County Manager

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

Tom Stolz
County Manager

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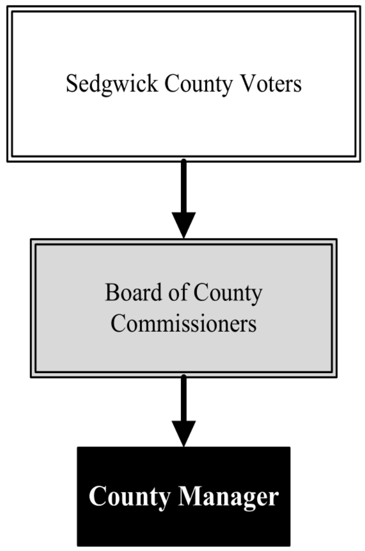
Overview

The County Manager's Office works to ensure essential services and programs are provided to all citizens in an efficient, effective, and timely manner. The Manager's Office provides oversight of the approximately 3,194 employees and manages the County budget of more than $657.7 million for 2027. Additionally, the Office plays a critical role in communicating strategically with stakeholders, ensuring transparency, public engagement, and alignment with the County's goals. Other key responsibilities include comprehensive policy review and development, research of issues and opportunities of the County, oversight of major decisions of County government, management of projects requested by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and preparation of County Commission meeting agendas.



Strategic Goals:

- *Identify opportunities to expand partnerships and for privatization and/or consolidation of services to improve public service delivery*
- *Develop and implement a comprehensive communication and public education strategy to ensure citizens are well-informed about County services, policies, and initiatives*
- *Support regional workforce development and talent retention strategies to ensure that industries have the necessary human resources for future success*

Highlights

- Collaborated with the BOCC to develop an operating budget that effectively reduced the County mill levy by approximately 1.134 mills and Fire District 1 mill levy by more than one-fifth of a mill, while ensuring fiscal responsibility by not capturing all assessed property valuation
- Partnered with the City of Wichita and Unified School District (USD) 259—Wichita Public Schools to hold Tri-Government Town Halls to discuss partnerships and possible consolidated services
- Conducted first County-wide community engagement survey

Accomplishments and Strategic Results

Accomplishments

Accomplishments of the County Manager's Office include:

- Continued financial investment in employees through compensation, work environment, and training;
- Implemented the Wichita-Sedgwick County Addiction Intervention Coalition to transparently guide spending of opioid settlement funds;
- Completed a website redesign to improve accessibility and create a more visually engaging experience;
- Conducted a community engagement survey to gather feedback from residents on County-provided public services and public priorities; and
- Led the comprehensive update and implementation of a new Strategic Plan in collaboration with staff, leadership, and community stakeholders.

Strategic Results

The County Manager's Office used the strategic plan to guide the Organization's decisions and actions. In order to be a more open and engaging community partner and employer, the County Manager's Office had the following strategic goals and results for 2025:

- Increase the annual count of formal agreements for cooperative, privatized, or consolidated services with the State, neighboring counties, municipalities, or private sector organizations by three annually. In 2025, three agreements were enacted: Sedgwick County Parks Master Plan with the City of Wichita, Opioid Agreement with the City of Wichita, and State Mental Health Hospital Agreement with the State of Kansas.

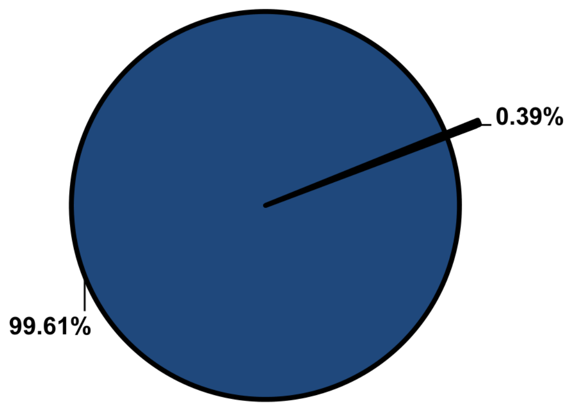
- Improve total metrics for social media reach and engagement (likes, shares, comments) and website traffic by 15.0 percent in each respective area per year. Strategic Communications was able to accomplish a 15.0 percent increase in engagement rate and 54.0 percent increase in post reach in 2025.

Significant Budget Adjustments

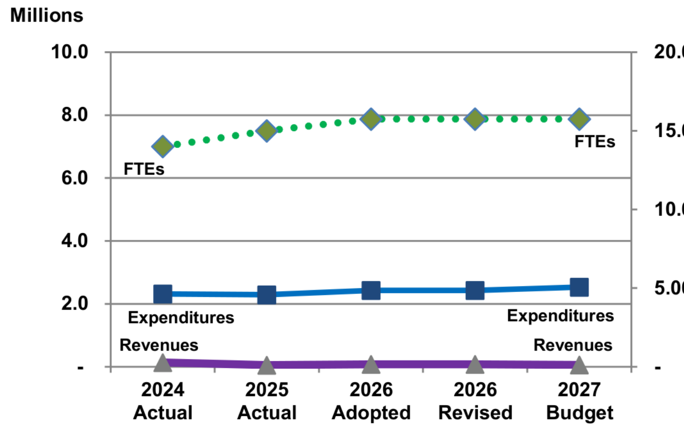
Significant adjustments to the County Manager's 2027 Recommended Budget include an increase in contractuals ($24,870) due to increased cost for a communications intelligence modernization tool and a decrease in all other revenue ($20,013) to bring in-line with anticipated actuals.

Departmental Graphical Summary

County Manager
Percent of Total County Operating Budget



Expenditures, Program Revenue & FTEs
All Operating Funds



Budget Summary by Category

Expenditures	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amount Chg '26 Rev.-'27	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27
Personnel	1,704,772	1,971,840	2,169,671	2,169,671	2,249,261	79,590	3.67%
Contractual Services	597,606	295,427	235,497	235,497	263,867	28,370	12.05%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	16,900	24,171	22,500	22,500	19,000	(3,500)	-15.56%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Expenditures	**2,319,278**	**2,291,438**	**2,427,668**	**2,427,668**	**2,532,128**	**104,460**	**4.30%**
Revenues							
Tax Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Licenses and Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charges for Services	-	50	-	-	53	53	
All Other Revenue	136,716	54,721	75,834	75,834	55,821	(20,013)	-26.39%
Total Revenues	**136,716**	**54,771**	**75,834**	**75,834**	**55,874**	**(19,960)**	**-26.32%**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)							
Property Tax Funded	14.00	15.00	15.75	15.75	15.75	-	0.00%
Non-Property Tax Funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total FTEs	**14.00**	**15.00**	**15.75**	**15.75**	**15.75**	**-**	**0.00%**

Budget Summary by Fund

Fund	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amount Chg '26 Rev.-'27	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27
General Fund	2,319,278	2,291,438	2,427,668	2,427,668	2,532,128	104,460	4.30%
Total Expenditures	**2,319,278**	**2,291,438**	**2,427,668**	**2,427,668**	**2,532,128**	**104,460**	**4.30%**

Significant Budget Adjustments from Prior Year Revised Budget

	Expenditures	Revenues	FTEs
Increase in contractuals due to increased cost for a communications intelligence modernization tool	24,870		
Decrease in all other revenue to bring in-line with anticipated actuals		(20,013)	
Total	24,870	(20,013)	-

Budget Summary by Program

Program	Fund	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27	26'-27' FTEs
County Manager	110	1,436,989	1,539,070	1,589,503	1,565,696	1,612,060	2.96%	9.00
Strategic Communications	110	882,288	752,368	838,165	861,971	920,068	6.74%	6.75
Total		**2,319,278**	**2,291,438**	**2,427,668**	**2,427,668**	**2,532,128**	**4.30%**	**15.75**

Personnel Summary by Fund

Position Titles	Fund	Grade	Budgeted Compensation Comparison 2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	FTE Comparison 2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget
County Manager	110	CONTRACT	246,026	255,867	255,867	1.00	1.00	1.00
Asst. County Mgr. Admin. Svcs.	110	GRADE 77	177,985	197,917	197,917	1.00	1.00	1.00
Asst. County Mgr. Public Safety	110	GRADE 77	171,044	188,578	188,578	1.00	1.00	1.00
Human Services Division Director	110	GRADE 76	185,297	144,161	144,161	1.00	1.00	1.00
Dir. of Strategic Communications	110	GRADE 71	103,412	107,548	107,548	1.00	1.00	1.00
Internal Performance Auditor	110	GRADE 69	82,772	86,083	86,083	1.00	1.00	1.00
Video Specialist	110	GRADE 60	64,890	67,486	67,486	1.00	1.00	1.00
Senior Graphic Designer	110	GRADE 60	63,215	65,744	65,744	1.00	1.00	1.00
Sr. Public Information Officer	110	GRADE 63	73,613	62,473	62,473	1.00	1.00	1.00
Management Analyst II	110	GRADE 61	59,850	62,244	62,244	1.00	1.00	1.00
BPT Communications Specialist	110	GRADE 61	-	43,976	43,976	-	0.75	0.75
Communications Coordinator	110	GRADE 59	53,366	54,099	54,099	1.00	1.00	1.00
Administrative Support IV	110	GRADE 55	90,667	92,206	92,206	2.00	2.00	2.00
Management Intern	110	EXCEPT	83,990	30,000	83,990	2.00	2.00	2.00
Communications Specialist	110	GRADE 61	40,856	-	-	0.75	-	-
Subtotal					1,512,372			
Add:								
Budgeted Personnel Savings					-			
Compensation Adjustments					106,267			
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					3,000			
Benefits					627,622			
Total Personnel Budget					2,249,261	15.75	15.75	15.75

● County Manager

The County Manager serves as the chief administrative officer of Sedgwick County and is responsible for implementing the policy decisions made by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The County Manager's Office works to ensure essential services and programs are provided to citizens in an efficient, effective, and timely manner.

Fund(s): County General Fund 110

Expenditures	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amnt. Chg. '26 - '27	% Chg. '26 - '27
Personnel	1,190,088	1,463,671	1,481,778	1,481,778	1,528,835	47,057	3.2%
Contractual Services	239,491	68,434	95,225	71,419	74,225	2,806	3.9%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Commodities	7,410	6,965	12,500	12,500	9,000	(3,500)	-28.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	**1,436,989**	**1,539,070**	**1,589,503**	**1,565,696**	**1,612,060**	**46,364**	**3.0%**
Revenues							
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Charges For Service	-	50	-	-	53	53	0.0%
All Other Revenue	136,716	54,721	75,834	75,834	55,821	(20,013)	-26.4%
Total Revenues	**136,716**	**54,771**	**75,834**	**75,834**	**55,874**	**(19,960)**	**-26.3%**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**8.00**	**9.00**	**9.00**	**9.00**	**9.00**	**-**	**0.0%**

● Strategic Communications

Serving as a valuable link between County programs and services and the citizens of the community, the Strategic Communications Office provides information about the current activities and issues of County government and works on major projects and community initiatives. The Office relays public information to citizens and media through publications, internet content, video, and media requests for interviews. The Office also provides services to County departments and keeps employees informed of internal issues and opportunities.

Fund(s): County General Fund 110

Expenditures	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amnt. Chg. '26 - '27	% Chg. '26 - '27
Personnel	514,684	508,169	687,893	687,893	720,426	32,533	4.7%
Contractual Services	358,115	226,993	140,272	164,078	189,642	25,564	15.6%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Commodities	9,489	17,206	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	**882,288**	**752,368**	**838,165**	**861,971**	**920,068**	**58,096**	**6.7%**
Revenues							
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
All Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Revenues	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0.0%**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**6.00**	**6.00**	**6.75**	**6.75**	**6.75**	**-**	**0.0%**