

Story County Emergency Management Commission Budget Workshop

Call to Order

- The meeting of the Story County Emergency Management Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Linda Murken. Welcome and Introductions

Attendance:

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Name</u>
BOS	Linda Murken	Ames	Rich Higgins
Cambridge	Bobby Chubbic	Collins	
Colo	Brent Bappe	Gilbert	
Huxley	Kevin Deaton	Kelley	Kenneth Kling
Maxwell		McCallsburg	David Muth
Nevada	Brett Barker	Roland	Andy Webb
Sheldahl		Slater	John Kahler
Story City		Zearing	
Sheriff		ISU	Clayton Oliver
SCEMA	Spencer Spencer	SCEMA	David Cooper
SCEMA	Samantha Scharper		

Consent Agenda

Approval of October 2022 Meeting Minutes and December 2022 Agenda Motion by Barker 2nd by Kling, MCU

Old Business: None

New Business:

Hazard Mitigation Grant

Spencer explained the Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant. She addressed that having an approved plan is linked to pre- and post-incident mitigation funding, the plan requires updating every five years, and that she is currently in contract negotiations with WSP. She advised that jurisdictions must participate in two of three meetings in order to receive mitigation funds and indicated these meetings are tentatively planned for March, May, and July, but are subject to change. Spencer further advised that the contractor must submit the final product to FEMA for approval no later than January 2024.

Virtual EOC Software Package

Spencer explained the demonstration and value of a Virtual EOC software package which she would like to purchase in FY24. The platform would improve EOC functionality by allowing jurisdictions and EOC staff to collaborate virtually. Major advantages of incorporating this system include jurisdictions could have access to it (unlike the State’s WEB EOC platform), it integrates GIS mapping, allows for combined digital tracking/documentation. Ames requested

additional information about the platform, and Spencer said she would provide it. Murken asked what the cost of the current software is and Spencer explained that we currently don't have a similar program and that we track emergencies with locally developed tools. The initial cost of the software package and first year of support is estimated at \$13,000 with an annual maintenance cost of \$6,000 thereafter. The purchase of software will have to go to bid through the RFP process. No attendees voiced any concern over purchasing Virtual EOC software.

EOC Improvement/Space Needs Discussion

Spencer explained the need for expanding the current EOC to improve functionality during activations. She informed the group that eventually the EOC will move to Ames based on the Story County Space Needs Study, but that there is no timeline for that move. The EMA will look into grant funding for improving the space in Ames when a specific timeline is determined. The estimated cost of improving the current EOC is \$50,000. Questions came up about what will happen to the current EOC space once the EOC moves to Ames, if there are any fire egress issues with the remodel, and what the timeline for the remodel would look like. There is no solid plan for what will happen with the current EOC after the EOC moves to Ames; storage or a conference room are two options. There was a recommendation to have the space serve as a conference room and backup EOC after the move to Ames in order to keep the backup EOC in a separate city from the primary EOC. The remodel would not cause the building to go out of compliance with fire code egress requirements. The EMA would not start the remodel process, which could be a drawn-out process, until after the exercise in April. This could cause actual construction to push into the fall/winter of 2023 which could be good as it would not take place during the months where story county experiences its most severe weather. No one voiced opposition to using \$50,000 to upgrade/remodel the existing EOC and Spencer will include it in the FY24 budget.

Budget Funding

Spencer provided a brief overview of the Iowa Codes related to funding the county emergency management agencies. In Story County, there is a countywide levy to acquire funds, other counties choose other methods which led to challenges to in getting funds to the EMA.

FY23 Budget Closeout

Spencer explained the FY23 budget re-estimation and how the EMA can expect savings of \$47,898 from this year, mostly due to salary changes. Further, she provided changes to the budget expenditures which are more than expected and included a new computer for the Deputy Coordinator, an increase in intern pay, and an increase in vehicle fuel and maintenance costs. Ames asked what percent increase the fuel cost was and figured it was about 14%, which is what the city of Ames also saw in their re-estimation.

FY24 Budget Workshop

Spencer provided the proposed FY24 budget which showed a \$35,125 increase in operational expenses mostly based on increasing intern hours, 911 subscriber fees, increased office insurance and the purchase of the Virtual EOC software package. There was also a decrease in operational expenses of \$5,645 due to salary changes. These together demonstrate a net increase in operations expenses of \$29,481 with true operational expenses amounting to \$264,411. Spencer recommended keeping level funding and noted that the EOC remodel project was currently not a

designated line-item in the budget; funding for the remodel will come from the undesignated reserve. The commission gave approval to request level funding and publish the proposed budget. The budget will publish in the news papers on January 3rd, and will advertise a public hearing on the budget on January 18th, 2023. The budget hearing on January 18th will require a quorum of elected officials in order to approve the budget. If hazardous weather is expected the meeting will take place via zoom; the EMA expects to make the determination by Monday, January 16th.

Other:

Power Stations

Linda brought up the topic of recent attacks on power stations across the US, namely North Carolina and Seattle just for situational awareness. Spencer mentioned that the security measures at power stations in Story County are likely similar to the ones that were attacked and the agency response to those power outages would be the similar to the power outages experienced during the derecho.

Property Tax

Andy (Roland) initiated a discussion about trying to connect with state representatives to discuss with them the impact capping property taxes would have on local government. Murken recommended the Mayors and County Supervisors could meet with State representatives to express their concerns.

Adjournment: Motion by Deaton 2nd by Kling. Meeting adjourned at 8:13PM.

- January 18th- Budget Hearing-Quorum of Elected Officials Required