



***Marty Kelly***  
*Goodhue County Sheriff*

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430 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
Office (651) 267.2600  
Dispatch (651) 385.3155

TO: Budget Committee and Goodhue County Commissioners

FROM: Marty Kelly, Sheriff  
Kristine Holst, Financial Manager

DATE: January 12, 2026

RE: **Out-of-State Travel Request**

We respectfully request approval for out-of-state travel in 2026 for Emergency Services Captain Chad Steffen related to his ongoing participation in the SAFECOM Program.

Captain Steffen has served as an appointed SAFECOM Public Safety At-Large Member since 2018. SAFECOM is a national emergency communications program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Captain Steffen is one of approximately 25 At-Large Members nationwide and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Education & Outreach Committee.

Sheriff Kelly is requesting approval for Captain Steffen to continue participating in SAFECOM's bi-annual meetings and one annual committee meeting. Historically, these meetings included in-person attendance and were fully funded by the SAFECOM Program, with the county's only obligation being Captain Steffen's time commitment, which generally does not exceed 75 hours annually.

Since March of 2025, SAFECOM has not met in person, and the likelihood of in-person meetings remains rare for the foreseeable future. This request is therefore precautionary in nature, ensuring authorization is in place should limited in-person meetings resume.

This request has been approved in prior years, and the county continues to benefit from representation in national emergency communications policy, interoperability planning, and best practices that directly support local and regional public safety operations.

**Recommendation:**

We respectfully request the County Board's approval for this out-of-state travel authorization for 2026.

For more information on SAFECOM: <https://www.cisa.gov/safecom>

**OFFICE OF THE GOODHUE COUNTY SHERIFF**

ADULT DETENTION  
CENTER  
651.267.2804

CIVIL DIVISION  
651.267.2601

RECORDS DIVISION  
651-267-2600

EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
651.267.2640

EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
651.385.3155