

STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS COUNCIL
ON LOCAL RESULTS AND INNOVATION
Otter Tail County Resolution No. 2025 - 64

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Minnesota Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Local Results and Innovation developed a standard set of performance measures that will aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of counties in providing services and measure residents' opinion of those services; and

WHEREAS, benefits to Otter Tail County for participation in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's comprehensive performance measurement program are outlined in Minn. Stat. §6.91 and includes eligibility for a reimbursement as set by State statute; and

WHEREAS, any county participating in the comprehensive performance measurement program is also exempt from levy limits for taxes, if levy limits are in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Otter Tail County Board has adopted and implemented at least 10 of the performance measures, as developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation, and a system to use this information to help plan, budget, manage and evaluate programs and processes for optimal future outcomes.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, Otter Tail County will continue to report the results of the performance measures to its citizenry by the end of the year through publication, direct mailing, posting on the County's website, or through a public hearing at which the budget and levy will be discussed and public input allowed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Otter Tail County will submit to the Office of the State Auditor the actual results of the performance measures adopted by the County.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Commissioner Lahman and seconded by Commissioner Bucholz and, after discussion and upon a vote being taken thereon, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Adopted at Fergus Falls, MN this 24th day of June 2025.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Dated: June 24, 2025

By: 
Wayne Johnson, Board of Commissioners Chair

Attest: 
Nick Leonard, Deputy Administrator



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA

COUNCIL ON LOCAL RESULTS & INNOVATION

2025 STANDARD MEASURES FOR COUNTIES

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1.0 PUBLIC SAFETY

Group A Offenses and Clearances by Classification

The data in this report is not real-time and is current as of 4/28/2025

Agency: Otter Tail County Sheriff

Report Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Population: 36,434

ORI: MN0560000

Offense	Offense Code		Offenses Reported or Known	Crime Rate per 100,000	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Exceptional Means	Cleared Involving only Under 18 Years Old
Animal Cruelty	720	Total	1	3	0	0	0
Arson	200	Total	2	5	2	0	0
Assault Offenses							
Aggravated Assault	13A		21	58	18	0	1
Simple Assault	13B		58	159	46	1	9
Intimidation	13C		37	102	16	2	0
		Total	116	318	80	3	10
Bribery	510	Total	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	220	Total	28	77	4	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	250	Total	4	11	0	0	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	290	Total	45	124	6	3	0
Drug/Narcotic Violations	35A	Total	45	124	35	0	0
Drug Equipment Violations	35B	Total	0	0	0	0	0
Embezzlement	270	Total	1	3	1	0	1
Extortion/Blackmail	210	Total	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud Offenses							
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	26A		24	66	1	0	0
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	26B		4	11	1	0	1
Impersonation	26C		0	0	0	0	0
Welfare Fraud	26D		1	3	1	0	0
Wire Fraud	26E		0	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft	26F		8	22	2	0	0
Hacking/Computer Invasion	26G		0	0	0	0	0
		Total	37	102	5	0	1
Gambling Offenses							
Betting/Wagering	39A		0	0	0	0	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	39B		0	0	0	0	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	39C		0	0	0	0	0
Sports Tampering	39D		0	0	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide Offenses							
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	09A		0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	09B		0	0	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking Offenses							
Commercial Sex Acts	64A		0	0	0	0	0
Involuntary Servitude	64B		0	0	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	100	Total	3	8	3	0	0
Larceny - Theft Offenses							
Pocket-Picking	23A		0	0	0	0	0
Purse-Snatching	23B		0	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	23C		4	11	1	0	0
Theft from Building	23D		7	19	1	0	0
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	23E		0	0	0	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	23F		28	77	1	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	23G		2	5	0	0	0
All Other Larceny	23H		79	217	3	1	0
		Total	120	329	6	1	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	240	Total	5	14	1	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	370	Total	2	5	0	0	0
Prostitution Offenses							
Prostitution	40A		0	0	0	0	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	40B		0	0	0	0	0
Purchasing Prostitution	40C		0	0	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0	0	0

Robbery	120	Total	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses							
Forcible Rape	11A		3	8	1	0	0
Forcible Sodomy	11B		0	0	0	0	0
Offense	Offense Code	Offenses Reported or Known	Crime Rate per 100,000	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Exceptional Means	Cleared Involving only Under 18 Years Old	
Sexual Assault with an Object	11C	1	3	1	0	0	
Forcible Fondling	11D	9	25	1	0	1	
	Total	13	36	3	0	1	
Sex Offenses, Nonforcible							
Incest	36A	0	0	0	0	0	
Statutory Rape	36B	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	
Stolen Property Offenses	280	Total	5	14	3	0	0
Weapon Law Violations	520	Total	19	52	13	0	0
Grand Total			446	1224	162	7	13

Deputy Response Time:

Time it takes on top-priority calls from dispatch to the first officer on scene.

- > Due to the size of the county¹, the County has not established deputy response time parameters.
- > The Sheriff's Office assigns deputies to areas to ensure prompt response to law enforcement calls.

Total Number of Accidents:

Total number of accidents that occur on County State Aid Highways, County Roads and Un-Organized Township Roads that involve fatalities and injury: Source – "Towards Zero Death".

Crashes in Otter Tail County in 2024:

- > Fatal Crashes: 10
- > Injury Crashes: 105
- > PDO Crashes: 528
- > Total Crashes: 643

Crashes in Otter Tail County in 2023:

- > Fatal Crashes: 7
- > Injury Crashes: 127
- > PDO Crashes: 340
- > Total Crashes: 474

Crashes in Otter Tail County in 2022:

- > Fatal Crashes: 9
- > Injury Crashes: 153
- > PDO Crashes: 383
- > Total Crashes: 545

¹ Geographically, Otter Tail County is the seventh (7th) largest Minnesota County. Total area is 2,225 square miles, of which 1,972 square miles are comprised of land and 252 square miles (11%) are covered by water.

Crashes in Otter Tail County in 2021:

- > Fatal Crashes: 12
- > Injury Crashes: 153
- > PDO Crashes: 332
- > Total Crashes: 497

Crashes in Otter Tail County in 2020:

- > Fatal Crashes: 6
- > Injury Crashes: 113
- > PDO Crashes: 434
- > Total Crashes: 553

2.0 PROBATION/CORRECTIONS

Percent of Adult Offenders without A New Felony Conviction Within 3 Years of Discharge (*MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission*):

Adult offenders who are placed on a formal, supervised probation to County Probation will be tracked for three years following their discharge to determine if they have a new Felony conviction in the State of Minnesota.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cases Closed	165	150	154	238	222	319	310
Subsequent Felony Convictions	35	19	19	15	14	16	5
Percentage without New Felony	68.90%	87.30%	87.70%	93.70%	93.70%	95.00%	98.40%

3.0 PUBLIC WORKS

Hours to Plow Complete System During a Snow Event:

- > During the 2024-2025 winter, we used twenty-five full time plow trucks to clear approximately 2,350 lane miles of road in four to five hours. During most events, the majority of the miles are plowed and/or treated twice during our normal eight to ten hour day, which typically begins between 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.

Average County Pavement Condition Rating:

Pavement Quality/Condition Index. Provide average rating and the rating system program/type. Example, 70 rating on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI).

- > Average Pavement Quality Index (PQI) is 3.2. This represents 2023 data.
- > PQI determined by use of Mn/DOT Pavement Condition survey. Surveys are conducted every other year.

Average Bridge Sufficiency Rating:

County records/MN Department of Transportation

- > Average Bridge Sufficiency Rating for Otter Tail County bridges in 2024 was 85.7.

Between the 2023 and 2024 reporting years, Otter Tail County transitioned from Sufficiency Rating to Local Planning Index as the standard metric for bridge condition reporting.

4.0 PUBLIC HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES

General Life Expectancy ([Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation](#)):

Findings: Life expectancy at birth (years) – 2014

Gender	Otter Tail County	Minnesota	National	National Rank	% Change (1980-2014)
Female	82.8	82.9	81.5	333	+2.8
Male	78.2	78.9	76.7	435	+7.1

Tobacco and Alcohol Use (See Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)):

	Otter Tail County	Minnesota (Rank of 87 Counties)	Top U.S. Performers
Adult Smoking	20%	13%	13%
Excessive Drinking	25%	23%	19%
Alcohol-impaired Driving Deaths	35%	31%	26%
Physical Inactivity	27%	20%	23%
Adult Obesity	38%	34%	34%

Percentage of Low Birth-Weight Births (MN Dept. of Human Services or [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)):

- › Otter Tail County 6%
- › Minnesota (Rank of 87 Counties) 7%
- › Top U.S. Performers 8%

Workforce Self-Support Index Among MFIP and DWP Recipients:

Defined as "Percent of MFIP/DWP adults working 30 or more hours per week or off cash assistance three years after baseline"; data available from MN Dept of Human Services:

- › Self-Support Index among Otter Tail County's MFIP and DWP recipients^[1]: 71.79% The expected performance range is between 67.49% and 73.90%.
- › Source Data: DHS's Human Services Performance Management MFIP/DWP Self-Support Index April 2023 – March 2024

Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 12 Months:

The most current 12 months of reporting from the MN Department of Human Services – Human Services Performance Management is the calendar year 2023, the percentage of children with a substantiated maltreatment report who do not experience a repeat substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months:

- › 95.5%

^[1] MFIP stands for Minnesota Family Investment Program. DWP stands for Diversionary Work Program.

- › The Minnesota Department of Human Service's Child Welfare Dashboard defines this measure as: *Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during a 12-month reporting period, the percent who were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report.*
- › Why is this measure important? *County social services should increase the likelihood that children are safe from abuse and neglect. When a maltreatment determination is made, there is a heightened responsibility of the county to mitigate the threat of future harm to children. A repeat maltreatment determination may indicate that the risk for the child has not been fully mitigated.*

Child Support Program Cost Effectiveness:

- › Otter Tail County's FFY 2024 (10/01/23 to 09/30/24) cost effectiveness was 3.24%, i.e., for every \$1.00 expended, the child support team collected \$3.24 in child support from non-custodial parents. These funds were redirected to the children living with the custodial household family.

Per Capita Cost Report: The most current year of Human Services Cost Report available is 2020, posted on PartnerLink (MN DHS) 5/15/2023.

- › In 2020, Otter Tail County's human services comparative per capita cost was ranked 35th of 87 counties. Otter Tail County's per capita cost was \$2,916. Otter Tail County's levy funds portion of this per capita cost was \$156 or 5.35% of the total overall costs. In other words, for every \$100.00 spent on health and human service programs, the county expends \$5.35 of county funds and county residents receive an additional \$94.65 of state & federal funds.
- › In 2020, Otter Tail County's health and human service expenditures totaled \$175,180,762. Of that amount, \$84,010,906 was federally funded, \$80,568,203 was state funded, \$9,374,610 was county funded and \$1,227,043 was miscellaneous revenues.
- › The Per Capita Ranking lists a county's "Total" human services costs per capita ranking. The per capita county cost is the portion of total costs paid by the county (not funded by federal, state, or miscellaneous revenues).

5.0 PROPERTY RECORDS, VALUATION, ASSESSMENT

Level of Assessment Ratio:

- › Otter Tail County's 2025 Assessment median sales ratios were compliant to be within the 90%-105% range except for Rural Vacant Land. The Minnesota Department of Revenue ordered a 5% increase to the market values of these parcels, county wide. Of the three types of assessment ratios utilized by the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR), our median ratios were (sales period 10-1-2023 to 9-30-2024):

Residential (Property Type 91)	94.63% on 785 sales
Commercial/Industrial Properties (Property Type 94)	100.26% on 35 sales
Agricultural & Rural Lands (Property Type 95 – 34.5 or more acres)	94.96% on 83 sales

Turn-Around Time (Recording/indexing/returning real estate documents):

MS357.182, Subd 3 states: For calendar year 2011 and thereafter, the maximum time allowed for completion of the recording process for documents presented in recordable form will be ten business days. Instruments recorded electronically must be returned no later than five business days after receipt by the county in a recordable format. MS357.182, Subd 4 states: for calendar year 2010 and later years, at least 90 percent of all recordable instruments must be recorded and returned in compliance with the recording requirements. In 2024-2025, Otter Tail County's turn-around time for land documents, including land transfers, has been 3 days or less.

6.0 ELECTIONS

Accuracy of Post-Election Audit:

100% accuracy based on our most recent data collected via our Post Election Review Worksheets, State General Elections, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Note – the next post-election audit will be conducted in November 2026.

7.0 VETERANS SERVICES

Dollars Brought into County for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors Federal and State Expenditures:

Federal Expenditures

FY2022 (07/01/22 through 06/30/23), Otter Tail County's veteran population is estimated to be 3819. Federal funds expended totaled \$71.84 million, including: \$38.16 million – VA medical Care; \$32.64 million – Compensation & Pension; \$780,000 Education/Vocational Rehabilitation; \$247,000 Insurance and Indemnities. This is a slight increase for Otter Tail County (\$1.5M) and we remain ranked 12th in Federal Expenditures in the state, given the 7 Metro Counties Otter Tail County Ranks 5th in outstate MN.

State Expenditures

CY2023 (01/01/23 through 12/31/2023), the MN Department of Veterans Affairs' State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP) allocated \$47,486 to eligible Veterans and dependents. This was a reversal of the previous downward trend in SSAP services we normally provide our Veteran population and represents an increase from our previous year's performance of \$29,534. Despite the increase, Otter Tail County remains 13th in state expenditures.

Percentage of Veterans Receiving Federal Benefits:

FY 2023 (07/01/22 through 06/30/23) Otter Tail County veteran population was estimated to be 3819. A summary of Expenditures by State indicates 2,163 "unique patients" were served. Based on this data nearly 57% of our county veterans received treatment at a VA Care facility.

FY 2023, Minnesota's veteran population was estimated at 285,734. A summary of Expenditures by State indicates 116,209 "Unique Patients" were served. Based on this data, an average 41 % of all Minnesota county veterans received treatment at a VA Care facility.

8.0 PARKS, LIBRARIES

Parks:

Phelps Mill – 114 acres
Fort Juleson – 10.11 acres
Echo Bay – 168.41 acres
Total Acres: 292.52

Trails:

Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail:

- › Perham Segment (CSAH 34): 6.4 miles
- › McDonald Lakes Segment: 5.8 miles
- › Silent Lake Segment: 8.1 miles
- › Pelican Rapids Segment (CSAH 3): 6.8 miles
- › Maplewood Segment: 3.8 miles (currently under construction)

Glacial Edge Trail:

- › No segments currently built but applications for funding is ongoing. (Funding for 2.4 miles of trail in Maplewood State Park was obtained in 2023, construction in 2025)

Existing trail segments along county roads:

- › CSAH 1 South – 0.7 miles (Tower Road in Fergus Falls)
- › CSAH 1 North – 3.3 miles (Friberg Ave – Fergus Falls & Northeasterly)
- › CSAH 16 – 0.5 miles (Glendalough State Park)
- › CSAH 27 – 0.5 miles (Cleveland Ave in Fergus Falls)
- › CSAH 34 – 0.7 miles (Perham)
- › CSAH 82 – 2.0 miles (Fir Ave in Fergus Falls)
- › CSAH 88 – 0.7 miles (Pebble Lake Road in Fergus Falls)
- › CSAH 89 – 0.9 miles (Lake Shore Drive in Battle Lake)

Total Trails: 36.4 miles (with Maplewood is 40.2 miles)

9.0 BUDGET, FINANCIAL

Bond Rating:

S&P Global Ratings has assigned its 'AA' long-term rating to Otter Tail County, Minnesota's 2023A general obligation (GO) transportation sales tax revenue bonds. S&P Global Ratings has also affirmed its 'AA' long-term rating and underlying rating on the County existing General Obligation debt, with a stable outlook.

Debt Service Levy Per Capita; Outstanding Debt Per Capita:

- › The Pay 2025 debt service levy per capital is \$16.86 (Pay 2025 Levy - \$1,026,247/60,882 – April 1, 2024 population estimate). The Pay 2025 debt service levy decreased \$735,945 when compared to the 2024 debt service levy.
- › The outstanding debt per capita as of December 31, 2024 is the following:
 - Outstanding debt requiring county levy: $\$11,865,000/60,882 = \194.89
 - Outstanding debt paid by local sales tax: $\$20,385,000/60,882 = \334.83
 - Outstanding debt paid by other revenue sources (rents and funds held in escrow): $\$4,720,000/60,882 = \77.53
 - Outstanding debt (issued by Otter Tail County but technically the responsibility of the joint powers group) paid by other revenues: $\$18,365,000/60,882 = \301.65

Total Outstanding Debt Per Capita as of 12/31/2024: \$908.90, a decrease of \$79.95 Per Capita from 12/31/2023.

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL

Recycling Percentage Available in The SCORE Report:

Otter Tail County's calculated recycling percentage for:

- › 2016 was 66%.
- › 2017 was 60%.
- › 2018 was 69%.
- › 2019 was 65%
- › 2020 was 67%
- › 2021 was 69%
- › 2022 was 73%
- › 2023 was 78%
- › 2024 was 65%

Amount of Hazardous Household Waste and Electronics Collected (2018 to 2024):

Removed from Waste Stream (in pounds)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Household Hazardous Waste	149,004	179,990	161,075	191,906	182,866	163,502	203,763
Electronics	300,567	382,957	207,492	270,840	283,480	331,560	307,320
Appliances	405,380	377,560	406,400	399,400	425,380	391,200	367,280

11.0 LAND AND RESOURCE

2024 Data

- › 630 permits issued for structures in the Shoreland District
- › 185 permits issued for shoreland alteration
- › 643 septic system permits issued
- › 709 compliance inspections of existing septic systems
 - 1. 531 compliant (75%)
 - 2. 178 noncompliant (25%)
- › 102 waterbodies infested with Zebra Mussels