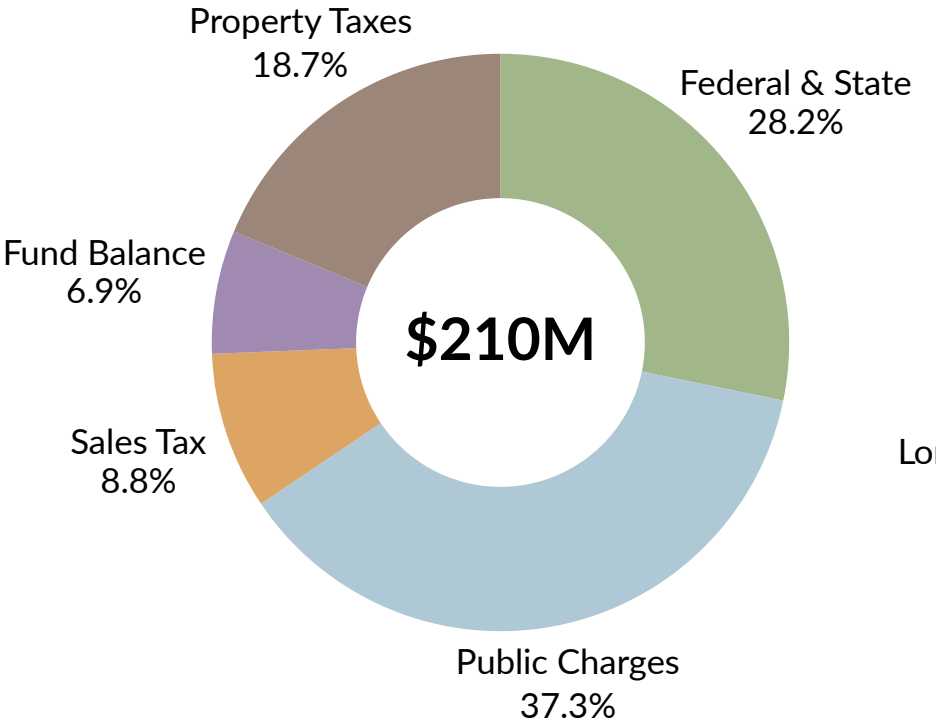
La Crosse County 2027 Budget Summary

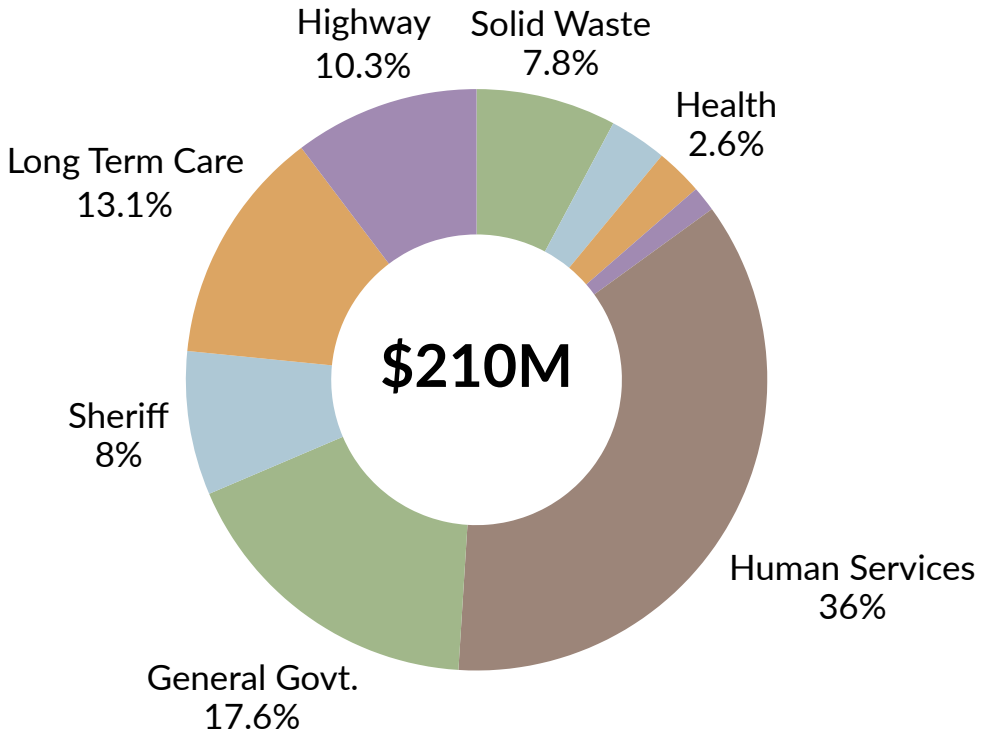
A responsible budget that invests in people, infrastructure, and community priorities.

Where Does the Money Come From



Just 18.7% of County revenue comes from property taxes. The rest comes from federal and state funding, public charges, sales tax, and other sources. **Federal and state funding,** including Medicaid dollars, helps pay for Human Services, long-term care, and highway construction.

Where Does the Money Go



Twenty-five La Crosse County departments deliver **essential services** every day, including public safety, road maintenance, parks and libraries, mental health and addiction services, child protection, veterans services, solid waste management, and support for older adults.

Delivering Services Every Day

1,100 County employees provide the services residents rely on every day. The budget includes $73 million in wages that support local families and strengthen our economy. County employees include nurses, social workers, librarians, highway workers, and parks staff.

Strong Finances

Despite inflation and rising costs, the 2027 budget increases spending by less than 0.5%. The County maintains an Aa1 bond rating, healthy reserves, and has **reduced debt** by 40% since 2021. The County property tax rate will **decrease by 6%** in 2027 (from $2.41 per $1,000 to $2.25 per $1,000).

Investing in Infrastructure

$9 million will reconstruct **12 miles of County highway** in 2027. More miles will be completed than in 2026, at a lower cost, because the work is being done in-house. Our budget also includes $500,000 to upgrade **51 voting machines,** protecting election security, and $150,000 for a new website that will improve public access.

Building a Healthier Community

The 2027 budget continues support for **Pathways Home**, our joint homelessness response plan with the City of La Crosse. Pathways Home has reduced homelessness by one-third since 2024. Nine County staff work with local partners to connect people with housing and support. The budget also includes $950,000 for the **RISE opioid response plan,** supporting treatment, housing, and recovery services









Public Safety

The 2027 budget includes $17 million for our Sheriff's Office to support **56 jailers and 29 patrol deputies** who work around the clock to keep our communities safe. It also funds the **23 Public Safety Communication Specialists** who answer all 911 calls for our county.

Sustainability

The budget includes $250,000 for sustainability initiatives, building on recent investments that cut costs and environmental impact. Since 2024, the County has added **eight solar installations,** reducing energy costs and lowering emissions.