

Fayette County Board of Supervisors

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Monday, April 10, 2023

To:

Oelwein Police Chief Jeremy Logan
City administrator Dylan Mulfinger

In response to your request for extension, Fayette County is not interested in extending a one-year contract of \$25,000 with the city of Oelwein to provide 911 and law enforcement communication and other services.

The payment of \$22,000 on the current year, is only covering 5% of the cost of the current year's dispatch budget, resulting in the County operating this service at a loss.


Over the past year, attempts to negotiate a new contract failed, as the city of Oelwein and Oelwein PD has never acknowledged that an agreement, while not unanimous, was reached by the appointed committee that met on several occasions with the three municipal entities. If Oelwein believes a contract for \$104,000 is too pricey, the city and its Police Department is free to look elsewhere for this service, or provide the service with its own staff.

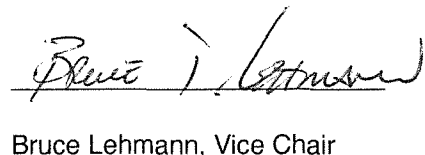
As we know you are aware, the cost of doing business has escalated immensely over the past year. Just two examples: the County increased salaries for its new hire dispatchers by \$3 per hour last fall to attract applicants so we could increase staff during times of greater 911 calls. (That's above what was already negotiated by the Union.) County health insurance rates will increase by over 16% beginning July 1.


For Oelwein's part, you have asked for numerous questions to be answered as you argue against the contract cost we have established, but the fact remains: Fayette County is offering the service of 911 communications dispatch at a cost to your city that is less than any other alternatives of which we are aware. The cost WAS determined based on a formula currently used by Winneshiek County, using parameters that included population and Calls for Service. In Winneshiek, the city of Decorah sees 35% of the calls, and thus pays their fair share without question. The Calls for Service does not take into account EMS or FD calls, which the County is considering it's obligation.

If you prefer, we can again assess the quoted figures based on the past six months of Calls for Service, since it has been about that long since the discussions between the County and cities took place in earnest. However, at a glance, it appears Oelwein's CFS have continued to escalate, averaging about 25 calls per day. In the spirit of compromise, the Fayette County Supervisors Board will honor our original offer to Oelwein, at a flat rate of \$104,000 for 2023-24, for ONE YEAR.

Should you accept the contract offer for 2023-24, and in looking forward for years ahead, Fayette County is willing to have an appointee from our Board, and a voting member of the Oelwein City Council join Sheriff Marty Fisher in a discussion/explanation of how the contract fee is reached, in an effort toward better understanding. If this is your desire, please let us know.


Janell Bradley, Chair


Bruce Lehmann, Vice Chair


Jeff Bunn, Board Member