

Port Milwaukee 2026 Proposed Executive Budget

Mission: To enhance the overall economic and social environment of the City and region by stimulating trade, business, and employment



Budget Summary

Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
FTEs – O&M	21.00	21.00	0.00	0%
FTEs – Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
FTEs – Total	21.00	21.00	0.00	0%
Total Positions Authorized	35	38	3.00	9%
Salaries & Wages	\$1,867,480	\$1,808,444	-\$59,036	-3%
Fringe Benefits	\$840,366	\$813,800	-\$26,566	-3%
Operating	\$1,366,716	\$1,292,523	-\$74,193	-5%
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Special Funds	\$4,417,606	\$3,146,052	-\$1,271,554	-29%
Total	\$8,492,168	\$7,060,819	-\$1,431,349	-17%

O&M Changes: Overall, the department's budget decreased more than \$1.4M

Budget by Service

Description of Services Provided	Budget + *SPAs	Operating	FTEs	% FTEs
Business & Trade Development - Stimulate international business and trade through marketing and local, regional, and global partnerships	\$549,686	8%	3.00	14%
Port Infrastructure & Maintenance - Provide land, infrastructure, and operational support to businesses, tenants, and partners.	\$4,402,354	62%	15.00	71%
General Fund Support – Summerfest Lease Transfer	\$1,847,418	26%	0.00	0%
Administration & Financial Services – Supports business operations with accounting, financial management & analysis, contract compliance, human resource and reporting functions.	\$261,361	4%	3.00	14%
Total	\$7,060,819	100%	21.00	100%

Positions & Salaries

Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
FTEs – O&M	21.00	21.00	0.00	0%
FTEs – Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
FTEs – Total	21.00	21.00	0.00	0%
Total Positions Authorized	35	38	3.00	9%
Salaries & Wages	\$1,867,480	\$1,808,444	-\$59,036	-3%
Fringe Benefits	\$840,366	\$813,800	-\$26,566	-3%
Total	\$2,707,846	\$2,622,244	-\$85,602	-3%

Changes:

- Reduced although department is adding three-(3) seasonal Port Operation & Maintenance Tech 2, which shall be funded via the Tech 4 vacancy position

Operating & Equipment Expenses

Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
Operating	\$1,366,716	\$1,292,523	-\$74,193	-5%
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Total	\$1,366,716	\$1,292,523	-\$74,193	-5%

Changes:

- **Operating** reduced in line with past expenditure trends
- **Equipment:** n/a

Special Funds

Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change Amount	% Change
Summerfest Revenue to Gen. Fd.	\$3,055,489	\$1,847,417	-\$1,208,072	-40%
Debt Serv. Pymt - RACM Loan	\$662,116	\$663,634	\$1,518	0%
Lease Pymt Transfer	\$1	\$1	\$0	0%
Leashold Demolition/Facilities Upgrade	\$300,000	\$285,000	-\$15,000	-5%
Major Maintenance - Terminals & Piers	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0%
Equip. Rehab and Upgrade	\$150,000	\$100,000	-\$50,000	-33%
Total	\$4,417,606	\$3,146,052	-\$1,271,554	-29%

Changes: Two-(2) changes:

1. **Summerfest Revenue** decreased because last year the department received a lump sum that city will receive every five-years per agreement
2. **Equip, rehab and upgrade** funds decreased based on annual usage

Revenues

Harbor of Commission	\$8,492,168	\$7,060,819	-\$1,431,349	-17%
Total	\$8,492,168	\$7,060,819	-\$1,431,349	-17%

Changes: Since the department is considered a quasi-enterprise fund, the revenues matches the O&M expenditures.

Capital

Category	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change Amount	% Change
Total	\$6,350,000	\$2,900,000	-\$3,450,000	-54%

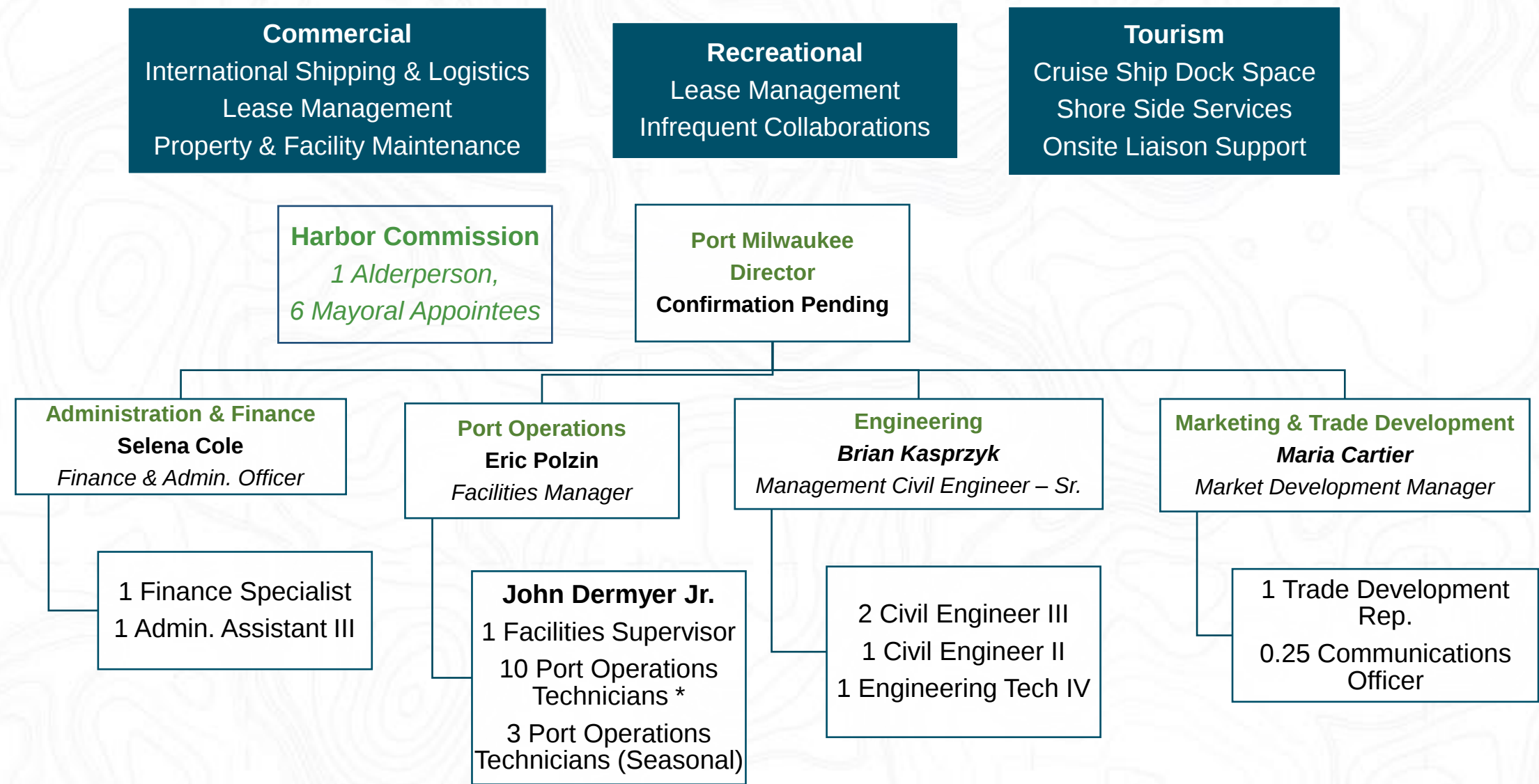
Changes*:

- **Cruise Ship Terminal** decreased because contracts are finalized/project started with an anticipated completion date in June 2026
- **Rail Track & Service Upgrades** increased to continue upgrading track from 90lbs to 110/115lbs to meet safety and service load requirements
- **Roadway Paving** no change
- **Port Utilities Upgrades** increased for replacement of water utility infrastructure estimated to be more than 52 years old

*Source: Capital Analyst

Port Milwaukee Service Delivery

Mission: strengthen the overall economic and social environment of the City and region by increasing international trade, business development, job creation and public access to the waterfront.



Department Demographics

All Staff	Female	Male	Race Total	Race %
Black	1	2	3	18%
Hispanic	0	1	1	6%
White	2	11	13	76%
Gender Total	3	14	17	100%
Gender %	18%	82%	100%	

- Port Milwaukee has 21 FTEs
- Four vacant positions

- Port Milwaukee has six supervisory positions
- Dept. head confirmation pending

Management	Female	Male	Race Total	Race %
Black	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0%
White	2	3	5	100%
Gender Total	2	3	5	100%
Gender %	33%	67%	100%	

Key Performance Measures

Port Milwaukee Metrics

Indicators	2024 Actual	2025 Projected	2026 Planned
Percent of department expenses covered by revenue	100.57%	100%	100%
Percentage change in municipal port tonnage	-5%	0%	0%
Number of cruise ship vessel visits	27	22	62
Number of cruise passengers	13,568	11,137	19,000

- Port works to ensure that revenue covers expenses, at minimum
- Tonnage - growth is always the goal
 - 2024 decrease attributed to location and timing of deliveries
- Cruise vessel visits reflects confirmed bookings to date *
 - Cruise itineraries = 81
- Cruise passengers – 2026 estimate based on vessel averages

* Subject to changes, based on final schedules

Service Uniformity

- **Requiring General Terms in Lease Agreements**
 - Eliminating distinct rates and measures in new leases, renewals and amendments
- **Consistent Implementation of Port Tariff**
 - Tariff is reviewed and updated annually
 - Eliminate ambiguity and address gaps
- **Streamlined Billing and Collection Practices**
- **Consistent Contracting and Procurement Policies**
 - Follow City guidelines, using State required threshold - \$25,000
 - Use of E-Notify, website and social media for bids and RFPs

AI Technologies

- **Port Milwaukee adheres to the City's Generative AI Guidelines**
- **Use of AI by Port staff has been limited to the following:**
 - Writing assistance – Draft language that is reviewed and edited by staff
 - Example: letters, press release language
 - Information leads – Starting point for outreach
 - Example: businesses in Wisconsin that ship _____
- **Port staff reported the following precautions when developing AI prompts:**
 - No personal or organizational identifiers are used
 - No confidential information or data is used

Environmental Impact

- **Port Administration and Terminals**

- Wind Turbine
- LED lighting upgrades

- **StewardSHIP Program**

- Incentive to ship owners who promote sustainability by utilizing environmentally friendly shipping standards, i.e. Green Marine certified
- 13 approved vessels in 2025

- **MKE Estuary Area of Concern**

- EPA Non-Federal Sponsors Agreement: City/Port, County, DNR, MMSD, We Energies
- DMMF construction underway by MMSD
- 30% Remedial Design issued August 2025
- Anticipated cleanup start in 2028

Major Updates

South Shore Cruise Dock

Project Item	Estimates	Actuals to Date
Roadway/Utilities	\$1,303,682.00	\$1,724,443.00
Local Utility Service	\$110,516.29	\$110,516.29
Lift Station	\$971,952.00	\$1,188,485.00
Dock Platform	\$13,761,066.00	\$10,978,285.70
Dredging	\$1,200,000.00	\$2,205,000.00
Totals	\$17,347,216.29	\$16,206,729.99

- \$3.5M WisDOA Tourism Grant; \$500K WisDOT HAP Grant
- Construction underway
- Anticipated completion: June 30, 2026

Major Updates

DeLong Agricultural Maritime Export Facility – Phase 2

- \$16M Project Total; \$9.3M USDOT MARAD PIDP Funds – No City funds
- Two new grain silos and associated equipment
- Allow storage and shipping of multiple agricultural products (grocery boats)

	2024 (Full Year)	2025 YTD (through 9/30)
Vessels	10	14
Railcar Counts	797	2250
Total Tonnage Increase		95.5%
Destination Markets	United Kingdom, Ireland, Morocco, Spain	United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey, Spain, Portugal

- Five additional vessels on schedule for 2025
- Winter river barge service to Gulf

Update on 2025 Amendments

#	Description	Sponsor
241271	ALL DEPARTMENTS - Insert a footnote instructing all departments to study the feasibility of having all the department's resources and reporting available on the City Action app.	Coggs
Status Update	Port Milwaukee is working to add navigation notices to the City Action app.	

- Port Milwaukee's direct impact to residents is limited to recreational boaters
 - Notices to port partners are required by contract, app may not meet contract standards

#	Description	Sponsor
241272	ALL DEPARTMENTS - Insert a footnote instructing all departments to examine possible opportunities for internships or apprenticeships that could be developed in each department	Coggs
Status Update	Port Milwaukee has not offered formal apprenticeships. Instead, Port staff has partnered with local schools and non-profits to offer Port 101s and tours. Port also hosted interns through other City departments and partner agencies.	

Community Engagement

Port 101s & Tour Participation

Category	Category Description	Groups	% of Groups	Visitors	% of Visitors
Educational	K-12 schools, technical colleges, universities	10	45.45%	491	53%
Community	CBOs, non-profits, churches, adult care facilities	5	23%	191	21%
Associations	Membership based groups & organizations	3	14%	196	21%
Government	Federal, state & local government entities or agencies	1	5%	12	1%
Business	Any business organization – manufacturers, service providers	3	14%	35	4%
		22		925	

- Educational - predominately MPS and Milwaukee charter school students
 - Covers Port operations, economic impact and career information
 - Port Leadership & Career Summit – 79 middle and high school students
 - We Work the Waterways Industry Interaction Day – 202 high school students
- Numbers do not include Harbor Fest participation – visitors to Port work boat not tracked