

A request for legislative approval to implement a local sales and use tax as authorized under Minnesota Statute 297A.99 for the construction of a Judicial Center.



Waseca County Administration  
307 N. State Street  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-835-0631

# Table of Contents

<b>Section 1: Request</b> .....	3
<b>Section 2: Background</b> .....	3
<b>Section 3: The Project</b> .....	3
Dispatch Center .....	4
Emergency Operations Center .....	4
Court Administration .....	4
Community Corrections Agency .....	5
Sheriff’s Office .....	5
County Attorney’s Office .....	6
Summary of Project Benefits.....	7
<b>Section 4: Regional Significance and Economic Impact</b> .....	8
Regional Significance .....	8
Byproduct Regional Impact.....	9
Veteran Services .....	9
License Bureau .....	9
Public Records.....	10
Elections.....	10
Regional Economic Impact .....	10
Measuring Distress – Tract Tool.....	10
MN DEED Reporting .....	11
Historical and Estimated Sales Tax Revenue .....	13
<b>Section 5: Waseca County Resolution 2026-06</b> .....	15
<b>Section 6: Attachments</b> .....	18
Design Concept .....	18
Price Estimate.....	21

## **Section 1: Request**

Waseca County is requesting legislative approval to implement a local sales and use tax as authorized under Minnesota Statute 297A.99. The proceeds of the tax would be used to make bond payments to finance the construction of a new \$35,000,000 Judicial Center. Upon Legislative approval and passage of a special law authorizing the tax, Waseca County would conduct a referendum during the 2026 general election to seek voter approval of the tax. The amount of local sales and use tax revenue utilized for this capital project would not exceed \$16,500,000, or up to 20 years, whichever comes first, and models the expected term life of the bond.

## **Section 2: Background**

Waseca County's Law Enforcement Center (LEC) and Jail were built in 1970 and are now one of the oldest in Minnesota. Jails and LECs built in the 1970s were expected to last 25 years. The Waseca County LEC and Jail are now approaching 60 years old. Due to changes in law enforcement, emergency dispatching, incarceration practices, building codes and inmate mental health needs, it is not practical or economically feasible to remodel the current facility to meet today's public safety standards. Waseca County is trying to be proactive in implementing solutions before the Minnesota Department of Corrections condemns our facility for not meeting correctional codes.

Waseca County is also in need of additional space for county departments that provide election administration, county attorney services, drivers licensing and testing, emergency management, land records, community corrections and other important services. These services are currently located in very old buildings that are not easily accessible and are not designed for modern day service delivery.

## **Section 3: The Project**

The proposed project would be built on land already owned by Waseca County. The building would have shared spaces and be constructed as a single structure and single capital project. Significant upgrades and improvements are needed for existing service deliveries, and the following service deliveries that will exist in the new Judicial Center are defined in the following section.

### **Dispatch Center**

The new Judicial Center would provide additional space for a modern 911 emergency dispatch center that would be built to provide enhanced public safety to County residents.

Over a five-year period between 2020 and 2024, Waseca County averaged 20,947 calls for service each year. Calls for services are tracked by several categories and include both emergency and non-emergency calls:

- Traffic Stops
- 911 Hangups
- Driving Complaint
- Runaway/Missing Persons
- Nuisance Complaints
- Vehicle Off Roadway
- Emergency Services
- Damage to Property
- Suicidal/Disturbed Person
- Assist Other Agency
- Animal Complaint
- Informational
- Harassment
- Theft-Burglary
- Warrants
- Fire
- Violent Crime
- Welfare Check
- Motor Vehicle Accident
- Directed Patrol
- Suspicious Activity
- Abuse
- Civil
- Burn Permits
- Records Check/History
- House Watch
- Narcotics

Over that same period, emergency calls averaged 26% of total calls, or 15 per day. With increased demand put on dispatch agents to remain on the line for the duration of the incident we have seen an increased need for staff, mental wellbeing and space.

It's also important to remember that staff do more than answer calls and respond to calls for service. Depending on the call, there is significant time involved in listening to each caller, running driver licenses, license plates, paging emergency services and tracking call times, responding to and investigating crimes, completing reports, and creating incident-based reports for calls so they're available for the records department, etc. Call numbers vary, but the length of time spent on calls is increasing. 56% of all calls received in dispatch end up being assigned to a deputy for response or follow-up.

### **Emergency Operations Center**

The project would create an emergency operations center that would be used to manage and provide services during emergency situations like the COVID-19 pandemic, and double as an emergency shelter for the community. Currently, Waseca County does not have an adequately sized emergency operations center to either facilitate training for existing staff or to organize a largescale response effort.

### **Court Administration**

The justice center would provide better handicapped accessibility and enhanced customer service for citizens in need of court administration and district court. The historic courthouse was built in 1897. This is still the building where District Court services are held. Obviously, the expectation for service deliveries, utilization of technology and need for increased public safety have all surpassed the 130-year-old space.

## **Community Corrections Agency**

In October of 2025, Waseca County changed from a County Probation Office (CPO) model under Minnesota Statute 244.19, to a Community Corrections Agency (CCA) model under Minnesota Statute 401.

Under the CCA model, the county administers all correctional field services, excluding intensive supervised release (ISR). Currently, 38 counties operate under the CCA model and include metro, suburban and rural counties. Local counties to Waseca who administer community supervision under the CCA model include (but are not limited to): Steele, Blue Earth, Dodge, Olmstead, Rice.

Mid-2023, Waseca County Court Services shifted from a general caseload to specialized caseloads for agents. Specialized caseloads allow agents to better align with best practices, become subject matter experts, along with delivering professional-level supervision.

With the migration to Community Corrections, Waseca County staff absorbed the felony caseload previously administered by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Caseloads currently supervised by staff include misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and a felony caseload under the following categories:

- Pretrial Supervision (currently supervises all cases)
- Juvenile Supervision (currently supervises all cases)
- Intimate Partner Violence Supervision
- Enhanced/High Risk Supervision
- Group Supervision
- Drug and DWI Court/High Risk DWI Supervision
- Sex Offender Supervision
- General Felony Caseload
- Truancy Caseload
- Evidence-Based Practices Coordinator

Presently, CCA staff offices are in the literal foundation of the historic courthouse, in an interior space that is not adequate or safe for the services they deliver. Staff are currently in a hybrid system that requires a rotation of remote work. This is because there is simply not enough space for all staff to be present at one time – even with some shared offices. The new Judicial Center would provide adequate space for both offices and service delivery.

## **Sheriff's Office**

The Sheriff's Office of Waseca County is an integral part of the county's justice system. As the chief law enforcement authority in the county, the sheriff is charged with the duty to serve and protect our county residents, as well as the peace of his county.

To fulfill this responsibility, the Sheriff's Office renders many services to the residents of Waseca County. Among these are general patrols to help prevent crime and investigations of crimes and accidents in cooperation with the Waseca County Attorney's Office. Searching for missing persons, overseeing lakes with boat patrols in summer months, and snowmobile patrols in winter months are part of these patrols. The Sheriff's Office also acts in the serving of warrants, commitments, and court orders. The Sheriff's Office processes orders of the court as they relate to civil litigation and other legal processes.

The Sheriff's Office is also responsible for court security, maintaining the safety of judges and jurors, and ensuring security and proper restraint of prisoners in the courtroom, as well as transportation of prisoners.

Currently, Sheriff's Office staff are located in a 55-year-old building that was not created with modern policing in mind. They are on an upper-level floor that is far removed from both squad cars, public and district court services. This can add up to a minute of additional response time in an emergency, which can be critical.

### **County Attorney's Office**

The county attorney is the chief prosecutor for Waseca County. An attorney from that staff appears in court for every hearing or trial involving a criminal matter that is alleged to have occurred in Waseca County. In addition, the County Attorney's Office represents the interests of the county in civil matters and provides advice to the county Board of Commissioners and other county officers. The county attorney assists the Department of Human Services in the collection of child support and in determination of paternity, as well as judicial commitment proceedings of people who suffer from a mental illness.

The county attorney is the legal advisor for the county Board of Commissioners, county officials, and county departments. The county attorney provides legal advice to the county board and departments in areas such as defending challenges to property tax values, enforcing environmental and health ordinances, and forfeiting property used in connection with criminal activity. Additionally, the County Attorney's Office assists the county in buying property, negotiating leases and contracts, and defending the county against lawsuits.

The Waseca County Attorney's Office prosecutes all crimes that occur in the county, whether they are felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor level crimes. Prosecution typically involves reviewing investigative reports from law enforcement officers, filing criminal complaints, presenting cases to a judge or jury, and making sentencing recommendations to the judge. In certain cases, a matter may be presented to a grand jury.

Our office has a victim / witness coordinator who advises crime victims of their legal rights and the status of their cases. The County Attorney's Office works with the Department of Human Services to protect abused and neglected children who live in our county. The office also starts legal proceedings to protect vulnerable adults when they need assistance.

Because of the obvious synergies with every department mentioned previously, it is essential for the County Attorney's Office to be in proximity to all other judicial functions.

### **Summary of Project Benefits**

- Provides modern judicial functions that allow for improved public safety and inmate care.
- Increase efficiency of inmate visibility and safety as well as modernized holding cells that increase safety of both staff and inmates.
- Eliminates handicapped accessibility issues we have with current facilities.
- Redevelop properties in the City of Waseca by demolishing an old, substandard structure (1970) and constructing a new building in that location.
- Demolishes two buildings that are not energy efficient.
- All new HVAC equipment will be installed, creating new, energy-efficient facilities.
- Solar panels may be incorporated into the design to allow for the use of renewable energy.
- Provides new technology capabilities for law enforcement, dispatch, community corrections, emergency management and overall public safety.
- Provides improved security and oversight for administering elections in the County in the historic courthouse by freeing up additional training space.
- Provides enhanced and more accessible space for veteran services benefits.
- Improved customer service and efficiency.
- Improved facilities that will help attract and retain law enforcement, correctional and public safety staff.
- Allow the County to fully vacate the East Annex building and repurpose it for much needed childcare or another private development purpose.

## **Section 4: Regional Significance and Economic Impact**

### **Regional Significance**

The construction of a new Judicial Center in Waseca County represents a regionally significant investment in the administration of justice, public safety, and governmental services that extends beyond a single community. As the seat of county government, the City of Waseca serves residents, agencies, and partners from across the county and surrounding region, making the judicial system a shared regional resource.

A modern Judicial Center would enhance access to judicial services for all county residents by consolidating court operations into a secure, accessible, and efficient facility. Centralized court services reduce travel burdens for jurors, litigants, attorneys, law enforcement, and social service partners who routinely operate across jurisdictional boundaries. Improved accessibility ensures compliance with ADA standards and accommodates the diverse needs of residents throughout the county.

The facility would also support regional public safety and interagency collaboration. Courts operate in close coordination with county and regional law enforcement agencies, probation services, corrections, and human services. A modern Judicial Center improves secure circulation, in-custody transport, and evidence handling—reducing risk and increasing efficiency for agencies serving the broader region. Currently, Waseca County facilities are used by area city police departments, Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Corrections, BCA agents, the multi-jurisdictional South Central Drug Force and other counties in southern Minnesota. Waseca County is part of a three-county Human Services delivery system called Minnesota Prairie County Alliance that would be positively impacted by this new project.

From an operational standpoint, a new Judicial Center allows Waseca County to address long-term caseload demands and population trends. Current and future judicial workloads affect residents countywide, and modern space planning ensures the court system can function effectively for decades. The facility would also support specialty courts and problem-solving approaches—such as treatment-oriented or family-focused proceedings—that often draw participants and service providers from across the county.

Replacing aging infrastructure with a purpose-built Judicial Center also represents responsible stewardship of county and regional taxpayer resources. Older facilities often require costly maintenance and lack modern security and technology, creating inefficiencies that affect all users of the court system. A new facility provides long-term cost control, operational efficiency, and compliance with current judicial standards.

Finally, the Judicial Center serves as a regional civic anchor, reinforcing Waseca County's role as a center of government, justice, and public trust. The project supports regional economic activity

during construction and ongoing operations, while strengthening public confidence in the county’s ability to deliver essential governmental services in a safe, modern, and accountable manner.

**Byproduct Regional Impacts**

The new Judicial Center would not only provide essential space for judicial functions, it would also provide enhanced office space in the existing historic courthouse.

Veteran Services

for veterans needing assistance with benefits. This space would be more accessible than the current office and would allow for expansion of new telehealth services for veterans. Veterans can use any county veteran services office they want in Minnesota, and we currently have veterans from other counties using the Waseca County Veteran Services Office. With the enhanced space and services the new government center would offer, we anticipate more veterans from other counties using our facility.

In 2024, \$13,916,216 of direct and indirect payments were made to benefit 1, 037 veteran’s getting services in Waseca County.

*Source: va.gov/vetdata*

License Bureau

With the departure of the County Attorney’s Office, the Waseca County License Bureau would have the ability to move into the ADA accessible lower-level of the Courthouse annex. Since 2020, the License Bureau has processed nearly 34,000 transactions every year generating an average of \$5,883,366 of revenue for the State of Minnesota per year. Our License Bureau serves residents of other communities and counties on a daily basis, sometimes from over 70 miles away. Below is a snapshot of the 2025 statistics.

<u>2025</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u># of Trans</u>	<u>County Fees</u>
<b>Jan-25</b>	\$546,512.32	3171	\$ 29,628.50
<b>Feb-25</b>	\$627,262.40	3522	\$ 32,640.50
<b>Mar-25</b>	\$556,854.61	3303	\$ 32,455.50
<b>Apr-25</b>	\$633,048.08	3337	\$ 33,042.00
<b>May-25</b>	\$519,705.47	3210	\$ 31,582.50
<b>Jun-25</b>	\$438,196.77	2535	\$ 26,109.00
<b>Jul-25</b>	\$429,711.09	2509	\$ 25,066.50
<b>Aug-25</b>	\$504,955.37	2544	\$ 25,952.00
<b>Sep-25</b>	\$442,212.20	2264	\$ 23,541.68
<b>Oct-25</b>	\$461,736.81	2550	\$ 25,895.82
<b>Nov-25</b>	\$377,268.63	1809	\$ 18,372.75
<b>Dec-25</b>	\$557,114.22	3319	\$ 33,258.50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 6,094,577.97</b>	<b>34073</b>	<b>\$ 337,545.25</b>

### Public Records

The historic courthouse is the location for all of the land records, vital statistics and tax information for the County. Many people living outside the County request this information daily. The space that is freed as a result of the Judicial Center build will allow for necessary growth in existing services, providing a much better end product for our constituents.

### Elections

All election services are delivered out of the historic courthouse. As elections grow to be a heavy, annual task, staff and public need increased space for necessary transparency and oversight, in addition to storage and testing of significant amounts of equipment. Migration of staff to the Judicial Center will allow for this needed expansion.

### **Regional Economic Impact**

It's estimated the construction of this facility would employ more than 150 construction workers over a two-year period. Many of the contractors and workers hired would be from all parts of Minnesota.

Waseca County's facilities maintenance budgets are used to purchase services from facility vendors located throughout southern Minnesota. With the construction of additional facility space, more services from facility vendors located around the region will need to be purchased. Additionally, many of the purchases resulting from the Judicial Center build would be through state-approved contracts and vendors, which naturally spreads the economic impact across the state.

Many of our Judicial Center staff live outside of Waseca County. If Waseca County was forced by the Minnesota Department of Corrections to close its jail entirely, many jobs would be eliminated causing a negative economic impact to the region.

### Measuring Distress – Tract Tool

Perhaps the greatest argument in favor of the regional significance comes in the form of ability to pay from economic distress and instability.

The threshold calculation for unemployment reflects the percentage point difference between the unemployment rate for the selected area and the U.S. figure. For example, if a region has a rate of 6.9 and the U.S. rate is 7.9, the difference shown in the threshold column is -1.0—meaning it is 1 percentage point lower than the national rate. The threshold calculation for income is the selected area's per capita value divided by U.S. per capita income and shown as a percentage share of the U.S. figure. For example, if the selected area has a threshold calculation of 145.2, this means its per capita income is 45.2 percent higher than the nation at large.

As can be seen in the image below, Waseca County as a selected region is 1.20 percentage points below the national average of unemployment rate, and 85.9% percent of the national average in annual earnings. This means that though more people on average are employed, they make comparatively much lower wages. The highlighted census tract where the project would be located is the lowest in the region.

	2023 Unemployment Rate (5-Year ACS)	Threshold Calculation	2023 Per Capita Money Income (5-Year ACS)	Threshold Calculation
Selected Region	4.00	-1.20	\$37,199	85.9
U.S.	5.20	0.00	\$43,289	100.0
Waseca MN Tract 7901.00	3.00	-2.20	\$40,477	93.5
Waseca MN Tract 7902.00	2.40	-2.80	\$35,620	82.3
Waseca MN Tract 7903.00	1.90	-3.30	\$43,627	100.8
Waseca MN Tract 7904.00	4.50	-0.70	\$42,128	97.3
Waseca MN Tract 7905.00	7.20	2.00	\$24,948	57.6

Waseca County must fulfill the same statutory requirements and services as mandated by state law as a county significantly larger or more affluent. Using Sales Tax to offset the cost of statutorily required services is the most sensible approach to spreading the burden of payment across the scope of the region utilizing services in Waseca County instead of solely on its residents.

Source: StatsAmerica, using U.S. Census Bureau (ACS 5-year PCMI) data

***MN DEED Reporting***

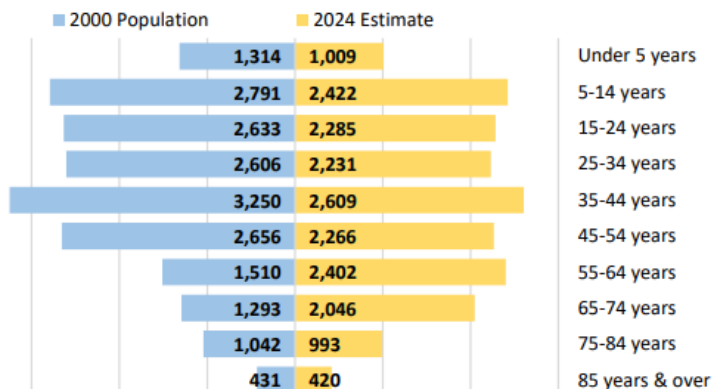
The Minnesota Department of Employee and Economic Development tracks much data relevant to the economic argument of the region.

Waseca Co. is the 50th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 64th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Waseca County’s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	1,009	5.4%
5-14 years	2,422	13.0%
15-24 years	2,285	12.2%
25-34 years	2,231	11.9%
35-44 years	2,609	14.0%
45-54 years	2,266	12.1%
55-64 years	2,402	12.9%
65-74 years	2,046	11.0%
75-84 years	993	5.3%
85 years & over	420	2.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>18,684</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Waseca Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Waseca Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2024							
	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Waseca Co.	-270	-42	811	853	-232	51	-283
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

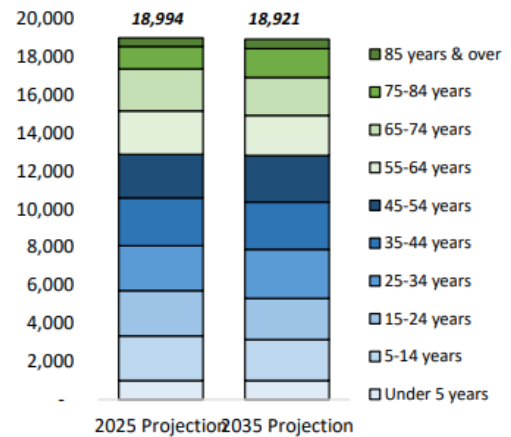
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Waseca Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035				
Waseca Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	998	991	-7	-0.7%
5-14 years	2,332	2,161	-171	-7.3%
15-24 years	2,388	2,158	-230	-9.6%
25-34 years	2,353	2,569	216	9.2%
35-44 years	2,524	2,491	-33	-1.3%
45-54 years	2,270	2,447	177	7.8%
55-64 years	2,292	2,097	-195	-8.5%
65-74 years	2,206	1,996	-210	-9.5%
75-84 years	1,176	1,508	332	28.2%
85 years & over	455	503	48	10.5%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>18,994</b>	<b>18,921</b>	<b>-73</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>

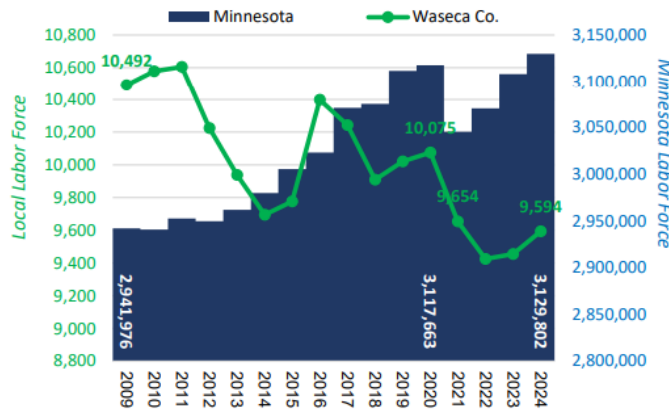
Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035



At 3.5%, Waseca Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Waseca Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 3.6% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Waseca Co. increased over the past year and is down compared to 2019.

Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



<b>9,594</b>	available workers
<i>Labor Force change, 2009-2024</i>	-898 workers -8.6% decline
<b>3.7%</b>	unemployment rate
3.0%	state
<b>355</b>	unemployed workers

Despite having a declining population, Waseca County experiences a significant influx of tourism due to a large recreational lake in the region, as well as a large campsite in proximity to it.

The combination of all of these factors conveys a clear message that spreading the taxable burden to a broader region that benefits from the natural resources and recreation available in Waseca County makes sense.

### Historical and Estimated Sales Tax Revenue

Total sales tax revenues generated in Waseca County since 2020 can be viewed below. These revenues build the framework of estimated taxes that would be raised with a 3/8 percent sales tax being implemented.

Total Sales Tax Gross Revenues Generated in Waseca County 2020-2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	\$ 14,345,374	\$ 17,573,288	\$ 20,589,454	\$ 18,919,650	\$ 19,914,362	\$ 18,919,690
February	\$ 12,853,460	\$ 13,661,760	\$ 15,454,142	\$ 15,628,342	\$ 15,319,732	\$ 14,988,858
March	\$ 11,091,502	\$ 13,671,552	\$ 16,240,572	\$ 13,951,118	\$ 9,348,220	\$ 13,570,846
April	\$ 12,133,208	\$ 17,781,106	\$ 16,810,720	\$ 17,153,586	\$ 17,277,554	\$ 19,420,688
May	\$ 13,654,396	\$ 16,546,830	\$ 16,043,480	\$ 16,569,952	\$ 16,143,970	\$ 16,239,128
June	\$ 15,124,912	\$ 18,561,414	\$ 19,837,716	\$ 19,292,054	\$ 18,737,774	\$ 17,380,018
July	\$ 17,036,916	\$ 19,580,084	\$ 19,441,262	\$ 20,336,180	\$ 18,562,168	\$ 18,847,888
August	\$ 16,202,884	\$ 18,026,460	\$ 18,855,262	\$ 18,626,912	\$ 18,307,270	\$ 19,297,710
September	\$ 16,133,872	\$ 18,262,704	\$ 18,965,602	\$ 18,536,992	\$ 17,941,648	\$ 19,771,016
October	\$ 14,952,356	\$ 19,108,850	\$ 18,976,786	\$ 18,490,320	\$ 16,290,230	\$ 19,136,830
November	\$ 14,717,278	\$ 17,907,972	\$ 17,438,018	\$ 17,256,326	\$ 18,286,500	\$ 17,757,267 *
December	\$ 17,155,486	\$ 18,620,470	\$ 18,061,714	\$ 18,260,150	\$ 17,169,222	\$ 17,757,267 *
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 175,401,644</b>	<b>\$ 209,302,490</b>	<b>\$ 216,714,728</b>	<b>\$ 213,021,582</b>	<b>\$ 203,298,650</b>	<b>\$ 213,087,206</b>

\*Nov. & Dec. was not available at the time of preparation. 10 -month average was used

The below chart gives an idea of what would have been generated in sales tax revenue relative to the Judicial Center build over that same period.

Estimated Historical Gross Revenues of 0.375% Transit Tax Generated in Waseca County 2020-2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	\$ 53,795	\$ 65,900	\$ 77,210	\$ 70,949	\$ 74,679	\$ 70,949
February	\$ 48,200	\$ 51,232	\$ 57,953	\$ 58,606	\$ 57,449	\$ 56,208
March	\$ 41,593	\$ 51,268	\$ 60,902	\$ 52,317	\$ 35,056	\$ 50,891
April	\$ 45,500	\$ 66,679	\$ 63,040	\$ 64,326	\$ 64,791	\$ 72,828
May	\$ 51,204	\$ 62,051	\$ 60,163	\$ 62,137	\$ 60,540	\$ 60,897
June	\$ 56,718	\$ 69,605	\$ 74,391	\$ 72,345	\$ 70,267	\$ 65,175
July	\$ 63,888	\$ 73,425	\$ 72,905	\$ 76,261	\$ 69,608	\$ 70,680
August	\$ 60,761	\$ 67,599	\$ 70,707	\$ 69,851	\$ 68,652	\$ 72,366
September	\$ 60,502	\$ 68,485	\$ 71,121	\$ 69,514	\$ 67,281	\$ 74,141
October	\$ 56,071	\$ 71,658	\$ 71,163	\$ 69,339	\$ 61,088	\$ 71,763
November	\$ 55,190	\$ 67,155	\$ 65,393	\$ 64,711	\$ 68,574	\$ 66,590 *
December	\$ 64,333	\$ 69,827	\$ 67,731	\$ 68,476	\$ 64,385	\$ 66,590 *
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 657,756</b>	<b>\$ 784,884</b>	<b>\$ 812,680</b>	<b>\$ 798,831</b>	<b>\$ 762,370</b>	<b>\$ 799,077</b>

\*Nov. & Dec. was not available at the time of preparation. 10-month average was used

Using this historical data as a baseline, Sales Tax revenues have increased 21.50% over the last 6 years. We would assume this to be somewhat linear to the growth of inflation, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates as 26% from January 2020 through December 2025.

Similarly, using a 20-year snapshot between January 2006 and December 2025 shows 63% inflationary growth. This would be the same time of the new bond being sought to build the Judicial Center. This data suggests that securing a fixed borrowing rate in the near future will be positively offset by natural increases in sales tax revenues due to inflationary factors on the costs of goods and services sold.

Source: bls.gov

## **Section 5: Waseca County Resolution 2026-06**

### **Resolution 2026-06**

#### **Requesting Minnesota Legislative Approval to Impose a Local Sales and Use Tax in the County of Waseca**

**Whereas**, Waseca County's Law Enforcement Center was built in 1970 and is now one of the oldest in the State of Minnesota; and

**Whereas**, Waseca County's historic courthouse was built in 1897 and cannot functionally be changed or amended to accommodate modern delivery systems that the Judicial Center could; and

**Whereas**, due to changes in law enforcement, incarceration practices, building codes and inmate mental health needs, it is not practical or economically feasible to remodel the current facility to meet today's public safety and inmate needs; and

**Whereas**, Waseca County is also in need of additional space for county departments that provide election administration, Veteran service benefits, driver's licenses, emergency management, land records and other important local and regional services; and

**Whereas**, Waseca County proposes to construct a building that will consist of a Judicial Center to address the above stated needs; and

**Whereas**, the building will have shared spaces and is being constructed as a single structure and capital project; and

**Whereas**, this capital project provides regional significance and impact; and

**Whereas**, Minnesota Statute 297A.99 authorizes the imposition of a general sales tax if approved by special law of the Minnesota Legislature; and

**Whereas**, Minnesota Statute 297A.99 requires Waseca County to pass a resolution authorizing such a local sales and use tax to obtain Legislative approval prior to requesting approval of the tax by the local voters at a general election.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, in accordance with M.S. 297A.99 Local Sales Taxes, by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners:

1. The Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the State authorize a local sales and use tax for Waseca County, Minnesota, of 3/8ths of one percent (3/8% or .375%); and
2. The revenue from the local sales and use tax will be used to finance the capital and administrative costs of constructing and equipping a new Judicial Center and related upgrades and associated infrastructure related to this capital project; and

3. The Waseca County Board of Commissioners wants to minimize the impact on the property tax levy and the landowners of the county by implementing a financing solution that can result in a decrease of up to \$15,000,000 of property tax levy relief over the life of the bond; and
4. This facility is the only project requested for a local sales and use tax; and
5. The regional significance and impact of this project includes, but is not limited to:
  - A new Judicial Center would support regional public safety and interagency collaboration.
  - A new Judicial Center would support state-mandated District Court functions that the County currently supports at its expense.
  - Use of the Judicial Center by area city police departments, Minnesota State Patrol, BCA agents, and the multi-jurisdictional South Central Drug Investigation Unit.
  - Providing Veteran services benefits, driver's licensing and testing, public records, permits and tax services to both local residents and to citizens that live outside of Waseca County.
  - Ensuring a sustainable form of bond payment utilizing Waseca County's sales tax revenue resulting from recreational use natural resources and tourism.
  - Ensuring a regionally economically distressed census tract isn't adversely affected by property taxes.
  - Ensuring compliance with Minnesota State Laws, Rules and Regulations that cannot presently be done at all, and where they can, cannot be done safely and efficiently.
  - Ensuring compliance with our existing and expanded Continuity of Operations Plan agreements with adjacent counties to support and perform their dispatch services when experiencing service interruptions.
6. The amount of local sales and use tax revenue utilized for this capital project would not exceed the estimated project cost of \$ 45,000,000.00, or up to the maximum bond life of 30 years, whichever comes first; and
7. Upon approval of this resolution, Waseca County will submit the adopted resolution and documentation of regional significance to the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Tax Committee by January 31, 2026; and
8. Upon Legislative approval and passage of the special law authorizing the tax, Waseca County will adopt a resolution accepting the new law, which will be filed with a local approval certificate to the Office of Secretary State before the following Legislative session; and
9. Waseca County will put a ballot question on a general election ballot for voter approval. This will be done within two years of receiving legislative authority; and

10. Upon completion of the requirements, the local sales and use tax will commence and run for up to 30 years or until a sum sufficient to fund the voter approved project, including related debt costs, is raised, whichever comes first.

Duly passed and adopted this 26th day of January, 2026.



DeAnne Malterer, Chair, Waseca County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Beth Weimert

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Section 6: Attachments

Design Concepts



WASECA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER (BUILDING 'A')

DATE: 08-29-2025

TO: GROSS BUILDING AREAS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SF)
1	OFFICE	41,202
2	CONFERENCE ROOM	218
3	TRAINING	2,213
4	OTHER	44,443
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>GROSS BUILDING AREAS</b>	<b>88,076</b>

DEPARTMENT/AREA SCHEDULE	FIRST LEVEL ONLY
OFFICE	41,202
CONFERENCE ROOM	218
TRAINING	2,213
OTHER	44,443
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,076</b>

LEGEND	DESCRIPTION
[Blue]	EVIDENCE PROCESSING
[Green]	EVIDENCE STORAGE
[Yellow]	SUPPORT SPACES
[Brown]	OFFICES
[Grey]	TOILETS
[Light Blue]	STAIRS
[Light Green]	ELEVATORS
[Light Yellow]	MECHANICAL
[Light Purple]	NON-CONTACT VENTILATION

818 plans: 44,043 SF  
 818 plans: 41,202 SF  
 828 plans: 40,081 SF  
 Removed 3,962 SF since 818 plans  
 Removed 1,211 SF since 818 plans



# WASECA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER (BUILDING 'A')

DATE: 08-29-2025



SECOND LEVEL CONCEPT PLAN

1D - GROSS BUILDING AREAS			
AREA	TYPE	AREA	UNIT
OFFICE	OFFICE	1,230	SF
COURT	COURT	288	SF
CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE	1,150	SF
LOBBY	LOBBY	1,150	SF
STAIR	STAIR	100	SF
RESTROOM	RESTROOM	100	SF
STORAGE	STORAGE	100	SF
LABORATORY	LABORATORY	100	SF
OTHER	OTHER	100	SF
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,118</b>	<b>SF</b>

DEPARTMENT/AREA SCHEDULE - BUILDING TOTAL			
DEPARTMENT/AREA	AREA	%	UNIT
OFFICE	1,230	24.0	SF
COURT	288	5.6	SF
CONFERENCE	1,150	22.5	SF
LOBBY	1,150	22.5	SF
STAIR	100	2.0	SF
RESTROOM	100	2.0	SF
STORAGE	100	2.0	SF
LABORATORY	100	2.0	SF
OTHER	100	2.0	SF
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>SF</b>

DEPARTMENT/AREA SCHEDULE - SECOND LEVEL ONLY			
DEPARTMENT/AREA	AREA	%	UNIT
OFFICE	1,230	100.0	SF
COURT	288	23.4	SF
CONFERENCE	1,150	93.5	SF
LOBBY	1,150	93.5	SF
STAIR	100	8.1	SF
RESTROOM	100	8.1	SF
STORAGE	100	8.1	SF
LABORATORY	100	8.1	SF
OTHER	100	8.1	SF
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>SF</b>

- LEGEND**
- BUILDING SURROUND
  - BUILDING SURROUND CONSTRUCTION
  - COURT SERVICES
  - COUNTY ATTORNEY CONSTRUCTION
  - COUNTY ATTORNEY
  - COURT SERVICES CONSTRUCTION
  - COURT SERVICES
  - CONFERENCE & NEW OFFICES
  - COURT SERVICES CONSTRUCTION
  - COURT SERVICES





**PROJECT - Waseca County Justice Center**  
Schematic Design Estimate  
Value Analysis Log

Item ID	Description	Cost Impact	Accept	Reject	Recommend	Accepted	Rejected	Recommended	Action	Comments
<b>Alternates</b>										
ALT-1	Building Gross Sq. Ft. went up from cost model pricing - reduce Bldg. Sq. Ft. by 3,408	\$ (1,676,813)		X		\$	-\$ (1,676,813)	\$		ROI - at 425\$/SF - Detail Est. to be done
ALT-2	Relocated Design Contingency to another budget - owner soft costs	\$ (1,448,293)		X		\$	-\$ (1,448,293)	\$		Part of Budget - construction or Soft cost
ALT-3	Close Vehicle access at North building side of existing vehicle sailport during construction	\$ (40,520)			X	\$	-\$ (40,520)	\$		Site Logistics during construction
ALT-4	Onit Wash Bay Garage at Sally Port Area	\$ (155,149)		X		\$	-\$ (155,149)	\$		
ALT-5	Four plan - reduce Sq. Footage - eliminate - 1,272 SF overhang and reconfigure 2nd flr. Onits county attorney offices, then 2nd & 3rd floors reconfigured, new RTU -3 on 3rd flr roof.	\$ (322,492)		X		\$	-\$ (322,492)	\$		Per Revised floor plans by Widsath - Finisher only SEE Structure ST-5 for Structure costs
ALT-6		\$ -				\$	-\$ -	\$		
ALT-7		\$ -				\$	-\$ -	\$		
<b>Items Removed before final estimate</b>										
G-1	Split Face Limestone Boulders - sitting rocks - 3.5'L x 1.5'H x 20"W - 66 ea.	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Material & Delivery - 325\$ ea.
G-2	Limestone 3 ft. x 3 ft. walk pavers	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Material & Delivery - 725\$ ea.
G-3	Limestone brick edge pavers	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Material & Delivery - 550\$ ton - 30 sq ft/per ton
G-4	ADA Ramp and Walk at NE corner of Building	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
G-5	Marker boards and back boards in FFE	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
G-6	Window treatments in FFE	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
G-7	Dispatch work stations in FFE or reuse existing - relocate	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
G-8	Call beds - metal or concrete - NMC part of FFE	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
G-9	Demo of 2 small buildings (Garage 28' x 28') & Maintenance Shop (80' x 24')	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
G-10	All signage (door, room, wayfinding, building, etc.) to FFE budget	\$ -		X		\$	-\$ -	\$		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
<b>Sitework</b>										
STE-1	Revised sidewalk and stairway layout at South side of building - Per new Widsath civil layout	\$ (76,955)		X		\$	-\$ (76,955)	\$		South Side of Building - Affects STE-3 & STE-15 as well
STE-2	Demo of Existing Sheriff's Office (Food print - 8,976 SF)	\$ (115,770)		X		\$	-\$ (115,770)	\$		Was by Owner not in cost study estimate
STE-3	Onit stair access to 2nd street northwest	\$ (15,986)		X		\$	-\$ (15,986)	\$		See ST-15 as well
STE-4	Onit Bath Monument Signs - by Owner	\$ (118,085)		X		\$	-\$ (118,085)	\$		
STE-5	Site directional signage and traffic signage by Owner	\$ (16,393)		X		\$	-\$ (16,393)	\$		
STE-6	Stone memorial & plaques - Sheriff - by Owner	\$ (34,731)		X		\$	-\$ (34,731)	\$		
STE-7	2 ea. Flag poles by Owner	\$ (51,826)		X		\$	-\$ (51,826)	\$		Now 2 Per Owner request - 12/03 Mty
STE-8	Reduce landscaping budget by 50,000\$	\$ (57,865)		X		\$	-\$ (57,865)	\$		Total Landscaping budget is 127,100\$
STE-12	Onit center curb/gutter/walk at south parking lot	\$ (10,003)		X		\$	-\$ (10,003)	\$		Vendor reviewing
STE-13	Onit center curb/gutter/walk at north parking lot	\$ (89,773)		X		\$	-\$ (89,773)	\$		
STE-14	Landscaping block retaining wall vs. poured concrete retaining wall	\$ (216,053)		X		\$	-\$ (216,053)	\$		Per SD Site Plan Not Revised Per Revised Civil Drawgs - Per Widsath this is a cost saving to Onit all Alum Fence screen & Have chain link fence around relocated enclosure - In existing parking lot
STE-15	Relocated Generator - Transformer to the NE - That will reduce size of retaining walls in SW corner of building and by cell tower - support bldgs.	\$ (216,053)		X		\$	-\$ (216,053)	\$		
STE-16	Eliminate Trash enclosure - off site (across street to South)	\$ (42,978)		X		\$	-\$ (42,978)	\$		
<b>Substructure</b>										
SB-1	Shop Foundation wall at south, west & east side of building - Just footings (FFE is 990')	\$ (32,032)		X		\$	-\$ (32,032)	\$		
SB-2	Arch Precast panels to Rtg. Elevation vs. Concrete building foundation retaining wall - South	\$ -				\$	-\$ -	\$		Structural Engineer review with Precast Supplier - part of DD
SB-3		\$ -				\$	-\$ -	\$		
SB-4		\$ -				\$	-\$ -	\$		



	Description	Cost Impact	Accept	Reject	Recommend	Accepted	Rejected	Recommended	Action	Comments
<b>Structure &amp; Pre-cast Architectural Panel Finish</b>										
ST-1	Framed raised floors (Struct. sill studs & Wood) vs. foam and concrete	\$ (3,425)	X			\$ (3,425)	\$ -	\$ -		
ST-2	Arch Pre-cast panels get same panels size & finish as possible - less table forming	\$ (17,386)	X			\$ (17,386)	\$ -	\$ -		Keep in mind - Should know more after DD design
ST-3	Ornt 4 ea. Precast Columns - Hanging Precast facade at South entrance	\$ (66,568)	X			\$ (66,568)	\$ -	\$ -		
ST-4	Revised Architectural pre-cast panel exterior finish revisions - Less thin brick	\$ (106,971)	X			\$ (106,971)	\$ -	\$ -		
ST-5	Ft plan - reduce Sq. Footage - eliminate - 1,272 SF overhang & reconfigure 2nd flr - ALT-05	\$ (242,823)		X		\$ -	\$ (242,823)	\$ -		<b>Concrete Precast &amp; Structural Steel costs only</b>
ST-6	Reduce 3rd floor Roof Structure - less plenum space, lower court rm ceiling (About 3'-5" in Ht.)	\$ (162,831)	X			\$ (162,831)	\$ -	\$ -		THIS is Estimate ROM - Includes some Masonry & Drywall
<b>Exterior - Window systems &amp; Canopies</b>										
EXT-1		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
EXT-2		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
EXT-3	Make CW flush in precast - Southeast curtain wall system at main public stair	\$ (14,383)	X			\$ (14,383)	\$ -	\$ -		
EXT-4	Reduce Size of CW at Southeast corner of building - main public stair - New Widsath Elevations	\$ (38,204)	X			\$ (38,204)	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath
EXT-5	Change South Main Entry CW to Store Front System at ea. floor level - New Widsath Elevation	\$ (113,465)	X			\$ (113,465)	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath
EXT-6	Reduce size of the Metal Canopy at main entry - 2 ea. over ea. main entry doors	\$ (52,097)		X		\$ -	\$ (52,097)	\$ -		New Canopies - 6ft x 12ft wide
<b>Roofing</b>										
R-1	Eliminate roof screen for RTU - 1	\$ (133,830)	X			\$ (133,830)	\$ -	\$ -		Not Required
R-2	Eliminate roof screen for RTU - 3	\$ (93,079)	X			\$ (93,079)	\$ -	\$ -		Not Required
R-3		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
R-4		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
<b>Interiors</b>										
INT-1	Reduce PLam wall paneling at Jury Court room - 337 & Spectator Seating - 336 (40%)	\$ (7,992)	X			\$ (7,992)	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath
INT-2	Reduce PLam wall paneling at Non - Jury Court room - 331 & Spectator Seating - 330 (40%)	\$ 467	X			\$ 467	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath
INT-3	Ornt PLam wall paneling at Sound Lock - 329/335 -5 AFF & Queuing Area - 201 tile to 5'0"	\$ (13,711)	X			\$ (13,711)	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath
INT-4	Ornt ceramic wall tile at Lobby areas - 2nd & 3rd floors	\$ (37,529)	X			\$ (37,529)	\$ -	\$ -		Ornt per Owner mtg. 12.03.25
INT-5	Replace Epoxy-Concrete Terrazzo floors with floor tile price range max. of \$9/SF	\$ (39,434)		X		\$ -	\$ (39,434)	\$ -		Labor at 11\$/SF
INT-6	Replace 3 ft x 3 ft Terrazzo tile with floor tile price range max. of \$9/SF	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		<b>Not Used Per revised Room Finish Schedule</b>
INT-7	Ceramic tile on wet walls to a 5 ft. height wainscot only at all staff toilets in facility - 1 to 4/A7-10	\$ (17,160)	X			\$ (17,160)	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised interior elevations - sh A7-10
INT-8	Ceramic tile wainscot to a 5 ft. height at public wet walls only - example Rm 103 - sh A7-10 rev	\$ (13,636)	X			\$ (13,636)	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised interior elevations - sh A7-10
INT-9	Shir B - ornt floor finish - paint steel handraps and treads	\$ (6,316)	X			\$ (6,316)	\$ -	\$ -		
INT-10	Ceiling finishes - 2nd floor - Reduce soffits and less expensive finishes at lobby-stair hallway	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath - in dollars above
INT-11	Ceiling finishes - 3rd floor - Reduce soffits and less expensive finishes at lobby-stair hallway	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath - in dollars above
INT-12	Floor finishes - 2nd floor - need less expensive floor finishes at lobby-stair hallway	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath - in dollars above
INT-13	Floor finishes - 3rd floor - need less expensive floor finishes at lobby-stair hallway	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Per Revised elevations by Widsath - in dollars above
INT-14	Public toilets-205 & 206, Women's 325 & Men's 326-from drywall c'dg's to ACT-3 with hold down	\$ (10,138)		X		\$ -	\$ (10,138)	\$ -		
INT-15		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
INT-16	Ornt Stopped ceiling at 3rd floor - Widsath yes omitted.	\$ (2,896)	X			\$ (2,896)	\$ -	\$ -		Yes per Widsath new section cuts
INT-17	Ballistic rating at transaction counters and front lobby area	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
INT-18	Ornt plywood in acoustic and security walls	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
INT-19	Ornt resilient channels at acoustical walls	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
INT-20		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		



	Description	Cost Impact	Accept	Reject	Recommend	Accepted	Rejected	Recommended	Action	Comments
<b>Equipment</b>										
EQ-1	IT equipment, smart TVs, elec. project screens, etc. not in budget - FFE	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
EQ-2	Evidence storage system in FFE budget	\$ (46,308)		X		\$ -	\$ (46,308)	\$ -		Clarification Item - Not in Budget Move to Soft Costs FFE
EQ-3	Evidence flame hood in FFE budget	\$ (17,368)		X		\$ -	\$ (17,368)	\$ -		ME Connections still in budget, AP to coordinate
EQ-4	Evidence lockers in FFE Budget	\$ (3,327)		X		\$ -	\$ (3,327)	\$ -		Move to Soft Costs FFE
EQ-5		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
<b>Conveying</b>										
CON-1	Elevator Cab Finishes at Security Elevator	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		No Cost change at this time
CON-2		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
<b>Mechanical</b>										
ME-1	No Fire pump in Bid - Assume proper City water pressure for sprinkler system	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Clarification Item - Not in Budget
ME-2	Novice fire protection system	\$ (1,812)		X		\$ -	\$ (1,812)	\$ -		
ME-3	Reduce the amount of VAV zones in facility - 15% cost reduction by reducing #'s of them	\$ (73,512)		X		\$ (73,512)	\$ -	\$ -		By 25 %?
ME-4	Omni snow melt system at south side main entry walks & stairs	\$ (48,258)		X		\$ -	\$ (48,258)	\$ -		
ME-5	Omni in floor heat at vestibule - sally port area	\$ (35,943)		X		\$ -	\$ (35,943)	\$ -		
ME-6		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
<b>Electrical</b>										
EL-1	Generator - Nat. Gas vs. Diesel	\$ (272,060)		X		\$ -	\$ (272,060)	\$ -		
EL-2	Is it possible to simplify the lighting controls?	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
EL-3	Move Generator and Transformer to the ME in existing parking.	\$ (18,847)		X		\$ -	\$ (18,847)	\$ -		
EL-4	Solar Panel Ready? - Confirm With Epic Eng & Narrative	\$ (254,653)		X		\$ (254,653)	\$ -	\$ -		Review and confirm this number - talk with Engineer
EL-5	Low Voltage Systems - Is rough-in only no systems.	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		Is Rough-in work only - No Clock System
EL-6		\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
		\$ (6,489,492.61)				\$ (1,725,063.63)	\$ (4,755,348.98)	\$ -		

**Current (Schematic) Estimate:** \$ 30,521,589  
**Target Budget:** \$ 24,000,000  
**Over / (Under):** \$ 6,521,589  
**Budget Reduction Goal:** \$ 6,521,589  
**Accepted Reductions:** \$ (1,725,054)  
**Additional Reduction Required:** \$ 4,796,535  
**Target project budget:** \$ 29,513,205  
**Soft costs:** \$ 5,902,641  
**Construction Target:** \$ 35,415,846

Square Footage increase, LEC Demo & Generator

low voltage

soft costs



## Waseca County Board of Commissioners

Waseca County Courthouse  
307 North State St. | Waseca, MN 56093

Doug Christopherson, District 1  
Brian Harguth, District 2  
Brad Milbrath, District 3  
De Malterer, District 4  
Brad Krause, District 5

"To effectively provide services for the health, safety, and general welfare of the public."

March 3, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

Waseca County strongly supports the construction of a new Justice Center and humbly requests support in equipping it with the critical infrastructure that is needed.

Since 2003, Waseca County has been discussing the need of constructing a modern Judicial Center that will meet our needs for the next 50 years. That need has only been exacerbated over the last two decades, and we are farther along in the process than we have ever been.

As elected officials, we believe it is important to create our own solutions for our communities, but for the services that are mandated by State and Federal agencies, we would greatly appreciate assistance.

This request would take \$3 Million off the backs of the taxpayers of a small rural county and would provide a solution for the critical and complex equipment that our justice partners need to do their job in the County.

Over the last three years, the Commissions have spoken to hundreds of constituents, businesses and agencies and believe we have the best possible plan in place to accomplish the goals of our rural community.

We are thankful of the support and partnership of Representative Finstad. He has always been a strong advocate for rural voices in CD1. We ask that he advocate for us in another way now by supporting us with this critical funding.

Sincerely,

Doug Christopherson, District 1  
Brian Harguth, District 2  
Brad Milbrath, District 3  
DeAnne Malterer, District 4, Chair  
Brad Krause, District 5, Vice Chair