



2025 budget presentation – Law, Safety and Justice

Chela Guzmán-Wiegert, Assistant County Administrator – Law, Safety & Justice

Today we will discuss

- 2025 Law, Safety and Justice proposed budget
- Law, Safety and Justice priorities
- Public Defender's Office budget
- Sheriff's budget
- County Attorney's budget
- Discussion

Law, Safety and Justice leadership



Chela Guzmán-Wiegert
Assistant County Administrator



Dawanna Witt
Hennepin County Sheriff



Mary Moriarty
Hennepin County Attorney



Michael Berger
Chief Public Defender



Jeanette Boerner
Adult Representation
Services



Catherine Johnson
Department of Community
Corrections & Rehabilitation



Mary Ellen Heng
Justice Initiatives &
Program Performance



Scott Busche
Law, Safety & Justice IT

Budget overview

Operating budget

	2024 approved	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	*Percent Change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	\$15,198,211	\$15,232,816	\$15,953,324	4.7%
County Attorney's Office	78,155,656	78,526,831	84,014,267	7.0%
Adult Representation Services	14,889,035	18,551,335	19,460,115	4.9%
Court Functions	181,099	181,099	186,532	3.0%
Public Defender's Office**	9,351,023	9,521,868	8,970,863**	(5.8%)
Sheriff's Office	160,657,741	161,380,679	166,268,293	3.0%
Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	136,736,607	136,957,851	142,994,550	4.4%
Radio Communications	4,272,742	4,272,742	4,234,016	(0.9%)
Total	\$419,442,114	\$424,625,221	\$442,081,960	4.1%

*Percent change from 2024 adjusted to 2025 proposed

**PDO budget reflects both state and county funding responsibilities. The state portion is \$5.1 million in 2025 with \$3.8 million funded through Hennepin County property taxes.



Property tax

	2024 approved	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	*Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	\$14,598,211	\$14,598,211	\$15,318,719	4.9%
County Attorney's Office	71,672,282	71,672,282	77,576,124	8.2%
Adult Representation Services	13,439,035	17,101,335	17,350,115	1.5%
Court Functions	181,099	181,099	186,532	3.0%
Public Defender's Office**	4,209,023	4,209,023	3,828,863**	(9.0%)
Sheriff's Office	131,636,063	131,636,063	142,478,926	8.2%
Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	105,635,665	105,635,665	111,803,379	5.8%
Radio Communications	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$341,371,378	\$345,033,678	\$368,542,658	6.8%

*Percent change from 2024 adjusted to 2025 proposed

**Total PDO budget is \$9.52M in 2024 and \$8.97M in 2025. The property tax represents the county's funding responsibility, all other funding is the responsibility of the state.



Full-time equivalents (FTEs)

	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	74.50	75.50	1.3%
County Attorney's Office	518.63	518.63	0%
Adult Representation Services	106.00	108.00	1.9%
Court Functions	0	0	0%
Public Defender's Office*	23.25	17.75	(23.7%)
Sheriff's Office	882.00	882.00	0%
Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	924.20	918.70	(0.6%)
Radio Communications	0	0	0%
Total	2,528.58	2,520.58	(0.3%)

*PDO FTEs reflect county staff.



Law, Safety & Justice budget and FTE summary

	2024 approved	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	*Percent change
Operating budget	\$419,442,114	\$424,625,221	\$442,081,960	4.1%
Property taxes	\$341,371,378	\$345,033,678	\$368,542,658	6.8%
FTEs	2,505.58	2,528.58	2,520.58	(0.3%)

**Percent change from 2024 adjusted to 2025 proposed*



Law, Safety & Justice priorities

- Advance individual well-being and community safety
- Expand access to meaningful resources
- Drive responsive innovations and interventions
- Manage budget drivers and areas of need



Law, Safety & Justice strategies

Convene

Share knowledge, maximize resources and strengthen commitment

Collaborate

Work jointly with government partners, community providers and residents to evaluate, innovate and respond

Connect

Increase access and support to needed services and programming





Programs with impact

Adult Representation Services (ARS) provides holistic advocacy that helps achieve stability

- Health Equity Legal Project
- Supported Decision Making

“My parent mentor spent a lot of time answering my questions and really listened. Normally when I ask for help, people don’t take that kind of time or even call me back. But that wasn’t the case with HELP. My parent mentor even went with me to help me get what I needed.” ~ ARS client



Program highlight:
Adult Representation Services (ARS) Eviction Prevention

saying
I NEED TO GO TO COURT



Programs with impact

Adult Corrections Facility (ACF) book club

- Collaboration with Hennepin County Library
- Builds on other library programming
- Connecting residents to resources, access to education



“I read to understand you – and you, and you. ... That is the beauty of reading, too. I am always open to being changed.” ~ ACF resident





Programs with impact

Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR) Community Productive Day forestry pathway

Partnerships:

- Hennepin County Railroad Authority
- Environment and Energy Department
- Three Rivers Park District
- City of Minnetonka
- City of Mound
- Tree Trust



*“As long as you are dedicated, the program is a big help. I look forward to the new beginning.”
~ Jermaine, forestry program participant*



Our commitment to disparity reduction



Justice

Safety, stability and well-being for all

Hennepin County supports a legal system that is equitable and prioritizes individual well-being and community safety by advancing early intervention and prevention strategies.



Discussion

Public Defender's Office

Michael Berger, Chief Public Defender



Public Defender budget and FTE summary

	2024 approved	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	*Percent change
Operating budget	\$9,351,023	\$9,521,868	\$8,970,863	(5.8%)
Property taxes**	\$4,209,023	\$4,209,023	\$3,828,863**	(9.0%)
FTEs	23.25	23.25	17.75	(23.7%)

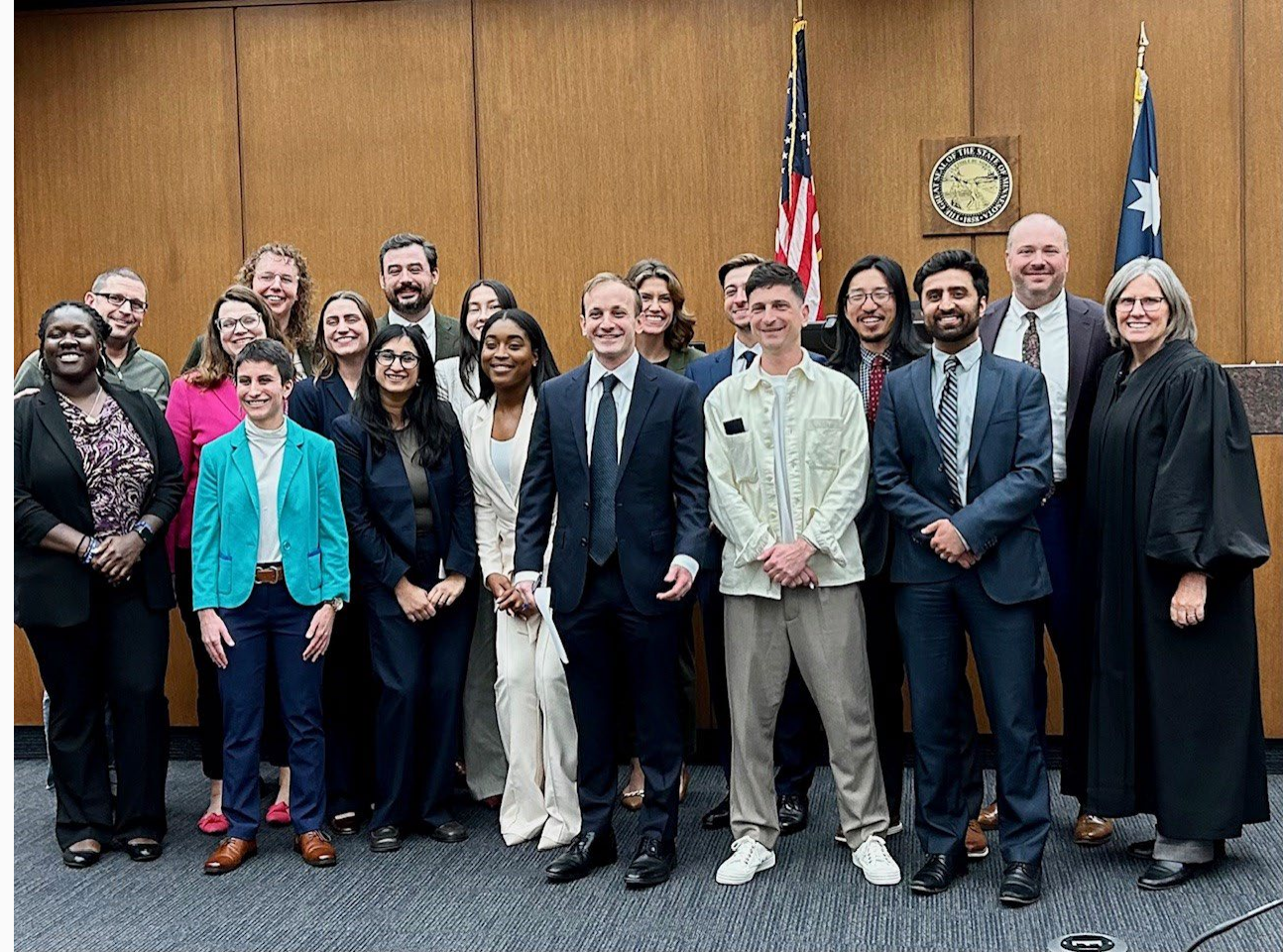
**Percent change from 2024 adjusted to 2025 proposed*

***Property tax value represents county's portion of PD funding formula; \$5.1 million comes from state, not including state personnel costs.*



Public defender priorities

- Tech transition: moving from county infrastructure to state
- Cross collaborations
- Personnel changes
- Rising costs



Public defender accomplishments

- Case management system migration:
 - Better integration with prosecutors and defense counsel across the state
 - Collaboration with Law, Safety and Justice IT to improve discovery process
 - Anticipated project completion: Q1 2025
- Collaborations:
 - Adult Representation Services (ARS): Representation of individuals found incompetent
 - Hennepin County Attorney's Office (HCAO): Providing counsel to people impacted by Prosecutor Initiated Resentencing project
 - Treatment courts: County funding supports post-adjudication representation



Discussion



Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Dawanna Witt, Hennepin County Sheriff



Sheriff's Office budget and FTE summary

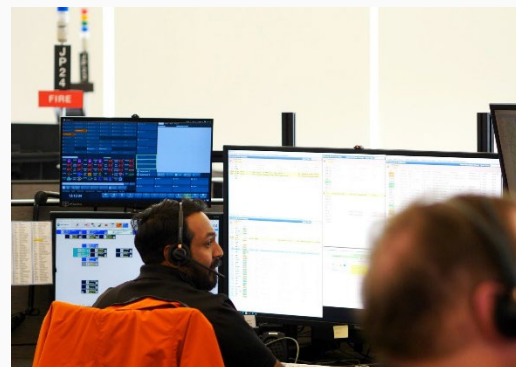
	2024 approved	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	*Percent change
Operating budget	\$160,657,741	\$161,380,679	\$166,268,293	3.0%
Property taxes	\$131,636,063	\$131,636,063	\$142,478,926	8.2%
FTEs	882.0	882.0	882.0	0.0%

**Percent change from 2024 adjusted to 2025 proposed*



Sheriff Priorities

- Violent crime reduction
- Opioid overdose prevention
- Recruitment and Retention
- Community engagement
- Programming
- Criminal justice reform



Discussion



Hennepin County Attorney's Office

Mary Moriarty, Hennepin County Attorney



County Attorney budget and FTE summary

	2024 approved	2024 adjusted	2025 proposed	*Percent change
Operating budget	\$78,155,656	\$78,526,831	\$84,014,267	7.0%
Property taxes	\$71,672,282	\$71,672,282	\$77,576,124	8.2%
FTEs	516.6	518.6	518.6	0%

**Percent change from 2024 adjusted to 2025 proposed*



County Attorney priorities

Staffing costs are the driver of the 2025 budget increase —100% of the increase is attributed to personnel costs. That includes:

- General salary adjustments, merit, health insurance and other fringe benefits.
- Reduction in vacancy factor to align with actual staffing picture.
- Replacing ARPA funds that are sunseting at the end of 2024 and that support essential services.

Additional notes to consider:

- Current proposed budget does not account for labor negotiations in progress.
- The proposed budget maintains existing work. Additional resources would be needed to support envisioned expansion (reduced caseload sizes, public integrity unit, worker protection, conviction integrity, public transparency, etc.).

A focus on staffing supports many HCAO strategic goals and objectives, including:

Building a safer, healthier, more equitable Hennepin County.

Ensuring excellence, effectiveness, and integrity in all of the HCAO's work.

Supporting the health and well-being of HCAO staff.



County Attorney accomplishments

Prosecution efforts

Through September 2024, received over 10,500 case submissions. For each case submitted, HCAO makes thoughtful and informed charging decisions and prosecutes charged cases with fairness and integrity.

Reducing collateral consequences

Eliminated backlog of over 800 outstanding expungement requests while also handling more than 200 new petitions from community expungement clinics.

Support for noncitizen victims of crimes

Through September 2024, certified over 105 U or T Visas, compared to 14 over the same period in 2023.

New approach to addressing youth auto theft

During pilot evaluation phase of new Youth Auto Theft Early Intervention Initiative, 81% of participants referred to a social worker for services did not have a new charged case.

Youth auto theft – faster processing

Between January - August 2024, the average number of days until a charging decision for youth auto theft cases declined by 52% compared to the same period in 2023.

County Attorney accomplishments

Focus on youth gun violence

In partnership with Safe Communities, launched an expansion of the evidence-informed Youth Group Violence Intervention initiative.

School engagement

Through Be@School, began work on a grant from the MN Office of Justice Programs focused on early intervention to address underlying causes of truancy.

Worker Protection

In 2024, established a Worker Protection Unit—the first of its kind in the state.

Domestic Violence Response

As of September 2024, served over 3,300 people through the Domestic Abuse Service Center.

Diversion

As of September 2024, have offered diversion to over 880 young people under 18 and 640 adults, as part of evidence-informed approaches to effective public safety outcomes.

Discussion



Looking forward

- Engage residents and partners to improve services
- Enhance information and data sharing
- Realign resources for efficiency and increased effectiveness



Final discussion

