

LA CROSSE COUNTY

2027 La Crosse County Budget

November 9, 2026

Our Vision

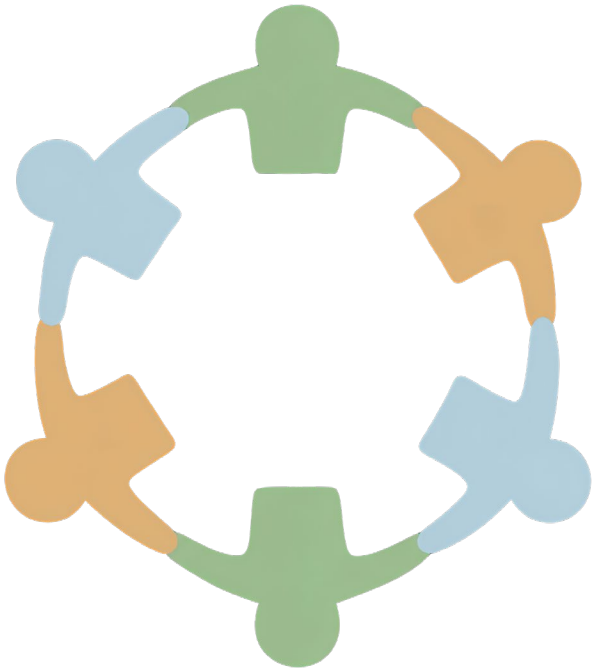
"La Crosse County's vibrant local economy and **strong public services** create the foundation for a **healthy, safe and inclusive** community"

LA CROSSE COUNTY
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

25 Departments. 1,100 Employees. One Mission

Every day **La Crosse County employees** provide:

- Public Safety
- Human Services
- Highway Maintenance
- Public Health
- Veterans Services
- Parks and Conservation
- Libraries
- Long-Term Care
- Emergency Communications

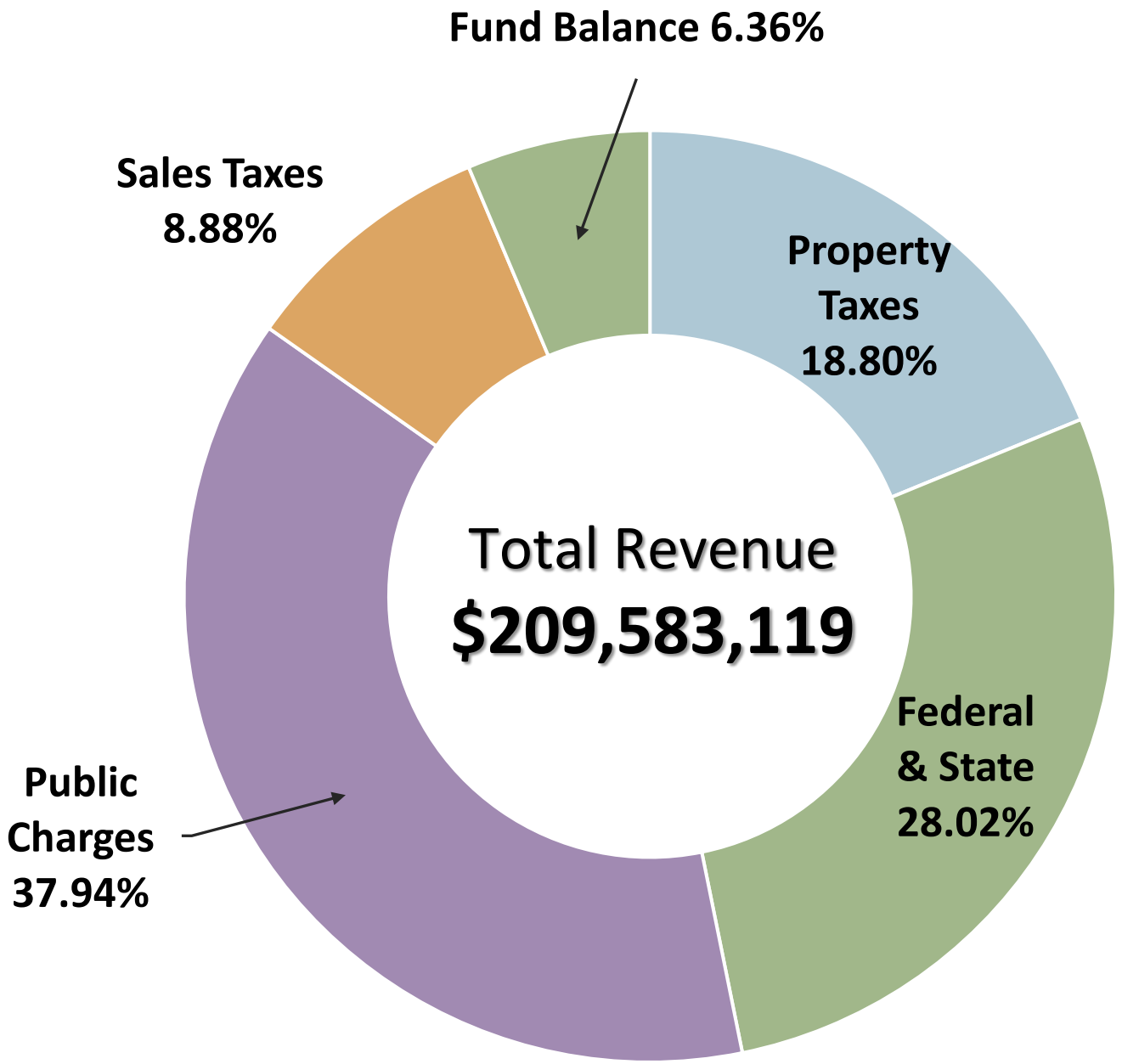


Serving residents in **every community**, every day.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

2027 Budget

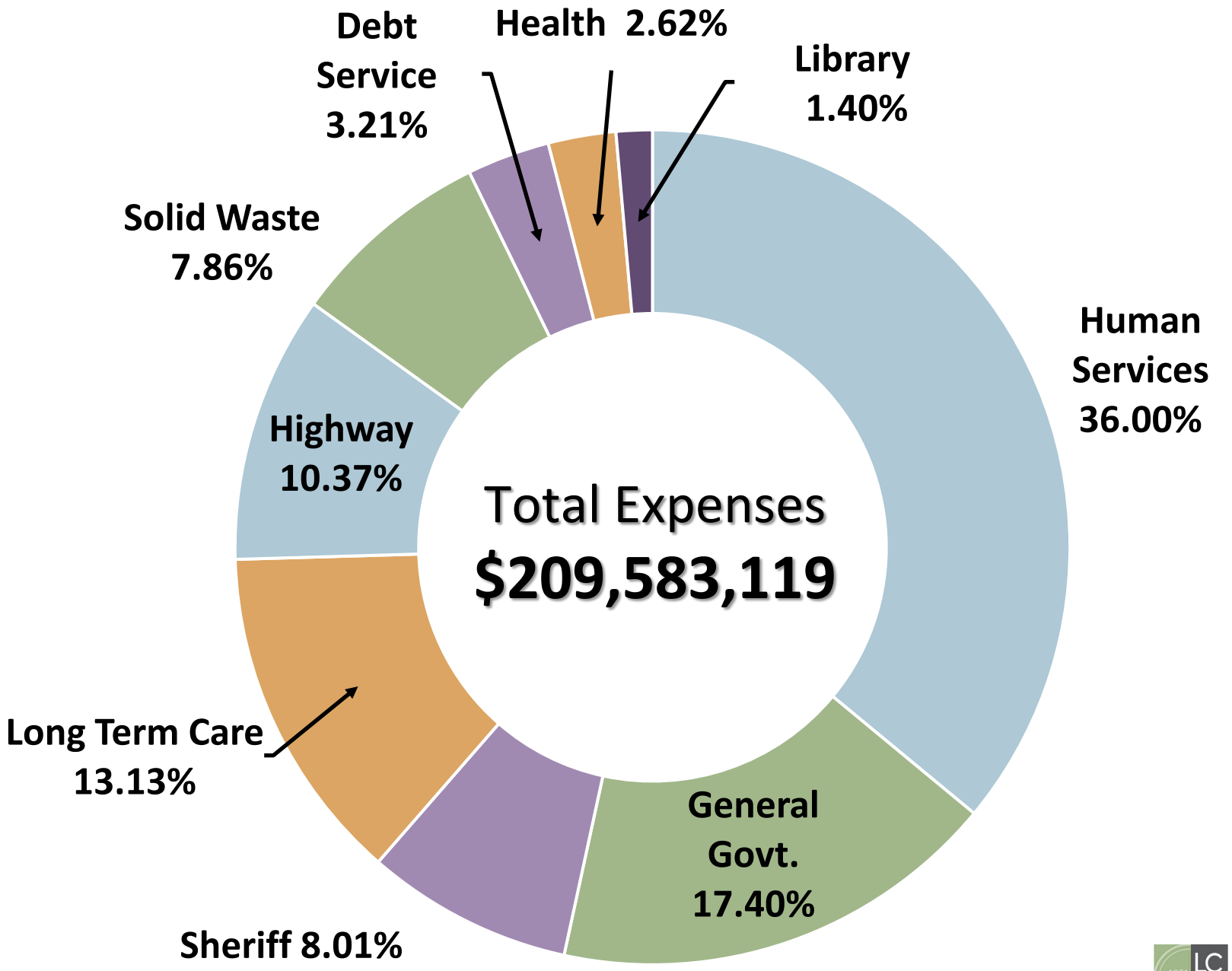
Where the Money Comes From



LA CROSSE COUNTY

2027 Budget

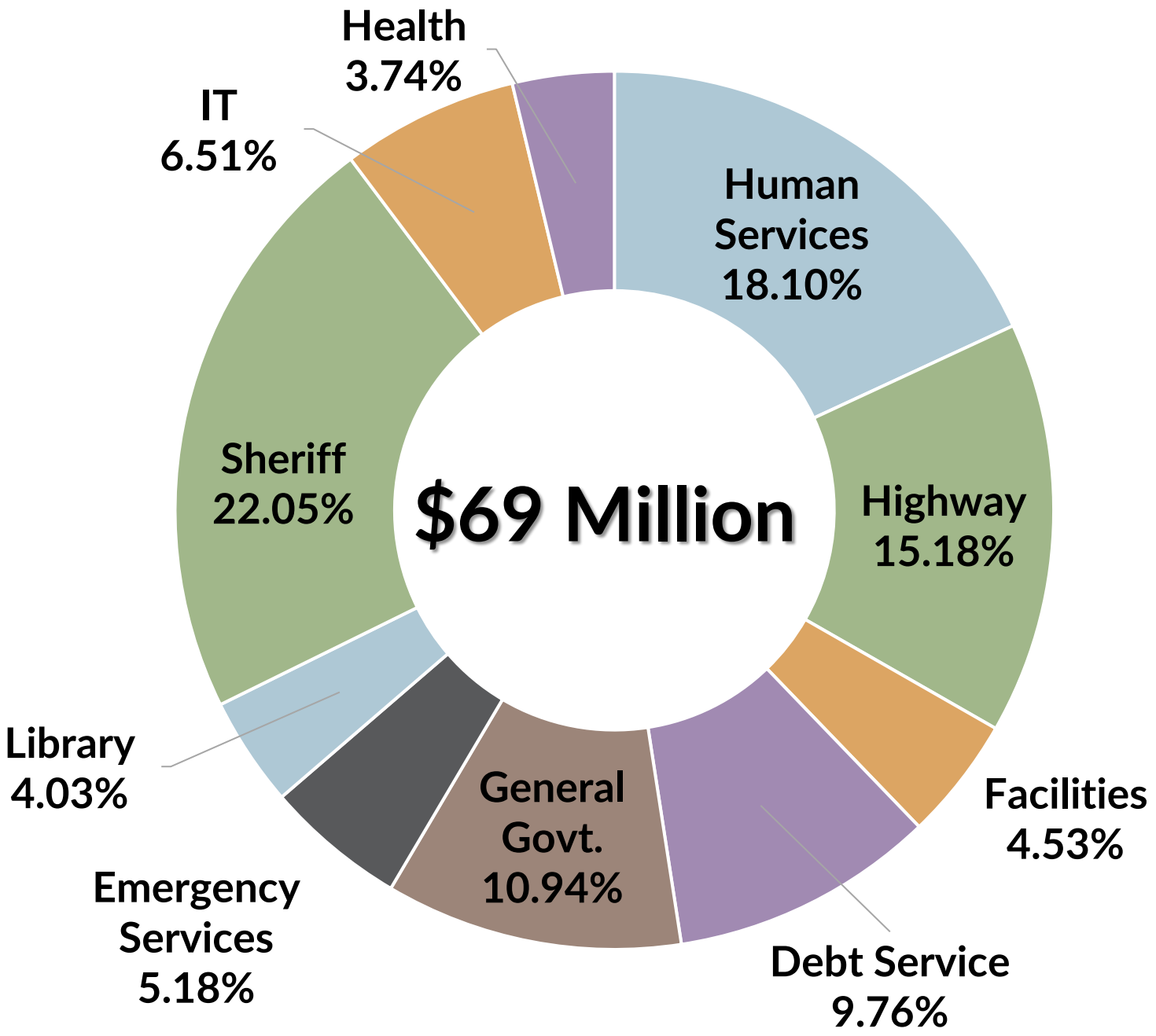
Where the Money Goes



LA CROSSE COUNTY

2027 Budget

Discretionary Funding Allocation



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Fiscal Stewardship



Aa1 Bond Rating (the highest rating La Crosse County can achieve)



Debt reduced by 40% since 2021



5th lowest property tax levy per resident among Wisconsin counties



Strong fund balance



Just 18% of County revenue comes from property taxes

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Highway Construction

- **12.5 miles** of road construction in 2027
- **Up from 10.7** completed in 2026.
- All construction will be completed **in-house**.
- **Bottom Line:** More miles completed, lower cost for taxpayers.



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Winter Operations

Keeping Roads Safe 24/7

Cost when all snowplows are deployed during a storm:

$3,000 Per Hour

26 plows working across:

- 280 miles of County highway
- 160 miles of State highway



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Jail Renovation

- Estimated $10 million project
- Work expected to start in 2027
- Changes will improve use of space, with better facilities for people with mental health and women.
- Improved working environment for jailers



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Supporting County Employees

The proposed budget includes:

$3.2 Million

for employee raises:

- 3% step increases
- 1% market adjustment

Helping the County attract and retain a high-quality workforce.









Human Services by the Numbers

1 in 6 Residents receive assistance through our programs each year.

Services include:

- Child Protection
- Aging & Disability Resource Center
- Economic Support
- Mental Health Services
- Recovery Programs



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Turning Settlement Dollars into Solutions

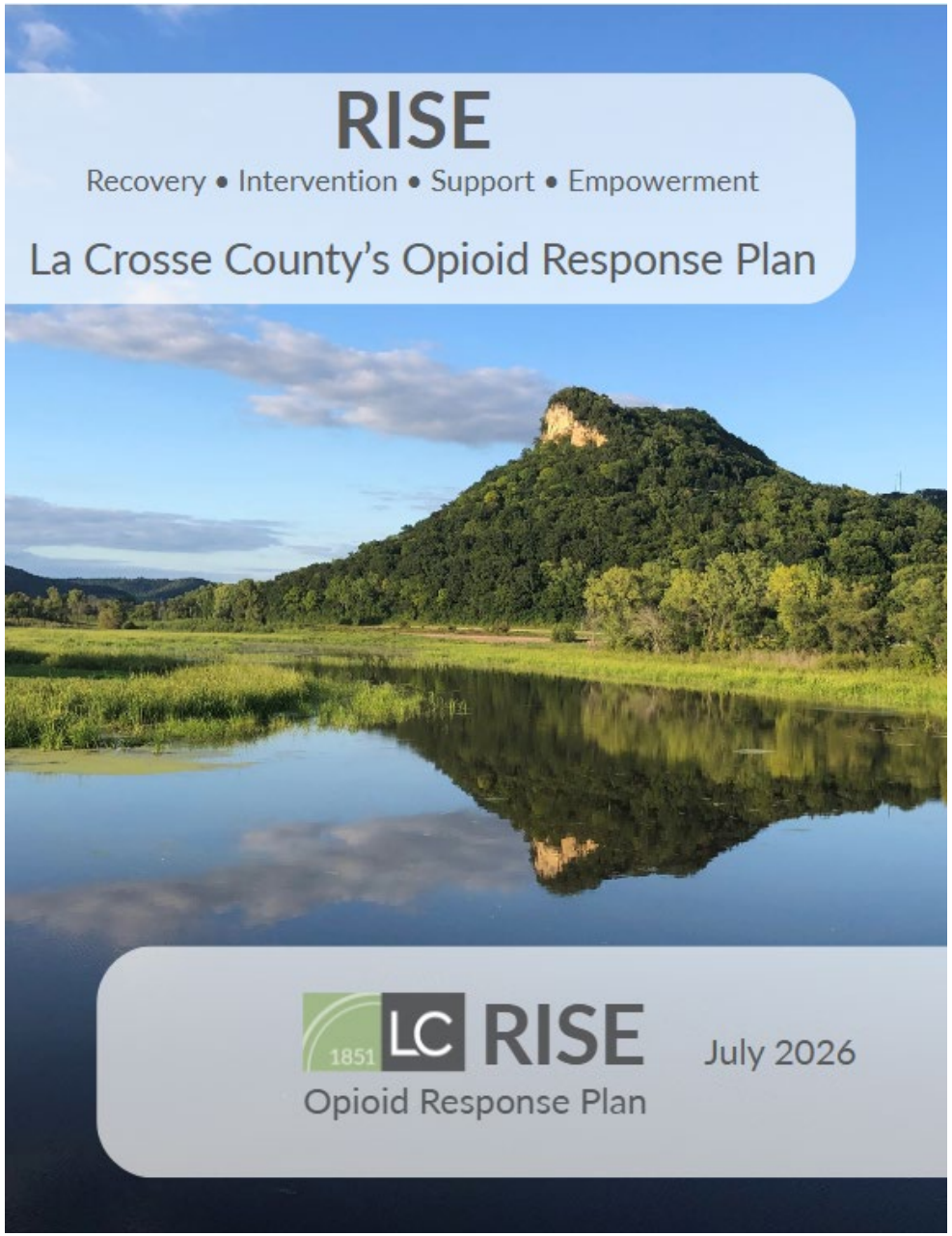
The budget dedicates:

$950,000

in opioid settlement funding for:

- Treatment programs,
- Recovery services
- Housing support

Part of the County's broader **RISE** opioid response strategy.



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Supporting Local Growth

$500,000 for Economic Development

Supporting:

- Property acquisition and demolition
- Business grant opportunities
- Community revitalization
- Long-term tax base growth

An investment in a stronger local economy.









LA CROSSE COUNTY

Investing in trusted elections

- **$500,000** to replace **51 voting machines** that are more than a decade old.
- Upgrades will support the latest security and software updates.
- Continued partnership with local municipalities to ensure secure, reliable elections.



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Answering the Call

La Crosse County Public Safety Communications handles:

More Than 400 Calls Every Day

Dispatching:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Services
- First Responders

Budget includes **$300,000** to add temporary contract dispatchers as part of transition to sustainable staffing.



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Advancing Pathways Home

Reducing homelessness remains a priority.

In 2027, La Crosse County will:

- Invest **$1.6 million** in staff dedicated to outreach, housing, and supportive services
- Continue expanding access to housing and case management
- Pursue additional public and private funding to grow community capacity

Helping more residents move from homelessness to stable housing.



370+
People housed
Average of 18/month



8 of 10
People on our list last had housing in La Crosse



88%
Housing Retention Rate



32%
Decrease in homelessness since November 2024

Pathways Home Progress

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Sustainability

- Continued implementation of the **County's Climate Action Plan**
- Ongoing land conservation projects and stewardship of **County Parks**
- Evaluation of future sustainability initiatives, including **solar energy, EV charging infrastructure**, and emissions management software



LA CROSSE COUNTY

2027 Budget Key Takeaways

- **Responsible:** Healthy reserves, Aa1 bond rating, and disciplined spending.
- **Addressing Challenges:** Strategic investments in opioid response, homelessness, and climate action.
- **Investing in Infrastructure:** Major improvements to highways, election equipment, and County Facilities.
- **Delivering for residents:** Public safety, human services, long-term care, parks, and libraries that build community.

LA CROSSE COUNTY