

District Attorney

DEPARTMENT MISSION

To skillfully and fairly seek truth and justice, protect and support victims and the community, and hold offenders accountable.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The District Attorney's Office 2025 budget reflects a continued commitment to effective prosecution and victim support. Key highlights include maintaining critical operations despite the elimination of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. The District Attorney's Office continues to prioritize resource allocation to essential criminal prosecution needs and support for staff to meet increasing demands.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PRIORITY ISSUES

The strategic direction of the District Attorney's Office focuses on adapting to the ever-evolving landscape of criminal prosecution, addressing the changing needs of our growing community, enhancing technological resources and capabilities, and ensuring sustainable workload management. Priority issues include addressing the rising costs associated with technology upgrades and planning for future staffing needs to handle workloads efficiently.

TRENDS AND ISSUES ON THE HORIZON

There are several trends and issues on the horizon that may impact operations:

- **Workload and Staffing:** The increasing workload and demand on our staff are significant concerns. We anticipate the need to request additional staff in the future to manage the growing volume and complexity of workload and maintain the quality of our services.
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse:** The intersection of mental health and substance abuse issues with criminal activity continues to be a critical area of concern. Addressing these complex issues requires collaboration with health and human service agencies, as well as the refinement or development of new specialized programs and diversion strategies to support individuals with mental health and substance abuse challenges, with the goal of ultimately reducing recidivism and improving public safety.
- **Technology Costs:** There is a notable increase in technology costs necessary to support general prosecution services and general office operations. Investments in new technologies are critical for improving efficiency and obtaining just outcomes.

BUDGET CHANGES: REVENUES

The 2025 budget reflects the following changes in revenues compared to previous budgets:

- **Victims of Crime Act Grant:** The most significant change on the revenue side of the District Attorney's Office 2025 budget is the elimination of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. This loss of funding has necessitated adjustments to budget planning, service delivery models, and overall Victim Witness Services programming. The estimated fiscal impact of this change on revenues is a decrease of \$184,289.
- **Reduction in Program Revenue Due to Lower Participation:** There is also a reduction in budgeted revenue from Diversion Programs as a result of less-than-expected participation. This decrease in participation may be attributed to various factors, such as the unpredictable nature of criminal cases and their lack of appropriateness for the programs, changes in program needs, or limited general awareness of the program. The District Attorney's Office is actively reviewing the programs to assess long-term sustainability and effectiveness. The reduction in budgeted revenue is part of the District Attorney's Office responsible, realistic budget. The fiscal impact of this revenue change is a decrease of \$33,000.

District Attorney

BUDGET CHANGES: EXPENDITURES

The 2025 budget reflects the following changes in expenditures compared to previous budgets:

- **Increasing Personnel Costs:** Rising personnel costs due to compensation and benefits package changes enacted countywide—which were desperately needed to remain competitive in attracting and retaining qualified staff—reflect the lion’s share of total expenditure increases in the 2025 budget. These costs are essential for maintaining the high standard of our services but also put additional pressure on our budget and tax levy request.
- **Elimination of VOCA Grant Expenditures:** In response to the elimination of the VOCA grant, the 2025 budget also sees elimination of related expenditures in Victim Witness Services. Among the reduction of expenditures is the discontinuation of the entire Crisis Response program, which has been an integral part of our victim support services for decades. These changes require a careful reevaluation of our expenditure priorities to ensure continued support for essential services. The estimated fiscal impact for expenditures on the tax levy is an increase of \$11,700.
- **Increasing Costs to Continue Operations:** There is a general increase in the costs required to maintain current operations, including higher prices for essential goods, services, and technology upgrades. These operational cost increases are unavoidable and those that we can directly control are mitigated as much as possible.

POSITION CHANGES IN 2025

Due to the elimination of the VOCA grant, there will be a decrease of 1.575 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE), affecting 2 Crisis Response Specialist positions. This reduction is a direct impact from funding changes on our staffing and service capacity. There are no fiscal impacts to the tax levy request as a result of these changes. The total estimated fiscal impact of these changes is a decrease of \$108,472.

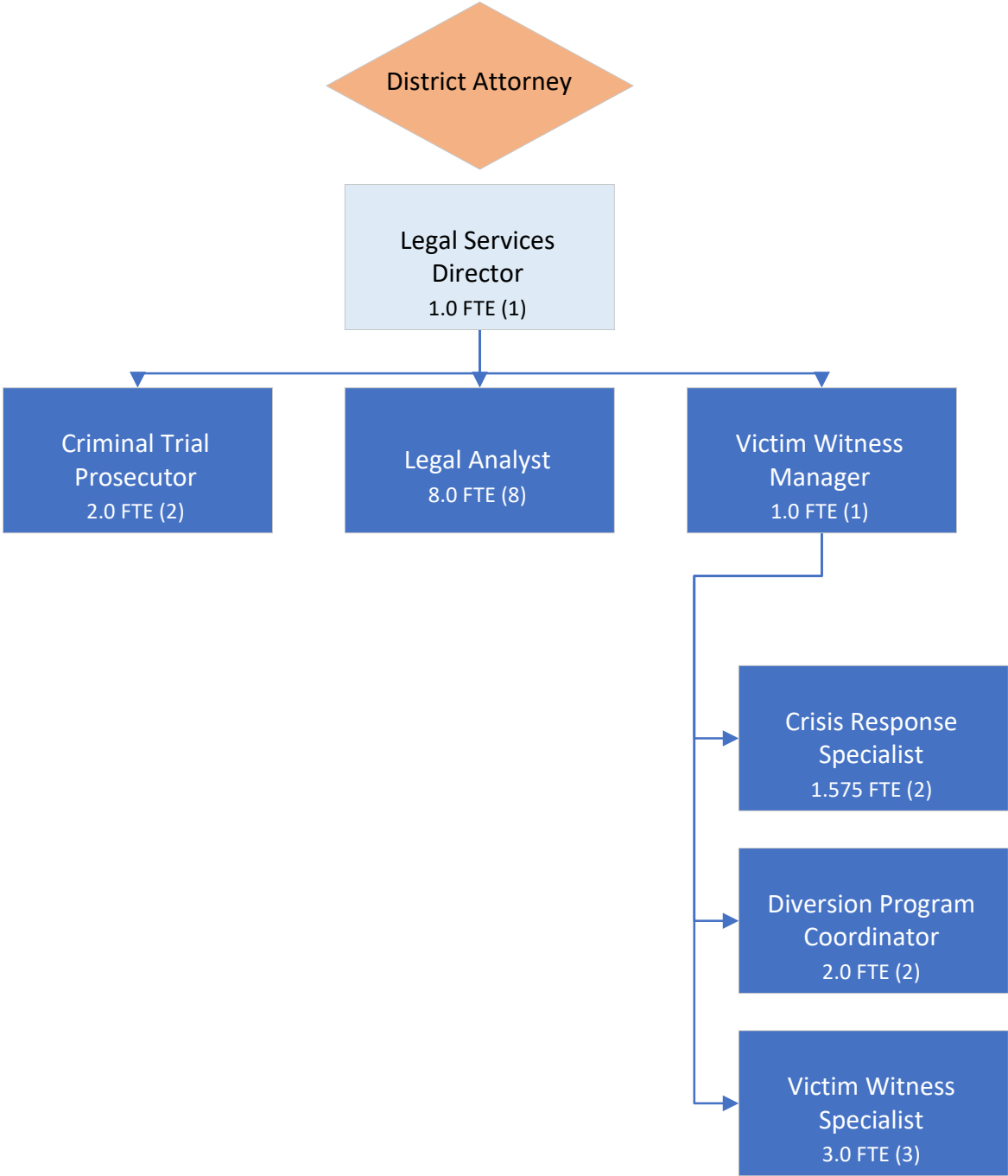
KEY ASSUMPTIONS AND POTENTIAL RISKS

The District Attorney’s Office 2025 budget is built on several key assumptions and acknowledges potential risks:

- **Funding Stability:** Assumptions include the stability of other funding sources, primarily state aid for victim witness services.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Efforts to enhance operational efficiency through technological improvements are critical to managing workload increases without compromising service quality.
- **Staff Retention and Morale:** Maintaining high levels of staff retention and morale is crucial for our continued effectiveness. Assumptions include a stable workforce and the ability to attract and retain qualified personnel. Risks include burnout, job dissatisfaction, and competition from other sectors for skilled staff, which could result in higher turnover rates and a loss of institutional knowledge.
- **Continued Interagency Collaboration:** The effectiveness of our operations is heavily dependent on sustained collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, social services, and community organizations. A key assumption is that these partnerships will remain strong and cooperative. However, potential risks include changes in leadership or policy within these agencies that could impact collaborative efforts and service delivery.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Potential risks include further reductions in funding, unforeseen increases in costs necessary for successful prosecution, and challenges in maintaining service levels with reduced staffing.

District Attorney

2024 FTE: 17.0



General Prosecution

In carrying out the duties of the Criminal Prosecution Program, attorneys and support staff provide investigative support to Eau Claire County Law Enforcement agencies, review law enforcement referrals, make criminal charging decisions and complete a wide array of case prosecution activities. As part of this program, attorneys and support staff are responsible for the enforcement of criminal, juvenile, conservation, and traffic matters within Eau Claire County.

OUTPUTS		<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD* 2024</u>
Cases Filed	Felony	1,400	1,392	1,326	636
	Misdemeanor	1,047	1,087	1,023	620
	Criminal Traffic	413	451	478	234
	Civil Traffic/Ordinance/Misc.	2,070	1,934	1,661	771
	Juvenile Delinquency	38	58	42	26
	Juvenile Ordinance	1	11	6	1
	Total Cases Filed	4,930	4,864	4,536	2,288
Other Cases Processed	No Prosecution Juvenile	131	206	257	97
	No Prosecution Adult Criminal	381	650	370	128
	Total No Prosecution Cases	512	856	627	225
Total Cases Filed/Processed		5,481	5,789	5,163	2,513
Total Number of Referrals		5,481	5,869	5,641	2,998
Number of Jury Trials		17	23	23	8
Number of Jury Trials Resulting in Conviction		13	17	15	5
<i>*YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results</i>					
OUTCOMES	Benchmark	2021	2022	2023	YTD* 2024
Average Number of Days for Prosecutorial Action at or under 15 days	15	8.20	10.50	10.31	8.96
Case Clearance Rate at or above 95%	95%	99%	100%	103%	**
Jury Trial Conviction Rate at or above 75%	75%	76%	74%	65%	63%
<i>*YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results</i>					
<i>**Data not available</i>					

Worthless Checks/Financial Program

District Attorney employees review referrals from Eau Claire County citizens and merchants of possible worthless check matters, prepare and send pre-prosecution “dunning” letters, issue criminal charges in appropriate cases and process payments.

OUTPUTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD* 2024</u>
Worthless Check Payments Collected	\$13,227	\$10,362	\$11,833	\$4,767
Restitution Payments Collected	\$168,734	\$260,962	\$156,877	\$114,289

**YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results*

Victim Witness Services & Crisis Response

Victim Witness Staff provide legally-required case notification to victims, provide crisis response support to victims prior to the filing of criminal charges, provide support to victims and witnesses during the course of case litigation and prepare various forms of reports required by state/federal authorities.

OUTPUTS		<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD* 2024</u>
Victim Witness Services	Number of Victims Served	1,641	1,977	1,746	748
	Number of Witnesses Served	282	154	102	43
	Number of Other Case Parties Served	176	168	137	52
	Total Case Parties Served	2,099	2,299	1,985	843
	Initial Contact Letters Sent	1,752	2,061	1,822	771
	No Contact Orders in Place	454	541	624	255
	Number of Follow Up Contacts	404	691	282	129
Crisis Response	Total Number of Clients Served	1,165	1,426	857	331
	Number of Child Advocacy Center Interviews Attended	119	77	50	33

**YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results*

Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea (DAGP), Diversion, & Justice Reinvestment Initiative-OWI Early Intervention Programs

The Deferred Acceptance of a Guilty Plea Program (DAGP) involves informal supervision of defendants in criminal cases. The community benefits because defendants receive necessary domestic abuse, alcohol abuse or other counseling services that would often not otherwise occur.

The Diversion Program is a pre-charge program offered to first time, low risk offenders. The Diversion Program is designed to keep those offenders out of the Criminal Justice System and to reduce recidivism in order to preserve limited resources.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative-OWI Early Intervention Program (JRI-OWI Program) provides for a more comprehensive disposition for impaired driving convictions that includes random drug/alcohol testing, incarceration, and other programming. Successful completion of the program results in reduced monetary penalties, and reduced incarceration time.

OUTPUTS		<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD* 2024</u>
DAGP Program	Number of Participants	212	175	172	**
	DAGP Fees Collected	\$53,058	\$48,202	\$46,509	\$21,182
Diversion Program	Number of Participant Referrals	260	283	243	143
	Number of Participants Enrolled	196	229	204	118
	Number of Successful Participants	191	226	197	113
	Participant Success Rate	97%	99%	97%	96%
	Diversion Program Fees Collected	\$48,920	\$66,000	\$62,873	\$33,650
Justice Reinvestment Initiative-OWI Program	Number of Participants	29	25	30	26
	Number of Active Participants				13
	Number of Successful Participants	27	18	23	12
	Participant Success Rate	93%	72%	77%	92%
	Jail Days Permanently Stayed	**	**	1,360	**

*YTD indicates Jan-Jun Results

**Data not available

District Attorney

Overview of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	%
	Actual	Adjusted Budget	Estimate	Request	Recom-mended	Change
01-County Funding	\$698,688	\$728,987	\$728,987	\$965,013	\$892,279	22%
04-Intergovernment Grants and Aid	\$270,708	\$342,289	\$230,199	\$180,000	\$180,000	-47%
06-Public Charges for Services	\$289,707	\$320,000	\$283,000	\$282,000	\$282,000	-12%
Total Revenues:	\$1,259,103	\$1,391,276	\$1,242,186	\$1,427,013	\$1,354,279	-3%

Expenditures	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	%
	Actual	Adjusted Budget	Estimate	Request	Recom-mended	Change
01-Regular Wages	\$813,721	\$931,857	\$930,594	\$947,472	\$938,035	1%
02-OT Wages	\$239	-	\$150	-	-	
03-Payroll Benefits	\$304,615	\$352,411	\$357,155	\$397,391	\$341,894	-3%
04-Contracted Services	\$25,375	\$27,060	\$22,810	\$29,100	\$26,600	-2%
05-Supplies & Expenses	\$81,391	\$69,948	\$48,710	\$46,050	\$40,750	-42%
09-Equipment	\$13,994	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	-30%
Total Expenditures:	\$1,239,335	\$1,391,276	\$1,366,419	\$1,427,013	\$1,354,279	-3%

Net Surplus/(Deficit)- District Attorney	\$19,768	\$0	(\$124,233)	\$0	\$0	
--	----------	-----	-------------	-----	-----	--

District Attorney

Budget Analysis

	2024 Adjusted Budget	Elimination of VOCA Grant Exp	Abolish 1.575 FTE Crisis Response	Cost to Continue Operations in 2025	2025 Requested Budget
01-County Funding	\$728,987	-	-	\$236,026	\$965,013
04-Intergovernment Grants and Aid	\$342,289	(\$36,087)	(\$148,202)	\$22,000	\$180,000
06-Public Charges for Services	\$320,000	-	-	(\$38,000)	\$282,000
Total Revenues	\$1,391,276	(\$36,087)	(\$148,202)	\$220,026	\$1,427,013

01-Regular Wages	\$931,857	-	(\$115,916)	\$131,531	\$947,472
02-OT Wages	-	-	-	-	-
03-Payroll Benefits	\$352,411	-	(\$32,286)	\$77,266	\$397,391
04-Contracted Services	\$27,060	-	-	\$2,040	\$29,100
05-Supplies & Expenses	\$69,948	(\$36,087)	-	\$12,189	\$46,050
09-Equipment	\$10,000	-	-	(\$3,000)	\$7,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,391,276	(\$36,087)	(\$148,202)	\$220,026	\$1,427,013

District Attorney Revenue Assumptions

	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025		
Revenue Source	Actual	Budget	Estimate	Request	Recom- mended	Assumptions	Confidence Level %
County Tax Levy	698,688	728,987	728,987	965,013	892,279	County funding request	100%
Voca Grant	164,066	184,289	60,199	-	-	Grant ending Sept-2024	100%
District Attorney	104,671	158,000	170,000	180,000	180,000	Stable funding from State	80%
Discovery Fees	124,465	110,000	120,000	115,000	115,000	Timely payments	80%
Dagp- Deferred Prosecution Fees	47,359	75,000	45,000	47,000	47,000	Static participant numbers	50%
Da Restitution Surcharge	54,989	60,000	48,000	50,000	50,000	Timely restitution payments	70%
Da - Diversion Fees	62,894	75,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	Static participant numbers	50%
Vawa Grant	1,970	-	-	-	-	Grant ended in 2023	100%
TOTAL	\$1,259,103	\$1,391,276	\$1,242,186	\$1,427,013	\$1,354,279		

District Attorney
Grant Funding

	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	
Revenue Source	Actual	Budget	Estimate	Request	Recom- mended	Grant Details
Voca Grant	164,066	184,289	60,199	-	-	Grant ending Sept-2024
District Attorney	104,671	158,000	170,000	180,000	180,000	Stable funding from State
Vawa Grant	1,970	-	-	-	-	Grant ended in 2023
TOTAL	\$270,708	\$342,289	\$230,199	\$180,000	\$180,000	

District Attorney

Contracted Services Summary

	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025
Expenditure Type	Actual	Budget	Estimate	Request	Recom- mended
Professional Services	6,214	8,000	5,500	7,500	6,500
Utility Services	8,278	8,060	8,310	5,900	5,900
Repairs And Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
Other Contracted Services	10,882	11,000	9,000	15,700	14,200
Total	\$25,375	\$27,060	\$22,810	\$29,100	\$26,600

District Attorney

Contracted Services Detail

	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025		
Expenditure	Actual	Budget	Estimate	Request	Recom- mended	Description	Expenditure Type
D A/ Contracted Services	-	-	-	3,700	3,700	UW Law Prosecution Project	Other Contracted Services
D A/ Telephone	240	5,760	5,760	4,320	4,320	Office Telephone	Utility Services
D A/ Cellular Phone	286	500	480	500	500	Cellular Phone	Utility Services
D A/ Transcription	2,626	3,000	2,500	4,000	3,000	Court transcript preparation	Professional Services
D A/ Discovery Expenses	10,495	8,000	8,500	10,000	8,500	Digital discovery services	Other Contracted Services
D A/ Trial Expenses	388	3,000	500	2,000	2,000	Trial related services	Other Contracted Services
D A/ Paper Service	3,588	5,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	Process service	Professional Services
Victim Witness/ Telephone	7,200	1,200	1,260	1,080	1,080	Office Telephone	Utility Services
V/W Crisis/ Telephone	-	-	360	-	-	Office Telephone	Utility Services
V/W Crisis/ Cellular Phone	552	600	450	-	-	Cellular Phone	Utility Services
TOTAL	\$25,375	\$27,060	\$22,810	\$29,100	\$26,600		