



## Manager's Message TOM STOLZ

Thank you for reviewing the 2022 Recommended Budget.

What an interesting and challenging time in which we live. As our community continues to recover from the global COVID-19 pandemic, in which Sedgwick County government played a pivotal role, we are also faced with tremendous social and economic conditions that continue to shape our 2022 budget outlook on Sedgwick County government services.

The county started discussing the 2022 budget in late fall 2020. We know it is important to move ahead with a flat budget, by providing the best services possible without tax increases or additional burden on our citizens. County staff is constantly seeking innovative processes and ways to merge services – ultimately making sure we are wisely managing your taxpayer dollars.

*After almost*  
**18 months**  
of battling COVID-19  
as a Sedgwick County organization,

we look forward to getting county government back on a more normal track by resurrecting the multifaceted **Strategic Plan\*** which was developed in 2019 before the pandemic hit. **This plans guidance will help us focus on core governmental services provided to our community.**

\*<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/manager/strategic-plan/>

### *Our Mission:*

*Cultivate a healthy, safe and welcoming community through exceptional public services, effective partnerships and dedicated employees.*





# A priority for the 2022 Recommended Budget was the care of our employees.

As we all know, we cannot provide the critical and important work needed by our community without a dedicated and professional staff. The pandemic year stalled our compensation and improvement plan for our employees and it is imperative we get this back on track as soon as possible. **This proposed budget contains elements that represent “year one” of a multi-year effort to improve work conditions for our employees inclusive of compensation and physical environment safety.** In the past year, the county has completed its first true market and job analysis in several years and as such is recommending a sweeping position reclassification which will impact over half the employees within the county structure, all in the hope of bringing Sedgwick County into a more competitive environment for talent within the community. Also this year, and in the following years of the plan, we will enhance employee training and growth as well as supervisory competency. And finally, several safety components are being recommended in this budget including the formation and hiring of a Safety Officer.



## An additional priority for the 2022 Recommended Budget is our continued commitment to behavioral health services to the community.

For the last two years, the county has been part of a larger community Mental Health Coalition made up of several community partners both private and public. **In this recommended budget, the county is committing funds for a new and expanded Crisis Unit** that will form the cornerstone of a large, more comprehensive, network of services to help care for our community as it works to recover from COVID-19 and all of the social and economic stresses the infectious disease caused.

Likewise, this recommended budget makes a continued commitment to services from the Division of Public Safety to include the Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), as well as additional positions in general government including the Sedgwick County Zoo and the Appraiser’s Office. This budget also continues to support and improve the county’s critical infrastructure of the more than **600 miles of roads and 603 bridges**, more than any other city or county in the state of Kansas.

**We understand COVID-19 is not gone from our midst entirely**, and this budget ensures that personal protective equipment, testing, and vaccine supply remain readily available for our community as we work toward what is hopefully the true end of the pandemic.

## In conclusion,

**the 2022 Recommended Budget was developed to help speed up the county’s recovery from the challenging year of the pandemic.** We will reinvigorate our Strategic Plan to guide the organization to provide services within a disciplined and accountable budget, and maintain our commitment to serve the residents of Sedgwick County in the best manner possible.