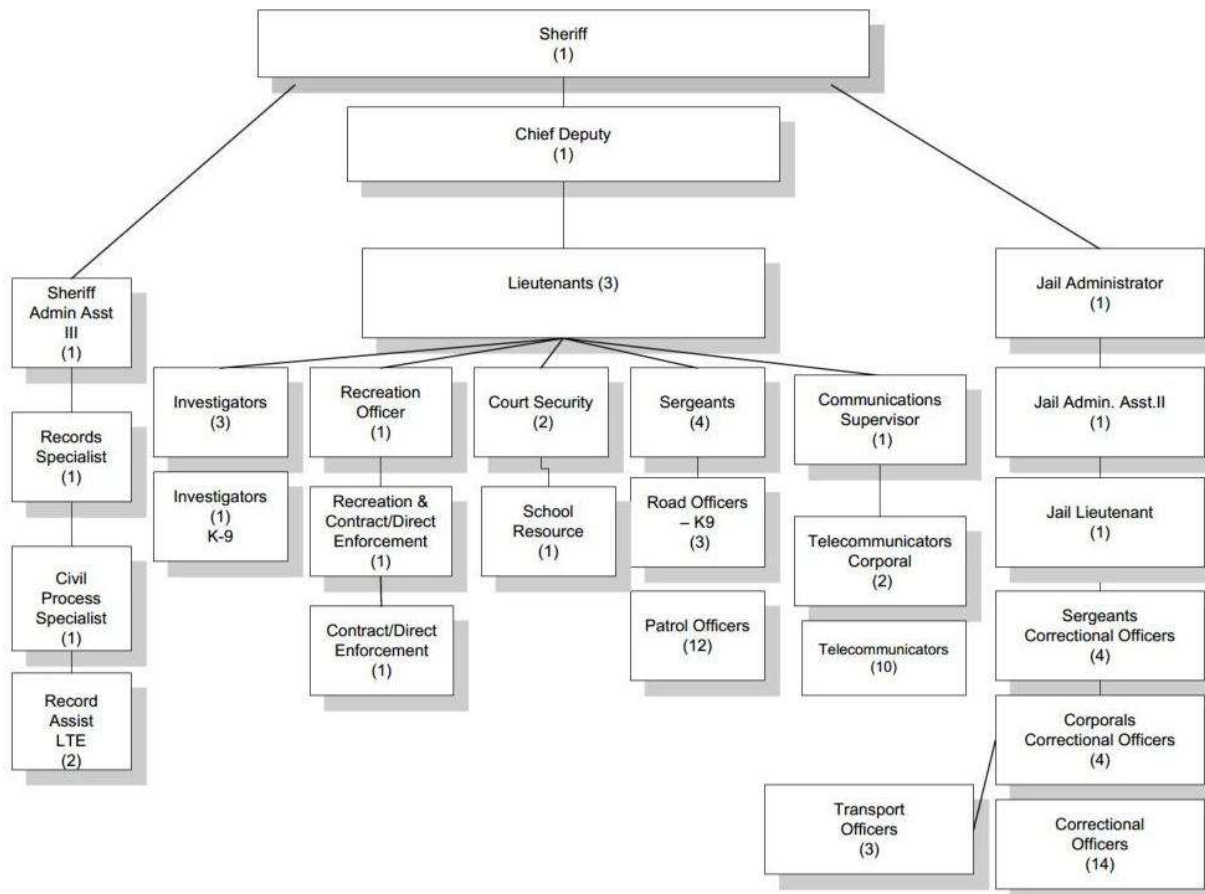
Obligation - We will know our role and perform our tasks to the best of our ability.

Teamwork - We will work together to accomplish the mission of the Sheriff's Office.

Constitutional Authority

Wisconsin Statute Chapter 59.26-33 gives authority to the Sheriff and defines the duties of the Sheriff, its undersheriff, and deputies.

Our Team



NEW HIRES

Makenzie Vorpahl
Telecommunicator

Kristin Peetz
Telecommunicator

Zak Hoeft
Deputy Sheriff

Michael Damit
Deputy Sheriff

Faith Patenaude
Records Assistant LTE

Ashlyn Allen
Records Assistant LTE

Brady Eriau
Correctional Officer

Samantha Harris
Correctional Officer

Carolyn Kramer
Records Specialist

Zach Richardson
Correctional Officer

Kendra Niespodzany
Correctional Officer

Alex Reinhold
Correctional Officer

PROMOTIONS

Monica Fischer
Corporal to Telecommunications Supervisor

Chad Angus
Patrol Lieutenant to Chief Deputy

Nicholas School
Investigator to Patrol Lieutenant

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Craig Huberty
Distinguished Service Award Recipient

RETIREMENTS

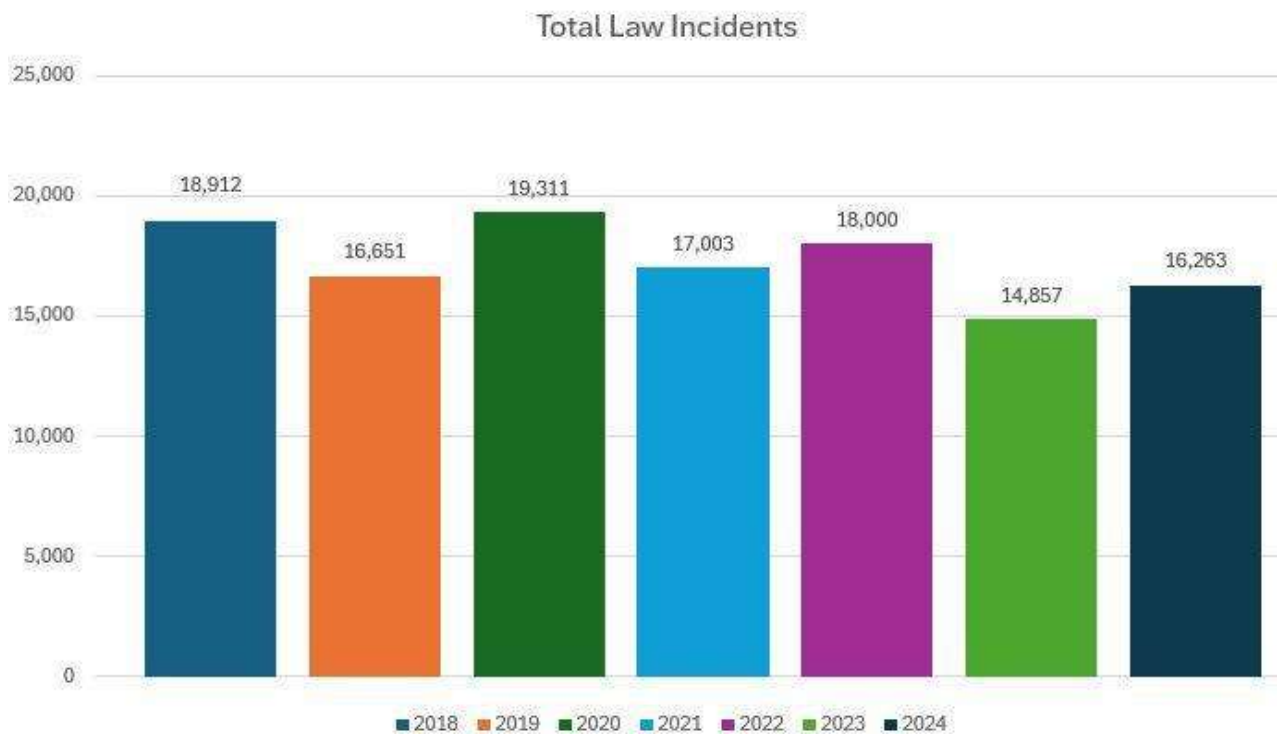
Darren Laskowski
Chief Deputy

Brenda Hurning
Records Specialist



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division has 34 sworn officers including the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four investigators, and 12 patrol deputies. The deputies include: two contracted positions (NOCCO and SOCCO), two court security officers, two recreational officers (UTV/ATV, snowmobile, and water patrols), one contracted School Resource Officer in the Suring School District, and three deputy canine handlers. This division is responsible for handling a majority of the emergency/non-emergency calls each year, enforce traffic laws throughout the county, and help keep the peace. A total of 16,263 incidents were reported in 2024. Our recreational deputies logged 1,928 hours of ATV patrol, with 46 citations and 86 warnings issued. Water patrol logged 122.5 hours with three citations and seven written warnings issued. And Snowmobile patrol logged 136.5 hours with six citations and 10 written warnings issued.



K9 Program



In 2024, our K9 Program had five canine teams. These canine teams assist with officer/handler protection and serve as a crime deterrent. They also assist with the location of illegal narcotics. All of our canines are dual-purpose tracking and narcotics detection police service dogs. Each canine is trained in: handler protection, obedience, criminal apprehension, and tracking including evidentiary scent work. They can locate marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and their derivatives. Each of our K9 teams train each week to maintain a high performance level. Our K9 teams also do a lot of public demonstrations and attend numerous outreach events throughout the year.



Jail Division



The Oconto County Jail operates 24/7/365 and has a housing capacity of 145 adult prisoners. In 2024, a total of 1,467 adults were booked into the jail, of which 1,067 were males and 400 were females. The Jail also received another perfect Jail Inspection, receiving zero violations. This is the fifth year out of the last six years that the jail has received a perfect inspection. This is a testament to the great work of our jail staff! We also equipped all Correctional Officers with remote microphones to increase safety and communication for all staff.

One of the biggest components of the Jail Division is its extensive programming to assist and rehabilitate inmates. From our health and wellness, Huber, GED, and Recovery and Addiction Programs, Jail Staff continue to offer options for inmates to maximize their time during their required sentences. Good behavior job assignments can also be earned to work in laundry and the kitchen. Southern Health Partners continued as the contracted medical provider in 2024. This contract includes 40 hours each week of a Jail Nurse, 24/7 access to a doctor; three hours of doctor care each week; and 20 hours of mental health counseling with our Health & Human Services Crisis Team.



Investigations Division

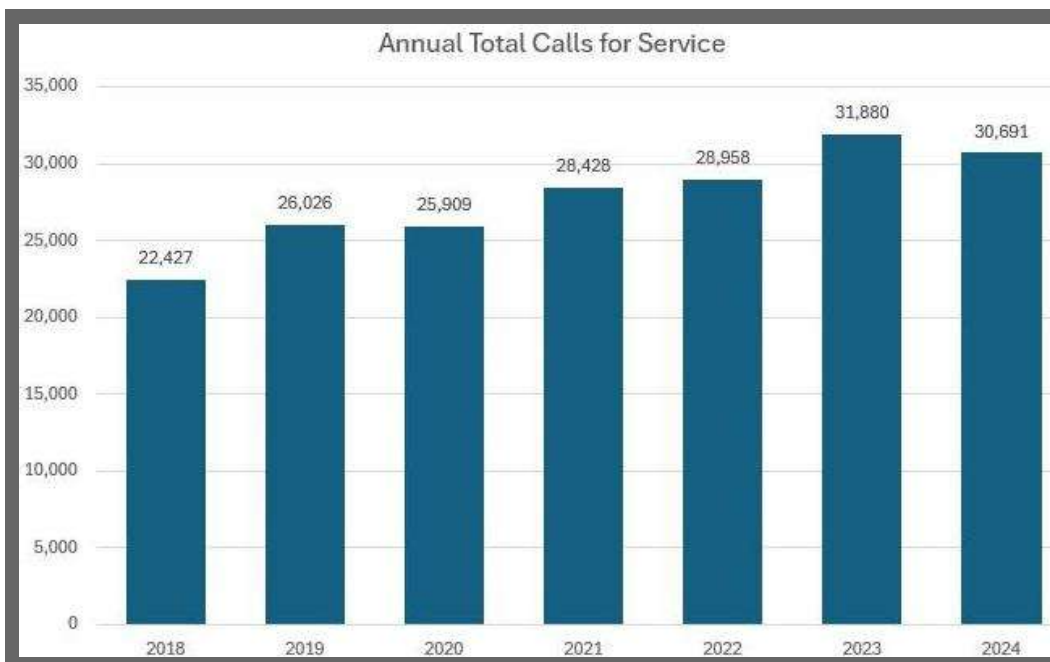
The Investigations Division consists of a Lieutenant and four investigators and tasked with felony investigations and misdemeanor crimes that are complex in nature, or involve suspects or witnesses residing out of the county. Investigative staff work collaboratively with other agencies and participate in many joint task force teams. The team specializes in deaths, fire, internet crimes against children, drugs, sexual assaults, among others.





Communications Division

Our Communications Division operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is in constant radio contact with Sheriff Deputies, municipal law enforcement agencies, adjacent county's law enforcement agencies, the Wisconsin State Patrol, EMS, and Fire agencies. The Communications Center also answers all 911 emergency phone lines and non-emergent lines. They provide deputies and other agencies a line of communication for CPS, Red Cross, Health and Human Services Crisis Team and the Medical Examiner's Office. Our dispatch team consists of one Telecommunications Supervisor, two corporals, and 10 dispatchers. They are responsible for dispatching and monitoring the radio transmission for the Sheriff's office, six municipalities (including State Patrol), 10 ambulance services, 19 fire departments, and three DNR Fire Warden Units. In 2024, 30,691 calls for services were received by our dispatchers.



Due to a grant awarded to us by the Department of Military Affairs Office of Emergency Communications, the entire Communications Center received all new workstations, monitors, and desktops computers. New hardware and software were also purchased to upgrade outdated systems.



Our Very Own App!

The Sheriff's Office launched its very own app to increase safety and transparency with the community, provide real-time information right at your fingertips, and enhance services offered by creating a convenient way to receive and submit information. The app has already been downloaded onto over **3,000** devices and has over **120,000** views just on our jail inmate roster page! It is free to download and available in both Google and Apple stores. Scan the QR code to download!

Records Management Program

Over the past two decades, the records produced by the Sheriff's Office has increased tenfold. As such, the number of records requested has also increased, generating over 1,200 record requests in 2024. An overhaul of the Records Management Program was started in 2022 uncovering over six decades worth of backlog of physical records. Steps have been put into place to rectify this huge undertaking. With the help of two newly added Record Assistant LTEs, over 30,000 outdated records were logged and destroyed. Records staff partnered with Scott Paper in Oconto Falls to pulverize the records to be used to make future paper products.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP TODAY!

Oconto County Sheriff's Office



SCAN to download!



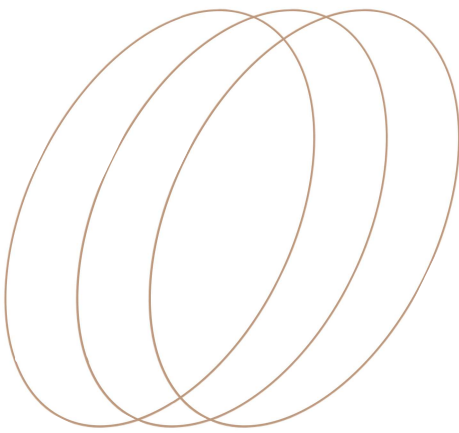
Built by:  THE SHERIFF APP.COM



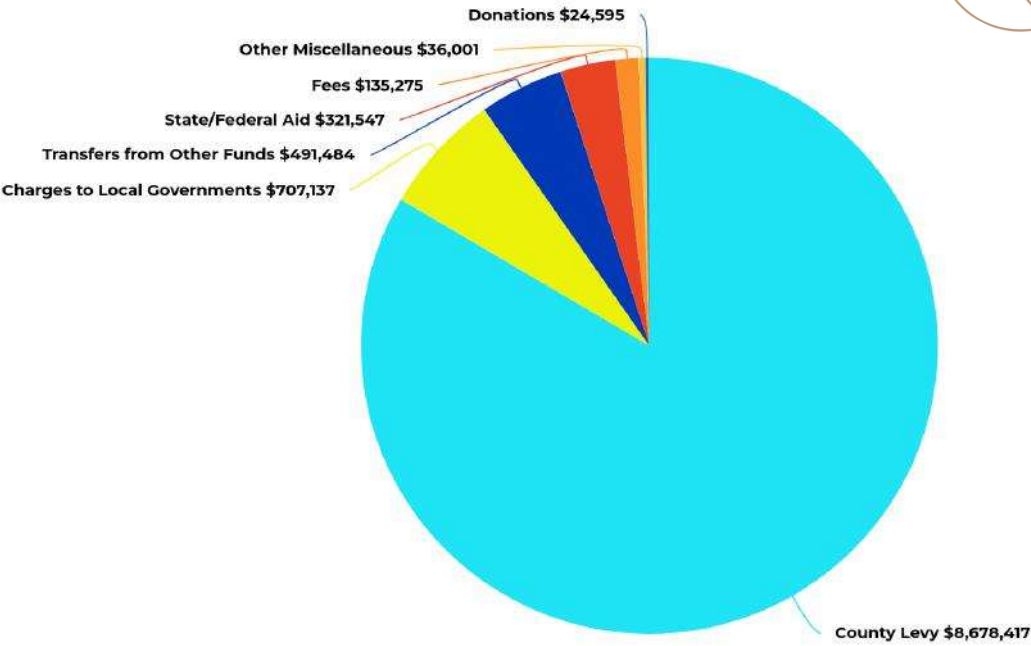
Made in the USA



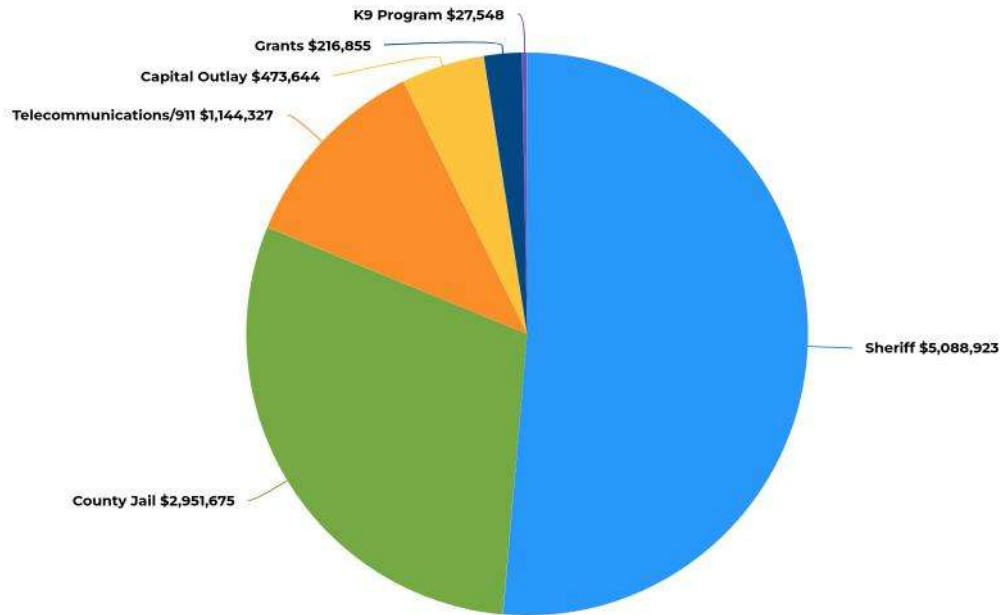
Financial Overview



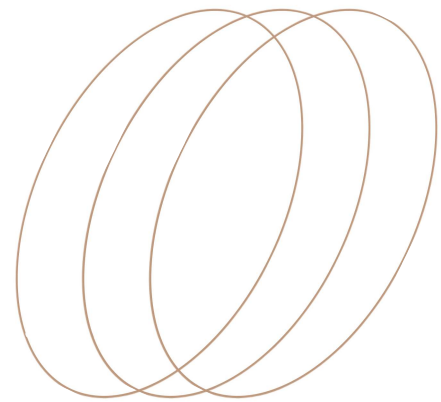
Sheriff Revenues 2024 - \$9,902,972



Sheriff Expenditures 2024 - \$9,902,972



Year-End Actuals



Revenue

Budget	1,940,567	
Less: Unspent transfers from Co Sales Tax and ARPA	(306,056)	
	<u>1,634,511</u>	
Actual Revenue	1,646,057	
	<u>\$11,546</u>	Surplus

Expenses

Budget	10,539,181	
Less: Unspent transfers from Co Sales Tax and ARPA	(306,056)	
	<u>10,233,125</u>	
Actual Expenses	9,902,972	
	<u>\$330,153</u>	Surplus

Summary

Revenue Surplus	11,546	
Expense Surplus	330,153	
Net Surplus Before Carryover	<u>\$341,700</u>	
Less: Carryover accounts		
Officer Buy Back	0	
Cease Program	(15,482)	
Federal Asset Forfeiture	(40,959)	
Shooting Range (ammunition)	(2,646)	
AED Donations	0	
K-9 Program	(71,012)	
Toys for Tough Times	(200)	
	<u></u>	
Net Surplus	\$211,401	



Looking Forward

As we look towards continuing to make progress and positively impact our community, the following are goals and initiatives we will be focusing on over the next few years:

- ☐ Establish Opioid Abatement Committee and its long-range planning initiatives and programs
- ☐ Overhaul the Records Management Program to meet statutory requirements and industry standards and adjust record staffing levels as needed.
- ☐ Combat the use, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs in our community.
- ☐ Develop public education and outreach initiatives to increase public safety.
- ☐ Develop and implement new digital evidence management solution.
- ☐ Participate in the Immigration 287g Program and train staff appropriately.
- ☐ Finalize the rehabilitation of the old DNR building.
- ☐ Obtain Bear Cat Tactical Armored Vehicle and establish policies and procedures of use.
- ☐ Complete PSAP Grant requirements and implement necessary dispatch upgrades and training.
- ☐ Finalize Public Safety Onboarding with Spillman.
- ☐ Provide wellness training to all staff and create a formal wellness program.
- ☐ Manage and reduce organizational inefficiencies.

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Re: **Approval of a Full-time UW-Extension 4-H Educator for Oconto County**

WHEREAS, the need has increased to warrant a full-time 4-H Educator to serve Oconto County residents; and

WHEREAS, the cost to employ the 4-H Educator full-time is an additional \$23,817; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a full-time 4-H Educator is recommended by the Administrative Committee to the Oconto County Board of Supervisors; and

Submitted this 15th day of April, 2025.

Alan Sleeter, Chair
Dennis Kroll
Carol Heise
John Matravers
Char Meier
Theresa Willems

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

Agreement for Mental Wellness Support Services through The Wellness Command Post

This agreement between _____ (“Organization”) and The Wellness Command Post Inc., is a contractual agreement for “Organization” to reimburse The Wellness Command Post Inc., for services identified in this agreement to start on _____ (date). The services and rates included in this agreement are as below. This agreement can be updated or changed with mutual agreement at any time with 30 days written notice. Fees are negotiable upon mutual agreement. This is a rolling contract and will remain in effect until one or both parties updates or dissolves this agreement.

The budget for this agreement is _____ per fiscal year. This organization’s fiscal year runs _____ to _____. _____ There is no budget to stay within if this is checked.

Invoices will be sent via email to “Organization” from The Wellness Command Post Inc., monthly by the 5th of every month. Invoices are expected to be paid by “Organization” within 30 days. Failure to pay within 30 days may result in a 2% fee.

Initial Boxes for Selected Services	Activity	Service Description	Rate
	Call in	Respond to station, scene or other location at the request of the department to provide mental health support or crisis support as needed. (less than 24 hour notice)	\$125 per hour per person (time starts from call in)
	Request for Service	Respond to department, scene or other location at the request of the department to provide mental health support or crisis support as needed. (more than 24 hour notice) Individuals included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• employees• spouses• children	\$100 per hour
	Training	Provide request training to department personnel at the request of department leadership or training division	\$125 per hour per trainer
	Ride-alongs/Peer Support Team Support	Relationship building with officers/staff through ride alongs and meetings with staff and peer support team on an as available schedule of MH provider	\$100 per hour
	Consultation	Phone, text, email or other communication with department representative	No fee

Agreement for Mental Wellness Support Services through The Wellness Command Post

	Other Events	Attendance and/or speaking at department events that are for the benefit of the department personnel for socialization or moral benefit of the department on as an available basis of the MH provider	No fee
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- Check here if all mental health services should be billed to individual insurance instead of billing "Organization."

The Wellness Co-Op contract/services contact: thewellnesscommandpost@gmail.com

The Wellness Co-Op billing/invoicing contact: billing.thewellnesscommandpost@gmail.com

Organization contract/services contact info:

Organization billing/invoicing contact info:

The Wellness Co-Op, Inc Rep. Printed

Signature

Date

"Organization" Rep. Printed

Signature

Date

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Re: **Approve Suring Shop Roof Replacement Contract with JT Rams of Saukville, Wisconsin**

WHEREAS, the Oconto County Highway Committee advertised and received eight bids for the roof replacement from the following companies-

WHEREAS, the Oconto County Highway Committee made a thorough study of all bids received and after due consideration of all the information regarding this project, recommend the base bid with roof hatch and ladder replacement option from JT Rams of \$260,688 and the unit pricing to replace any damaged insulation identified once roof membrane is removed of \$75 per 4x8 1.5" polyisocyanurate insulation board and \$70 per 4x4 perlite insulation board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oconto County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the bid to replace the Suring Shop roof from JT Rams of Saukville, Wisconsin.

By: HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Electronically Reviewed by Corporation Counsel on 04/07/2025 - BLE

Adopted by an electronic vote: _____ Ayes, _____ Nays, _____ Absent, _____ Abstain, _____ Vacant

Bid Opening: March 20, 2025 at 12:00 PM
Oconto County - Suring Shop
2025 Roof Replacement
8890 St Hwy 32
SEG Project No. 15711

[illegible]