



Marty Kelly
Goodhue County Sheriff

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TO: Budget Committee & Goodhue County Board Commissioners

FROM: Kristine Holst, Financial Manager
Chad Steffen, Emergency Services Captain

DATE: January 9, 2025

RE: **2025 Out of State Travel Request(s) for Trainings and/or Conferences Eligible for E911 Grant Funding**

In late 2022, MN DPS's Emergency Communication Networks (ECN) announced that professional development training and conference opportunities related to our dispatch operations are an approved use of E911 grant funds. Eligible staff would be the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Emergency Services Captain, Public Safety Telecommunicators and PST Sergeants. All these positions have a direct responsibility for the operation of our Emergency Communications Center (ECC).

Covered expenses included: Registration costs, travel, lodging, meals, and any backfill overtime, etc.

We are requesting pre-approval of any announced or unannounced out-of-state travel for eligible staff. Today, each opportunity is formally requested and vetted prior to authorizing travel and/or attendance. Many factors are included in the decision-making process. These include current staffing levels, planned events, the direct or indirect benefits of the training/conference opportunity and the overall mission and goals of the office.

Sheriff Kelly believes this funding is paramount to keeping our emergency communications staff trained and performing at their best. Additionally, this funding allows us to greatly reduce the dispatch budget, thus minimizing the use of levy dollars.

Recommendation:

The Budget Committee and County Board approve the out-of-state travel request as a blanket approval if such travel is covered by E911 grant funds.

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