

RESOLUTION**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Public Safety & Justice Committee
Supervisor Ron Bomkamp
INITIATED BY



6/26/2023
DATE DRAFTED

Authorizing Transition of Oversight of Emergency Management Functions from the Sheriff's Office to the County Administrator's Office

WHEREAS, prior to 2013, the Rock County Emergency Management Director was a Department Head that reported to the County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013 Budget, the County Board approved transferring oversight of Emergency Management to the Rock County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, this transfer included a clerical position and certain funding, but the Emergency Management Director position was eliminated, and duties were assigned to an existing Sergeant position in the Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is requesting that oversight of Emergency Management functions be transferred back to the County Administrator's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Sergeant currently performing the duties of Emergency Management Director will soon be assigned other law enforcement duties regardless of whether this change is approved; and

WHEREAS, the expectation is that transferring these responsibilities will provide more stability in leadership of the office, as it is not reasonable to expect a newly assigned Sergeant will remain in the role as long as the current Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic include that a closer supervisory relationship between the County Administrator and the Emergency Management Director could result in more timely decision making in certain responses and with regard to the deployment of resources; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has spoken with leaders of local police and fire agencies, who are in support of this change; and

WHEREAS, the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and related offices being constructed as part of the LES/Jail project are being built with a separate outside entrance and separation from other interior spaces of the Sheriff's Office, which will allow for a new non-RCSO Emergency Management Director to utilize this space but still be co-located at the Sheriff's Office, which will provide benefits of joint utilization of space and the availability of access to RCSO staff if needed; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has pledged to continue to support Emergency Management operations with staff and resources should a large-scale event so require.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled this 13th day of July, 2023, does hereby authorize the transfer of oversight responsibilities from the Sheriff's Office to the County Administrator's Office and create an Office of Emergency Management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a 1.0 FTE Emergency Management Director position is created in Grade P of the new wage grid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a 1.0 FTE vacant Administrative Assistant position in the Sheriff's Office that previously supported the Emergency Management function be deleted and a 1.0 FTE Deputy Emergency Management Director position be created in Grade K of the new wage grid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this change shall be effective no sooner than October 1 but will not take effect before the successful confirmation of a new Emergency Management Director by the County Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Administrator is directed to include in the 2024 Budget any other changes necessary to effectuate this change.

FISCAL NOTE:

Savings from the vacant Administrative Assistant position are sufficient to fund the new positions if they begin October 1 or later.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 59.03, 59.22(2), & 59.54(8).

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended. After numerous discussions with the Sheriff and his team, other County staff that have been involved in emergency response, and first responder agencies, I agree that moving oversight of Emergency Management under County Administration is the most appropriate decision for the organization at this time. As would be expected, taking on the additional responsibility of supervising the Emergency Management Director will add to my span of control and require me to further prioritize duties and tasks.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

County Board Staff Committee

Public Safety & Justice Committee

Supervisor Bomkamp moved to add his name to the initiated by line, second by Supervisor Knudson. NO - Supervisor Zoril. ADOPTED. Public Safety & Justice Committee recommended this amended resolution for approval by a roll call vote of 3-2 in which Supervisors Beaver, Knudson, and Bomkamp voted "Aye" and Supervisors Zoril and Whitledge voted "Nay."