

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 1st, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Joseph Lamers, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance

Subject: Milwaukee County Zoo requests the creation of 1.0 FTE Mechanical Maintenance Grounds Worker (Pay Grade NR17) and abolish 1.0 FTE Zoo Facilities Grounds Worker (Pay Grade NR14)

File Type: Informational Report

MCGO 17.05 and Wis. Stats 59.60(10), require the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance (SBP) to review departmental position create requests for need, appropriateness, and funding availability.

NEED AND APPROPRIATENESS

SBP concurs with the department report on the need and appropriateness of this position request.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

- The cost of this request will be absorbed within the department's existing salary budget. The department is responsible for managing their personal services budget and taking appropriate action to avoid a deficit. In the subsequent year requested budget, the department will include this position action inside their assigned tax levy target.
- Grant Revenue that expires _____
- Other

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The 2025 Budget includes one Grounds Supervisor position overseeing a seven-day-a-week operation, with the following authorized positions: five Vehicle Machinery Operators, eight Facilities Grounds Workers, and up to 20 seasonal employees. These positions run and operate approximately \$2.5 million worth of equipment and fleet vehicles, which are used daily, in addition to maintaining the necessary garage space, tools and facilities.

Zoo facilities and grounds support requires staffing 365 days per year, across multiple shifts to maintain operations. Creating a new position of Mechanical Maintenance Grounds Worker will support the Grounds Supervisor in managing the day-to-day maintenance and repair of the extensive equipment fleet. This dedicated position will

ensure more efficient repairs, allowing equipment to be up and running quickly and increasing its longevity. By addressing small engine and mechanical issues promptly, this role will help minimize downtime and extend the life of critical tools and machinery. It will free up the Grounds Supervisor to focus on broader Zoo needs and more effectively manage staff and operations.

The entire Zoo will benefit from having a dedicated person focused on the repair and maintenance of equipment, ensuring better functionality, increased efficiency, and a smoother overall operation.

The maximum salary impact on the Zoo's budget from creating a Mechanical Maintenance Worker Grounds position and eliminating one Facilities Grounds Worker role is \$9,981. However, due to the overlap between the two pay ranges (outlined below), the actual fiscal impact could result in a net-zero tax levy change, depending on the starting salary of the new position.

JOSEPH LAMERS

Joseph Lamers, Director Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance