

FY2026 Interoperable Radio Grant – Municipal Board Quick Handout

What This Grant Is

The Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs – Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is offering competitive funding for local agencies to purchase interoperable radios that operate on both Dodge County's current VHF system and the State of Wisconsin's new 7/800 MHz WISCOM system.

Approximately \$3 million is available statewide, and OEC has indicated that a FY27 grant round is unlikely.

Why Your Agency Should Apply

- Each agency may request up to \$50,000 (including the required 20% match).
- Agencies must apply individually—not as a countywide bundle.
- New radios will improve:
 - Daily communication reliability
 - Interoperability with State Patrol, DNR, WEM, DOJ, and DOC
 - Mutual aid with surrounding counties using 700/800 MHz systems
 - Alignment with future countywide radio improvements identified in the TUSA study

What the Municipality Must Do

1. Approve a Resolution of Support including the 20% local cash match.
2. Confirm match funding is available (must be a cash match; no in-kind allowed).
3. Authorize the agency head (Fire/EMS/Police/Administration) to submit the application.

What Dodge County Will Provide

- County-level letters of support
- System needs documentation
- Interoperability and committee background
- Project narrative template
- Budget template
- Vendor quote guidance for multiband radios
- Assistance with WISCOM interoperability documents

Why This Matters

Approving this application will:

- Improve emergency response reliability
- Strengthen regional mutual aid capabilities
- Prepare your agency for the county's future radio modernization plan
- Leverage state funding to reduce long-term equipment costs

Deadline

All grant applications must be submitted by January 15, 2026 (11:59 PM CT).