UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
March 11, 2025 – 2:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN } **EOC Room – Law Enforcement Facility**
COUNTY OF PIERCE } **555 Overlook Dr., ELLSWORTH, WI** **2025 – 02**

1) Meeting Convened

The Pierce County Law Enforcement Committee met in the EOC Room of the Pierce County Law Enforcement Facility, Ellsworth, WI. Chairman J. Aubart called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1a) Those Present

A quorum was established acknowledging 5 members present.

Members present:		Absent/Excused:
Jon Aubart	District #3	
Joanne Johnson	District #4	
Scott Bjork	District #7	
Dale Auckland	District #12	
Mel Pittman	District #17	

Also present: Greg Weaver-Data Analyst, Jason Matthys-AC, Jamie Feuerhelm- County Clerk, Christine McPherson-Emergency Management Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Ali Verges-Jail Administrator, Donny Knutson-Jail Lieutenant, Kerry Feuerhelm-Clerk of Court.

1b) Public Comment

Chairman J. Aubart introduced new Supervisor & Committee member Joanne Johnson.

2) Agenda Adopted

Motion by D. Auckland/S. Bjork to adopt agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.

3) Approve Minutes

Motion by S. Bjork/M. Pittman to approve minutes of the Feb. 11th, 2025 meeting as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4) Discuss/take action on CJCC Coordinator contract renewal

Chairman Aubart stated that the contract is due annually & that the County is required to provide the types of services performed. Motion by D. Auckland/S. Bjork to approve the renewal of the contract with the CJCC Coordinator; motion carried unanimously.

5) Discuss/take action to approve Resolution 25-XX Amend Fees for Services of County Medical Examiner and Deputy Medical Examiner

The proposed legislation is an annual resolution to amend fees, allowed to be increased by the annual cost of living index. Motion by M. Pittman/S. Bjork to approve resolution to amend fees for services of County ME & Deputy ME, & forward to Finance & Personnel Committee recommending approval; motion carried unanimously.

6) Discuss/take action to approve Resolution 25-XX Resolution Urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to Support the County Courts

K. Feuerhelm explained that this legislation urges Governor Evers & State Legislators to support county courts. Courts across the State are advocating for an increase to the State's Circuit Court costs payments from an 80%/20% split in favor of the State to an even 50%/50% split. Also, to increase the amount counties may retain from fines/forfeitures, as well as explore additional funding for circuit courts. She stated Pierce County Courts has struggles for years to keep qualified attorneys, guardian ad litems, & interpreters because of increased costs to provide such services. Chairman J. Aubart added that the Wisconsin Counties Association is endorsing this as well as an advisory resolution. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to approve resolution to urge the Governor & State Legislators to further support county courts; motion carried unanimously.

7) Discuss/take action to approve Resolution 25-XX Adopting Pierce County all Hazards Mitigation Plan

C. McPherson explained that an approved local mitigation plan, including adoption by the local government, is one of the conditions for applying for and/or receiving FEMA mitigation grants from the following programs: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program. The County partnered with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, utilizing a planning grant from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to complete the project over the last 15 months. Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to approve resolution adopting the Pierce County all Hazards Mitigation Plan; motion carried unanimously.

8) Emergency Management Report

C. McPherson reported that she has been working with the Prairie Island facility on a plan to remove warning sirens along with MOUs for those municipalities desiring to keep certain sirens. She added that one of the newer dispatch workers has resigned & recruitment is ongoing. No action taken.

9) Sheriff's Office/Jail Report

C. Koranda reported that last year's budget experienced a deficit & that he & staff are identifying things that will need to be addressed for this year. He indicated that the Jail is currently at full staff & Patrol has one vacancy. He added that it costs approx. $18,000 to train new recruits. He mentioned that recent discussions about larger animal operations can have affects up to 50 miles from the location of the site, on roads, traffic issues, & other areas. He also informed the Committee on the upcoming Flood Run event that some entities are suggesting that it be a three-day event, which would put additional stress on staff. In closing, he remarked that mental health continues to be a significant issue for law enforcement, both in & out of the jail setting. No action taken.

10) Medical Examiner's Report & Statistics

J. Matthys reported on behalf of J. Worsing indicating that the number of cases for 2025 are still less than in previous years, but that activities tend to increase during the summer months. Matthys added that the ME received a bill from Ellsworth Fire Service Association for assisting the removal of a decedent. The ME noted that the Office has never received a bill for these services during his tenure. Matthys indicated that ongoing discussions with parties typically involved may need to happen. No action taken.

11) Future Agenda Items

- None presented at this time.

12) Next Meeting Date

Next regular meeting scheduled for second Tuesday, Apr. 8th, at 2:30 p.m., in County Board Room, Courthouse.

13) Closed Session

Motion by D. Auckland/S. Bjork to go into closed session at 3:20 p.m. pursuant to §19.85 (1)(d) Wis. Stats. for the purpose of considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision of parole, or considering

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
May 13, 2025 – 2:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN } **COUNTY OF PIERCE**	**EOC Room – Law Enforcement Facility** **555 Overlook Dr., ELLSWORTH, WI**	**2025 – 03**

1) Meeting Convened
The Pierce County Law Enforcement Committee met in the County Board Room of the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, WI. Chairperson J. Aubart called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

1a) Those Present
A quorum was established acknowledging 4 members present; 1 excused.

Members present:		Absent/Excused:	
Jon Aubart	District #3	Joanne Johnson	District #4
Scott Bjork	District #7		
Dale Auckland	District #12		
Mel Pittman	District #17 (2:34)		

Also present: Greg Weaver-Data Analyst, Jason Matthys-AC, Jamie Feuerhelm-County Clerk, Christine McPherson-Emergency Management Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, John Worsing-Medical Examiner, Natalie Stockwell-PCSO, Peral Bavernfeind-Dispatch, Samantha Gillman-Dispatch, Elizabeth Buch-Dispatch, Katie Allyn, Allison Preble-HR Manager, Sue Burr-Victim Witness Coordinator, Barry Barringer-Dist. #16.

1b) Public Comment
C. McPherson introduced three new 911 dispatchers who have completed their training.

2) Agenda Adopted
Chair J. Aubart announced that Item #13 will be moved up to follow Item #5 at the Medical Examiner's request. Motion by D. Auckland/S. Bjork to adopt agenda as amended; motion carried unanimously.

3) Approve Minutes
Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to approve minutes of the Mar. 11th, 2025 meeting as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4) Discuss/take action to accept Wisconsin Victim Witness Program association grant & to approve purchase of victim witness waiting room furniture with grant funds
S. Burr appearing by phone, explained that the state Victim Witness Association offered another round of up to $1,000 grants to purchase furniture or technology to outfit or improve waiting & comfort rooms. The first grant was received & spent. The request is to accept this additional grant & purchase furniture not to exceed $1,000. Chair J. Aubart asked if the grant is of a reimbursable nature, meaning the funds are spent then reimbursed by the Association. S. Burr clarified that it is not reimbursable in nature, but funds are requested & then sent to the agencies requesting them upon approval Motion by D. Auckland/S. Bjork to approve acceptance of the grant & authorize purchase of furniture up to $1,000; motion carried unanimously.

5) Discuss/take action on Medical Examiner new personnel request for 2026 Budget
J. Worsing explained that the request is to increase the ME's position from 95% to 100% at an additional budgetary cost of $11,558.14. He added that additional workload has required more time to meet requirements.

Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to approve Medical Examiner's new personnel request for the 2026 Budget; motion carried unanimously.

13) Medical Examiner's Report & Statistics
J. Worsing reported that the number of cases were up approx. 28% from last year. He also noted that there has been a significant increase in autopsy requests this year, as well as reported suicides. No action taken.

6) Discuss/take action on Emergency Management new personnel requests for 2026 Budget
Discussion on this item encompassed under Item Numbers 7 & 8. No action taken.

7) Discuss/take action on Emergency Management reclassification recommendation from Carlson Dettman and position title name change for 911 Dispatcher
C. McPherson explained that the request is to reclassify the Dispatcher positions & change the title of the position to Public Safety Telecommunicator. She added that the duties have changed significantly, meriting a position reclass. Committee discussed request & commented that a new position description showing how & what duties have changed compared to the former position would be beneficial. Also, to include budgetary information signifying the ramifications of the increased cost. Staff directed to resubmit the request with the additional information. No action taken.

8) Discuss/take action on Emergency Management reclassification request for other department positions including name change for 911 Supervisor
C. McPherson explained that the request is to reclassify two PST positions to PST Supervisors. Additionally, the reclass of the EM Director & Field Director. Chair J. Aubart expressed concern about using reclassifications to increase the wage. Committee discussed request & commented again that a new position description showing how & what duties have changed compared to the former position would be beneficial. Also, to include budgetary information signifying the ramifications of the increased cost. Staff directed to resubmit the request with the additional information. No action taken.

9) Discuss/take action on Sheriff's Office new personnel requests for 2026 Budget
C. Koranda explained the request is for 4 patrol deputies at an additional $858,935.44 annually, including wages, benefits, & other gear/equipment. Also, an Office Manager at a cost of $109,163.42 annually, including wages, benefits. Committee discussed new positions, acknowledging the need for the additions, but expressed concern about the County's ability to fund them. No action taken.

10) Discuss/take action on Sheriff's Office reclassification of Office Specialist positions
C. Koranda explained that if the new Office Manager position is not approved he suggested reclassifying one of the Office Specialist to this position. Also, to reclassify another Office Specialist position to Administrative Assistant. The total annual increase would be $25,515.06 for this change. He added that he felt other reductions in the Dept. budget could be made to accommodate the reclassifications. Committee discussed request & commented that new position descriptions detailing the changes in duties would be beneficial. C. Koranda commented that in locating the position description he discovered two different versions of the description. Committee directed staff to communicate with Administration & Human Resources to clarify the issues & resubmit the request. No action taken.

11) Emergency Management Report
C. McPherson reported that the Dept. has been working with the Sheriff's Office discussing the possibility of adding peer support groups. Also, that they have being working on new grants in hopes of replacing the phone system at the 911 center. She added as a point of concern that recently during a power outage when the backup generator engaged some of the diesel fumes were noticeable within the building, especially noted in the dispatch center. She indicated that she has been communicating with Facility Manager Joe McDaniel to monitor the

situation. No action taken.

12) Sheriff's Office/Jail Report

C. Koranda reported that after the collective bargaining agreements were settled the issue of wage compression between those employees & the Lieutenants has become a concern that will need to be addressed sooner than later. Also, that he has been working with Highway Commissioner Chad Johnson on a public safety campaign to bring awareness to areas of concern regarding traffic speed & needed caution in different areas of the County, especially as it relates to construction detours. No action taken.

14) Future Agenda Items

- New personnel requests & reclassifications for Emergency Management & Sheriff's Office.

15) Next Meeting Date

Next regular meeting scheduled for second Tuesday, June 10th, at 2:30 p.m., in County Board Room, Courthouse.

16) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 3:59 p.m. by S. Bjork/D. Auckland; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Jamie Feuerhelm, County Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
August 12, 2025 – 2:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN **COUNTY OF PIERCE**	**EOC Room – Law Enforcement Facility** **555 Overlook Dr., ELLSWORTH, WI**	**2025 – 04**

1) *Meeting Convened*
The Pierce County Law Enforcement Committee met in the County Board Room of the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, WI. Vice Chairman S. Bjork called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1a) *Those Present*
A quorum was established acknowledging 4 members present; 1 excused.

Members present:		Absent/Excused:	
Scott Bjork	District #7	Jon Aubart	District #3
Dale Auckland	District #12		
Neil Gulbranson	District #11		
Joanne Johnson	District #4		
Mel Pittman	District #17		

Also present: Greg Weaver-Data Analyst, Jason Matthys-AC, Rachel McChane- Deputy County Clerk, Christine McPherson-Emergency Management Director, Brad Jorgenson-Emergency Management Field Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, John Worsing-ME, Kerry Feuerhelm-Clerk of Circuit Court, Manager, Debbie Feuerhelm-DA Office, Sarah Anderson-Register in Probate, Natalie Stockwell.

1b) *Public Comment*
M. Pittman stated that there are overgrown trees/shrubbery on Highway 10 near Plum City causing visibility hazards for semi-trucks and other cross traffic. Pittman has contacted the Highway department and the matter is still unresolved.

2) *Agenda Adopted*
Motion by D. Auckland/M. Pittman to adopt agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.

3) *Approve Minutes*
Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to approve minutes of the May 13th, 2025 minutes as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4) *Discuss/take action on 2026 Budgets*
4a) Clerk of Courts; K. Feuerhelm reviewed Clerk of Court budget proposal indicating an increase in professional services due to an increased need for language interpreters, for court & jury trials. The Guardian Ad Litem fee has also been increased from 125.00/hr. to 150.00/hr. K. Feuerhelm explained that Judicare is free to use currently, but there will be a fee for use in the future. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to recommend approval for the 2026 Clerk of Court budget as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4b) District Attorney's Office; D. Feuerhelm reviewed the District Attorney's office budget proposal with no major changes from the prior year. Budget fluctuations are due to jury trials and unknowns. Motion by M. Pittman/D/ Auckland to recommend approval for the 2026 District Attorney's office budget as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4c) Emergency Management; C. McPherson reviewed the Emergency Management budget with increases discussing that staffing and salary continue to strain operations. Underfunding of salaries places pressure on the remaining staff and increases the risk of burnout. 1 vacancy has been filled with 3 positions still open. The budgeted overtime is at +283% over budget to reflect dispatchers overtime hours. The two grants that have been submitted are the EMPG ($35K), and the LEPC ($11k) which are pending. There are 2 grants due in August which are the PSAP Grant ($500K) and Xcel Energy Reimbursement ($200K). The department is working on updating the Mitigation plan, Emergency Operations Plan and Severe Weather Preparedness plan. Motion by D. Auckland/N. Gulbranson to recommend approval for the 2026 Emergency Management Budget increase; motion carried unanimously.

4d) Medical Examiners Office; J. Worsing discussed the Medical Examiners budget for a proposed increase for autopsy and pathology exams. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to recommend approval of the 2026 Medical Examiners budget as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4e) Register in Probate; S. Anderson presented the proposed increased budget for the Register in Probate department stating legal fees have been raised for cases requiring Guardian Ad Litem from 100.00/hr. to 150.00/hr. while the Attorney's fees would remain at 100.00/hr. Motion made by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to recommend approval of the proposed 2026 budget for the Register in Probate; motion carried unanimously.

4f) Sheriff's Office; C. Koranda presented the proposed increase for the 2026 Sheriff's Office. Koranda explained there is an Increase of $838,356.00 attributed to technology advancements, union negotiations, salary adjustments, insurance hikes, recruitment training and new line items (e.g., $30,000 for prisoner transports). Motion made by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to recommend approval for the 2026 Sheriff's Office budget; motion carried unanimously

5) Discuss/take action on Axon 10-year contract

C. Koranda discussed the ten-year contract ($74,858/year) proposed for body cameras, tasers, and unlimited data storage. Includes equipment refreshes and managed storage for the Sheriff's Department. Having this service avoids potential cost escalations and in-house maintenance. Motion made by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to approve the contract to Axon for 10 years; motion carried unanimously.

6) Emergency Management Report

Christine McPherson updated the committee that she will be vacating her position on September 12th and Brad Jorgenson will be filling in as Interim until a replacement is hired. Job posting for dispatcher is currently posted to fill vacancies. The 2025 department budget is on track so far. There is a PSAP grant application that is due in August this year which is currently being completed. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being updated and awaiting Resolutions from a handful of Townships. The Emergency Operations Plan for FEMA is due for review and update in September of this year.

7) Sheriff's Office/Jail Report

Sheriff Koranda shared that Polaris Industries were in Oak Grove filming a commercial for one of their new machines, and Sheriff's staff assisted with traffic control. Sheriff's staff participated in a meeting with Mathy Construction to discuss local road construction which was a very valuable meeting. A mutual aid agreement is being considered with Goodhue County for their dive team to assist in Pierce County.

8) Medical Examiners Report & Statistics

Jon Worsing informed the committee that there has been an increase in cremations and autopsies have increased over last year.

9) Future Agenda Items

Nothing presented at this time.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
November 12, 2025 – 11:30 a.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN **COUNTY OF PIERCE**	**EOC Room – Law Enforcement Facility** **555 Overlook Dr., ELLSWORTH, WI**	**2025 – 05**

1) *Meeting Convened*
The Pierce County Law Enforcement Committee met in the County Board Room of the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, WI. Chairman J. Aubart called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m.

1a) *Those Present*
A quorum was established acknowledging 4 members present; 1 excused.

Members present:		Absent/Excused:	
Jon Aubart	District #3	Joanne Johnson	District #4
Scott Bjork	District #7		
Dale Auckland	District #12		
Mel Pittman	District #17		

Also present: Barry Barringer-Dist. 16, Jason Matthys-AC, Jamie Feuerhelm - County Clerk, Brad Jorgenson-Emergency Management Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Collin Gilles-Chief Deputy Sheriff, John Worsing-ME, Shelly Kosin-Office Specialist, Ayslinn Snyder-Public Health Director, Jon Erickson-PCSO, Josef Mackenburg-PCSO, Hanna Ostrander-PCSO, Zachary Thurber-PCSO, Jennifer Edwards-guest, Diane Ostrander-guest, Michael Ostrander-guest, Brittany Erickson-guest.

1b) *Public Comment*
None.

2) *Agenda Adopted*
Motion by S. Bjork/M. Pittman to adopt agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.

3) *Approve Minutes*
Motion by M. Pittman/S. Bjork to approve minutes of the Aug. 12th, 2025 meeting as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4) *Discuss/take action to recommend an amendment to the Pierce County Code language regarding the composition of the EMS Committee*
B. Jorgenson explained that the EMS Committee identified that the current language in the Pierce County Code, regarding the Emergency Medical Services Committee no longer accurately reflects the structure of EMS service providers in the County. The recommendation would be to amend the section of the Code to update & reflect the current reality. Specifically, to revise the language so that it encompasses six (rather than five) agencies now providing EMS services to Pierce County. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to approve the recommended amendments to the Pierce County Code & forward to the Finance & Personnel Committee; motion carried unanimously.

5) *Discuss/take action to request 2025 budget amendment for Computer and Hazmat Response Equipment Grant*

B. Jorgenson informed Committee that Pierce Co. EM received a grant in the amount of $1,130.54 from the Dept. of Military Affairs, Wisconsin Emergency Management's Computer & HazMat Response Equipment Grant. The request is to amend the 2025 Emergency Management budget to accommodate the funds. Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to accept the grant & amend the 2025 Emergency Management budget per recommendations; motion carried unanimously.

6) *New Sheriff's Office Staff Introductions*

Sheriff C. Koranda introduced some of the new employee additions to the Sheriff's Office as follows: Andrew Driscol-Patrol, Josef Mackenburg-Patrol, Hanna Ostrander-Patrol, Jonathan Erickson-Corrections Officer, Daniel Berkhoel-Corrections Officer, Zachary Thurber-Patrol; all of whom were present as well as guests. Also, Brent Harper & Angelo Bristol who were not present. No action taken.

7) *Discuss/take action for Sheriff's Office to sell 3 out of service radios to Rock Elm Township*

Sheriff Koranda explained that the three radios referred to are excess equipment & are no longer being used by the Sheriff's Office. He added that the Town of Rock Elm has expressed a desire to purchase said radios at a cost of $1,000/unit. Motion by M. Pittman/S. Bjork to declare the three Motorola XTL series radios as excess equipment & approve the sale to the Town of Rock Elm for the amount of $1,000/unit; motion carried unanimously.

8) *Discuss Drug Overdose Cases*

Jon Worsing explained a 2023 report of drug related overdose cases. He added that 76.4% of those cases had the potential for an intervention prior to the event. No action taken.

9) *Discuss Flock Camera System*

C. Gilles explained the Sheriff's Office is considering the addition of a Flock license plate reading Camera system. This would allow the Office to capture important information when involved in investigations. The current pricing on such an addition is $3,500/camera & $3,000/year after the first year. Committee discussed possible privacy concerns. C. Gilles explained that anyone desiring to access that information would need a legitimate reason for doing so. No action taken.

10) *Discuss/take action to accept a PSAP Grant award from the WI Department of Military Affairs in the amount of $1,078,256.81 and request the County Board to authorize a source of funds for the County's required 10% match of $107,825.68*

B. Jorgenson explained that Pierce County Emergency Management applied for and was granted a FY26 PSAP Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs/Office of Emergency Communications to upgrade equipment and provide advanced training necessary for Next Generation 9-1-1 implementation. The award period will be December 1, 2025 - June 1, 2027, with the funds being spent in 2026. The grant amount is $1,078,256.81 with a required 10%, or $107,825.68, funding match from the County. He added that a funding source for the 10% would need to be identified for the County to receive the funds. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to accept the PSAP Grant from the Dept. of Military Affairs in the amount of $1,078,256.81, & forward a request to the Finance & Personnel Committee to accept the same & identify a funding source for Pierce County's 10% obligation to receive the funds; motion carried unanimously.

11) *Emergency Management Report*

B. Jorgenson presented written report & reviewed it with the Committee. No action taken.

12) *Sheriff's Office/Jail Report*

Sheriff Koranda reported that the 2025 Office budget was good. He added that overtime pay for patrol & the jail were already over budgeted amounts due to being short staffed. Also, that the Office sold some used squads for a total of $40,000.00. No action taken.