

## **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Renewal of the MOU with Effingham County Board of Education for the Use of Schools as Disaster Shelters

**Author:** Danielle Carver, Procurement and Contracts Manager & Clint Hodges, Fire Chief / EEMA Director

**Department:** Purchasing / EEMA

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2025

**Item Description:** Consideration to approve the continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Effingham County Board of Education for the use of schools as disaster shelters

**Summary Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the continuation of the MOU.

### **Executive Summary/Background:**

The County currently has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the Effingham County Board of Education, originally executed on June 19, 2012. The MOU provides the Effingham County Emergency Management Agency (EEMA) access to six (6) schools to serve as disaster shelters. The agreement is structured to automatically renew annually unless canceled by either party.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish the terms and conditions under which Effingham County school facilities may be utilized as critical workforce shelters, post-event shelters, and/or points of distribution when requested by EEMA. The agreement also covers the parking of equipment and supplies accompanying shelter personnel.

This MOU remains an essential component of the Effingham County Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations Plan. The County Attorney has previously reviewed and approved the MOU as to form.

### **Alternatives for Commission to Consider**

1. Approve the continuation of the MOU with the Effingham County Board of Education for the use of six (6) schools as disaster shelters for the period June 19, 2025, to June 18, 2026.
2. Cancel the MOU agreement.

**Recommended Alternative:** 1

**Other Alternatives:** 2

**Department Review:** Purchasing & EEMA

**Funding Source:** Reimbursement cost for any damages shall be funded by the Effingham County Board of Commissioners.

**Attachments:** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)