



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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For Immediate Release

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Mental health, public safety and infrastructure are focus of 2017 Kenosha County Budget

Kenosha – County Executive Jim Kreuser delivered the 2017 Budget Proposal to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors today.

Highlights include:

- Mental Health:
 - Partnering with Kenosha Human Development Services to purchase a new KARE Center building
 - The current Civil War-era building is not handicapped accessible and is limited in size as an 11-bed Community Based Residential Facility
 - Additional beds will mean more people assisted upfront and can be diverted from inpatient hospital care
 - Will provide a 24-hour meeting place for people in crisis to resolve the immediate issues and potentially avoid hospitalization
 - Will better connect people with on-going services
 - Expanding night and weekend hours at the Bridges Community Center Program
 - Building upon recommendations from the Mental Health Services Study completed at the end of last year by bringing together community partners to work on initiatives
 - Retaining and building upon the Comprehensive Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program that uses the medication, Vivitrol, to help people addicted to opiates and alcohol
 - Support for the District Attorney's Pre-Charging Deferred Prosecution Accountability/Drug Intervention Program

- Law Enforcement:
 - Adding personnel on the road and in the county jail
 - Remodeling of the Public Safety Building to:
 - Move the Emergency Operations Center from the basement to the 2nd Floor to provide adequate space for emergency training and multi-agency natural or man-made disasters/events
 - Create adequate space for the Sheriff's Department detectives on the 2nd Floor
 - Relocate the Medical Examiner's Office and morgue to one secure location
 - Provide adequate space for Sheriff's Department vehicle storage at 88th Avenue
 - Dramatically improve the shooting range for Law Enforcement
 - Provides a video camera project for the Detention Center that will improve safety and security for staff and inmates
- Infrastructure:
 - Some of the 2017 highway projects, most of which have state and federal financial contributions in varying amounts from 40% to 80%, include:
 - Complete the planning and engineering for County Highway S, from Green Bay Road to I-94
 - The intersection of County Highway H at Bain Station Road will be reconstructed as a roundabout, with financial assistance from Majestic Realty, which is putting a business park in that area
 - The engineering phase of a county-wide bicycle wayfinding project will begin next year. We received TAP funds for this cutting-edge, state of the art project that includes benefits for every municipality in our county
- Also included in this budget:
 - The ERP business management software project
 - Continues the commitment to sound succession planning
 - Completion of the classification and compensation study and implementation for attracting and retaining employees
 - Continued leadership training
 - Continued lean government practices
 - Introduction of a new tax and land information system project, replacing a 25 year-old system; and
 - More than a million dollars in healthcare plan design changes

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