APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
February 10, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN } **Courthouse Annex/Lower Level-County Board Room**
COUNTY OF PIERCE } **124 N. Oak St., Ellsworth, WI** **2026 – 01**

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 2:30 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	Mel Pittman	District #17
Dale Auckland	District #12		

Also present: Jason Matthys-AC, Rachel McChane–Deputy County Clerk, Brad Jorgenson-Emergency Management Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Collin Gilles-Chief Deputy Sheriff, John Worsing-ME, Dominique Turner-PCSO, Allison Prebble-HR, Brenda Kelly-WI DNR.

1b) *Public Comment*

None.

2) *Agenda Adopted*

Motion by J. Aubart to move agenda item #4 to agenda item #12. S. Bjork/D. Auckland to adopt agenda as suggested; motion carried unanimously.

3) *Approve Minutes*

Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to approve minutes of the November 12, 2025 meeting as presented; motion carried unanimously.

5) *New Sheriff's Office Staff Introductions*

Sheriff C. Koranda introduced one of the new employee additions to the Sheriff's Office as follows: Dominique Turner who was present as well as his guests. No action taken

6) *Discuss Sheriff's Office 2025 Budget*

Sheriff C. Koranda explained the budget was added because the F&P meeting wouldn't fall before the next law enforcement committee meeting. At the time when the agenda came out, they were projecting being under by around 9,000 dollars. But now with the current calculations, it is going to be closer to 15,000 dollars that they will be under budget. C. Koranda extended credit to Collin and Natalie.

7) *Discuss/take action to consider recommending the establishment of a "slow no wake" zone within the Pierce County Islands Wildlife Area as requested by the Wisconsin DNR*

Brenda Kelly with the Wisconsin DNR Mississippi River Wildlife Specialist presented a concept to establish a slow/no-wake zone at Catherine's Pass within Pierce County Islands Wildlife Area. The DNR is to manage operation, maintenance, and signage/buoys. Habitat construction is active although it is paused for the winter and the overall project cost is expected to exceed $50 million. The project goals include improved water quality, vegetation response, island construction, and expanded recreational use. B. Kelly explained that Catherine's Pass is a narrow cut between newly constructed islands. The proposed slow/no-wake zone with a revised length of approximately 0.4 miles reduced from ~0.8 miles, to reduce shoreline erosion and improve navigation safety for mixed watercraft. Implementation to use buoys/markers at ingress and egress to define boundaries. The DNR will incur costs for markers and handle maintenance/replacement. Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to move the concept forward as presented; motion carried unanimously.

8) Discuss Medical Examiner's Office 2025 Budget

J. Worsing explained that the department will be under budget by $3,624. No action taken.

9) Discuss/take action to request 2026 budget amendment for Xcel Energy Sundry Contractual Services

B. Jorgenson stated that Pierce County Emergency Management, in coordination with Wisconsin DHS, has been working with Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin, Wisconsin, to designate the facility as the Medical Site for our Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Plan. As part of this project, Western Wisconsin Health's medical staff will require training, as well as specialized equipment and supplies. While Xcel Energy assumes 100 percent of the financial responsibility for these expenses, Pierce County Emergency Management serves as a contractual pass-through for the funds within our Emergency Management budget. The estimated cost to onboard the hospital is $70,000. These expenses were not originally encumbered in the 2026 budget and fall under the Sundry Contractual Services line item. Motion made by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to approve the budget amendment for the Excel Energy; motion carried unanimously.

10) Emergency Management Report

B. Jorgenson explained as far as positions and staffing, we have increased our staffing level dispatchers by two. There is a hiring process underway with administration with the goal of hiring two more staff members hopefully by April 27th. Grants that have been awarded for the year of 2025 are EMPG ($35K), LEPC ($11K), CHREG ($1K) and PSAP ($1.10K). The local emergency planning (LEPC) ($12K) and EMPG ($35K) grants for 2026 have been applied for and are still awaiting a decision. The PSAP radio console project is underway with scheduling installation, and the phone system contract is currently under review by Corporation Counsel. RapidSOS and GIS mapping projects are in progress. The department is undergoing preparation for the 2026 Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, hostile-action based exercise in coordination with county partners. No action taken.

11) Sheriff's Office/Jail Report

Sheriff Koranda reported that everything is going well, and they are currently working on several grants, specifically the drug trafficking and port security grants. Construction on the grounds are also proceeding as planned. No action taken

12) Medical Examiner's Report & Statistics

J. Worsing presented written report & reviewed it with the Committee. He also informed the Committee that there has been an increase in the statistical data. At the end of last year, there was a 21% higher demand on the caseload than the previous year. In January 2026 the numbers were 34% higher than they were in end of January 2025. Angela Dockendorf, has passed her boards and is now a diplomat of the American Board of Medical and Legal Death Investigators. There are now three employees who have passed the boards in the office. J. Worsing was also notified by one of the deputies that she will be leaving soon and will need to be replaced. Last year at

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
March 10, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN	}	**Courthouse Annex/Lower Level-County Board Room**
COUNTY OF PIERCE		**124 N. Oak St., Ellsworth, WI** **2026 – 02**

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 2:30 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		

Also present: Jason Matthys-AC, Rachel McChane–Deputy County Clerk, Brad Jorgenson-Emergency Management Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Collin Gilles-Chief Deputy Sheriff, Brad Lawrence-Corporation Counsel, Wendy Dipeso-guest.

1b) *Public Comment*
None.

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

3) *Approve Minutes*
Motion by D. Auckland/S. Bjork to amend and approve minutes of the February 10, 2026 by moving M. Pittman as present to absent/excused; motion carried unanimously.

4) *Discuss/take action on CJCC Coordinator contract renewal*
At the 2026 budget planning strategy, it was decided to terminate the contract for CJCC coordination and self-perform those responsibilities which have been shifted to the DA's office, specifically to Samantha Brill. This change will be benchmarked over six months to monitor its impact on existing duties. The expectation is that managing these activities in-house will enhance efficiency through direct communication and oversight. No action is required at this time.

5) *Discuss/take action to approve purchase of license plate reader (LPR) cameras with opioid funds*
C. Gilles addressed concerns regarding privacy and data use related to license plate reader cameras from vendors Flock and Axon. Flock claimed they do not release data without end-user permission, but their reliability is questioned. Axon maintains they lack access to data, and thus cannot release it without user permission, ensuring stronger data privacy measures. Trust in Axon is built on a longstanding relationship, as they already provide services for digital evidence and body camera video recordings. In contrast, concerns linger around Flock's

credibility. Axon is looking to engage with the board and address any privacy queries. The potential benefits of these cameras for law enforcement—such as crime prevention and offender apprehension—are emphasized. Additionally, Axon's pricing offers a considerable savings: $14,961.61 over five years including upgrades, which is competitive compared to Flock's proposal. Axon's ownership model means they do not lease cameras, providing more control over data. Overall, the committee is urged to approve the use of previously allocated opioid funds for purchasing Axon cameras, with the possibility of acquiring more units due to their lower cost. The proposal aims to ensure public trust through strict data privacy policies. Concerns were raised about potential downsides of owning cameras under program, particularly regarding theft or damage costs. Insurance options exist, but coverage depends on payment, similar to cell phone insurance. Discussions included camera placements to monitor opioid activity and crime hotspots, with the importance of strategic positioning emphasized. Procedures for data requests were described as cautious but manageable. C. Gilles expressed preference for the Axon system, suggesting a motion be made to approve the purchase and involve Axon in future discussions while coordinating with Corporation Council to proceed with funding resolutions. Motion by M. Pittman/S. Bjork to approve purchase of license pate reader cameras with opioid funds; motion carried unanimously.

6) Discuss/take action to approve acceptance of Wisconsin Drug Trafficking Grant in the amount of $36,004

C. Gilles explained that a drug trafficking grant of $36,004 was awarded, requiring no match. Funds are designated for specific uses including entry Rams Allegan tools for fire and law enforcement, lighter ceramic armor plates for vests, which minimize feedback during operations, and plate carriers for the armor. The grant will also cover a thermal scope for the sniper team and camera equipment. This request is for the committee to approve the acceptance of the grant, with purchases scheduled to start on March 1, 2026. Motion by D. Auckland/M. Pittman to approve acceptance of the Wisconsin Drug Trafficking grant in the amount of $36,004.00. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Discuss/take action to use Jail Assessment funds to pay for fire gear, jail radios, fingerprint scanner, commercial steamer, & washing machine in the amount of $110,000.00

C. Gilles requested the use of jail assessment funds of $110,000 to buy fire gear, six radios, a fingerprint scanner, a convection steamer, and a washing machine. Rationale included noncompliance of the self-contained breathing apparatus, end-of-life finger print scanner, a leaking steamer, and insufficient washer capacity. Currently the fund balance is $160,318. Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to approve $110,000.00 in jail assessment funds to purchase new items. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Discuss/take action to approve Resolution 26-XX Amend Fees for Services of County Medical Examiner and Deputy Medical Examiner

J. Matthys requested approval of resolution 26-XX to amend fees for the services of the county medical examiner and deputy medical examiner. The annual resolution aligns fee increases with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and aims to capture true costs, including cremation expenses. A concern is raised about language specifying a $50 cremation permit fee allocation for training and equipment, which may create auditing issues since funds are not tracked in a separate account. Further discussion is requested with a J. Worsing before moving forward. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Auckland to approve the resolution as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

09) Emergency Management Report

B. Jorgenson gave updates from the emergency management department indicating that the current staffing level of seven out of twelve positions have a been filled. Efforts have been restarted to recruit new staff by May 2026. Fiscal year 25 grants are nearing completion, with payments expected by June. For ongoing projects, contracts for radio console and phone system projects have been reviewed, awaiting equipment delivery and vendor feedback. The phone system's rapid SOS component for mapping calls has been successfully implemented, enhancing operational efficiency by consolidating two systems. Upcoming tasks include finalizing the continuity of operations and government plans, along with preparations for the radiological tabletop exercise scheduled in March 2026. No action required at this time.

10) Sheriff's Office/Jail Report

Sheriff Koranda recently announced that River Falls has joined the county's consolidated data management system following the completion of training support. This integration marks a significant milestone in a decade-long process to unify law enforcement agencies on a shared platform. The jail facility, now about ten years old, is beginning to show its age, with maintenance needs emerging, such as new kitchen equipment and replacement of worn patrol chairs. Construction at the jail continues smoothly despite challenges posed by frequent external visitors, with Jail staff managing security effectively during these disruptions. Financially, the department is projecting to finish roughly $20,000 under budget. Regarding inmate healthcare, there was a discussion about potentially outsourcing nursing services following a constituent's inquiry. Currently, the jail employs Nurse Bechel, whose real-time assessments are critical for inmate health and legal risk mitigation. Efforts are underway to secure a new physician to oversee inmate care and prescriptions. The department intends to maintain its current healthcare model rather than farm out services, emphasizing continuity and quality of care for inmates. No action required at this time.

11) Future Agenda Items

None

12) Next meeting Date:

Second Tuesday; April 14, 2026; 2:30 p.m.

13) Adjourn

Motion by S. Bjork/D. Auckland to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Rachel McChane, Deputy County Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
June 9, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN	**}**	**Courthouse Annex/Lower Level-County Board Room**
COUNTY OF PIERCE		**124 N. Oak St., Ellsworth, WI** **2026 – 04**

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 2:32 p.m.

1a) *Those Present*
A quorum was established acknowledging 3 members present; 2 excused.

Members present:		Absent/Excused:	
Jon Aubart	District #3	Barry Barringer	District #16
Scott Bjork	District #7	Mel Pittman	District #17
Joanne Johnson	District #4		

Also present: Tim Anderson-IT Director, Rachel McChane–Deputy County Clerk, Brad Jorgenson-Emergency Management Director, John Worsing-Medical Examiner, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Collin Gilles-Chief Deputy Sheriff.

1b) *Public Comment*
None

2) *Adopt Agenda*
Motion by S. Bjork/J. Johnson to amend the agenda by swapping Items #7 and #8 and to adopt the agenda as amended; Motion carried unanimously.

3) *Approve Minutes*
Motion by S. Bjork/J. Johnson to approve minutes of the May 12, 2026; motion carried unanimously.

4) *Discuss Staffing options for new Judicial Facility for security once operational*
C. Gilles toured the current facility to evaluate inmate movement and operational needs. After discussions with the Judge and Court Commissioner, he determined that the two deputies currently assigned will not be sufficient to adequately staff the new judicial facility. Increased in-person court proceedings are anticipated, and deputies will be required to receive and supervise inmates arriving for court appearances. In addition, a deputy will be needed to provide security screening for members of the public entering the facility. Individuals who exit the secure area will be required to pass through security screening again before re-entry. C. Gilles noted that contracting with private security personnel is an option; however, security officers would not be authorized to assist with warrant service, inmate supervision, or physical restraint situations. As a result, a deputy would still be required at the main entrance. With additional staffing, deputies would also have the flexibility to rotate assignments. The Transport Office would continue to handle inmate pickups as needed. C. Gilles reported that the District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, Probate Office, and Judge have all submitted letters supporting increased courthouse security staffing. C. Gilles estimated the total annual cost for two additional employees, including benefits, at approximately $112,000. He also noted that recruitment and onboarding opportunities may be available through CVTC. If the County were to contract with a private security service,

Pierce County would still need to provide radios to allow communication with Sheriff's Office personnel. C. Gilles explained that he believes a uniformed deputy stationed at the front entrance would serve as a deterrent to criminal activity. J. Aubert agreed that the presence of a uniformed deputy would likely deter criminal activity, noting that private security personnel are limited in their authority and responsibilities compared to sworn law enforcement officers. S. Bjork asked whether the additional deputies would be funded through the Sheriff's Department budget. J. Aubert stated that he believed they would be. S. Bjork also inquired about the anticipated opening date of the new judicial facility. J. Aubert estimated operations could begin around December, although final operational plans have not yet been determined. C. Gilles stated that the new deputy positions would be included in the 2027 annual budget. He also reported that he has applied for a grant in the amount of $485,600 to cover the cost of the additional deputies for two years and will update the committee when additional information becomes available.

5) *Discuss/take action on Jail medical director contract*

C. Gilles reported that Western Wisconsin Health had provided a 60-day notice terminating its Medical Director contract with the jail but agreed to continue services until a replacement was secured. C. Gilles stated that Greg Miller of Cascade Primary Care out of River Falls would assume responsibility for providing medical services at the jail, including on-site medical care. This arrangement is expected to reduce inmate transportation costs, medication expenses, and laboratory testing costs. The contract with Greg Miller was set at $3,200 per month and will be evaluated after six months. In addition, Pierce County would pay the Medical Director's annual malpractice insurance premium of $1,230. C. Gilles noted that additional fees could be added in the future to provide protection for personal property and possessions. Medical Director expenses would be paid from the Sundry Account, and inmates would be billed for medical visits at the maximum rate allowed under Medical Assistance statutes. C. Gilles further explained that the agreement would not affect the existing Jail Nurse position, which would remain a Pierce County employee. A motion by S. Bjork, seconded by J. Johnson, to approve the Medical Director contract with Cascade Primary Care and Greg Miller was approved unanimously.

6) *Discuss/take action on OJP Grant*

C. Gilles explained that the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is offering a federal grant program totaling $19 million, with individual grants of up to $4 million. The grant focuses on courthouse security and staffing needs. If awarded, the funding would be used to provide additional courthouse security and would cover the salaries of two deputies, as well as uniforms, equipment, radios, and Tasers. The grants are expected to be finalized in September and will provide funding for a two-year period. This is a no-match grant, meaning no local matching funds are required. The amount to be applied for is $485,600.00. Motion by S. Bjork/J. Johnson to approve application for OJP grant; motion carried unanimously.

7) *Sheriff's Office/Jail report*

C. Gilles stated that there are two potential candidates for hire who will complete their schooling early this summer. In addition, two employees are currently undergoing field training. The Sheriff's Department is expected to be fully staffed by this fall. The current Jail Lieutenant position remains vacant. The individual selected for the position is currently serving in the military and is attempting to obtain a release from service. This individual was originally expected to begin employment approximately eight months ago. There have been public comments regarding office staffing and positions. If anyone has questions, please meet with Sheriff Koranda. The Department is still awaiting a decision on the $36,000 Department of Justice (DOJ) grant application submitted last year. The grant would provide funding for tools, scopes, body armor, and dive equipment. Much of the current equipment is becoming outdated. Gas masks, ballistic plates and carriers, and the department's robot will need replacement. Additionally, four new drones and related training will be required to meet real-time operational needs. Funding for these replacement items has been included in the 2027 budget. C. Koranda stated that a jail tour will need to be scheduled. He reported that all jail inspections conducted during the past four years have been completed with perfect results and commended staff for their excellent work and dedication. C. Koranda also reported that the Pierce/St. Croix/Polk Drug Task Force, led by Cole Clements, has confiscated approximately four pounds of methamphetamine, 38.24 grams of fentanyl, and 31 firearms within the region. The department finished the year $44,000 under budget. However, overtime expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts by 176 percent. C. Koranda emphasized the importance of achieving full staffing levels and stated that the department is continuing to move forward in its recruitment efforts. More than 20 individuals have been hired or brought into the department in an effort to increase staffing levels.

8) *Emergency Management Report*

B. Jorgenson reported on Emergency Communications staffing. Currently, 8 of 12 authorized 911 Dispatcher positions are filled. Two newly hired dispatchers began training on May 18 and are progressing well. An additional hiring process opened on June 8, with anticipated start dates of August 24. The goal is to hire two additional dispatchers through this recruitment effort. B. Jorgenson provided an update on grant activity. The FY26 Computer/Hazmat Equipment Grant in the amount of $5,000 has been applied for. The FY26 LEPC Grant in the amount of $12,000 and the FY26 PSAP Grant in the amount of $1.10 million have been awarded and are currently in progress. B. Jorgenson reported that the Reception Center Drill was completed on May 28 at Elmwood Schools, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Drill was completed on June 2. Both exercises went well overall, with several areas for improvement identified prior to the evaluated exercise. The Reception Center Evaluated Exercise is scheduled for July 23, 2026, and the EOC Evaluated Exercise is scheduled for July 28,2026. B. Jorgenson reported that a tentative schedule has been developed for the Radio Console Project. Benchmark 1 has been completed, and the first contract payment, representing 25 percent of the contract amount, has been submitted. The Phone System Project is awaiting scheduling. The 2026 Pierce County Fair Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) has been updated and reviewed with emergency service partners. Fourteen of sixteen 2026 Off-Site Plan Reviews have been completed and submitted. An on-site visit was conducted on June 8 with a new planning site, River Country Cooperative. B. Jorgenson stated that upcoming events and priorities include dispatch staffing stabilization, development of the 2027 budget, 2026 radio tower inspections, the CAD Enhancement Recommended Unit Project, continued expansion of public outreach efforts focused on disaster preparedness, and preparation and training activities for the 2026 Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) exercises.

9) *Medical Examiner's report and statistics*

J. Worsing reported that the Medical Examiner's Office has responded to one incineration-related vehicle crash and two cases involving unidentified persons so far this year. He noted that June, July, and August are typically busy months due to increased motorcycle traffic and related fatalities. J. Worsing also reported that one strong candidate has applied for the Deputy Medical Examiner position, as the current Deputy Medical Examiner will be departing the area in the near future.

10) *Future Agenda Items*

Future agenda items will include a tour of the jail facility and a walkthrough of the new Judicial Building, which is anticipated to take place in September 2026. Natalie Stockwell will assist with the annual budget process. Repairs have been made to the Law Enforcement Center walk-in cooler have been completed. Reimbursement in the amount of $4,330.00 is being requested for the repair costs.

11) Next meeting Date:

Second Tuesday; July 14th, 2026; 2:30 p.m.

12) *Adjourn*

Motion by S. Bjork/J. Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Rachel McChane, Deputy County Clerk