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A resolution by Supervisor Lipscomb, Sr., directing the Office of Corporation Counsel to develop recommendations for a policy and procedure for the retention of outside legal counsel, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, in 2016, several members of the Milwaukee County Board Supervisors (County Board) raised concerns about the costs associated with the use of outside legal counsel for some Milwaukee County (the County) matters; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Adopted Budget addressed this concern by directing the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) to provide a report to the County Board regarding the current policies and procedures of the County for retention of outside legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, the OCC provided a response memo to the County Board on January 9, 2017, explaining that the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation (WCMIC) makes the decision on whether to obtain outside legal counsel when the County is in a defensive posture and attorney’s fees are sought; and

WHEREAS, in contrast, in defensive matters where WCMIC is not implicated, or in affirmative actions where the County entity or public official initiates the lawsuit, the OCC makes a determination on whether to obtain outside legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, the OCC memo also noted that the County has no policies or procedures in place concerning the retention of outside counsel; and

WHEREAS, developing policies and procedures for the retention of outside legal counsel may help reduce legal costs, ensure transparency, and promote accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance and Audit, at its meeting of March 16, 2017, recommended adoption of File No. 17-279 (vote 6-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) directs the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) to develop recommendations for a policy and procedure for the retention of outside legal counsel by Milwaukee County entities and elected officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OCC will present its recommendations to the County Board for consideration by the July 2017 cycle.

