

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Allendorf called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM on Thursday, June 11, 2026 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – Dianne Allendorf, Steve Endress, Joseph Heitkamp, Logan Noe, LaDon Trost. Present: 5. Present electronically – Daisha Boehm. Present electronically: 1. Absent – John Grizzoffi. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2026, Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Logan Noe. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals were not reviewed.

Update on MDFPD Communication Tower located on Route 5, East Dubuque: The County Administrator reported no new developments, but noted that the County will be reaching out to Harmonii Towers regarding a potential transfer of the lease from the County to Menominee-Dunleith Fire. The item remains open until further information is available.

VI. New Business

Update on Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid Agreement: The EMA Coordinator provided an extensive update and explained ongoing insurance conflicts between Illinois and Wisconsin regarding coverage of volunteer hazmat responders. He has spoken to our insurance company, and they have passed it to legal counsel for review, which could take up to three months. Wisconsin partners are currently unwilling to respond to Illinois until coverage questions are resolved, and Jo Daviess County would rely on the Freeport MABAS hazmat team if an incident occurred. Members requested a status update at the July meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Planning: The Committee next heard an update on Hazard Mitigation Planning. The EMA Coordinator reported that the second public meeting was held May 19, 2026, at the Elizabeth Community Building with approximately sixty-three participants, following about seventy-five at the January 20, 2026 meeting. Participation has more than doubled the County's match requirement for the grant, and jurisdictions are actively developing project lists for inclusion in the plan update.

The Committee considered the recommendation from the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) regarding compensation. Members were asked to vote the motion down after it was discovered that the Emergency Telephone Systems Board Act specifically says ETSB members cannot be compensated for their time on the board. **A motion to recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of Jo Daviess County, Illinois Title 3, Boards & Commissions Chapter 2, Emergency Telephone System Board, Section 5, Compensation; a recommendation of the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) meeting held on June 3, 2026 was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Logan Noe. The motion failed by voice vote.**

The Committee held a lengthy discussion regarding the request to relocate the Law Library to the second-floor lobby and repurpose the current space for a part-time court reporter's office. Judge John Hay explained that the Circuit Court has assigned a part-time court reporter to Jo Daviess County for the first time in many years, but no office space was planned during courthouse renovation. He has moved her into the Law Library (Room 223) temporarily, which he states no longer contains books, but consists solely of a computer terminal. He noted that the County is required to provide the Law Library only because it collects the associated fee, and has considered recommending a discontinuation of the service, and to no longer accept the fee. At this point, the Circuit Clerk spoke to say she is mandated by the state to provide a computer terminal to the public for e-filing documents, so even if the Law Library is discontinued, the public's access to the computer terminal must remain, as it serves a dual purpose. Other options were presented, such as grouping the part-time court reporter with the full-time court specialist in Room 225, which has a business occupancy rating of two, or relocating state-installed server equipment in Room 224 to provide additional office space. Concerns were raised that the public currently has no access to the computer terminal for legal research or for e-filing documents, as mandated by the state. After extensive discussion, the Committee decided to postpone action to allow staff time to gather additional information and alternatives. **A motion to postpone action to recommend approval of a request to relocate the Law Library within the Courthouse and repurpose the current Law Library space for court staff office space was made by Steve Endress and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

The Committee considered the purchase of EM1: AI Tools for Emergency Management. The EMA Coordinator explained that the software would significantly reduce the time required to update the County's Emergency Operations Plan and ensure compliance with new state administrative rules. The annual subscription cost can be absorbed within the current EMA budget and will not require additional funding. **A motion to recommend approval of the purchase of EM1: AI Tools for Emergency Management subscription at a cost not to exceed \$3,600.00 to be paid from 001-41125-604 Computer Supplies was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Reports

Sheriff: A written report was provided and Sheriff Klaus Kretschmer was present to answer questions. He provided updates on operations, including the transition to an online auction platform for sheriff's sales and exploration of a Sheriff's Office mobile app. Staffing levels, calls for service, and hiring progress were also discussed.

Circuit Clerk: A written report was provided and Circuit Clerk Kathy Phillips was present to answer questions. She reported on an upcoming statewide court user survey and noted that retirement

preparations are underway.

Probation: A written report was provided and Probation Director Jamie Watson was present electronically to answer questions. He reported that the state anticipates a full or very close to full salary reimbursement, and announced the upcoming retirement of a long-tenured probation officer.

Emergency Management Agency: EMA Coordinator Michael Willis was present to answer questions. He provided additional updates on equipment servicing, deployment of the Unified Command Post (UCP) to Old Settlers Days, implementation of the RAVE alert system and Smart911, and the status of intergovernmental agreements with municipalities.

Public Defender: No report was submitted.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Committee members offered brief remarks, including a request to receive photos of the current Law Library space.

X. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:58 PM by LaDon Trost and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.