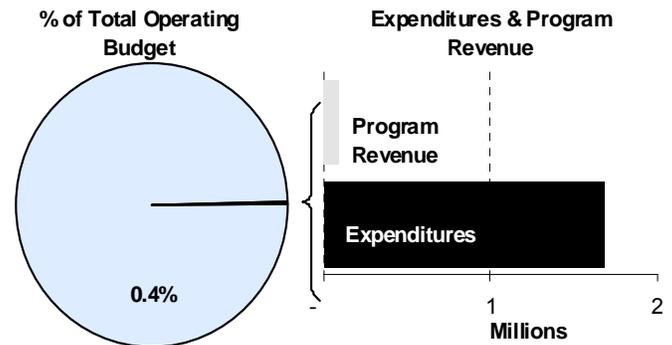
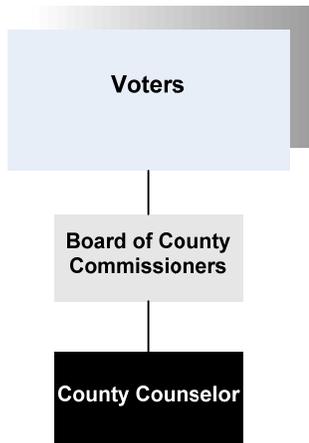


**Rich Euson**  
 Sedgwick County Counselor  
 525 N. Main, Suite 359  
 Wichita, Kansas 67203  
 316-660-9340  
[reuson@sedgwick.gov](mailto:reuson@sedgwick.gov)

**Mission:**

- Provide high quality, non-partisan legal services to the County Commissioners, elected and appointed officials, departments and advisory boards.



**Program Information**

As set out in Sedgwick County Charter Resolution Number 46, the County Counselor provides legal advice and representation to the Board of County Commissioners, County elected and appointed officials, County management and advisory boards on civil matters affecting the County and Fire District #1. Services include drafting and reviewing resolutions, contracts and other legal documents, giving advice and rendering opinions as requested, and prosecuting and defending the County’s interests before State and Federal courts and administrative agencies. The County Counselor provides similar services to the Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) and its governing body.

The County Counselor also represents the County in administrative hearings before the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals (COTA), which is set out in Kansas Administrative Regulation 94-2-10. This Administrative Regulation also states the procedures that must be followed by the County Counselor when representing the County Appraiser and/or the County Treasurer in all

ad valorem valuation and tax matters being heard by COTA. In doing so, the Counselor defends not only the County’s own ad valorem values, but all of the taxing jurisdictions within the County. In the past these cases were handled in an informal manner, but the process has become more formalized, requiring additional time and resources from the County Counselor’s Office.

The County Counselor also prosecutes violations of all County resolutions in County Court, which is prescribed in Kansas Statutes 19-4701 through 19-4739. These violations include code enforcement and nuisance citations, traffic infractions, or misdemeanors committed within unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County.

County Court enforces violations issued by the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) to parents who failed to pick up their children from JIAC. County Court also handles citations for illegal dumping and trespassing in the “Big Ditch” area. For convenience, fines may be paid online on the County website [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org) under County Fine Violation Payment Center.



**Departmental Sustainability Initiatives**

The County Counselor’s Office promotes and supports the creation of wealth and employment opportunities in our region by providing legal services to the aforementioned clients. These services come into play in many areas of economic development and grant applications being submitted by the County. In turn, the County Counselor’s Office assists the organization in sustaining and developing resources both internally and externally.

Work is also being undertaken to mitigate the Department’s impact on the environment. The Department actively recycles paper and aluminum cans, and reuses paper and other office supplies when possible. Recycled toner cartridges are purchased and are also recycled. The County Counselor’s Office also carpools when feasible and is working to cut down on mileage by performing business by other means when possible.

The County Counselor’s Office is intricately involved in ensuring that services and assistance are provided in a fair and equitable manner. Specifically, the County Counselor’s Office routinely trains County supervisors on County policies and local and federal laws that support diversity, anti-discriminatory practices and other processes intended to provide access to all citizens.

To ensure the financial and institutional viability of the organization, the County Counselor’s Office uses internal resources for litigation when possible. The Office also provides training to departments on legal issues that affect the organization’s day-to-day and long term operations, in an effort to avoid wrong-doing and potential litigation. For example, training is conducted for detention recruits, commissioned deputies, and reserve officers on civil liability and use of force, as well as training commissioned deputies on adult entertainment regulations on a routine basis. Training is

also provided to the appraisers on property tax law and new security officers in writing citations as needed. Overall, these trainings and efficient work methods conserve resources for the County.

**Department Accomplishments**

The County Counselor’s Office recently began serving as General Counsel for the Wichita Area Technical College (WATC). While not a department within the County, WATC has had a longstanding relationship and partnership with Sedgwick County. Providing legal services to the WATC is seen as a way to strengthen this partnership and continue to work toward the common goal of providing a quality workforce to sustain the local aviation industry.

In 2009, through the prudent use of settlement negotiations, mediations, administrative hearings, and bench and jury trials, the County Counselor’s Office was able to dispose of eight lawsuits and five 12-105b claims, as well as assisting with the disposition of eight cases handled by outside counsel and several matters handled through Risk Management. In addition, two habeas corpus cases were dismissed and 378 economic units were concluded before the Court of Tax Appeals.

**Alignment with County Values**

- **Commitment -**  
The County Counselor and staff are individually and collectively dedicated to their jobs and the organization in providing quality services to meet client/customer needs
- **Professionalism-**  
The County Counselor’s Office is a professional office and promotes the same through honesty, respect and pride in its work product, adhering to a high standard of ethical conduct and competence

---

**Goals & Initiatives**

- **Assist County departments and leadership by prevention and avoidance of legal claims**
- **Render sound legal advice in a prompt and responsive manner**
- **Provide training to County Officers and Managers**

**Budget Adjustments**

Changes to the County Counselor’s 2011 budget reflect a one percent increase in contractual, commodity, and capital equipment based on 2009 actual expenditures for property tax supported funds.





**Personnel Summary by Fund**

Position Title(s)	Fund	Band	Budgeted Personnel Costs			Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
			2010 Adopted	2010 Revised	2011 Budget	2010 Adopted	2010 Revised	2011 Budget	
KZ2 - Professional	110	PRO TEM	14,400	13,867	14,400	0.50	0.50	0.50	
County Counselor	110	B534	125,759	125,759	130,596	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Deputy County Counselor	110	B532	99,971	99,972	103,817	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Assistant County Counselor	110	B431	104,391	104,391	108,406	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Chief Attorney	110	B429	339,398	339,398	352,452	4.00	4.00	4.00	
Senior Attorney	110	B327	60,224	61,428	63,791	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Administrative Officer	110	B321	38,019	38,779	40,271	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Administrative Assistant	110	B218	130,566	133,163	138,285	4.00	4.00	4.00	
Office Specialist	110	B115	47,992	48,951	50,834	2.00	2.00	2.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>1,002,852</b>		<b>15.50</b>	<b>15.50</b>	<b>15.50</b>
Add:									
Budgeted Personnel Savings (Turnover)					-				
Compensation Adjustments					-				
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					-				
Benefits					280,320				
<b>Total Personnel Budget*</b>					<b>1,283,172</b>				

\* The 2011 personnel budget accommodates one additional payroll posting period. The budget is not reflective of an individual employee's annual salary due to the timing variance between the posting of payroll and the employee's receipt of compensation.



**● Counselor's Office**

Administration in the County Counselor's Office is responsible for all aspects of Counselor's operations shared in common, such as management, budgeting, purchasing and reception for the department.

**Fund(s): General Fund 110**

63001-110

	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2010 Revised	2011 Budget	% Chg. '10-'11
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Personnel	115,455	119,402	119,402	124,977	4.7%
Contractual Services	2,718	4,050	4,050	4,050	0.0%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	11	100	100	100	0.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>118,183</b>	<b>123,552</b>	<b>123,552</b>	<b>129,127</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Taxes	-	-	-	-	
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	
Other Revenue	-	428	428	-	-100.0%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
<b>Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Goal(s):**

- Assist County by prevention and avoidance of legal claims
- Render sound legal advice in a prompt and responsive manner

**● General Legal Services**

The County Counselor provides in-house legal services to the Board of County Commissioners, elected and appointed officials, and advisory boards. Services include advising with oral and written legal opinions, representation in legal proceedings and the review and preparation of contracts, resolutions, policies and procedures and mitigation of all cases of liability against the County, including claims originating from the County jail. Primarily supported by County revenues, nearly half of the budget authority funds legal professional services (funding set aside for payment to attorneys hired to handle special situations and for funding sexual predator defense) and case settlement.

**Fund(s): General Fund 110**

63003-110

	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2010 Revised	2011 Budget	% Chg. '10-'11
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Personnel	962,196	990,679	990,679	1,027,513	3.7%
Contractual Services	275,271	386,288	386,288	288,860	-25.2%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	18,524	4,250	4,250	4,250	0.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,255,991</b>	<b>1,381,217</b>	<b>1,381,217</b>	<b>1,320,623</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Taxes	-	-	-	-	
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	
Other Revenue	358	560	560	365	-34.8%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>-34.8%</b>
<b>Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>10.60</b>	<b>10.60</b>	<b>10.60</b>	<b>10.60</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Goal(s):**

- Assist County by prevention and avoidance of legal claims
- Render sound legal advice in a prompt and responsive manner



**• Sedgwick County Court**

County Court is authorized by K.S.A. 19-101(d) and was created to enforce County Codes and resolutions through the criminal prosecution of violators. It was created by BoCC resolution in 1991, when it handled only Animal Control cases. Since its creation, more “enforcing” departments have become aware of its functional authority and have begun to seek prosecution for violations of the County Code. The County Counselor is responsible for prosecution of all cases filed in County Court.

**Fund(s): General Fund 110**

63004-110

	2009	2010	2010	2011	% Chg.
	Actual	Adopted	Revised	Budget	'10-'11
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Personnel	121,502	125,168	125,168	130,682	4.4%
Contractual Services	3,824	5,200	5,200	5,710	9.8%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	1,109	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>126,434</b>	<b>131,868</b>	<b>131,868</b>	<b>137,892</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Taxes	-	-	-	-	
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	
Other Revenue	91,670	104,104	104,104	93,133	-10.5%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>91,670</b>	<b>104,104</b>	<b>104,104</b>	<b>93,133</b>	<b>-10.5%</b>
<b>Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Goal(s):**

- Provide and oversee an effective County Court system that prosecutes and adjudicates violations of County codes and resolutions

**• External Counsel Contingency**

The external counsel contingency provides budget authority for legal professional services, primarily for payment to attorneys engaged to represent the County in lawsuits and situations requiring special expertise.

**Fund(s): General Fund 110**

63005-110

	2009	2010	2010	2011	% Chg.
	Actual	Adopted	Revised	Budget	'10-'11
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Personnel	-	-	-	-	
Contractual Services	-	-	-	100,000	
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	-	-	-	-	
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100,000</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>					
Taxes	-	-	-	-	
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	

**Goal(s):**

- Assist the County in resolution of lawsuits and other matters requiring special expertise

