

2023



Legislative Reference Bureau

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MUNICIPAL COURT



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
MUNICIPAL COURT

2023 Proposed Plan and Executive Budget Review

Prepared by: Chris Hillard, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Budget Hearing: 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2022



\$3,132,137

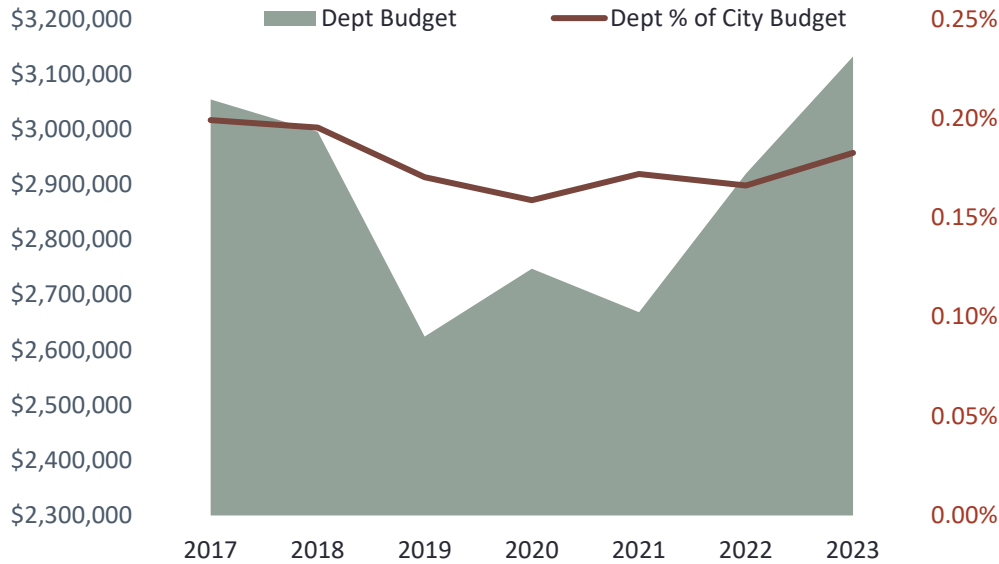
Proposed 2023 Budget

\$212,514

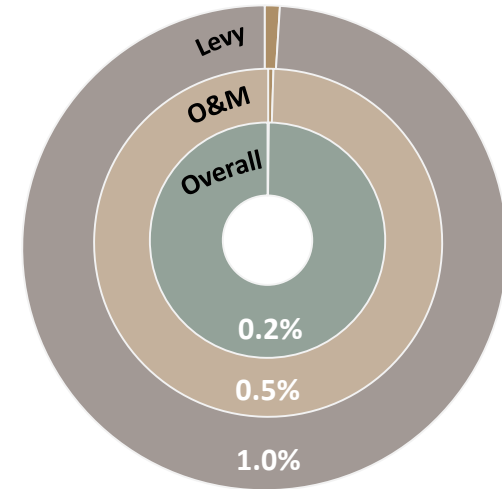
Change in Proposed Budget

7.3%

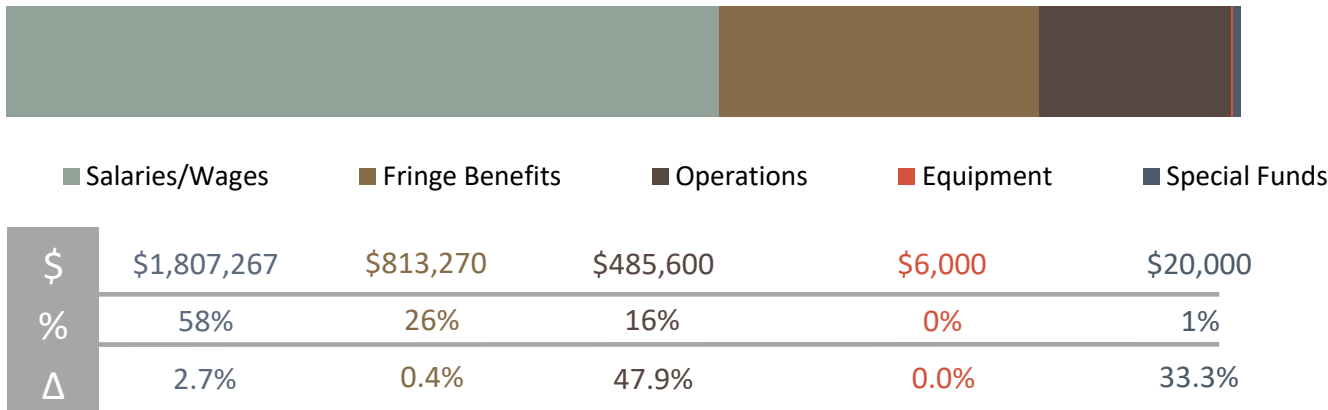
% Change in Proposed Budget



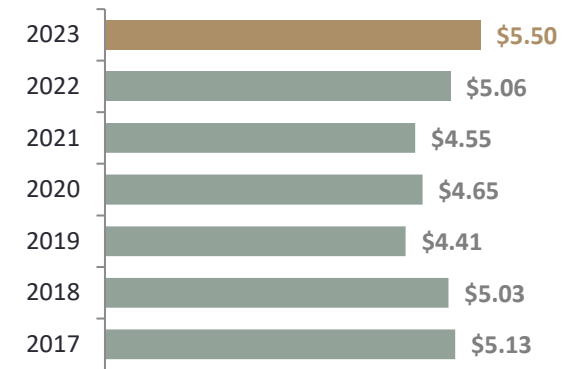
Departmental Budget Impact



Departmental Budget Appropriation Category



Budget per Capita



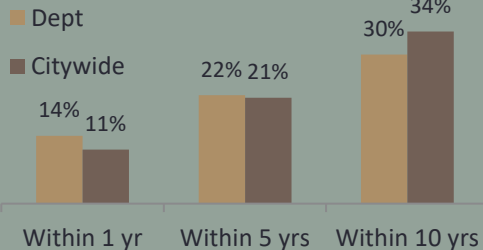
\$3,280,261

Requested Budget
+ \$148,124 (4.6%) more than
Proposed Budget

40

Average days from filing to judgment in 2021. The projected number of days in 2022 is 30 from filing to judgement.

Retirement Eligible



1

Change in Positions

2.8%

% Change in Positions

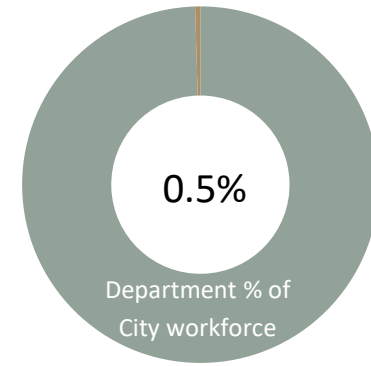
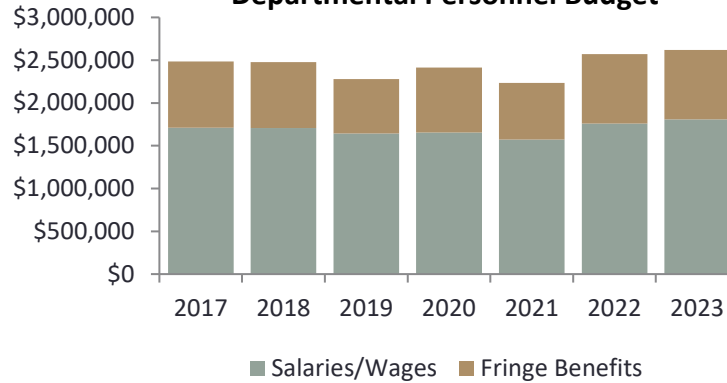
0

Current Vacancies

2

Voluntary Separations

Departmental Personnel Budget



Staffing Vacancies

Currently, there are 7 vacancies:

- Programmer Analyst
- Accounting Assistant III
- Deputy Court Administrator
- Customer Service Rep. III-A / Interpreter
- IT Support Specialist Sr.
- Municipal Court Clerk
- Court Services Asst. IV

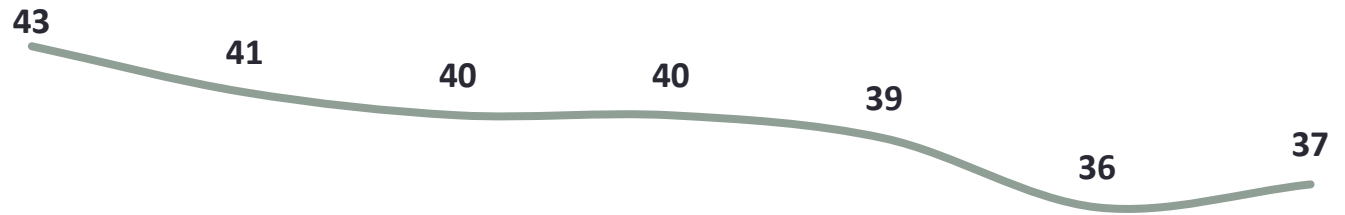
A detailed list of vacancies is found on p. 6.

Staffing Update

The Proposed Budget includes one new position:

Deputy Court Administrator. This position will support general Court operations.

The Proposed Budget also eliminates 2 positions: a Municipal Court Clerk I and a Customer Service Representative III. These positions were eliminated to achieve budget savings.



**Department Positions
2017-2023**

\$1,059,000

Projected 2022 revenue from court fees.

\$3,600,000

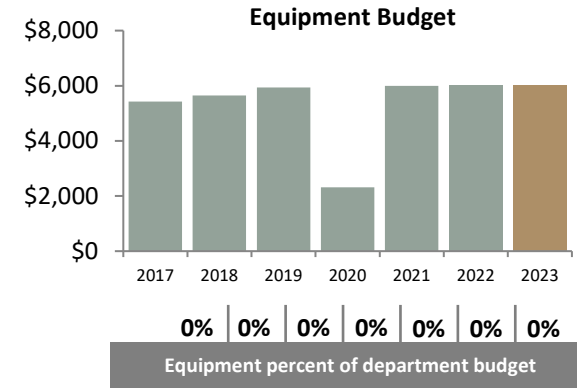
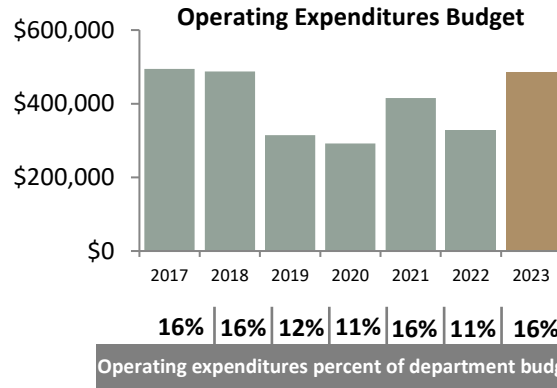
2021 revenue from fines and forfeitures, an increase of almost 26% from 2020 revenues.

91%

The completion rate for persons admitted into the Mental Health Services case management program.

52,966

Number of new Municipal Court cases filed in 2021, a 15% increase from 2020.



Revenue

Proposed revenue sources for 2022:

- Fines and Forfeitures: \$3,301,000, up from \$2,601,000 in 2022.
- Court Clerk Fees: \$1,447,000, up from \$1,059,000 in 2022.
- In total, this raises expected revenue from \$3,948,000 in 2021, to \$4,748,000 in 2023. This would increase revenues to a level not seen since 2018.

Grants

This department receives no grant funding.

Special Purpose Accounts

Municipal Court Intervention Prog.	\$487,000
Care of Prisoners Fund	\$ 16,000

Capital Requests

There are no capital funds for the department in the 2022 Budget.

27

The number of night court sessions scheduled in 2021.

These sessions were scheduled for 347 defendants representing 594 cases.

660

Number of individuals admitted to case management in 2021, a 217% increase from 2020.

8,633

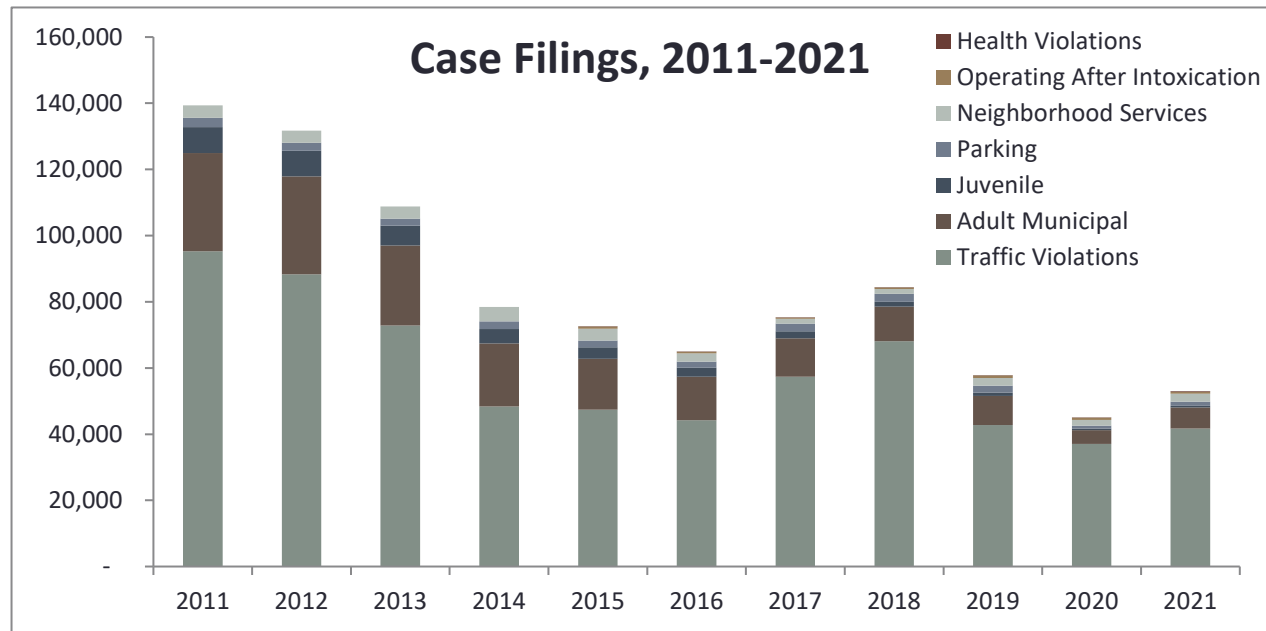
Number of driver's license suspensions lifted in 2021. Suspensions were lifted from 4,232 individuals, an average of 2.04 suspensions per individual.

80%

The percentage of defendants who appeared for their scheduled videoconferencing hearings. These defendants represent 10% of all scheduled hearings, where the appearance rate was 35% overall.

Court Procedures Designed to Assist Struggling Defendants

- Allow walk-in hearings: While the COVID pandemic forced the Court to cease offering sessions for people to just walk-in and most hearings are currently scheduled in advance, the Court is considering how it might reinstitute the pre COVID walk-in process.
- Conditional sentences of community service: When appropriate, those who cannot pay can choose to perform community service as an alternative to payment.
- Time-to-pay extensions: If the due date has not yet passed, the court will grant an additional 60 to 90 days to pay in full if a partial payment of \$20 is made, depending on the total balance due.
- \$20 fee may be assessed for motions filed to reopen judgment: At a municipal court's discretion, this fee can be as high as \$300 per s. 814.07, Wis. Stats. Milwaukee has one of the lowest fees statewide.
- 30% payment: May require a payment of up to 30% of fines due that are related to driver's license suspensions or vehicle registration denials in order to lift the suspension or denial. Most municipal courts in Wisconsin require full payment of these judgments before lifting a license suspension.



Staffing Vacancies

1.	Programmer Analyst	Had candidate and offer in hand, however, candidate took another job offer after waiting for 4 week for DER to respond.	Position Cr. 2/24/21
2.	Accounting Assistant III	Not currently recruiting - waiting for experience to be built from within and use this as a promotional opportunity.	Vacant since 8/20/21
3.	Deputy Court Administrator	Position is being held open for the year for budget savings.	Vacant since 11/24/20
4.	IT Support Specialist Sr	Vacancy posted. Posting closes Oct. 7, 2022.	Vacant since 6/4/22
5.	Customer Service Rep III/ Interpreter	Being held for consideration of not filling for 2023 Budget year.	Vacant since 5/21/22
6.	Municipal Court Clerk I	Being held for consideration of not filling for 2023 Budget year.	Vacant since 7/30/22
7.	Court Services Assistant IV	Department is interested in filling, however, the position was not included on the 9/14/22 Finance and Personnel Committee Agenda.	Vacant since 8/20/22