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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Marcie Rainbolt, Government Affairs Associate

DATE: May 15, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019-2021 State Biennial Budget – Items before the Joint Committee on Finance on May 16, 2019

In regard to items scheduled for consideration by the Joint Committee on Finance on May 16, 2019, please consider the following recommendations of the Wisconsin Counties Association:

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY	
LFB PAPER #	RECOMMENDATION
500	Support Alternative A.2.
500	Support stand-alone budget motion to create a competitive grant program for Public Safety Answering Points.

Attached please find rationale for the items listed above. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the WCA office at 608-663-7188.

LFB PAPER **#500** OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
TRANSFER TO DOT (MILITARY AFFAIRS)

RECOMMENDATION: **Support alternative A.2.**

Rationale:

- The Office of Emergency Communication (OEC) was established in budget motion 50 in the 2017-19 state biennial budget. The purpose was to move all of Wisconsin's emergency communication services to one state department for consistency and interoperability.
 - Currently the OEC is making significant progress in the creation of a state-hosted emergency service IP network (ESInet) as well as managing FirstNet and WISCOM.
 - Moving the OEC could significantly stifle the progress being made to upgrade the state's 9-1-1 system from the current outdated analog system to an upgraded Next Generation 9-1-1 capable digital system.
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LFB PAPER **#500** OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
TRANSFER TO DOT (MILITARY AFFAIRS)

RECOMMENDATION: **Support stand-alone budget motion to
create a competitive grant program for
Public Safety Answering Points.**

Rationale:

- The Joint Committee on Finance allocated \$6.7 million for the creation of a state-hosted emergency service IP network (ESInet) in the 2017-19 state biennial budget.
- Modernizing Wisconsin's 911 system has been a priority for local governments, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry since the 2009-11 state biennial budget.
- A comprehensive 911 policy and funding reform package was sidetracked in 2009, with the 911 funding source originally intended for 911 modernization and PSAP upgrades renamed the Police and Fire Protection Fee (PFPF) and diverted to the shared revenue program. Since that time, WCA and other stakeholders have tried to redirect the PFPF back to its original intent.

DMA and Public Safety Answering Points

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- Once the ESInet is operational, PSAPs will require new Next Generation 9-1-1 capable equipment to connect to the state-wide digital system. Currently, a very limited number of PSAPs have the necessary equipment to connect immediately.
- WCA supports diverting an additional \$7 million, in each year of the biennium and ongoing, from the Police and Fire Protection Fee for the creation of a competitive grant program. This grant would be used by Wisconsin PSAPs to purchase Next Generation 9-1-1 equipment and for ongoing maintenance.