

## **AGENDA**

### **EMS Working Group**

#### **Videoconference OR**

**Jefferson County Courthouse  
311 S. Center Avenue, Room C2063  
Jefferson, WI 53549**

July 9, 2025

9:00 a.m.

### **EMS Working Group**

Kim Cheney (Town of Koshkonong), Drake Daily (City of Lake Mills), County Board Supervisor Bruce Degner (Town of Ixonia), Kyle Ellefson (Village of Johnson Creek), John Kannard (Town of Sullivan), Travis Maze (Sheriff's Office), County Board Supervisor, Dwayne Morris (City of Watertown), Laura Payne (Town of Oakland), Bruce Peterson, MABAS Member (City of Fort Atkinson), Jenifer Quimby (City of Waterloo), Tanya Reynen (City of Watertown), Ron Wegner, MABAS Member (City of Jefferson), Dr. Chris Wistrom, Medical Director

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 212 418 417 154

Passcode: Vi3K2Mb3

1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Certification of compliance with Open Meetings Law
  4. Review of Agenda
  5. Public Comment (Members of the public who wish to address the committee on specific agenda items must register at this time)
  6. Communications
  7. Approval of June 11, 2025 EMS Working Group Minutes
  8. Discussion and possible action on data collection project
  9. Discussion and possible action on EMS Working Group goals
  10. Discussion on Library Model funding
  11. Presentation and discussion about county-wide EMS systems in Wisconsin
  12. Discussion on next steps, timeline, and other miscellaneous matters
  13. Discussion and possible action on tentative future meeting dates and agenda items
- Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
14. Adjourn

A quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Board, Commission, or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at 920-674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made.

## **AGENDA**

### **EMS Working Group**

### **Videoconference OR**

**Jefferson County Courthouse  
311 S. Center Avenue, Room C2063  
Jefferson, WI 53549**

June 11, 2025

9:00 a.m.

### **EMS Working Group**

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Kim Cheney (Town of Koshkonong), Drake Daily (City of Lake Mills), County Board Supervisor Bruce Degner (Town of Ixonia), Kyle Ellefson (Village of Johnson Creek), John Kannard (Town of Sullivan), Travis Maze (Sheriff's Office), County Board Supervisor, Dwayne Morris (City of Watertown), Laura Payne (Town of Oakland), Bruce Peterson, MABAS Member (City of Fort Atkinson), Jenifer Quimby (City of Waterloo), Tanya Reynen (City of Watertown), Ron Wegner, MABAS Member (City of Jefferson), Dr. Chris Wistrom, Medical Director.

**Others Present:** Michael Luckey, Matt Zangl, Megan McBride, Danielle Thompson; Michael Flood, Lana Nelson.

#### **3. Certification of compliance with open meetings law**

Luckey certified that we are in compliance.

#### **4. Review of Agenda**

#### **5. Public Comment** (Members of the public who wish to address the committee on specific agenda items must register at this time)

None

#### **6. Communications**

None

#### **7. Approval of May 14, 2025 EMS Working Group Minutes**

Draft minutes were provided for review.

Motion by Morris/Reynen to approve May 14, 2025, EMS Working Group minutes. Motion passed 13-0.

#### **8. Review Survey Results from UniverCity Alliance**

McBride did a presentation on the survey results. No action taken.

#### **9. Discussion and possible action on data collection project**

The committee discussed different aspects of data collection. No action taken.

#### **10. Discussion and possible action on EMS Working Group goals**

Sheriff and Dr. Wistrom talked about the importance of paramedic level care in all areas. Daily talked about what pieces can be collaborated on. No action taken.

#### **11. Discussion on next steps, timeline, and other miscellaneous matters.**

McBride talked about this work being done by semesters, likely into spring or summer of 2026. Morris suggested a presentation from a county like ours that has a county run or county coordinated EMS system. No action taken.

#### **12. Discussion and possible action on tentative future meeting schedule, location, and agenda items**

The meetings are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **13. Adjourn**

Motion by Morris/Quimby to adjourn. 10:34 a.m. Motion passed 13-0.

## Jefferson County “Library Model”

Jefferson County currently collects a non-countywide Library levy that funds municipal libraries that are used by non-residents based on a formula that divides operating costs by residents and non-residents. The division is based on the number of circulations (units checked out). Since municipalities already levy a tax for libraries, cities with library levies are not included in the county’s levy.

The Library mill rate topped out in 2018 at \$0.3414 per \$1,000 of taxable value, and declining to its low of \$0.2192 in 2024. The Library mill rate increased by \$0.0050, or 2.3% from 2024 to 2025. In 2025, the County Library Levy was \$1,296,117.

The formula to calculate the request amount is described below and also shown in a table in Attachment 2.

- Step 1: Sum the nine county libraries’ operational expenses from the previous year’s state annual report
- Step 2: Calculate the ratio of circulation to county residents who live in municipalities without libraries by dividing non-librariated circulation, including both physical and digital circulation if a library circulates digital materials to Jefferson County residents, by total circulation.
- Step 3: Multiply the non-librariated circulation percentage from step 2 by the total of the County libraries’ operational expenditures from step 1.

After study, the County Library Board adopted a change to the formula that calculates how the funds are distributed to libraires. The distribution formula includes a provision to limit library decreases to 5% or \$5,000 (whichever is in the library’s favor) – helping to protect libraries from drastic decreases in funding.

The Bridges Library System handles the County library budgeting responsibilities. There is \$1,500 allocated to this expense. The total administrative costs are less than 1% of the budget. The remainder – and the vast majority of the funding – goes directly to libraries.

Additionally, \$155,032 has been requested for 2025 by adjacent county libraries for reimbursement for circulations made in 2023 to Jefferson County residents who live in areas without libraries. State law requires counties in Wisconsin to reimburse libraries at 70% of each library’s cost for non-librariated circulations to all adjacent counties. That allocation represents payments to 36 libraries in five adjacent counties. Jefferson County also receives payments from neighboring counties for similar service, with an average yearly receipt of \$369,757 resulting in a positive Jefferson County position of approximately \$212,973 on an annual basis.

## State Statutes

### 66.0602 *Local levy limits*

66.0602(2)(a) “Except as provided in subs. (3), (4), and (5), no political subdivision may increase its levy in any year by a percentage that exceeds the political subdivision’s valuation factor...”

66.0602(3)(e) The limit otherwise applicable under this section does not apply to any of the following:

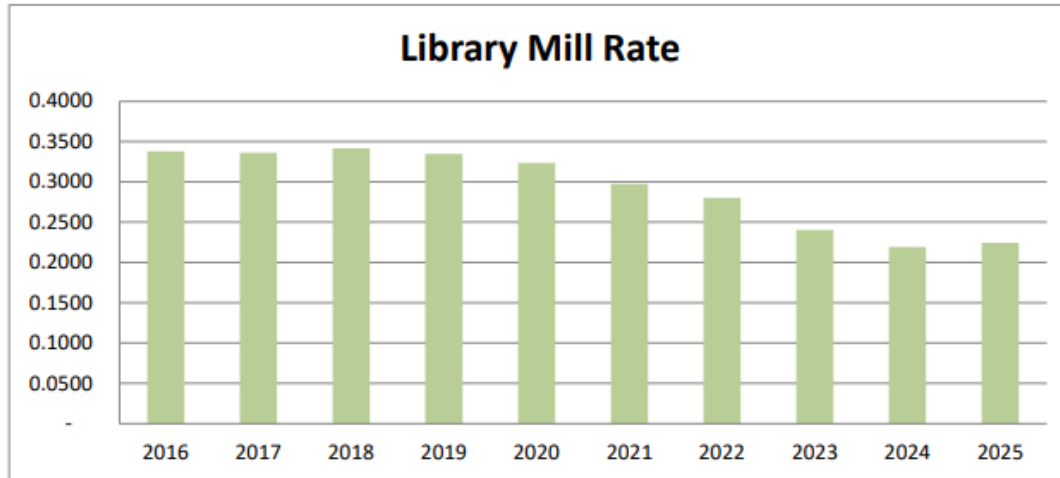
1. The amount that a county levies in that year for a county children with disabilities education board.
2. The amount that a 1<sup>st</sup> class city levies in that year for school purposes.
3. The amount that a county levies in that year under s. 82.08(2) for bridge and culvert construction and repair.
4. The amount that a county levies in that year to make payments to public libraries under s. 43.12.
5. The amount that a political subdivision levies in that year to make up any revenue shortfall for the debt service on a revenue bond issued under s. 66.0621 by the political subdivision or by a joint fire department if the joint fire department uses the proceeds of the bond to pay for a fire station and assesses the political subdivision for its share of that debt, under an agreement entered into under s. 66.0301, which is incurred by the joint fire department but is the responsibility of the political subdivision.
6. The amount that a county levies in that year for a countywide emergency medical system.
7. The amount that a village levies in that year for police protection services, but this subdivision applies only to a village’s levy for the year immediately after the year in which the village changes from town status and incorporates as a village, and only if the town did not have a police force.
8. The amount that a political subdivision levies in that year to pay the unreimbursed expenses related to an emergency declared under s. 323.10, including any amounts levied in that year to replenish cash reserves that were used to pay any unreimbursed expenses related to that emergency. A levy under this subdivision that relates to a particular emergency initially shall be imposed in the year in which the emergency is declared or in the following year.
9. The political subdivision’s share of any refund or recission determined by the department of revenue and certified under s. 74.41 (5).

### Case law: Wisconsin Court of Appeals

Town of Grant, Portage County v. Portage County, No. 2016AP2435, 2017 WI app 69, 378 Wis. 2d289, 903 N.W.2d 152 (Wis. Ct. pp. Sept, 21, 2017)

Portage County operates a county-wide EMS that includes ambulance service. The Town of Grant, located within Portage County, became unhappy with certain aspects of the county-provided ambulance service and decided to contract with a private company for ambulance service for its residence, further seeking to “withdraw” from the county-wide EMS system. In support of its “withdrawal,” the Town of Grant sued Portage County claiming that its residents should not be forced to pay any property taxes that support county-wide EMS. A Circuit Court sided with Portage County, affirmed by the Court of Appeals, that Town of Grant could not “withdraw” from paying property taxes in support of this system. ([Article from von Griesen & Roper](#))

### Attachment 1



Year	Equalized Value	Tax Levy	Levy \$ Change	Chg from Pr Yr	Mill Rate	Chg from Pr Yr
2016	3,075,552,200	1,039,235	27,143	2.68%	0.3379	0.04%
2017	3,186,165,700	1,070,311	31,076	2.99%	0.3359	-0.59%
2018	3,294,897,100	1,124,932	54,621	5.10%	0.3414	1.63%
2019	3,439,851,600	1,151,101	26,169	2.33%	0.3346	-1.99%
2020	3,682,710,800	1,190,912	39,811	3.46%	0.3234	-3.36%
2021	3,885,268,900	1,155,430	(35,482)	-2.98%	0.2974	-8.04%
2022	4,128,674,800	1,156,411	981	0.08%	0.2801	-5.82%
2023	4,907,259,100	1,179,470	23,059	1.99%	0.2404	-14.19%
2024	5,437,603,400	1,191,880	12,410	1.05%	0.2192	-8.80%
2025	5,780,108,000	1,296,117	104,237	8.75%	0.2242	2.30%

### Attachment 2

**Table 2: County Library Formula – for County Library Portion of Budget Request**

		2022 for 2024 Budget	2023 for 2025 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Operating Expenditures at County Libraries (2 years prior)		\$4,794,339	\$5,272,438	\$478,099	9.97%
Percentage Share of Countywide Non- Librariated circulation (2 years prior)	x	21.56%	21.64%	N/A	0.4%
County Library Portion of Budget Request		\$1,033,436	\$1,141,085	\$107,649	10.42%