Yardwork

AI-agent budget and ownership over 24 months

Salary-input illustration and responsibilities for the same workflow.

Illustration: one full-time US ML engineer for two complete years at unchanged annual base pay. Benefits, employment taxes, recruitment, equipment, runtime and review costs excluded. For existing staff, cost the actual time allocation. Indeed reports a US posting mean; Robert Half publishes US 2027 starting-salary projections. This is not a German project quote.

Cost component / period	In-house illustration	External build or support
Year-one base pay - Indeed US mean	$185,152	Scoped build, connections, tests and launch; request a quote
Year-two base pay - same assumed rate	$185,152	Agreed support and changes; confirm included work and usage limits
24-month base pay - Indeed illustration	$370,304 = 2 × $185,152	Add the build quote and two years of agreed support, usage and changes
Alternative 24-month salary input - Robert Half US projection	$248,500-$354,000 = 2 × $124,250-$177,000	Compare the same deliverables and responsibilities; no assumed service price
Employment overhead	Add local benefits, taxes, recruitment and equipment	Confirm which supplier expenses are included
Operation and review	Add model/platform charges and the team’s checking time	Confirm usage billing and the review work that stays with you

European cost method: https://yardwork.dev/en/blog/agent-cost-europe

Current scoped Yardwork offers: https://yardwork.dev/en/pricing

Ownership and operation

Cost or responsibility	In-house	External build or support
Build work	Assigned staff time and any hiring cost	Quoted scope and acceptance criteria
Running costs	AI usage and connected services	Confirm what is included and usage limits
Review and correction	Business and engineering time	Confirm the split between supplier and customer
Ongoing changes	Named internal owner and capacity	Agreed maintenance and change scope
Continuity	Documentation, access and cover	Contracted handover, access and cover

Sources

1. Building effective agents - https://www.anthropic.com/engineering/building-effective-agents - Anthropic, 19 December 2024; accessed 14 October 2026.

2. US machine-learning-engineer salaries - https://www.indeed.com/career/machine-learning-engineer/salaries - Indeed, 5 October 2026; accessed 14 October 2026.

3. US ML-engineer starting-salary projections - https://www.roberthalf.com/us/en/job-details/ml-engineer - Robert Half, 2027 Salary Guide; accessed 14 October 2026.