

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Special Meeting on Proposed Budget Review
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

October 9, 2025 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present: Chairperson James Falkowski, Supervisor Mike Grambow, Supervisor Dylan Hammel, Supervisor Daniel Heilman and Supervisor Tim Jadowski.

Others in attendance: County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer, Supervisor Kevin Behnke, Supervisor Mickey Lillibridge, County Board Chair Supervisor Tyler Martel, and Supervisor Scott Schiesl. Luke Kalista IT Department, Sheriff Dan Hartwig, Coroner Curt Green, District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre, and Register in Probate Patricia Koppa. Steve Devine press, Cam Silversen public, Patty Marquardt public, Dave Steer public, Kevin Schmidt public, Josh Stradel press, Jason Orth Sheriff Dept, Kevin Haese Sheriff Dept, and Pete McGinty DA office.

Chair James Falkowski called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call circulated. Open meeting laws complied with. Asked for speakers to identify selves as the meeting was being recorded.

Sheriff Dan Hartwig addressed committee regarding the Executive's budget and comments as presented Oct. 7. The proposal eliminates the AI portion of the technology upgrade for the Sheriff's Office which had been previously approved by committee. There would be no benefit to starting over with a new request for proposals. Due diligence was exercised as the process took place over many months with multiple agencies involved. The current proposal is from the industry leader and was the only proposal received. Requests that Public Safety Committee support restoring that item to the budget. Second concern is regarding nominal one-percent cost of living raise and suspension of the performance-based raises. If passed these items compress the gap between the pay of supervisory positions within the department and the sworn officers. It makes it harder to retain and promoted experienced personnel. Urged committee to work to correct this. Questions from supervisors and discussion followed.

Motion by Supervisor Hammel to recommend to the Finance Committee that \$40,000 be restored to the Sheriff's Office budget for the AI component of the technology upgrade. Second by Supervisor Grambow. Roll Vote taken. Grambow, Hammel, Jadowski and Heilman – Yes. Falkowski – No. Motion passed.

Coroner Curt Green presented next. Curt noted he had asked that two positions be converted from at will positions to part-time employee positions at .6 and .8 FTE. This was denied by the Executive. These are qualified necessary people and simply would like to be eligible for benefits. It is difficult to hire staff in this area. While the estimate was that benefits could cost \$35,000, the reality is it is closer to \$15,000. Coroner asks that this money be restored and if necessary, that funds be taken from the maintenance projects as the projects are not being done and he believes it is a fund used to hide money. He provided photos and other information regarding poor conditions causing water damage to the buildings. He described working in conditions with inadequate heat, cooling and ventilation as well as exposure to noxious gases while in his county office. In response to Supervisors questions, noted that the individuals

with the positions would like to stay with county but are unlikely to do so without benefits. The issue then perpetuates itself with the next hire.

Motion by Supervisor Grambow to recommend to the Finance Committee that \$15,000 be restored to the coroner's budget to fund the benefits to allow the current at will employees to become .6 and .8 FTE positions at the coroner's office. Roll call voted. Aye – Grambow, Hammel, Heilman, Jadowski and Falkowski. Nay – 0. Motion passed.

District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre also presented. In her budget the Executive reduced \$31,000 requested for investigator services to \$5,000. She asks that \$25,000 be added back in as the services are essential to the work of the office. Thorough investigation can make the difference in charges brought and the success of cases. Having the funds in the budget at the outset is more efficient than requiring her to make special requests for funds or to use law enforcement officers to get the same work done (taking them from other duties.) Responded to Supervisors questions and gave examples of the type of work done. County Board Chair Martell noted the individual requests were all reasonable and wondered about the overall budget and sales tax monies.

Motion by Supervisor Jadowski to recommend to the Finance Committee that \$25,000 be restored to the District Attorney's budget to fund investigative services. Roll call voted. Aye – Grambow, Hammel, Heilman, Jadowski and Falkowski. Nay – 0. Motion passed.

Chair asked Ms. Patricia Koppa if she had a presentation as well. She did not, noting this year it appeared the budget submitted by the Executive matched her requests.

Chair Falkowski noted the next meeting will be joint meeting with the Finance Committee regarding the proposed budget on October 23, 2025.

Motion to Adjourn by Supervisor Jadowski, seconded by Supervisor Hammel. Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Koppa". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Patricia Koppa
Register in Probate