

October 15, 2025 Minutes  
Emergency Management Commission Meeting

**Call to Order**

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

**Attendance:**

<b><u>Jurisdiction</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Jurisdiction</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>
BOS	Linda Murken	Ames	John Haila
Cambridge		Collins	Stacy Howell
Colo	Jeff Brinkman	Gilbert	Jon Popp
Huxley	Dave Kuhn	Kelley	Jackie Sapp/Tim Salasek
Maxwell		McCallsburg	Bill Lytle
Nevada		Roland	
Sheldahl		Slater	
Story City	Mike Jensen	Zearing	
Sheriff	Paul Fitzgerald	ISU	Anthony Romero
SCEMA	Melissa Spencer	SCEMA	Josh Harding
Guest		Guest	

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of July Minutes  
Approval of October Tentative Agenda  
Motion by Sapp, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Haila to approve the Consent Agenda MCU

**Old Business**

**EOC Project Update**

Spencer and Facilities Management Director Joby Brogden met with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on October 14 with the most recent cost estimate from the Engineer. The construction cost estimate went from \$216,000 in July to \$150,657 in October. Brogden realized the Engineer did not identify a construction contingency so he believes the total cost estimate should be closer to \$180,000. Spencer proposed the BOS cover the construction costs and the Commission cover the cost of the AV system and additional soft costs. Spencer estimates the total cost of the AV system and soft costs will be \$200,000 at most. This will leave \$128,209.79 remaining in the EOC project fund. Spencer will discuss options for the remaining funds during budget direction. The next steps are final drawing and bid development and issue.

There were questions about the cost of the AV system and whether it would be that expensive. Spencer explained that the final cost is unknown until we start to see bids from vendors. This is the best estimate based upon previous estimates for the Mosaic space and increased costs of this equipment in general.

## **FEMA Grants Update**

The FY26 FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) fund for this fiscal year should be coming soon. The funding is available and approved and only waiting for the federal government to release the funds to the state.

The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) will likely not be awarded to Story County. The focus continues to be State level teams. The grant is also tied up in a federal lawsuit and being held at the federal level.

FEMA grants are unknown going into the FY27 budget. We will discuss the impact during budget direction.

## **New Business**

### **December Budget Workshop Change**

Spencer is requesting to change the December workshop date from December 10<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Chair is unavailable that week.

### **2027 Budget Direction**

There is nothing to officially vote on for the budget, we are only seeking direction as we conduct the FY26 budget re-estimation and build the proposed FY27 budget. These are changes we see coming for the remainder of the year and into the next. The budgets will be voted on and approved at the January meeting.

FY27 salaries will be figured on a 3% increase along with staff Anniversary step increases. It is unknown what the BOS will approve but we believe it won't be more than 3%.

We are in the process of switching to internet-based Microsoft TEAMS phones that will have a cost of \$14.40 per month with no additional cost for phone calls made. Currently we are paying \$7.00 per month for 15 EOC phones and \$25.00 per month for the office phones with additional costs for phone calls made. We are paying on average \$180.00 per month. By FY27, all agency phones will be TEAMS phones with a cost of \$3,000 for a full year.

We believe the EOC project will start over the winter and take approximately 6 months to complete. We hope to have all costs paid before the end of FY26. Therefore, we will have to approve a budget amendment at the January meeting to bring the funds into the budget from the designated reserve. There was a question about waiting to do the amendment in April or May as that is when most cities do amendments. Spencer explained there is not enough excess funding in the budget to cover the project costs for that long. If we waited that long, the budget would be run into the red. It is also being done in January at the recommendation of the Auditor's Office.

As mentioned previously, there is no guarantee for federal EMPG grant funding for the FY27 budget. The Commission is awarded \$39,000 a year that is used to offset the Coordinator's

salary, which decreases the agency funding each year. Spencer recommends developing the FY27 budget without the EMPG grant funding. If funding would be received, staff will identify options for spending the funds.

There is also an option to use the remaining EOC project funds to offset the increase to the budget until those funds are exhausted to keep the Commission ask level for as long as possible. There was discussion about whether using the excess funds to keep level funding was a good use of the remaining money or if there are better projects to use the funding towards. Spencer will identify projects and bring them to discussions at the December workshop.

### **Quarterly Report**

Spencer thanked Deputy Coordinator Josh Harding for stepping up as Interim Coordinator while she was on medical leave for 6 weeks. He handled everything that came up and did an outstanding job. Thank You Josh!

No questions on the quarterly report.

### **Other**

Spencer is going to create a Story County Iowa Alert for Commission notifications. This will send reminders and polls directly to your cell phones to ensure quorums for meetings and emergency notifications. We will use the cell phone numbers and emails you have provided.

Chair Murken is working on Spencer's annual evaluation. All Commission members should have received an email with a 360-evaluation form. This is your chance to provide your input as to how she performed this last year.

### **Next Meeting:**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop**

**January 21, 2026 Budget Public Hearing-Elected Officials**

**Motion by Popp, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jensen to adjourn the meeting. MCU Meeting adjourned at 7:42PM**