



## Manager's Message

TOM STOLZ

NOVEMBER 19, 2021

Thank you for reviewing the 2022 Adopted Budget.

What an interesting and challenging time in which we live. As our local society continues to recover from a global pandemic, **in which Sedgwick County government played a pivotal role**, we are also faced with tremendous social and economic conditions that have direct impact on Sedgwick County government services to our community and have helped shape our 2022 budget outlook.

Our county staff began discussing the 2022 budget in the late fall of 2020. We know it is important to move ahead with a flat budget, providing the best services possible without tax increase or additional burden on our citizens. County staff is constantly seeking innovative processes, management, mergers or service changes to make sure our taxpayer dollars are judiciously managed.

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

we aspire to move county government back on a more normal track by resurrecting the multifaceted **Strategic Plan** which was developed in 2019 before the pandemic hit. **This plan 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 adopted 2022 budget  
was the care of our employees.

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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 adopted 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 years and has adopted 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 in 2022, 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 adopted budget  
**is our continued commitment to  
behavioral health services  
to the community.**

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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 strains to recover from COVID-19 and all of the social and economic stresses the pandemic caused.**

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Likewise, this adopted budget makes a continued commitment to services from the Public Safety division including the Sheriff's Department, EMS and others, as well as additional positions in general government including the Sedgwick County Zoo and the County Appraiser's office. This budget also continues to support and improve our critical infrastructure of roads and bridges within the county.

**And finally, we know that COVID-19 is not gone from our midst entirely,** and this budget ensures that continued personal protective equipment, testing and vaccine availability remain intact for our public as we work toward what is hopefully the true end of the pandemic.

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# In conclusion,

**the 2022 adopted budget was developed to help speed our 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. Our employees remain committed to serving the residents of Sedgwick County in the best manner possible.