



**Committee on Planning & Development
ADDENDUM**

May 13, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Room 1277
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

Join by Phone:

Dial in Number: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: **25336635189##**

Join by Meeting Number:

Meeting Number: **2533 663 5189**

Meeting Password: **5Ukf3aV3bC6**

Join from Meeting Link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=mcdfecc407e6d02d134bf4493216d9a24>

1. **Proposed Resolution: File No. 25-26/010** calling for support of local and state emergency management programs / Discussion – Action **Pages 2-5**

Fact Sheet

Resolution No. 25-26/010

Resolution No. 25-26/010 is a resolution requesting the State of Wisconsin to provide financial assistance for Emergency Management staffing costs, preparedness funding, increase the State's Disaster Fund, and support appropriate staffing levels for Wisconsin Emergency Management to oversee the programs.

Federal Grants are being reviewed for the potential to be reduced and the recent President's budget proposal included nearly \$650 million in reductions to FEMA programs without identifying where most of these reductions occur from. One of the specific programs identified for elimination is the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium which is a group of nationwide programs that provide free training to state and local communities. Eau Claire County has benefitted from these programs to bring in training that the state cannot provide due to funding limitations.

Preparedness Grants:

Emergency Management Performance Grant:

Wisconsin Emergency Management passes through 2/3 of the EMPG funds received annually to county and tribal governments which is a significantly higher percentage than most states

Eau Claire County has historically received between \$60-65,000 in funding through this grant, which is approximately 25% of our annual budget

Homeland Security Grant Program:

Eau Claire County Emergency Management received just over \$17,000 in 2024 to develop a regional active shooter program and was awarded just over \$11,000 in 2025 for equipment and technology to improve our emergency operations center and conduct a large exercise which occurred in March.

Mitigation Grants:

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant:

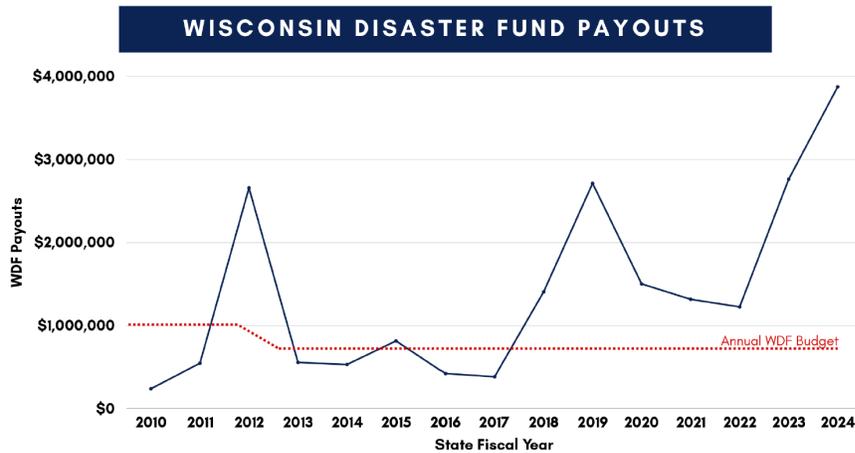
Approximately \$50 million in statewide hazard mitigation projects lost funding for projects including over \$27 million in severe weather shelters, \$9 million in flood mitigation activities, \$9 million to electric cooperatives to bury power lines which reduces the risk for power outages and wildfires, any millions of dollars to county and tribal governments to update hazard mitigation plans. This includes more than \$36,000 in lost funds to Eau Claire County as we are finalizing our hazard mitigation plan. The county has subcontracted with writing this plan to the Regional Planning Commission, so we will need to find the funding to pay for this contract.

State Programs:

Wisconsin Disaster Fund:

Wisconsin has developed a Disaster Fund that is designed to provide some reimbursement for communities impacted by disasters. Currently, the Legislature funds this at \$711,200 annually, and then requests are made throughout the year to the Joint Finance Committee for additional funds.

There is no program designed to assist Eau Claire County residents, or any constituent of Wisconsin Legislators with costs incurred from a disaster. Wisconsin may get one disaster in a decade that has some federal assistance to our residents. Anyone that is uninsured or underinsured has no means to receive assistance.



Wisconsin Emergency Management:

Approximately one-half of Wisconsin Emergency Management staff are fully federally funded and three-quarters are partially or fully federally funded. Loss of federal grants will decrease Wisconsin Emergency Management personnel which includes those who have experience in responding to and recovering from the biggest disasters our state has dealt with.

There are no anticipated fiscal costs.

Sincerely,

Tyler Esh,
Emergency Manager

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RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF LOCAL AND STATE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Whereas, the federal government has called for a review of the Federal
Emergency Management Agency and its programs, and there is bipartisan legislation proposed to
remove the Federal Emergency Management Agency from the Department of Homeland
Security or be entirely disbanded; and

WHEREAS, there is consistent messaging that state and local governments are expected
to take a lead role on emergency management, disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and
preparedness, potentially without federal grants like the Emergency Management Performance
Grant, Homeland Security Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Grants, and other grants that are
utilized by the State of Wisconsin and county and tribal governments to fund everyday
emergency management functions, and the loss of tens of millions of dollars across Wisconsin
with the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant being terminated; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature has developed Statute 323 outlining the roles
and responsibilities of state, local, and tribal governments with regards to emergency
management and other state agencies have responsibilities and requirements that are placed
on local governments which are supported by the federal grants that the State of Wisconsin
receives (e.g., Department of Safety and Professional Standards requires Fire Chiefs to have
Incident Command System training); and

WHEREAS, the federal government has created thresholds for state and local
governments to meet for any federal assistance following a disaster, including over \$11 million
dollars in public infrastructure damage for FFY 2025 and hundreds of homes to be majorly
damaged or destroyed for the federal individual assistance program which has led the State of
Wisconsin to create a Disaster Fund to partially reimburse of communities impacted by severe
weather events; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Disaster Fund historically runs out of money during the
fiscal year due to limited funds being appropriated to it and this fund does not provide assistance
to residents who may be displaced or otherwise impacted by severe weather events; and

WHEREAS, the weather-related disasters that impact Wisconsin like flooding, wildfires,
tornadoes, straight-line wind (derecho) events, blizzards, ice storms, and extreme temperatures
continue to impact our communities with the second most recorded tornadoes in Wisconsin
history happening in 2024, and Eau Claire County being impacted by five tornadoes on one day
in April 2025, and historically the deadliest wildfire and tenth deadliest tornado events in United
States history having occurred in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, local emergency management professionals in Wisconsin are changing their
jobs with increasing frequency with almost three-quarters of the lead emergency managers at the
county and tribal level having changed roles within the past five years.

