INTENT & SYNOPSIS: For the Wood County Board of Supervisors to go on record in support of the funding of the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) pay plan and to encourage the legislature to create additional ADA positions as they are definitely needed in Wood County.

FISCAL NOTE: This is a request for legislative action so there is no fiscal impact if the resolution is approved. If the portion of the legislation requesting additional ADAs is granted by the legislature, it is likely Wood County would get one or more ADAs and although the state pays the salary and associated costs for each ADA, the county would be responsible for support staff, supplies, and costs associated with increased caseloads in the Clerk of Court's office.

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Wisconsin Legislature addressed the issue of the financial incentives for ADAs by adopting a pay progression plan (the Plan) which is codified in Wisconsin Statute s. 230.12(10). The Plan must be funded biannually in the state budget to update salaries and be effective, and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association and the Wood County District Attorney support the continued funding of the Plan so as to enable the county to obtain and retain qualified prosecutors to present the cases brought by law enforcement officers and ultimately to provide for the public peace and protection, and

WHEREAS, each county is rated for a recommended number of ADAs based upon caseload and case type and some counties, including Wood County, are significantly understaffed with prosecutors and this directly impacts the ability to timely and effectively prosecute those who break the law, and

WHEREAS, the Judicial and Legislative Committee has studied this matter and is convinced that it is imperative for the state to do its part by providing at least a minimal level of prosecutors and to support a compensation program that will draw and retain competent counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to go on record in support of state legislation that funds the Assistant District Attorney pay progression program and to add additional ADAs so as to adequately staff the District Attorney’s office here and those throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wood County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, each member of Wood County’s legislative delegation, and to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this 20th day of September 2016.