PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Public Safety Committee** was held on September 9, 2026 at the Brown County Sheriff's Office, 2684 Development Drive, Green Bay, WI.

Present: Chair Devon Coenen, Vice Chair Andy Nicholson, Supervisor Terry Rentmeester, Supervisor Ross Toellner
Excused: Supervisor Dave Kaster
Also Present: Emergency Management Director Dan Kane, Assistant Emergency Management Director Malloree Mc Carthy, Public Safety Communications Director Chancy Huntzinger, Public Safety Communications Assistant Director Tom Oliphant, Public Safety Communications Operations Manager Jessica Skalecki, Sheriff Todd Delain, Corporation Counsel David Hemery, Medical Examiner Director of Operations Dr. Elizabeth Douglas, Medical Examiner Operations Manager Madeline De Keyser, Judge Tammy Jo Hock, District Attorney David Lasee, Board Chair Patrick Buckley and Supervisor Van Lanen

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I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Coenen at 6:02 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Toellner to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of August 3, 2026.

Motion made by Supervisor Toellner, seconded by Supervisor Rentmeester to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Consent Agenda

1. **Review Minutes of Crime Prevention Funding Board of June 9, 2026.**
2. **Review Minutes of Fire Investigation Task Force of June 18, 2026.**
3. **Review Minutes of Public Safety Communications (PSC) Board of July 16, 2026.**
4. **Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate – Budget Status Financial Report for July 2026 – Unaudited.**
5. **Emergency Management – Budget Status Financial Report for June 2026 – Unaudited.**
6. **Public Safety Communications - Budget Status Financial Report for June 2026 – Unaudited.**

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Rentmeester to take Consent Agenda Items 1 – 6 together and receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate

7. **Presiding Judge's Report.**

Honorable Tammy Jo Hock informed there continues to be a lot of cases and a lot of jury trials with not enough man power across the system. They are doing what they can to stay on task and within budget

No action necessary.

Motion made by Supervisor Toellner, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to take Item 18 at this time. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in the proper format here, Item 18 was taken at this time.

District Attorney

8. District Attorney's Report.

District Attorney David Lasee reported they have recently hired two Assistant District Attorney's from Door County and are now close to being fully staffed, however, there will be two retirements by January which will create some openings. They have held off on hiring Legal Assistants to manage the budget due to the way the Public Defender's Office is compensated for materials.

No action necessary.

Clerk of Courts

9. Clerk of Courts Report.

No report; no action necessary.

Medical Examiner

10. Medical Examiner's Report.

Medical Examiner Director of Operations Dr. Elizabeth Douglas referred to her report in the agenda packet and informed the Medical Examiner's Office continues to be very busy. They have worked through openings in the department and have transitioned the QA person into the Operations Director position and the rest of the full-time positions and both hybrid positions are filled. They will be working on adding LTEs to provide more options in scheduling. The month has been very busy with budget and continuing education with staff. Dr. Douglas concluded by outlining the statistical information in her report.

No action necessary.

Public Safety Communications

11. Director's Report.

Director of Public Safety Communications Chancy Huntzinger talked about staffing and informed they are currently down one Telecom position, not counting the three contractors. The October class is full and they are currently hiring for the January 2027 class. They continue to accept applications for the Supervisor position that became open when they promoted from within.

Huntzinger continued that there is a tower top amplifier that needs to be replaced. This helps with low noise amplification and could cause issues with portable radios going from perfect to garbled or even drop off. If this is not replaced it can affect the tower's contribution to the other receivers which then would affect performance. Replacement costs with labor is about $30,000 and they will be using money from the budget for this.

Huntzinger noted management training is starting on Monday and team members will start mid-October. They have also created a feedback/suggestion system for the team so they can provide feedback or suggestions to herself, the Assistant Director or the Operations Manager. The feedback will then be brought to the monthly management meeting for discussion and staff will be provided with information as to the outcome. The Center's bullying policy has been updated and provided to staff and has also been made part of the online policies and procedures software.

Huntzinger continued by outlining the call numbers in the report provided to the Committee. She concluded by reporting that the Next Gen 911 Grant has been applied for and she will keep this Committee updated on this.

No action necessary.

12. Update re: Implementation of consultant study recommendations – *Standing Item*.

Huntzinger reported most of the management has gone through the EFD training. They are only training five to six team members at a time and will be cycling through until October 9 with a tentative go live in November. She also talked about testing AI for calls to the non-emergency phone tree and they expect to go live with that later this month. Huntzinger stressed that they will start implementing AI very conservatively.

Standing Item; no action necessary.

Emergency Management

13. Director's Report.

Emergency Management Director Dan Kane introduced Assistant Emergency Management Director Malloree Mc Carthy. Mc Carthy spoke briefly to her relevant experience in Minnesota.

Kane talked about the airport drill held recently and noted it was successful and had good media coverage. They are working on paperwork and will submit the FAA documentation to keep the airport compliant with their requirements. They are doing an after-action review and the Vantage Group at the airport is looking at their emergency plan and will be making some tweaks based on the drill.

Kane also talked about the FEMA individual assistance program and noted they had 300 official claims totaling about $900,000 in payouts. He also talked about the blizzard in April and noted that 18 municipalities applied for assistance and checks are starting to arrive for that. Kane also talked about the mass notification system and informed it has been rolled out internally while they determine how to best use the system which will be rolled out for external use next year.

Finally, Kane reported they have received notification of the federal EMPG grant and will be working on the application for that and he will keep the Committee updated.

No action necessary.

Sheriff

14. Sheriff's Report.

Sheriff Todd Delain provided a staffing update informing they are currently eight Correctional Officers and one Patrol Deputy short. There are several conditional offers in the works and they are making progress. He continued that they have been very busy with their budget over the last several weeks but the process went smoothly. He also talked briefly about the recent college football game at Lambeau Field and noted the fall will be busy with Packers games starting.

No action necessary.

15. Jail Replacement Project Update – *Standing Item.*

Delain reported the project is still on pace for an October opening. There have been some small issues but they are working through those.

Standing item; no action necessary.

16. Status and timeline of training facility/range/office space – *Standing Item*.

Delain informed the scoring committee has been provided with the information they need to review and he will keep this Committee updated.

Standing item; no action necessary.

Action Items Including Proposed Resolutions, Ordinances and Budget Adjustments

17. Discussion and possible action re: Staffing Agreement for Operation of the Brown County Jail – Double Celling.

Delain informed that the Wisconsin Administrative Code DOC 350.20(1) requires that the County Board and Sheriff determine jointly the adequate staffing needs, including support staff and services that are required to ensure the health, safety and security of jail staff and inmates when using cells for double occupancy. He explained this needs to be done every time there is a new addition to the jail. This agreement needs to be finalized for the DOC to provide clearance to open the new pod. Delain's recommendation is that this Committee authorize the County Board Chair to sign the agreement and have it approved by the County Board so it can be forwarded to the DOC.

Motion made by Supervisor Toellner, seconded by Supervisor Rentmeester to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. Discussion and possible action re: Resolution Requesting Two Additional Brown County Circuit Court Judges (26-091R).

Corporation Counsel David Hemery provided an alternate resolution, a copy of which is attached to the original minutes.

Judge Hock explained the County Executive had made a push for additional judges in Brown County due to the need for additional staffing in the judicial system as a whole and that is not an area the county can fund. The county cannot pay for additional judges but can pay for other positions such as additional prosecutors and court-appointed attorneys. The Director of State Courts of the Wisconsin Supreme Court conducted a Wisconsin Judicial Needs Assessment Study and the results released in April show Brown County has a shortage of 5.62 judicial officials.

Judge Hock continued that she has been involved with various representatives and has had several meetings to see what the Director of State Courts might do to advance the request for additional judges and they indicated they feel the legislative bodies would have the tolerance for two additional judges. The pushback has been that Brown County does not have any space to put additional judges. The resolution provides for the county to commit to providing additional space and the resources that go with a judge.

Hemery explained the language that was added to the resolution and informed it was added to improve the county's chances of getting two additional judges. He is confident that if this is passed and forwarded to the state, they will fund the two additional judges. One would come by August 2028 and the other by August 2029. The resolution language makes it clear that Brown County supports whatever needs to happen to have additional judges in our county.

Supervisor Nicholson talked about the space that would be needed and questioned why Judge Zuidmulder's courtroom is so large. Judge Hock explained the Wisconsin Supreme Court has rules that require courtrooms to be of a certain size, and Judge Zuidmulder's is the only one that meets the requirements. She added that her courtroom and Judge Leigeois's courtrooms are the second largest and it is not unusual to have to move courtrooms when more space is needed for large trials or for high security cases.

Chair Coenen asked if every courtroom has a Deputy. Judge Hock said not every courtroom has a Deputy and added that she does not use a bailiff every day because it is hard to schedule them based on the amount they are paid. She further explained the Deputies in the courthouse are part of the Sheriff's Office and are responsible for security in the courthouse and Northern Building. They cover all the courtrooms based on needs and are responsible for moving inmates throughout the courthouse as well as security screenings.

Board Chair Buckley asked if there is any possibility for judges to share staff. Judge Hock responded that would not be possible for the Judicial Assistants based on the workload they have, especially with all the extra work required to conduct hearings via Zoom. The Zoom hearings help keep the transportation costs down for inmates, but also greatly increase the work for Judicial Assistants. Buckley also asked about the backlog and what it would take to clear it. Judge Hock cannot say exactly how the backlog occurred, but when they are understaffed by 5.62 people, there is no way to keep up and the caseload keeps growing and court dates get pushed farther and farther out. Judge Hock also pointed out that there are still staff shortages in the Public Defender's Office and the District Attorney's Office so there will still be some stagnation even with additional judges.

Nicholson asked if some judges have larger backlogs than others and requested that Judge Hock provide information regarding the backlog of each judge. She responded that she does not have that data or the ability to get it. She continued that this is not about backlog; it is about the fact that we do not have enough judicial officials in Brown County and the state is willing to ask for two additional judges for Brown County. Nicholson feels there are ways to figure this out without throwing money at the problem. Judge Hock continued that when the state did a judicial needs assessment and analyzed the caseload in Brown County, they determined through a separate, independent entity that Brown County needs 5.62 additional judges. Every judge in Brown County is currently carrying the caseload of 1.47 judges so it needs to be understood that no matter how much backlog there is in any branch, they cannot be expected to work at the capacity of 1.47 judges.

Buckley brought up the backlog of cases in the District Attorney's Office. Judge Hock responded that backlogs in the District Attorney's Office refer to cases they have not been able to issue because they do not have the resources to do so. There is no such thing in the court system as a case they haven't looked at. Cases get held and are pending for a whole host of reasons, such as not being able to find an attorney for the defendant.

Judge Hock continued that if we do not go forward with this request and provide the support for two additional judges, the Director of State Courts will not advocate for Brown County to get two more judges.

Supervisor Toellner understands that one of the reasons cases get postponed is because the defendant cannot find an attorney. Judge Hock explained the process of a defendant being assigned an attorney through the Public Defender's Office versus having an attorney appointed by the Court and the difficulty there is in finding attorneys due to an overall shortage. Toellner asked how often Judge Hock has difficulty getting a case on her calendar. She responded that she can add cases whenever possible, making staff work through their lunch, work late and not take breaks. It is unreasonable what staff are expected to do but that is the only way to keep cases moving.

Coenen is in favor of the resolution and realizes it will cost some money but feels if nothing is done to start fixing this somehow, things are going to stay stagnant.

Supervisor Rentmeester is in favor of the resolution and understands the shortage of judges, but she was not aware of the lack of attorneys. Judge Hock noted this is a statewide issue and there have been a number of discussions at various levels as to how to fix this. The problem is the state does not pay enough to make it attractive for attorneys to go to the Public Defender's Office or the District Attorney's Office.

Judge Hock agreed with Coenen that we must start addressing this or the problems will continue to multiply and noted the District Attorney's Office was awarded seven additional prosecutors in the last state budget but that will only bring them to 80% of their needs.

The fiscal impact of this as outlined in the resolution was discussed.

Motion made by Supervisor Toellner, seconded by Supervisor Rentmeester to approve alternate Resolution. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Communications

19. Communication from Supervisor Nicholson and (former) Supervisor Deneys: To direct Mark Vanden Hoogen to investigate/evaluate whether different pre-trial tools/software designed to assist with setting bonds other than the Public Safety Assessment Tool exist that meet our needs and if so, what the expense of each is – current cases will be included. ***Action at August 2026 meeting: To hold until the next Public Safety Committee meeting.***

Nicholson informed he has been trying to talk with Mark Vanden Hoogen, but so far has not been able to. He will continue to try to talk with him and asked that this matter be held until the next meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Rentmeester, seconded by Supervisor Toellner to hold until the next Public Safety Committee meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items (limited to 3 minutes each). None.

Other

20. Such other matters as authorized by law.

The Public Safety Committee budget meeting was discussed and a decision was made to hold the meeting on October 5 at 6:00 pm.

21. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Toellner, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to adjourn at 7:08 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Legislative Specialist