

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT Police Department



MEETING DATE:	October 13, 2026
PROJECT:	Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan
PROJECT MANAGER:	John DeStasio, Emergency Management Lieutenant

REQUEST: Town Staff requests Town Council to approve a resolution adopting the 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan. (See Attachment 1)

BACKGROUND: This multi-jurisdictional plan was developed through a comprehensive, collaborative effort led by the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG), bringing together Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties, along with participating municipalities, regional partners, and public stakeholders.

The plan represents a required 5-year update to the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and fulfills the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and FEMA hazard mitigation planning regulations under [44 CFR §201.6](#).

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as the primary regional strategy for reducing long-term risks to life, property, critical infrastructure, local economies, and vulnerable populations from both **natural and human-caused hazards**. Grounded in local hazard profiles and social vulnerability indicators, the plan establishes a unified framework of regional and local mitigation actions.

The 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan includes 29 mitigation actions for the Town of Bluffton covering flood and stormwater management, critical facility hardening, building code compliance, public outreach, and long-term resilience planning — including development of a Town Resilience Plan targeted for 2028.

For the full list of action items, costs, and implementation schedules, please refer to Appendix J of the attached 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NEXT STEPS: FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans are required for local governments to remain eligible for federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. Adoption is the final stage of the mitigation planning process and is required to receive FEMA approval. Following

adoption, staff will submit the executed resolution to the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) for final submission to FEMA.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution
2. 2026 Lowcountry Hazard Mitigation Plan
3. Proposed Motion