

Walton County Department Agenda Request

Department Name: **EMA**

Department Head/Representative: **Carl Morrow**

Meeting Date Request: **11/04/2025**

Has this topic been discussed at past meetings? **No**

If so, When? **N/A**

TOPIC: GDOT TIME Taskforce Grant

Wording For Agenda: **GDOT Time Taskforce Grant for \$17,715**

This Request: Informational Purposes Only

Needs Action by Commissioners* **Yes**

*What action are you seeking from the Commissioners? **Approval**

Department Comments/Recommendation: **100% grant no match required**

Additional Documentation Attached? **Yes**

Is review of this request or accompanying documentation by the County Attorney required? **No**

If so, has a copy of the documentation been forwarded to County Attorney? **No**

Date forwarded to County Attorney: **N/A**

Has the County Attorney review been completed? **N/A**

If this request involves the expenditure of county funds, please answer the following:

Approved in current budget? **N/A**

Budget information attached? **N/A**

Comments: This is a 100% funded grant no match required. The goal of the Walton Emergency Management Agency, in regards to the TIM Team, is to develop a rapid response unit, which can be called out to any major incident involving an extended road closure or incident requiring the rerouting of traffic. We believe that initializing this function within the EMA will balance the needs of Law Enforcement, Fire/Rescue, EMS, and towing operators that may not individually have the equipment and resources. By acting in a similar fashion as the state's HERO and CHAMPS Units, we can equip a trailer with lane closure, detour management, incident communication, and personnel safety equipment that can be deployed and manned by any number of trained and assigned personnel. By specializing a TIM response unit, grant funded equipment can be maintained and put to best use under the concepts of current TIM Responder training and methods.

Purchasing Department Comments:

County Attorney Comments:

Chairman's Comments:

Walton County's Commitment to Traffic Incident Management

Walton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has demonstrated a strong and growing commitment to traffic incident management (TIM) through the establishment of the **Walton Traffic Incident Management Team (TIM Team)** in 2024. Recognizing the challenges posed by a growing population in an area that remains largely rural, Walton County EMA identified the need for a coordinated, multi-agency approach to address potential large-scale traffic incidents that could impact safety, commerce, and mobility throughout east Georgia.

Since its creation, the TIM Team has convened approximately six meetings, each open to all public safety agencies and towing operators within Walton County, as well as, the neighboring region. These meetings have provided a venue for collaboration, problem-solving, and shared learning. Training topics have included roadway safety, multi-agency coordination, and specialized response strategies. The meetings have not only strengthened professional relationships among partner agencies but also established a shared operational understanding that can be put into practice during real-world incidents.

Leadership of the Walton TIM Team is supported by the EMA's Deputy Director, who brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience, with a career focus on highway safety. His longstanding involvement with the **Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) TIME Task Force** since its inception, as well as his 20+ years of active participation with the **Governor's Office of Highway Safety**, ensure that Walton County's efforts align with best practices and statewide priorities.

In 2024, Walton County formally adopted the **Open Roads Policy**, underscoring its commitment to minimizing roadway closure times, preventing secondary incidents, and maintaining transportation productivity. While this policy was newly adopted, the county has long embraced the principle of quickly and safely clearing roadways after major incidents. By extending the TIM Team concepts to municipal partners and encouraging regional collaboration, Walton County has built a scalable system of traffic incident management that can expand as needed to meet the demands of large or complex events.

Walton County EMA's approach demonstrates both foresight and action—laying the foundation for a safer, more coordinated traffic incident response system that protects the traveling public, first responders, and the economic vitality of the region.

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Walton County EMA has facilitated, in collaboration with Atkins/Realis (GDOT), approximately 6 meetings and training events. EMA has attended all of these meetings, and promoted participation by other agencies at each. The number of attendees have varied at each of these meetings and trainings, but have always included representation from law enforcement, Fire/Rescue, HAZMAT contractors, and towing operators. Efforts are currently being made to encourage more participation from municipal public safety agencies. Due to the historically rural

nature of this jurisdiction, resources are often shared amongst county, municipal, and state agencies; however, the rapidly evolving residential population and commercial industry activity have prompted more modern and large-scaled approaches to equipment, personnel, and training. The TIM Team approach has offered one avenue of introducing those training and operational concepts into multi-agency paradigms that have historically had lower experience with large-scale incidents than urban and metropolitan counterparts, especially on the expanding roadway systems throughout the county and region. This TIM Team is committed to providing continued training and collaborative opportunities by inviting regional subject matter experts, specialized instructors, online and in-person classes, and experience-based discussions at future meetings.

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Grant Total: \$17714.98

Items submitted for consideration:

- 1 7x16 Enclosed trailer
- 10 A-frame barricade legs
- 10 6' Reflective barricade beams
- 5 Job Site scene lights
- 5 LED Road Flare kits
- 12 Reflective traffic vests
- Streamlight Flashlights
- 250 Orange 28" Reflective traffic cones