



## MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1:30pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: Matt Bootz, Chair; Jean Maszk, Vice-Chair; Stacey Morache, Allen Opall, Jason Wilhelm, Bruce Lamont, Tim Sondelski

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

**Committee Mission Statement:** Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending to the County Board policies related to the public safety initiatives of Marathon County.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**Phone#: 1-408-418-9388      Access Code: 146 235 4571**

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later the five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the February 7 2023, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Consideration to increase Medical Examiner Fee as permitted by State law
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
  - A. District Attorney's Office Innovative Prosecution Grant
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. Joint Powers Agreement between Marathon County and City of Wausau for E911/NG911
  - B. Review of past discussions regarding Emergency Medical Service delivery challenges and county role
  - C. Update on the Youth Detention Center
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items:**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 1:30pm
9. **Adjournment**

\*Any Person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261.1500 or email [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_ s/s Matt Bootz  
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 1:30pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Matt Bootz	Present
Jean Maszk	WebEx
Bruce Lamont	WebEx
Stacey Morache	Present
Allen Opall	WebEx
Tim Sondelski	Absent
Jason Wilhelm	Present

Staff Present: Kelly Schremp, Chad Billeb, William Millhausen, Debra Gleason, Michael Puerner, Theresa Wetzsteon, Ruth Heinzl, Lance Leonhard, Chris Holman, David Holcomb

Others Present: Gregory Strasser, Ronald Westgate, Diane Sennholz, Jane Graham Jennings, Ashley Peterson Morris, Kimberly Pufahl

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Bootz called the meeting to order at 1:30pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment - None**
4. **Approval of the January 10, 2023, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Motion by Morache, Second by Wilhelm to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination - None**
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy - None**
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. Presentations from non-profit's pursuant to contract
    1. North Central Community Action Program (NCCAP)  
Executive Director Diane Sennholz provided a brief overview of what a *Community Action Program* is, as well as the different services they provide to their clients. Director Sennholz also provided an overview of the services they provide for the county under their contract. Questions were asked and answered.
    2. Judicare Mediation  
Director Ronald Westgate and Judge Gregory Strasser provided a brief background of what Judicare Mediation is and what services they provide to both their clients and the small claims judicial system that are contracted and not contracted.
    3. The Women's Community  
Executive Director Jane Graham Jennings along with Ashley Peterson Morris and Kimberly Pufahl provide an overview of what services the Women's Community provided to both the county and their clients that are both contracted and not contracted.
  - B. Sheriff's Office Update
    1. Jail Food Service  
Chief Deputy Millhausen provided an update due to recent changes after a meeting with North Central Healthcare (NCHC). They will continue to look at other options for a long term food service solution. Questions were asked and answered.
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
    1. EMS Services in the western part of the county
    2. Update on the youth detention center
  - B. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1:30pm
9. **Adjournment**  
Motioned by Maszk, Second by Morache to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm

Minutes Prepared by David Holcomb

# Medical Examiner Fee Structure Evaluation

## Background

In Wisconsin, State Statute 979.10 outlines that coroners and medical examiners are required to issue a cremation authorization when families choose cremation as the final disposition for their loved one. To do so, they must view the decedent and make personal inquiry into the cause and manner of death. In addition, Department of Health Services, Chapter 135.07 outlines no human remains that are buried may be disturbed, transported, or reinterred unless a disinterment permit is issued by a coroner or medical examiner in the county of which the disinterment is taking place.

Wisconsin State Statutes 59.38(1), 59.36, and 18(2)(d)2 have enlisted the authority of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors to establish fees for services of the Medical Examiner's Office, including cremation authorization and disinterment fees.

In 2015, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors approved a cremation authorization and disinterment permit fee increase from \$175 to \$250. In 2016, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a death certificate signing fee of \$100. In April 2016, the 2015 Wisconsin Act 336, 2015 Assembly Bill 662 was enacted, which limited the ability of coroners and medical examiner offices to increase fees beyond the December-December consumer price index and does not allow new fees from being created; please see attached document. The legislation was backdated to 2015, so Marathon County had to abolish the death certificate signing fee and is not permitted to establish additional fees beyond the cremation authorization and disinterment permit.

## Request

The Medical Examiner's Office is requesting Marathon County Board of Supervisors to increase the Medical Examiner fee structure, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Statutes 59.38(1), 59.36, and 18(2)(d)2 to as follows:

Cremation Authorization fee: \$266.25

Disinterment Permit fee: \$266.25

The fee increase is based on the allowable consumer price index from December 2021 to December 2022 of 6.5%.

It is estimated to produce an additional \$16,477.5 in departmental revenue. This number is based upon the 4-year average of cremation authorizations (4,507 total, 1,127 average), taking into consideration that 10% of fees are waived per year (financial hardship, still birth, and child deaths).

The Medical Examiner's Office is also requesting the County Board of Supervisors to conduct a yearly evaluation of the fee structure once the December-December consumer price index is released from the previous year.

### **Reasoning**

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased 28% from 2015 to 2023. Within that time span, the Medical Examiner's Office fee structures have not been revised or adjusted to reflect the increased cost of operations. Due to the legislative limitation, there are no other financial means to generate additional revenue within our current office structure.

The cost of daily operation, in addition to staffing costs, has significantly increased within our department. The overall departmental budget has increased 48.7% from 2015-2022, with most of the additional funds being directed towards staffing costs.

Over the years, our department staffing structure needed to expand to address our growing caseload. In 2015, we conducted 317 death investigations, issued 835 cremation authorizations, and interacted with 952 total decedents. In 2022, we conducted 509 death investigations, issued 1,217 cremation authorizations, and interacted with 1,369 total decedents. This amounts to a 67% increased caseload in the past 7 years.

Lastly, cremation as a final disposition has grown in popularity over the years. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, in 2015 cremation as the final disposition for all decedents was 45.4%. Most recent statistics show in 2021 the rate had increased to 57.5%. The increase in popularity will continue to increase our departmental workload.



# Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office

Overall Death Statistics

Report Period: 10 years, total

Cases	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Decedents	456	511	503	584	613	585	660	726	664	793
Indigent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cremation Case	316	353	336	434	472	470	536	617	565	686
Disinterment Case	3	4	3	3	3	5	1	2	0	0
Investigation Case	171	214	241	264	239	227	224	250	237	270

Procedures	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Autopsy	17	21	32	37	33	31	19	19	25	35
Toxicology Screen	42	113	177	189	188	193	195	175	172	209

Manner Of Death	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Accidental	46	50	48	69	57	60	53	56	50	63
Homicide	1	1	4	3	3	3	0	0	2	1
Suicide	15	19	20	23	24	18	17	14	17	18
Undetermined	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

Statistics may not be accurate when a "Pending" manner of death is displayed.

Manner Of Death Detail	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Accidental</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>63</b>
Aircraft Crash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Anaphylaxis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Asphyxia	3	2	5	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Asphyxia - Unsafe Sleep	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	1
Asphyxia, Obst. By Object	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0
Burn, Other Than Fire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2
Diving	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Drowning	3	2	0	0	5	1	0	2	4	0
Electrocution	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fall	17	15	13	22	12	16	21	18	12	24
Farm Accident	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	1	1	0
Fire	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	3	0	2



# Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office

Overall Death Statistics

Report Period: 10 years, total

Manner Of Death Detail	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Gun Shot Wound	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
House Fire	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Hyperthermia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hypothermia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Industrial Accident	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Industrial Fire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Misadventure	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	20	24	22	28	18	22	13	15	18	19
Out Of State/County	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	2	1
Overdose	1	1	4	5	5	5	3	9	6	13
Poisoning	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Sports/Athletics Related	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Struck By/Hit Object	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Work Related	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Blunt Force	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Gunshot	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Shaken Baby	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Suicide</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Asphyxia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
Carbon Monoxide	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	1
Drug Overdose	1	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	0
Exsanguination	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gunshot - Hand Gun	3	11	5	6	5	5	7	1	4	3
Gunshot - Long Gun	6	3	7	5	9	3	4	2	4	6
Hanging-Asphyxia	1	4	4	6	5	5	3	4	5	5
Hypothermia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jumped From Height	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Knife, Sharp Force	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Struck By	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>



# Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office

Overall Death Statistics

Report Period: 10 years, total

Manner Of Death Detail	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Exited Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overdose	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poisoning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0



# Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office

Overall Death Statistics

Report Period: 10 years, total

Cases	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Decedents	673	920	952	1,020	1,002	1,051	1,402	1,391	1,369	213
Indigent	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	0
Consultation Case	0	0	2	22	46	54	70	40	46	2
Cremation Case	574	796	835	886	867	919	1,153	1,218	1,217	191
Disinterment Case	0	1	2	1	1	0	3	0	0	0
Investigation Case	240	361	317	332	249	313	579	577	463	67

Procedures	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Autopsy	37	57	49	50	43	61	50	80	62	7
Toxicology Screen	207	248	132	73	72	91	87	119	98	3

Manner Of Death	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidental	47	73	65	77	44	76	88	85	110	12
Homicide	1	3	2	6	4	1	4	5	1	1
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
Suicide	20	16	18	20	25	25	15	21	22	1
Undetermined	3	6	2	3	1	2	1	1	4	0

Statistics may not be accurate when a "Pending" manner of death is displayed.

Manner Of Death Detail	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Accidental</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>12</b>
Anaphylaxis	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Asphyxia	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Asphyxia - Unsafe Sleep	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Asphyxia, Obst. By Object	0	2	1	4	3	2	1	0	1	0
Carbon Monoxide	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Drowning	3	2	1	3	1	0	2	1	0	0
Electrocution	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Fall	23	34	27	22	15	31	51	35	57	8
Farm Accident	2	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	0
Fire	0	4	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Gun Shot Wound	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0





# Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office

Overall Death Statistics

Report Period: 10 years, total

Manner Of Death Detail	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hypothermia	0	1	1	3	0	3	0	2	1	1
Industrial Accident	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Misadventure	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Motor Vehicle	9	16	13	18	14	15	9	16	14	1
Old Injury	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Out Of State/County	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1	6	1
Overdose	5	7	15	15	7	14	14	20	24	0
Poisoning	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sports/Athletics Related	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Struck By/Hit Object	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Work Related	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Blunt Force	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Gunshot	0	0	2	6	2	1	2	2	0	1
Out Of State/County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Poison	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Unspecified Means	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Pending</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
<b>Suicide</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>
Asphyxia	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carbon Monoxide	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Drowning	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Overdose	2	3	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	0
Exsanguination	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gunshot - Hand Gun	5	2	4	4	10	8	7	7	8	0
Gunshot - Long Gun	4	6	4	5	5	2	1	2	4	1
Hanging-Asphyxia	4	2	3	6	6	5	4	5	4	0
Hypothermia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jumped From Height	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Knife, Sharp Force	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0



# Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office

Overall Death Statistics

Report Period: 10 years, total

Manner Of Death Detail	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Overdose	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	5	0
Poisoning	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
Blunt Force	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fall	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gunshot	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Death	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Medical Misadventure	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Overdose	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Sharp Force	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2015 Wisconsin Act 336**  
[2015 Assembly Bill 662]

**Coroner and Medical Examiner Fees**

### BACKGROUND

#### Moratorium on Coroner or Medical Examiner Fees

Under **prior law**, a county board was required to set the fees for all services rendered by the county's coroner. The fees could not exceed an amount that is reasonably related to the actual and necessary cost of providing the service.

2015 Wisconsin Act 55 ("the 2015-17 Biennial Budget Act") placed a moratorium on increases in various fees related to coroner or medical examiner fees. Specifically, the moratorium, as created by Budget Act 55, prohibited the county board from charging a **funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium** from July 14, 2015, to April 17, 2017, an amount that exceeds the amount that was in effect on April 17, 2015, for any of the following fees:

- Fees for services rendered by a coroner.
- Fees assessed for the signing of a death certificate by a coroner or medical examiner.
- Fees assessed related to transportation services.

Act 55 also provided that after the moratorium is over (i.e., on or after April 18, 2017), if the county board increases the amount of any of the fees specified above, any such increase may not exceed the annual percentage change in the U.S. Consumer Price Index, for the 12 months ending on December 31 of the year before the increase.

#### Funeral Expenses for Recipients of Certain Public Benefits

Under **prior law**, if a recipient of certain public benefits dies and the estate of the deceased recipient is insufficient to pay the funeral, burial, and cemetery expenses of the deceased

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

recipient, then the Department of Health Services (DHS) must pay both of the following: (1) the lesser of \$1,000 or the cemetery expenses that are not paid by the estate of the deceased and other persons; and (2) the lesser of \$1,500 or the funeral and burial expenses not paid by the estate of the deceased and other persons. Also, a funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium that receives the payment from DHS is exempt from paying all of the following fees:

- Fees for services rendered by a coroner.
- Fees assessed for the signing of a death certificate by a coroner or medical examiner.
- Fees assessed by a county related to transportation services.

### **2015 WISCONSIN ACT 336**

**2015 Wisconsin Act 336** (“the Act”) makes the following changes to prior law related to the requirement that the county board set coroner fees and the moratorium and subsequent limit to any increase placed upon coroner or medical examiner fees:

- Extends the requirement that a county board set fees for services rendered by a coroner to also apply to all services rendered by a **medical examiner**.
- Provides that the following fees may not be increased during the moratorium, and after the moratorium, any increase must be based upon the annual percentage change in the U.S. Consumer Price Index, as previously described:
  - Fees for services rendered by a coroner or medical examiner.
  - Fees assessed for the signing of a death certificate by a coroner or medical examiner.
  - Fees assessed related to coroner or medical examiner fees.
- Applies both the moratorium and the subsequent limit placed upon an increase in fees to fees charged to **anyone**, not just a funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium.
- Provides an exception to the moratorium and subsequent limit placed upon coroner and medical examiner fees. The exception applies to a county that had been providing coroner or lay medical examiner services meets both of the following requirements: (1) has a population of 300,000 or less; and (2) began providing physician medical examiner services under an intergovernmental agreement after December 31, 2015, and before April 1, 2016. The Act authorizes the board of such a county to do the following without regard to any change in the U.S. Consumer Price Index:
  - To, one time, set the fee assessed for the signing of a death certificate at an amount exceeding the amount that was in effect on April 17, 2015, by not more than \$100.
  - To, one time, set the fee assessed for the issuance of a cremation permit at an amount exceeding the amount that was in effect on April 17, 2015, by not more than \$100.

With respect to funeral expenses for recipients of certain public benefits, **the Act** clarifies that a funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium receiving payment from DHS is exempt from paying fees for services rendered by either a **coroner** or **medical examiner**. The Act specifies that this exemption first applies to fees imposed with respect to an individual receiving funeral, burial, and cemetery expenses aid from DHS who dies on September 1, 2015.

*Effective date:* This Act took effect on April 1, 2016.

*Prepared by:* Melissa Schmidt, Senior Staff Attorney

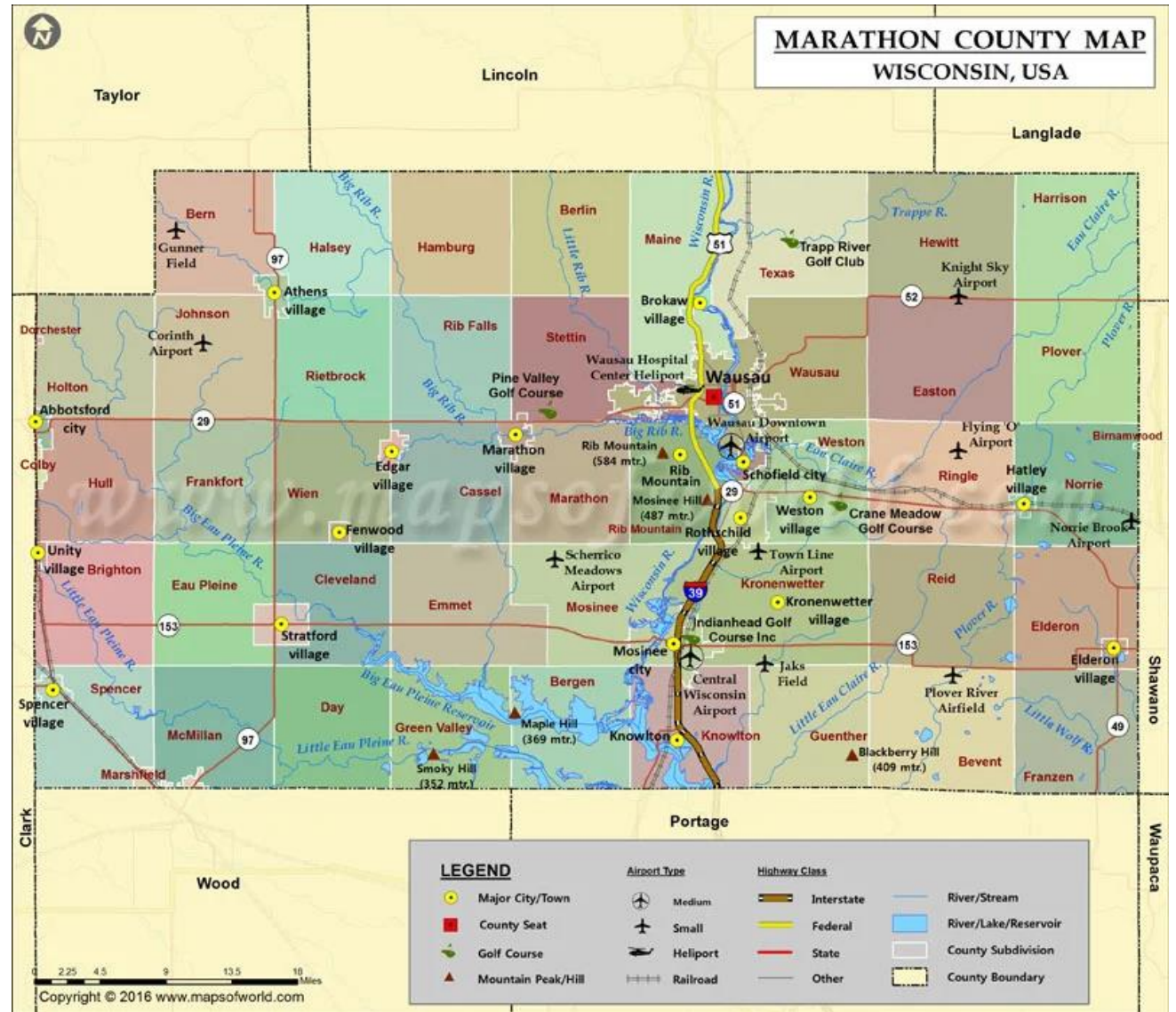
April 15, 2016

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# Who am I?



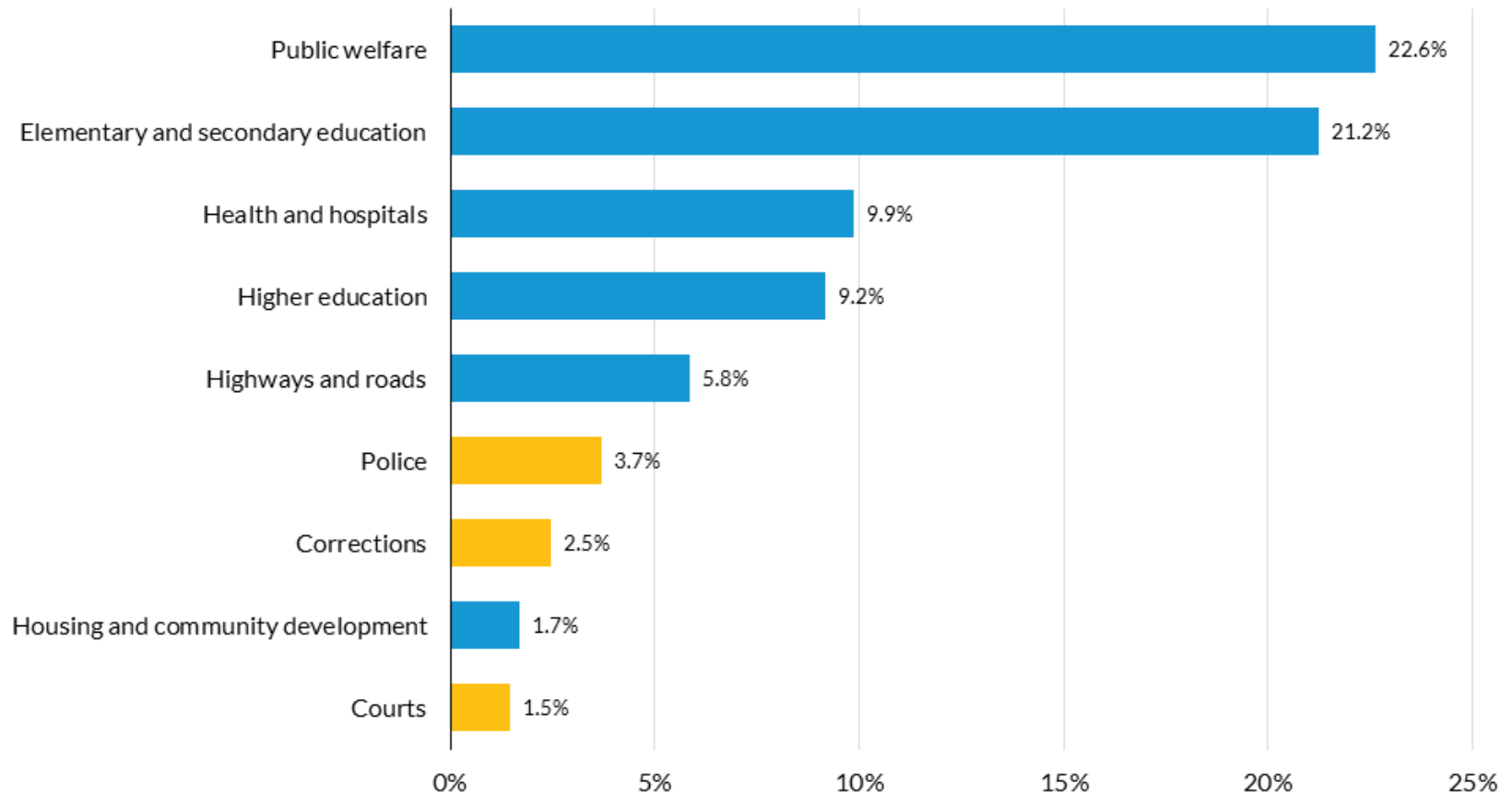
Prosecutor-Led Diversion Program Supervisor



# Why Grant Funding?

## State and Local Direct General Expenditures

Share of total, by functional category, fiscal year 2020



**Source:** US Census Bureau Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, 1977-2020 (compiled by the Urban Institute via State and Local Finance Data: Exploring the Census of Governments; accessed 07-Dec-2022 04:17), <https://state-local-finance-data.taxpolicycenter.org>.

**Notes:** Excludes spending on government-run liquor stores, utilities, and insurance trusts. Medicaid spending is divided between the public welfare and health and hospitals functional categories, with the majority allocated to the former.

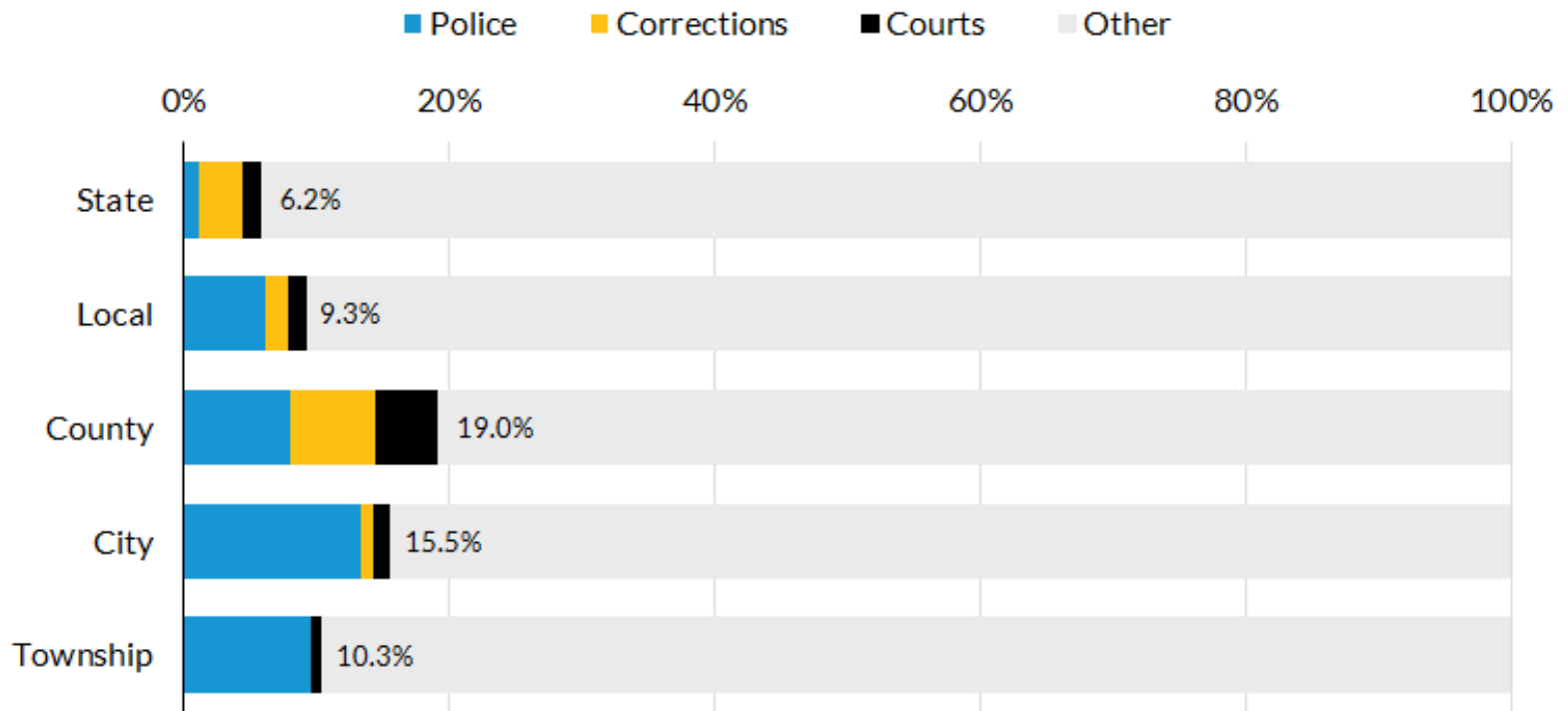
URBAN INSTITUTE





# State and Local Criminal Justice Spending

As share of direct general expenditures, by level of government, 2020



Source: US Census Bureau Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, 1977-2020 (compiled by the Urban Institute via State and Local Finance Data: Exploring the Census of Governments; accessed 21-Dec-2022 16:00), <https://state-local-finance-data.taxpolicycenter.org>.

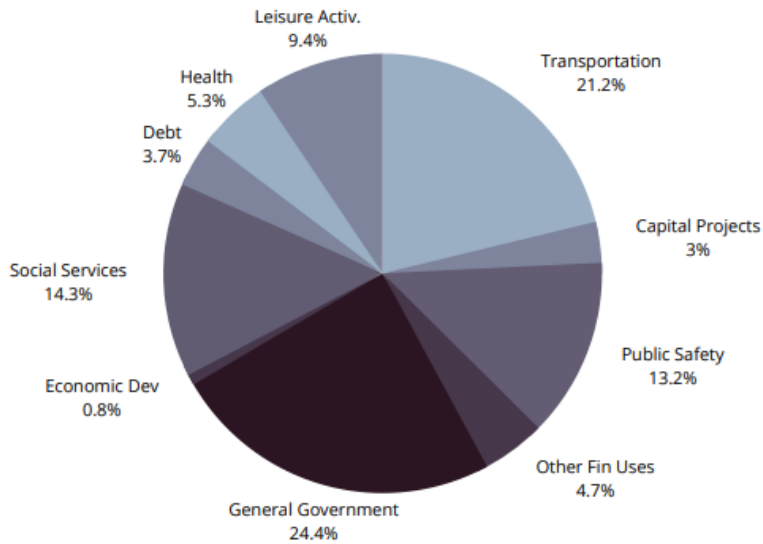
Note: "Local" combines city, county, township, special district, and school district direct spending. Special district and school district spending are not shown because they are comparatively negligible. Data for state and local totals are for 2020 whereas data for counties, cities, and townships are for 2017; Census only publishes the latter data for fiscal years ending in 2 and 7.

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# Marathon County Tax Levy

## 2023 RECOMMENDED BUDGET EXPENSES



**2023: \$215,678,022**

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$215,678,022</b>
Tax Levy	\$58,447,231 (17%)
Other Funding Sources	\$157,230,791 (73%)

Public Safety	Tax Levy	Other Funding
Clerk of Courts	\$1,675,782 (44%)	\$2,096,912 (56%)
District Attorney	\$1,496,048 (73%)	\$404,346 (27%)
Jail	\$8,139,844 (82%)	\$1,740,553 (18%)
Sheriff's Department	\$15,204,278 (91%)	\$1,449,553 (9%)
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$26,515,952 (82%)</b>	<b>\$5,691,364 (18%)</b>

\*Excludes Juvenile Shelter Home

Criminal Justice System Utilizes more than 45% of Marathon County Tax Levy



# Grant Description

# BJA FY 2023 Smart Prosecution Solutions Competitive Grant Solicitation

**Primary Goal:** Assist prosecutors in developing innovative and effective strategies to improve public safety

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Award: \$385,000 over a period of 24 months
  - Notice: End of current fiscal year, Sept. 30th
- **No match required--No county dollars committed**
- Reporting requirements: Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual performance reports, final financial and performance reports
- Applications due by: March 28, 2023



# Think Tank Session



# Current State

## SWITS: Southern Wisconsin Interpretation & Translation Services

### Pros

- Available by phone or in person
- Has interpreters with legal certification
- Offers translation and interpretation

### Cons

- Reactive service
  - Unable to anticipate need, results in rescheduling (e.g. wasted court time)
- No insight on internal practices, policies, and programming
- Lacks rapport (e.g. with victims)

# Efficiency and Cost Savings



# Future State

- **Goal:** Hire two cultural liaisons in the District Attorney's Office to better ensure public safety, support victims, and establish efficiency
  - One Hmong-Speaking Liaison
  - One Spanish-Speaking Liaison



# What is a Cultural Liaison?

- Staff that may facilitate communication with our Hmong-speaking and Spanish-speaking residents
- They have insight and knowledge on how to best serve these communities within the scope of the DA's Office
  - Build relationships and rapport for better service
- Serve as a link between communities and the DA's Office which ultimately serves as greater navigation and trust with the Criminal Justice System
  - Increase public safety via better literacy of the system