



**OELWEIN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF OELWEIN, IOWA
MEMORANDUM**

FROM: Jeremy P. Logan, Chief of Police

DATE: August 4, 2025

TO: City Administrator Dylan Mulfinger - Mayor Brett DeVore - Oelwein City Council Members

SUBJECT: Regional Outdoor Warning Siren Project

The City of Oelwein is serving as the primary applicant in a joint grant application with the City of Independence under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This regional project seeks funding to modernize and enhance outdoor warning siren systems in both communities.

If awarded, the grant will:

- Fully replace Oelwein's existing outdoor warning sirens.
- Replace and expand the siren network in Independence.
- Network the two systems, allowing for activation either jointly or independently.
- Provide redundant backup activation capabilities between the communities.
- Include automated activation capability triggered by National Weather Service alerts—operating 24/7 without manual input.

Both Oelwein's and Independence's current siren systems are more than 25 years old and lack modern interoperability, redundancy, and automation features. The total project cost submitted in the application is \$609,056.10. FEMA funding requires a local match from the participating jurisdictions. Based on preliminary estimates:

- Oelwein's required match is \$32,104.15.
- These figures may adjust once the competitive bidding process is complete.
- There is potential to offset a portion of the local match through in-kind contributions, such as city labor or resources.

This regional partnership strengthens both communities' emergency preparedness and enhances public safety through a modern, reliable, and integrated warning system.

I recommend the City Council support the required resolution indicating Oelwein's commitment to providing the necessary matching funds should the grant be awarded.