



Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM)

8716 Arbor Street, Duluth, MN 55808
amem-ed@charter.net / 218-626-7930

2022-2023

President

Blain Johnson
Lac qui Parle County

Past President

Kelli Matzek
Washington County

1st Vice President

Erin Tufte
Stearns County

2nd Vice President

Kurtis Fondrick
Mdwakanton Public Safety

Secretary

Breanna Koval
Wilkin County

Treasurer

Kristen Sailer
Steele County

Judge Advocate

Tawn Hall
Jackson County

Executive Director

John Strongitharm
AMEM

Tribal Representative

Daniel DeSmet
Upper Sioux Community

Region 1 Representative

Amy Lammy
Mower County

Region 2 Representative

Chad Emery
Cass County

Region 3 Representative

Ed Snetsinger
Mahnomon County

Region 4 Representative

Lynn Siegel
Traverse County

Region 5 Representative

Shawn M. Stoermann
Brown County

Region 6 Representative

Kelly Miller
Carver County

May 1, 2023

Public Safety Conference Committee Members:

Representative Moller

Senator Latz

Representative Becker-Finn

Senator Oumou Verbeten

Representative Feist

Senator Pappas

Representative Frazier

Senator Seeberger

Representative Curran

Senator Westlin

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Emergency Managers and our membership, I would like to thank you for moving forward with our local EM Funding initiative and for the past and present support for the proposal. We could not have gotten to this point without your help.

I am writing to plead you to fully fund our local EM Funding proposal. In the past three months alone, local Emergency Management Offices have had to deal with record winter storm responses, a train derailment, school threats, and spring flooding; each of which necessitate response and recovery work; work which does not count towards grant requirements or the 'normal' EM responsibilities.

In a statewide Emergency Management Program Survey conducted across Minnesota in March of 2023, 83% of respondents indicated the level of funding for their program was insufficient or extremely underfunded. Additionally, the survey revealed that over 70% of local Emergency Management programs received less than \$30,000 per year in grant assistance. We cannot emphasize how incredibly underfunded Emergency Management is and how hard it is to fund the necessary basic grant responsibilities, let alone additional work that must be performed.

Our legislative team knew the original ask of \$3m ongoing annually was not going to provide complete relief, but it was enough to start bolstering many programs; particularly in rural Minnesota. The cut to \$1.5m and \$2m was a disappointing blow to our efforts and significantly reduces the impact these monies will have locally.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider the original request of \$3 million per year for our local EM funding initiative; though we recognize that it will be just for the biennium at this point. This funding is crucial to help prepare for, prevent, and respond to the ever-changing hazard landscape across Minnesota and will help to identify, educate, and protect the vulnerable populations in our communities.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns and request.

“One ounce of Prevention is worth a pound of Cure”