

Emergency Management Commission

8-19-2026 Meeting

4:35 PM

Attending were Glen Hoyt, Paul Ver Meer, Kristie Nixon, Judy Hopkins, Dennis Brown, Rod Meinke, Brian Bolton with Bridget Mitchell and Doug Dagget via ZOOM. Missing was representation from Lorimor.

- A. Brian called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.*
- B. Judy made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Glen seconded that motion. No discussion. All in favor (AIF), motion carried (MC).*
- C. Kristie made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Glen seconded that motion. No discussion. AIF-MC.*
- D. 1. Paul Ver Meer, Coordinator, reported the SAMS app has been approved with Paul as administrator and Brian second. This app will be used to apply for grants. Baseline Classes are complete. Paul has completed all but one ISS class for his state certification.*

E. The claims had been passed around the room and after all had a chance to review them, Kristie made a motion to approve the claims. Dennis noted several invoices from ECHO Electric. The generator has needed several repairs and some preventive maintenance was done on two towers and was included in those billings. Glen seconded Kristie's motion. No further questions or discussion. AIF-MC.

F. Other Items for Discussion Purposes Only:

A preliminary budget was passed to each attendee and Paul will email a copy to Bridget and Doug. Items that will see adjustment were highlighted in red and Paul explained his reasoning with each of those. Basically, Paul increased expenses 5% to help with inflationary increases. Dennis asked if propane contracts are current for the best prices for the county. Paul will check on those. Paul explained this is a first rough draft and he encouraged each of us to study it and bring back suggestions to each meeting until the budget is finalized.

Discussion on the communication costs followed. There are four towers in the county (Creston Water Tower on west side of town, Highland Tower on Cheers property south of Arispe, Lorimor Tower at Creamery RD and REA RD and Kerrigan Tower at Talmage Hill) to help with law enforcement, emergency responders, fire departments across the county, etc. Paul has proposed billing for communication equipment, radio transmissions, maintenance be sent to Emergency Management Services and then allocated. Brian brought our attention to the fact there are now no dead spots in the county as far as communication and radio connections. These towers are a huge expense for the county but very necessary.

Contracting the mowing, weeding, spraying the Tower sites and the building lots, was discussed. Brian asked if that expense would be EMS or county. That will be finalized before the budget is approved.

Contract Services includes mapping, Beacon updates, Motorola services and preventive Maintenance on Towers for communication.

The Adair county EMS manager is coming next week to assist Paul with understanding how to use and manage the Reserve Funds. As of last month, we do have a balance there of \$38,000. Paul warned that a major event could deplete those funds quickly. Brian asked if we contributed to Reserve Funds last year or used them and Paul said we did use some for Tower expenses.

The EMPG grant funds are not included with this preliminary budget. By October Paul should have more knowledge of success with the application.

Paul brought up there is an LEPC League in southern Iowa that includes emergency responders. He cited the advantages of joining that group: sharing training sessions and more grants available. Union County must be a member for two years before they would have access to grants, receiving training through ZOOM. The commission encouraged Paul to pursue membership.

The Board of Supervisors asked Paul to design some Safety Plans of Action for schools, courthouse, etc. He has come up with some flyers and is available to talk to teachers groups, human resource trainings, city councils, etc.

Brian told us of a Mock Training to be held at SWCC August 29-30th. Several entities and counties will participate in the training which will focus on an active shooter in a school.

The city of Thayer still needs letters of support from other government bodies and civil groups for the building of a Storm Shelter in their town.

Kristie thanked Brian and Paul for coming to Afton to discuss the Storm Shelter at the school in Afton. Several issues still need addressed.

Rod made the motion to adjourn. Glen seconded that motion. Our next meeting will be September 16, 2026, at 4:35PM. No further discussion. AIF-MC.

Our meeting adjourned at 5:12PM.

Respectfully submitted and approved at 9-16-2026 EMC meeting,

Judy Hopkins