

LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 - 4:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Confirm Meeting Date and Time

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 4:00pm, 801 North Sales Street, Room 255, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approve Minutes From: June 15, 2026.

M/S Miller/Thiel to approve the June 15, 2026 meeting minutes upon typographical errors being corrected under EMS section, item e. All ayes, motion carried on voice vote.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Emergency Management

- a. Year-to-Date Budget Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- b. Travel & Expense Report

M/S Thiel/Cummings to approve Travel and Expense report. All ayes, motion carried on voice vote.

- c. Emergency Management Activity Report

Chair Hartwig provided an overview of the activity report stating that the \$100,000 grant received will be utilized to enhance website and email security. Increasing public registration for the "Code Red" project (mass notification system) was encouraged. The committee requested Verhasselt present details on "winter loadings" and call out conditions at the next committee meeting. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

7. Coroner

- a. Year-to-Date Budget Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- b. Travel & Expense Report

None

- c. Coroner's Report

No report submitted. Due to increased workload, Caylor was unable to attend due to work schedule demands. The June report will be carried over to next month.

8. Judicial

a. District Attorney and Victim Witness

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Barker reported that the budget is stable, though they continue to monitor court-appointed attorney costs, which are dependent on case volume. Rising costs of jury trials were discussed, noting that judges are increasingly pushing cases to trial rather than delaying them. Attorneys are informed that jury-related costs will be charged to the defense or state if a case settles after the jury has been summoned.

c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Beyer reported that the budget is stable. However, court-ordered medical exams have been increasing. The department has successfully collected \$3411.00 in Title 19 reimbursements for CHIPS and termination of Parental Rights cases. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

ii) Travel & Expense Report

None

9. Sheriff's Office

a. Statistical Reports

i) Expense Budget, Revenue Budget (Year-to-date Report)

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

ii) Recreational Officer Activity Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

iii) 9-1-1 Supervisor's Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

iv) Jail Census Report

Report reviewed. Jail census is averaging 68, having started the month at 66. The goal is to reach 90% revenue by the end of the year. Report placed on file.

b. Tour of Jail (to occur immediately following meeting)

10. Emergency Medical Services

a. Tomahawk Report

Kirkley reported that EMS is operating 5% below budget for expenses. Staffing is stable. Kirkley indicated that the Tomahawk ambulances are staffed with both a paramedic and an EMT. Discussions regarding the resolution for installation of front-facing cameras and GPS monitoring will be deferred to next month's meeting. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

b. Merrill Report

i) April Reports

Chief Klug reported a successful hiring process following the retirement of firefighter EMT Rick Sparks, resulting in 22 applicants and five candidates approved by the Police and Fire Commission. . No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

ii) May Reports

Chief Klug reported that the department received a \$4,000 donation from the Lions Club to be used for personal protective equipment, such as high-visibility ambulance jackets. Firefighter paramedic Dylan Schielke was awarded Responder of the Year at the first Trauma Survivor Day at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

iii) * Speaker: James Small - Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (Instate expert on ambulance service issues)

Mr. Small presented on the state of EMS, emphasizing the three pillars of reliability, sustainability and system quality with focus on EMS well-being and retention, system challenges and misinformation, and financial and workforce trends. The program is funded through federal grants. There are currently 14 counties using levies to support EMS. Mr. Small indicated that he will provide the research study report on leadership and well-being to the committee and will also be speaking in September at the Fall Wisconsin Counties Association conference.

c. Monthly Charge Report, Write-offs, and Collections

M/S Cummings/Thiel to approve write-offs in the amount of \$16,321.12. All ayes, motions carried on voice vote.

d. YTD Budget

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

e. 2027 Projected EMS Budget Proposal

M/S Cummings/Lyskawa to defer the 2027 EMS budget proposal to evaluate the fiscal impact of excluding four proposed employee positions from the projected 34% cost increase. The committee requested a detailed cost breakdown to distinguish between essential baseline and new staffing requirements.

11. Closed Session

- a. The Committee may consider a motion to adjourn into closed session (roll call vote required), pursuant to Wis.Stats. §19.85(1)(e), "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session", to include the Administrative Coordinator, the Finance Director and any other Board of Supervisors wishing to remain, to wit: EMS Contract Negotiations with City of Merrill Fire Department — status of negotiations and guidance for the negotiating team.**

M/S Thiel/Lyskawa to adjourn into closed session. All ayes, motion carried on roll call vote.

12. Reconvene to Open Session

M/S Thiel/Cummings to reconvene to Open Session. All ayes, motion carried on roll call vote.

13. Take Any Necessary Action on the Closed Session Items

No action taken.

14. Adjourn

M/S Thiel/Miller to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried on voice vote. Chair Hartwig adjourned the

meeting at 5:41pm.