

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JON RADERMACHER, City Administrator

SUBJECT: GOODHUE COUNTY PROSECUTION CONTRACT

MEETING DATE: October 21, 2025

BACKGROUND

The City has had a prosecution agreement with the Goodhue County Attorney's Office for at least the past two years, for misdemeanor prosecution services. Staff believe the agreement to be satisfactory for the needs of the City and the rate is fair. Prosecution Agreements like this are come for cities and counties, especially smaller cities, as the cost of in-house or contracted prosecution with a municipal attorney firm is much more expensive than the rates provided by the County.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Continue the misdemeanor prosecution services contract with Goodhue County Attorney's Office for another two-year term at rates of \$15,912 in 2026 and \$16,704 in 2027.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion to approve a two-year extension to the misdemeanor prosecution services contract with Goodhue County Attorney's Office in the amounts of \$15,912 in 2026 and \$16,704 in 2027.



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October 10, 2025

Jon Radermacher
Cannon Falls City Administrator
918 River Road
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
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Re: City of Cannon Falls Prosecution Services

Dear Mr. Radermacher:

Our prosecution contract is set to expire at the end of the year. I am providing you with a proposal for a two (2) year term misdemeanor prosecution services contract for the City of Cannon Falls. For the calendar year 2026, the cost would be \$1,326 per month, resulting in a total fee for the year of \$15,912. For the calendar year 2027, the cost would be \$1,392 per month, resulting in a total fee for the year of \$16,704. This represents an annual increase of approximately 5%.

This fee for services contract would include prosecution and support staff time spent on City of Cannon Falls criminal matters from charging to trial, sentencing, and probation violations. Services would be coordinated with the Cannon Falls Police Department pursuant to your existing agreement for law enforcement services. The fee for prosecution services does **not** include civil representation, civil ordinance enforcement actions, or civil nuisance enforcement actions. The monthly fee covers all routine and nominal clerical expenses associated with prosecution of City of Cannon Falls cases as well as staff time associated with required crime victim communications.

Under this fee for services, the City of Cannon Falls would be responsible for other costs of prosecution, including witness fees and extraordinary copying costs. To date, my office has not billed for any of these extra costs for services to any of the municipalities that we are providing prosecution services to in similar contracts. In the event that there is a conflict of interest with this office's primary duty to represent Goodhue County, we would represent Goodhue County and would not be able to represent the City of Cannon Falls in the conflict matter. In case of a conflict, we would attempt to find alternative representation to handle the prosecution by trading services to another prosecutor's office. If no alternative counsel can be

arranged in this manner, the City would have to bear the cost of outside counsel for these limited types of cases.

The County Attorney's Office has nine full-time attorneys and one part-time attorney with eight support staff. My attorneys are available for law enforcement 24 hours a day with the availability of a designated on-call attorney during weekends and holidays. My staff of skilled attorneys and support staff can handle questions, review or draft appropriate pleadings and efficiently process cases on the court calendar. We are familiar with the City of Cannon Falls, law enforcement personnel, and all court procedures, and currently provide prosecution services for seven other municipalities within Goodhue County.

Please let me know if the City has any questions or would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

GOODHUE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



Stephen F. O'Keefe
Goodhue County Attorney

SFO/jk

*On behalf of the City of Cannon Falls,
I hereby accept the terms of this proposal.*

Jon Radermacher, City Administrator

Date

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

Date