ONONDAGA COUNTY LAW DEPARTMENT

2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET WRITTEN STATEMENT

SECTION 1:

2026 INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- County representation in high volume of complex state and federal litigation matters; including resolving numerous cases with favorable outcomes for the County
- Significant improvements to contract management system, processing, and training
- Representation and advisement on personnel matters
- Legal assistance to all County Departments
- Implementation of "raise the age" requirements
- FOIL responses
- Continued representation on all Environmental matters
- Collaboration with DCFS in post-transition of the Family Court Unit
- Support of local development and construction projects (Micron, Aquarium, Steam School, etc.)

2026 BUDGET REVIEW

The Law Department will be within budget, with the exception of Outside Counsel which will require a Year End Transfer as previously discussed.

SECTION 2:

2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2027 budget also includes 3 new funded titles which better equip the Law Department's Civil Litigation division in handling steadily increasing quantity and complexity of incoming matters, as well as outfit the Municipal Legal Division to meet growing demand for contract preparation and legal counseling.

The Law Department's 2027 Travel and Training appropriation increases by $7,000, primarily reflecting costs associated with required Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for County attorneys. The remainder of the appropriation supports necessary attorney travel related to trials, depositions, litigation hearings, and other legal proceedings.

The Professional Services appropriation includes an additional $500,000 for outside legal counsel, reflecting a review of recent spending trends and historical costs. The account also supports other services necessary for the County's legal operations, including process servers, interpreter services, court reporters, and expert consultants.

SECTION 3:

2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Development of a succession plan for certain departments as the Department deals with a decrease in its current workforce. Increase training and education for Law Department staff, including refinement of Standard Operating Procedures. Hire and onboard for created and open leadership positions that are integral to meeting workload requirements and providing necessary mentorship and guidance to junior-level attorneys and entry-level, non-legal staff.