



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 12, 2026

RE: 2026 Out of State Travel Request(s) for Trainings and/or Conferences Eligible for 911 Grant Funding

In late 2022, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Emergency Communication Networks (ECN) confirmed that training and conference opportunities directly related to public safety communications are an approved use of 911 grant funds.

Eligible staff include the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Emergency Services Captain, Public Safety Telecommunicators, and Public Safety Telecommunicator Sergeants – each with direct responsibility for the operation and oversight of the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Eligible expenses include registration, travel, lodging, meals, and required backfill overtime.

We are requesting blanket pre-approval for out-of-state travel when fully funded by 911 grant dollars. Currently, each opportunity requires individual approval, which can delay participation in time-sensitive trainings despite careful internal vetting.

Our intent for 2026 is to limit out-of-state travel, even when eligible for E-911 funding, in order to financially position the county for upcoming 9-1-1 system updates and infrastructure upgrades. Any out-of-state travel will be selective and tied to a clear operational benefit to the PSAP.

Sheriff Kelly supports targeted professional development while using 911 grant funds to reduce the PSAP operating budget and minimize reliance on levy dollars.

Recommendation:

Approve blanket authorization for out-of-state travel for eligible staff when fully funded by 911 grant funds.

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