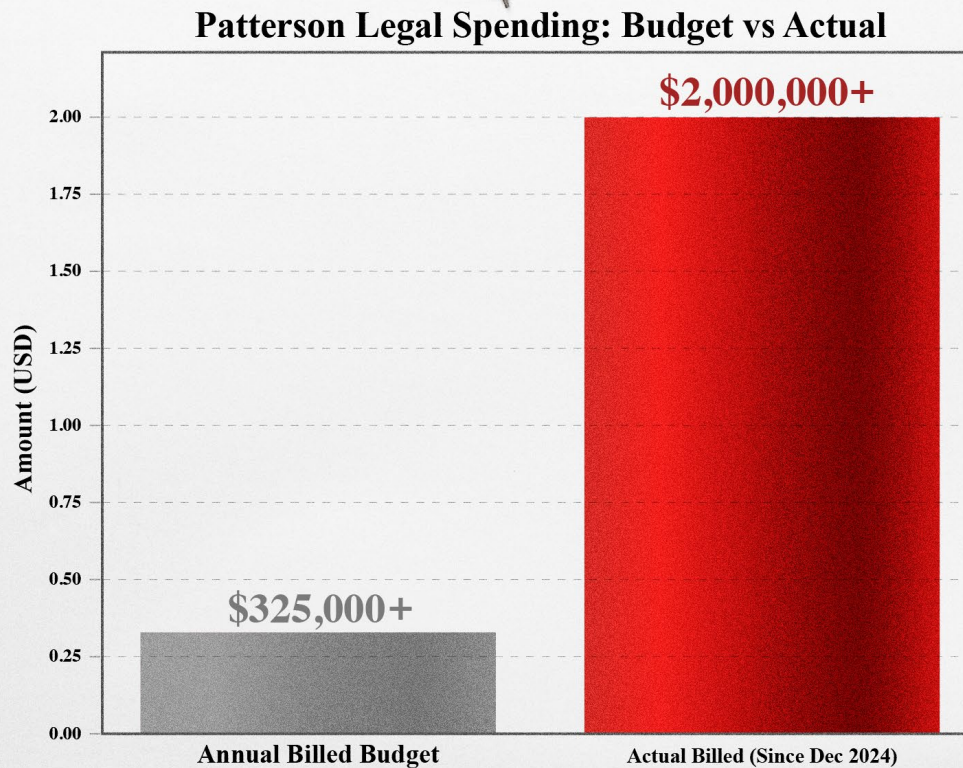


~~\$1,000,000~~ and Counting

\$2,000,000



Patterson Councilmember Carlos Roque said addressing the City’s legal spending and considering hiring an in-house counsel should be a top priority at a recent city budget workshop. White Brenner LLP, the Sacramento-based law firm that serves as the City Attorney for Patterson while also being hired as the City’s counsel for litigation matters, has billed nearly \$2 million since December 2024, including one month over \$550,000, despite the City’s annual legal budget being only \$325,000. **That’s nearly six times the annual legal budget!**

Councilmember Roque is not alone in questioning the overspend. A former Mayor, City Attorney, and other community members have warned that Patterson’s legal bills are spiraling far beyond what the City can afford.

And the concerns don’t stop at Patterson. Those in Ceres, Atwater, and Dixon have raised similar red flags about skyrocketing legal costs tied to the same firm. That’s money that belongs in our streets, parks, and public safety — not in runaway legal bills.

Residents should ask one simple question: is this money well spent?

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