



Public Safety Committee

Meeting Date: 05/26/2026

Approval of EMA Operational Funding Adjustment

- Department:** Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
- Presenter:** Kymber Keaton, EMA Director
- Caption:** Motion to approve allocating \$13,500 from General Fund Contingency to the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) budget to support operational and compliance needs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.
- Background:** The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) was recently established as a standalone department to support countywide preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation operations for Augusta-Richmond County. As part of the department transition and startup process, additional operational funding needs have been identified to support baseline emergency management functions, state compliance requirements, training obligations, and grant management responsibilities for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.
- Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-27, local emergency management agencies are required to maintain certified emergency management leadership and coordinate emergency preparedness activities at the local level. Additionally, EMA administers and supports federally and state-funded programs that carry associated compliance, reporting, and management requirements.
- Analysis:** The requested \$13,500 funding adjustment will support the following operational priorities:
- 1) \$3,310.05 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Project administration cost
Funding associated with subrecipient management and oversight responsibilities for the county’s federally required Hazard Mitigation Plan update, which is required every five years to maintain eligibility for certain FEMA mitigation funding opportunities.
 - 2) \$3,500 – Training and Professional Development
Funding to support required emergency management training, including Georgia Certified Emergency Manager (GCEM/CEM) and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) coursework, ensuring compliance with state expectations and maintaining operational readiness.
 - 3) \$6,689.95 – Operational Supplies and Emergency Management Support Equipment

Funding for essential operational items, technology support, field and EOC coordination supplies, emergency planning materials, communications support equipment, and general specialty supplies necessary to maintain daily emergency management operations and response readiness.

This funding adjustment will provide EMA with the minimum operational support necessary to continue building countywide emergency preparedness capabilities, maintain compliance with state and federal requirements, support grant management activities, and sustain emergency coordination functions through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Financial Impact: The City of Augusta will allocate \$13,500 from General Funds Contingency to EMA budget for use during the remaining Fiscal Year 2026 operational period. Needs for future years will be requested in the FY 2027 budget process.

Alternatives: None at this time.

Recommendation: Approve the Motion to approve allocating \$13,500 from General Fund Contingency to EMA Budget to meet operating needs for the remaining fiscal year to ensure EMA to support operational readiness, state compliance requirements, training obligations, and emergency management program administration for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.

Funds are available in the following accounts: General Fund Contingency

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY: Kymber Keaton, EMA Director