



**LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
August 22, 2023
Council Meeting Room
Luzerne County Courthouse
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
AND
Video/Teleconference via ZOOM**

5:40 PM CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to transfer additional funds to the Office of Law Budget

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Council on the matter listed on the Agenda. Each speaker shall have three (3) minutes to address Council. Speakers may not yield or transfer their time to another speaker.

Those attending in person are asked to complete and submit a Speaker Card to the Clerk of Council before the first speaker is called.

Those attending virtually are asked to refer to the Public Meetings Online page of County's Website at <https://www.luzernecounty.org/1279/Public-Meetings-Online> for more information on how to participate in Public Comment via technology.

ADJOURNMENT



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

ITEM TITLE	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	AGENDA NUMBER
To amend the 2023 expense budgets for the Office of Law to balance the end of year line items	7/25/2023	
Dept:	Office of Law	
Contact:	Harry W. Skene	
Phone:	(570) 706-3199	

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

The Office of Law asks Council to adopt an Ordinance authorizing the addition of funds to the 2023 expense budget for the Special Legal Services Line in the Office of Law. This increase will be funded by the Luzerne County General Fund Reserve for a total of \$200,000.

SUMMARY:

This amendment is necessary to reflect the resources necessary for the forecasted costs to maintain the Office of Law budget.

FINANCING:

\$200,000.00 in expenses to line item 100.16.4151.550.19 Special Legal Services

DISCUSSION:

These funds are used to enhance, operate, and maintain the Luzerne County Office of Law. Funding is determined by the need most necessary for operational use. Due to large settlement sums and unpredictable case work to be invoiced by outside counsel, our predicted budget did not meet the funding required to cover our accounts. The Office of Law is currently \$100,000 over budget and foresees future case settlements and out of office invoicing that will continue to increase the negative differential of our budget line.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council may choose not to approve this Ordinance and the Office of Law will continue to increase their deficit.

No. 2023-____

ORDINANCE

*An Ordinance of County Council for the County of Luzerne
Amending the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County to Transfer
Additional Funds to the Office of Law Budget*

WHEREAS, the Office of Law is vested with the responsibility for representing all branches of Luzerne County government, including all litigation involving Luzerne County; and

WHEREAS, due to the settlement of a complex matter at a cost of \$390,000.00 the Office of Law's budget was substantially affected; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Law needs additional funds to keep it from running at a deficit, for at least another couple of months, and is requesting an additional \$300,000.00; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5.07 of the Home Rule Charter of Luzerne County, County Council adopted the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget which accounted for anticipated revenue and expenses; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.10.F. of the Home Rule Charter states County Council may amend the budget at any time during the fiscal year by ordinance adopted by an affirmative vote of at least a majority plus one of its current members after a public hearing has been held; and

WHEREAS, County Council for Luzerne desires to amend the 2023 Budget at the appropriate line items in order to transfer additional funds from the Reserve Fund to the Office of Law's Special Legal Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following is hereby ENACTED and ORDAINED by the Luzerne County Council:

SECTION ONE. Incorporation of Preamble.

The provisions set forth in the preamble to this Ordinance are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

SECTION TWO. Amendment of Line Items in Budget.

A public hearing having been held on _____, County Council hereby amends the following line items in the 2023 fiscal year budget in order to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to the Office of Law's Special Legal fund at the following line item numbers:

Add funds to line item 100.16.4151.550.19 in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Subtract funds from line item of 100.99.4940.585.10 in the amount of \$300,000.00.

SECTION THREE. Remainder of Budget.

All other line items in the 2023 Fiscal Year Luzerne County Budget shall remain unchanged.

SECTION FOUR. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after enactment.

Enacted by County Council, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

AYES:

NAYS:

Attest:

Kendra Vough, Chair

Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of County Council

John Lombardo, Vice-Chair