



**BOARD WORKSHOP AGENDA**  
**BOARD OF WRIGHT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**May 9, 2023**

Tina Diedrick, District 1  
Darek Vetsch, District 2  
Jeanne Holland, District 3  
Nadine Schoen, District 4  
Michael Kaczmarek, District 5

1. Schedule Meetings As Needed
2. Legislative Updates
3. 2024 Budget Forecast
4. AMC -- National Center For Public Lands

Documents:

[PUBLIC LANDS WRIGHT.PDF](#)  
[ONE PAGER-- NATIONAL CENTER FOR PL COUNTIES.PDF](#)

5. Central Minnesota EMS

Documents:

[CMEMS WHITE PAPER.PDF](#)

6. Metropolitan Water Supply Advisory Council Appointment

Documents:

[MAWSAC APPOINTMENT 5-9-23.PDF](#)



# Association of Minnesota Counties

April 14, 2023

Lee Kelly  
Wright County  
3650 Braddock Avenue NE  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Dear Lee:

We are writing to provide your county some information about an exciting opportunity that has been developed by the Boards of Directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Western Interstate Region (WIR). NACo and WIR have established the National Center for Public Lands Counties to create an enhanced opportunity to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America.

Enclosed you will find a summary of the planned work of the center to use new and traditional media to tell these stories as well as develop detailed, individual research and written county profiles. This document also outlines plans for staffing, governance, and financing of the center.

To finance this endeavor, NACo and WIR are looking for a voluntary investment of \$15 million over the next two years. That amounts to one percent of the recently distributed Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) a flexible, targeted federal investment in public lands counties. We are reaching out to you because Wright County is considered a public lands county for the purposes of distributing LATCF dollars. A contribution equivalent to one percent of the LATCF allocation would amount to a total of \$1,000 for your county over two years.

This new center will be a valuable resource for counties throughout the country. On behalf of AMC, NACo, and WIR we encourage your board to give serious consideration to financial participation in the center. NACo and WIR are hoping to have a sense of how many counties are interested in participating by mid-May. Your board does not need to have acted by then, but please let Ryan Erdmann at AMC know the likelihood of your county's participation ([erdmann@mncounties.org](mailto:erdmann@mncounties.org) or 651-789-4345). If there are questions that are not covered by the enclosed fact sheet, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ryan or to either of us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County Commissioner  
*President, Association of Minnesota Counties*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, National Association of Counties*

Rich Sve, Lake County Commissioner  
*Western Interstate Region Board Member*

## **National Center for Public Lands Counties**

County governments are a leading voice in the intergovernmental partnership in responsible resource management. Understanding our unique role as co-regulators and conveners, Congress has consistently supported appropriations for critical programs like Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and granted new authorities to federal lands agencies to broaden the scope, pace and scale of their on-the-ground resource management work with local governments.

To truly benefit from these unique opportunities and investments, counties must accelerate our evidence-based research, peer information exchanges, and overall understanding of our lessons learned, emerging trends analysis, and priority public policy issues.

The NACo and WIR Boards of Directors therefore established the National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center) to give public lands counties an enhanced opportunity to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America. The Center will utilize traditional and new media—such as podcasts and video interviews—to tell these stories and also develop detailed, individual research and written county profiles focused on:

- County partnerships with federal agencies, states, tribes and other counties to reduce wildfire risk, responsibly develop energy and minerals, improve public access to federal lands, protect watersheds, conserve species and their habitat, and protect our national parks and other natural treasures
- County investments of PILT, SRS and other natural resource revenue payments to benefit residents, visitors and surrounding public lands
- The different economic drivers in rural vs. urban public lands counties
- Development and implementation of county natural resource management plans and baseline socioeconomic data for environmental analyses
- Resource values of federal lands compared to nearby privately owned lands
- Meeting the unique challenges facing public lands counties, such as housing affordability for residents and federal employees, ensuring a stable tax base to deliver critical services, and managing infrastructure on federal lands

For the Center to meet its mission and serve as a long-term tool for public lands counties, a voluntary investment of \$15 million over the next two years is needed to hire the necessary staff to conduct this critical research and keep the Center on a sustainable financial course. Initially, the Center will need 1-2 hard-working, passionate and talented writers who can help tell the county story. The Center will report to the NACo and WIR Board of Directors on its financial health and issue an annual report at the annual WIR Conference.

The Center's governing body, which will :

- WIR Executive Committee (President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Immediate Past President)
- NACo Public Lands Steering Committee Chair
- NACo Public Lands Steering Committee Subcommittee Chairs
- Federal Lands Gateway County Official appointed by the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee Chair
- NACo West Region Representative
- NACo Executive Director
- Executive Director from WIR Immediate Past President's home state

- NACo Public Lands Legislative Director and WIR Liaison, serving as NACo staff liaison to the governing board

The Center's governing board will also be empowered to develop an annual workplan based on the research priorities selected by the WIR Board of Directors and NACo Public Lands Steering Committee. At the WIR Annual Conference each May, the WIR Board of Directors and the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee will review the activities and performance of the Center, and consider and adopt the proposed workplan for the next year.

In order to leverage the expertise of NACo's public lands membership, the governing board will also have the ability to appoint research subcommittees made up of county officials, based on the research priorities selected by the WIR Board of Directors and NACo Public Lands Steering Committee, to coordinate and oversee the research efforts of the National Center. Research work conducted by the National Center will be non-partisan, aligned with NACo policy and priorities and will not directly conflict with the interests of any county.

**NACo staff contact:** Jonathan Shuffield, NACo Legislative Director for Public Lands, at 512.965.7268 or [jshuffield@naco.org](mailto:jshuffield@naco.org)

# Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Region

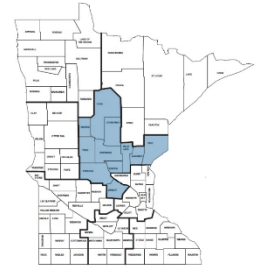
Marion Larson  
Regional EMS Coordinator  
2/6/23

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
➤ Who We Are.....	3
➤ Organizational History .....	3
➤ Programs .....	5
➤ Critical situation .....	8
➤ Solutions.....	10
➤ Conclusion.....	10

## Executive Summary

Minnesota has 8 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regions. The Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (CMEMS) Region supports pre-hospital EMS agencies across an 11-county member area. We serve first responders, fire departments, law enforcement agencies and ambulance services. Our mission is to, *“Promote and support a coordinated system for local Emergency Medical Services.”*



CMEMS fulfills its mission by supplying equipment grants, training grants, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) services and EMS coordination to our stakeholders.

The 8 EMS Regions across Minnesota continually struggle to obtain stable and adequate funding. Over the past 40 years, Federal funds, Trunked Highway appropriations, Minnesota General fund dollars and EMS Relief funding have supported the EMS Regions. Systematically, each funding mechanism was depleted, and the Regions sought out the next funding source. The 8 EMS Regions’ current funding has dwindled to an unsustainable level.

Exacerbating the decline in funding, in November 2022, the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) Financial Division released a performance audit of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB). Several of the findings directly impact the EMS Regions. The most pressing finding is the interpretation of Mn Statute 169.686 subd. 3, which limits allowable expenditures to:

- Personnel education and training
- Equipment and vehicle purchases
- Operational expenses of emergency life support transportation (ambulances) services

CMEMS historically has used EMS Relief Fund dollars to support programming, CISM services, EMS Coordination and CMEMS operational expenses. Starting January 1, 2023, CMEMS will be unable to support operations, EMS Coordination with ESMS Relief Fund dollars. This will create a budgetary shortfall starting the next fiscal year, July 1, 2023 (Figure 5). Without additional funding CMEMS will be unable to continue its current operations and will have to drastically reduce services and programs.

### Recommendations

The CMEMS Joint Powers Board supports:

- an increase of funding from the State Legislature that will fully fund the operations and programming of CMEMS
- broadening the language of the EMS Relief funds grant (Mn Statute 169.686 subd. 3) to include mental health support as an allowable expense. Ensuring that CISM services remain available and at no-cost to our stakeholders is vital to our EMS workforce [Update 2/6/27: The Emergency Services Regulatory Board has agreed to accept CISM expenditures as an allowable expense for EMS Relief funds, however this declining funding may not be adequate to fund the program.]

## ➤ Who We Are

The Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (CMEMS) Region serves fire departments, first responder groups, law enforcement agencies and ambulance services throughout Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Stearns, Todd, Wright, and Wadena counties. There are over 200 agencies served. We support a systematic, cost-effective EMS system throughout our region. Our 11-county area varies from urban to “super rural.” It is no surprise that the delivery of emergency medicine is as varied as our geography. It is comprised of a mixture of volunteer and paid departments, first responders, fire fighters, law enforcement officers, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. We serve those who answer the call to 911.

## ➤ Organizational History

The Central Minnesota EMS Region was originally established in 1981 as the Central Minnesota Emergency Services Council, a non-profit, private EMS development corporation. The Council served 14 counties in Central Minnesota. In 2001, the 14 Counties in Central Minnesota submitted a competing grant application and were awarded the grant from the EMS Regulatory Board. The Central EMS Region has operated as a Joint Powers Board ever since. Between 2014-2019, Chisago, Isanti, and Sherburne Counties exited the Joint Powers Agreement to collaborate with the Metro EMS Region. CMEMS currently has 11 member counties.

### Funding History

The first funding for the EMS Council was established through Federal Block grants. This was their primary source of funding from 1981-1989. As the Federal funding diminished, in 1989 the State of Minnesota created the EMS Relief fund to support the EMS Regions and provided a Trunked Highway appropriation. The annual amount of the EMS Relief Fund varied, but the Trunked Highway dollars provided \$115,000 to each EMS Region. The EMS Council believed that the Trunked Highway dollars were, “a much more stable, long-term solution for EMS Funding”. However, this funding source would be short lived. In 2000, the Minnesota Legislature amended section 161.20, subd. 3, adding that “[p]ayment of expenses related to sales tax, bureau of criminal apprehension laboratory, office of tourism kiosks, Minnesota safety council, tort claims, driver education programs, **emergency medical services board [EMSRB]**, and Mississippi River parkway commission do not further a highway purpose and do not aid in the construction, improvement, or maintenance of the highway system.” Minn. Laws 2000, ch. 479, art. 2, sec. 4. The Minnesota Legislature converted the source of appropriation for each party from the Trunked Highway Fund to the General Fund. This General Fund appropriation is still the primary source of funding for the EMS Regions.

### Funding Today

The Central EMS Region is funded through an annual allocation from the State’s General Fund, which was renamed in 2022 from “*EMS Support grant*” to “*EMS Fund*”, and the funds collected from seatbelt citations, which is the “*EMS Relief Fund*.” These funding mechanisms have largely remained unchanged for over 20 years. Our organization relies on the EMS Fund and the EMS Relief Fund to sustain operational and programmatic expenditures.





## EMS Fund (Support Grant)

The revenue from the EMS Fund (Support grant) has decreased since its inception in 1989. The annual EMS Fund allocation has remained stagnant since FY15, at only \$73,125.

In FY22, the State Legislature provided the EMS Regions with a “One-Time” allocation of an additional \$100,000 for each year of the FY22-23 biennium. At this time, that additional funding will expire on June 30, 2023, and CMEMS will revert to receiving \$73,125 annually.

## EMS Relief Fund

While the EMS Fund (Support grant) has remained steady, the EMS Relief account has varied significantly. Since the early 2000s, the number of Minnesotans buckling their seatbelt has been steadily increasing. This has saved lives and reduced injuries but has also decreased the seatbelt citation revenue which funds the EMS Relief fund. At the peak in FY11, the EMS Relief fund provided CMEMS with \$226,647.68. Compared to FY21, the EMS Relief fund provided CMEMS with just \$44,817, a decrease of nearly 80%. The dollars from the EMS Relief grant have historically assisted CMEMS in providing training grants, equipment grants, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) services, EMS Coordination and supporting the operations of CMEMS.

## ➤ Programs

CMEMS is a hub for many programs. We are known for four main programs:

1. Equipment Grants
2. Training Grants
3. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) services
4. EMS Coordination

## Equipment Grants

When funding is available, CMEMS provides opportunities for our stakeholders to apply for equipment grants. Our fire departments, law enforcement agencies, first responder organizations and ambulance services all need equipment to respond to medicals and to communicate with one another. Equipment purchased from funds distributed from CMEMS include, but is not limited to: medical bags, patient care supplies, ARMER radios, and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). This equipment directly improves patient care that is provided by our responders. Since 2012, CMEMS has provided over \$100,000 in equipment grants to our stakeholders. Equipment grants are regularly requested by our stakeholders, but as funding has decreased, this program has been paused until additional funding is secured.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2020	Total per County
Benton	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,994.54	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$6,994.54
Cass	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,445.26	\$0.00	\$388.03	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,833.29
Crow Wing	\$2,150.00	\$2,999.00	\$2,475.00	\$0.00	\$1,997.55	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$12,621.55
Kanabec	\$870.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$495.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$3,865.00
Mille Lacs	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$911.95	\$0.00	\$1,453.78	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,365.73
Morrison	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$9,000.00
Pine	\$370.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,188.09	\$1,483.00	\$0.00	\$6,041.09
Sherburne	\$2,000.00	\$3,888.95	\$835.95	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	X*	\$8,224.90
Stearns	\$810.00	\$4,839.00	\$2,870.99	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,487.17	\$2,472.82	\$21,979.98
Todd	\$1,000.00	\$2,240.00	\$925.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$805.44	\$500.00	\$5,970.44
Wadena	\$1,000.00	\$729.98	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$497.49	\$3,727.47
Wright	\$1,000.00	\$2,158.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,839.48	\$1,000.00	\$7,497.48
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$14,200.00</b>	<b>\$29,354.93</b>	<b>\$14,958.69</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,522.45</b>	<b>\$19,615.09</b>	<b>\$7,470.31</b>	<b>\$100,121.47</b>
*Sherburne County exited the CMEMS IPB January 1, 2019, and was not eligible for equipment grants								
**Due to lack of funding, there were no equipment grants in 2015								

## Training Grants

It is critical that our communities can trust that they have medical responders that are credentialed and receive ongoing training. Historically, CMEMS has provided partial reimbursement to agencies for the initial certification or recertification of their personnel as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). This empowers our agencies to select the education provider of their choice and keep the training local. Table 2 illustrates that between FY10-FY18, CMEMS provided stakeholder agencies nearly \$409,000 in training reimbursement. As funding has diminished, CMEMS was not able to provide training reimbursement in FY2018-2020.

	# of eligible agencies each county	Amount Reimbursed FY10-12	Amount Reimbursed FY10-14	Amount Reimbursed FY14-16	Amount Reimbursed FY16-18	Total
Benton	7	\$3,100.00	\$4,430.00	\$6,054.00	\$9,344.00	\$22,928.00
Cass	29	\$2,615.00	\$5,968.00	\$4,474.00	\$3,218.00	\$16,275.00
Crow Wing	34	\$6,370.00	\$6,920.00	\$13,237.00	\$10,662.00	\$37,189.00
Kanabec	7	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,440.00	\$600.00	\$3,040.00
Mille Lacs	15	\$2,645.00	\$10,674.00	\$8,672.00	\$5,802.00	\$27,793.00
Morrison	24	\$7,410.00	\$16,124.00	\$12,392.00	\$3,892.00	\$39,818.00
Pine	15	\$2,565.00	\$1,812.00	\$2,050.00	\$7,617.80	\$14,044.80
Sherburne	11	\$1,610.00	\$7,462.00	\$6,026.00	\$10,370.00	\$25,468.00
Stearns	43	\$18,025.00	\$28,636.00	\$43,664.00	\$37,956.00	\$128,281.00
Todd	18	\$1,870.00	\$11,910.00	\$12,206.00	\$4,370.00	\$30,356.00
Wadena	9	\$2,820.00	\$4,970.00	\$4,498.00	\$100.00	\$12,388.00
Wright	22	\$3,490.00	\$19,483.65	\$15,495.92	\$12,590.00	\$51,059.57
<b>Totals</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>\$52,770.00</b>	<b>\$118,389.65</b>	<b>\$131,208.92</b>	<b>\$106,521.80</b>	<b>\$408,890.37</b>

Minnesota is experiencing a workforce shortage of pre-hospital EMS providers. Our agencies have identified that it can be difficult to get interested staff credentialed due to class inaccessibility and cost. In 2022, CMEMS instituted a pilot program for training EMTs. We contracted with Ridgewater College to host a hybrid EMT course. This course included eight weeks of in-person training and eight weeks of online learning. The pilot program had 19 students who represented local ambulance services, fire departments and law enforcement agencies. CMEMS used grant dollars to pay the tuition for each student and coordinated the class. This class was successful, with many of the students obtaining their National EMT certification. Due to its success, the Region is planning to expand this program in the spring of 2023. We intend to contract with Ridgewater College and NorthPoint Training to expand access to EMT training for our agencies throughout the region. Contracting with both educational programs will alleviate the financial burden and locate classes in areas that need EMTs.

## Critical Incident Stress Management

CMEMS plays a vital role in supporting the mental health and resiliency of our pre-hospital EMS workforce. The Central Region supported a Critical Incident Stress Management team (CISM) before becoming a Joint Powers board in 2001. Our CISM team combines peers and mental health providers who volunteer their time and talents to support our stakeholders. CMEMS partners with the Benton County Sheriff's Office to receive incoming requests for CISM services. Their Public Safety Telecommunicators (PST) relay those calls for help to the on-duty team member. The CISM team member works with the requesting agency to set up the services needed.

**Critical Incident Management Team Activities (Debriefings, Defusings, Peer Support)**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Call-Outs	24	43	30	33	31	30	36	22	26	9**	25	30*
** Call outs reduced due to COVID lock downs										Total: 339		
*Final call-out data has not been finalized												

CISM services are available to any of our stakeholder agencies in our 11 counties. Whether the agency is in Federal Dam or Albertville, Wadena or Sandstone, the CISM team provides them with onsite services. While volunteer CISM team members are not compensated for their time, there are costs to ensuring the services are available, such as: team member mileage reimbursement, CISM class costs, team member on-going education and general supplies.

**EMS Coordination**

All of Minnesota’s EMS Regions play a pivotal role in the coordination and support of our EMS system. CMEMS accomplishes this through our Regional EMS Coordinator, who interfaces with local responders, state agencies and policy makers. CMEMS is the hub for our stakeholders to receive information and subject matter expertise.

Because CMEMS is connected to our pre-hospital EMS providers across 11 counties, external organizations often look for our Regional EMS Coordinator’s assistance to make their programs successful. Some of the external organizations include, the Minnesota Department of Health, the American Heart Association, the Health Systems Preparedness Program, Regional Trauma Advisory Committee, the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) education work group, the EMSRB EMS workforce retention workgroup and many others.

The Regional EMS Coordinator provides support to EMS agencies through:

- Coordination and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ambulance services during public health emergencies
- Coordination for deployment of the appropriate EMS resources during disasters and mass casualty events
- Provide situational awareness and dissemination of information during civil unrest, pre-planned events, and emergencies
- Purchased and deployed sanitization devices for each ambulance service in the region during COVID-19
- Coordination of Fit Testing for public safety agencies in response to public health emergencies
- Provide naloxone training to public safety agencies across the region and distribute naloxone since 2015
- Provide public safety agencies with templates and support for internal naloxone policies

- Partner with Emergency Departments to provide naloxone to high-risk patients upon discharge
- Coordination of a multidiscipline fatality review committee focusing on opiate overdoses

In addition to the individual support for stakeholders, the Regional EMS Coordinator is also responsible for the daily administration, reporting and execution of the grant requirements.

## ➤ Critical situation

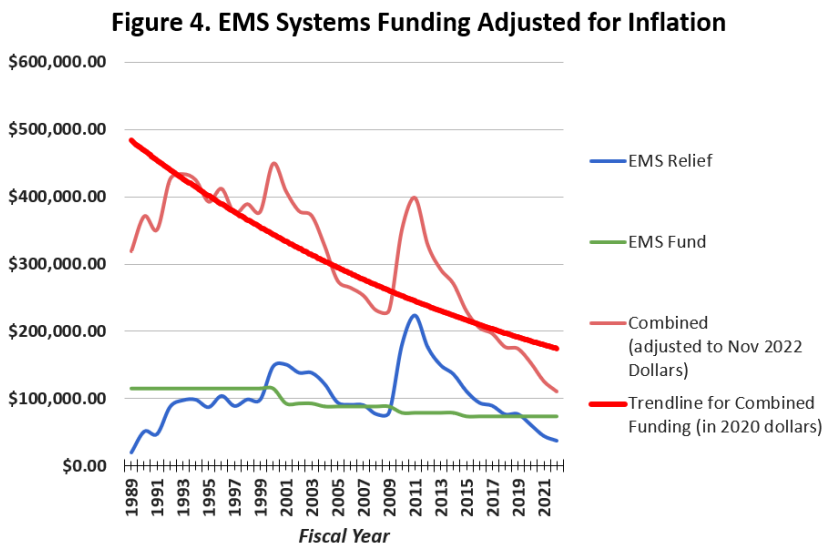
Minnesota’s EMS Regions find themselves in the middle of two funding emergencies that are occurring simultaneously:

- **Decreasing funds**
- **New EMS Relief Fund limitations**

### Decreasing funds

The EMS Fund Grant dollars have remained stagnant, and revenue collected from seatbelt citations has decreased to 1/5 of its peak. This means that CMEMS has fewer dollars to operate and conduct programming.

Fig. 4. shows the historical revenue of the EMS System adjusted to 2022 dollars. In FY21, the combined revenue for each EMS Region was \$117,975.97. This is less than the \$135,340.00 each Region received in FY1989. Today, the amount received in 1989 would be nearly \$325,000 when adjusted to 2022 dollars. It’s easy to see that the funding is not only declining, but inflationary increases also add additional stress on an already strained budget.



In response to the decline in funding, CMEMS has suspended programs and declined to fill staff vacancies. At its peak, CMEMS employed 1.6 FTEs, but is currently working with just 1.0 FTE. The role of the 0.6 FTE has historically fulfilled administrative support functions for regional programming, outreach, and office management. In the absence of the administrative support person, the Regional EMS Coordinator fulfills the roles of both the coordinator and administrative support.

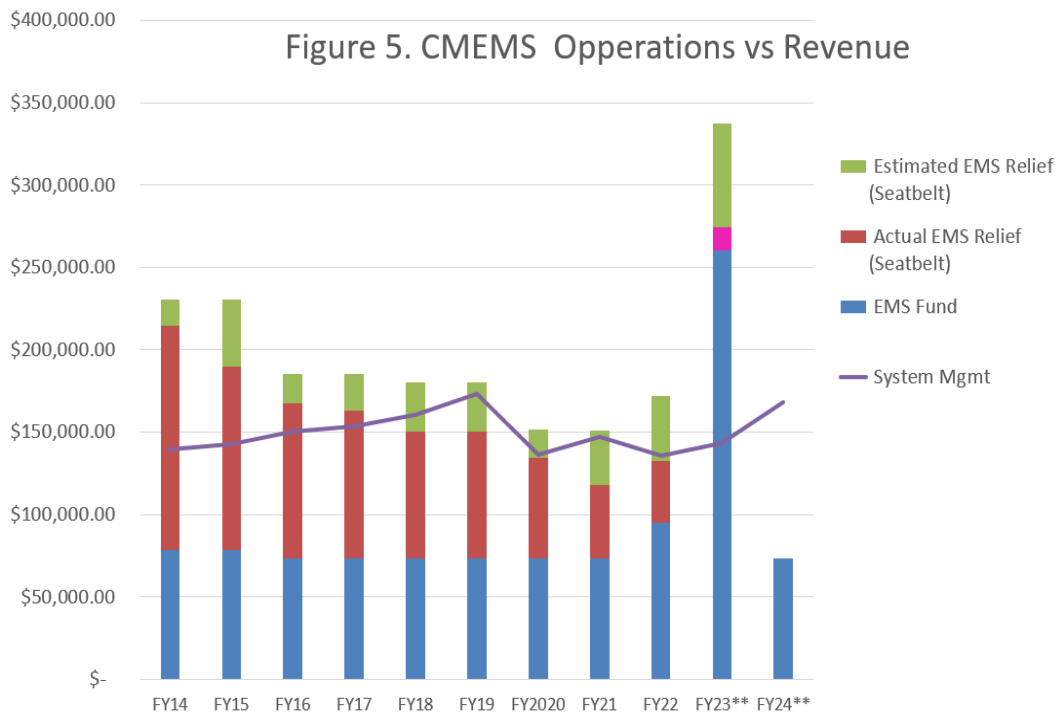
### EMS Relief Account Limitations

In 2022, the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) was the subject of two investigations from the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). The OLA focused on the EMS system of Minnesota and the financial practices of the EMSRB. While CMEMS was not the focus of either audit, there were several findings or recommendations that do directly reference the 8 EMS Regions.

The most impactful finding is the interpretation of the EMS Relief grant statute (169.686 subd. 3). Starting January 1, 2023, these funds can only be spent on:

- *Personnel education & training*
- *Equipment & vehicle purchases*
- *Operational expenses of emergency life support transportation (ambulance) services*

Historically, CMEMS was permitted to use EMS Relief funds to subsidize our operational expenses, and various programs. The operational expenditures will no longer be an allowed use of EMS Relief funds starting in 2023. Due to the “One-Time” Funding increase for the FY22-FY23 biennium, CMEMS will have the ability to continue operations with limited impacts until June 30, 2023. However, the new limitations on the EMS Relief Fund will cause us to have a shortfall starting July 1, 2023. The EMS Fund (Support Grant) alone will not be enough for CMEMS to maintain current operations. Failure to obtain additional funding will require additional reduction of services.



*\*System Mgmt is the combined budgeted staff costs and overhead*

## ➤ Solutions

Utilizing a Regional EMS Coordinator is a cost-effective, systematic way provide services to our stakeholders throughout the 11-county area. The Central Minnesota EMS Region Joint Powers Board (JPB) supports an increase of the EMS Fund (Support dollars) from the State Legislature that will fully fund the operations and programming of CMEMS.

The Board also supports broadening the language of the EMS Relief funds grant (Mn Statute 169.686 subd. 3) to include mental health support as an allowable expense. In January of 2023, the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board did agree that CISM services would fit within the scope of appropriate EMS Relief fund expenditures. This is a positive move for CMEMS, but the revenue collected form seatbelt citations is unstable and inadequate. Ensuring that CISM services remain available and at no-cost to our stakeholders is vital to our EMS workforce.

## ➤ Conclusion

Since September 11, 2001, all of Minnesota's 8 EMS Regions have been tasked with greater planning and coordination activities including partnerships involving Hospital Preparedness Programs, Emergency Management, Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM), State and Local Public Health, Behavioral Health, and the Department of Public Safety. This important work has come largely, with an unfunded expectation that the CMEMS has the capacity and capabilities to support the work.

Not long ago, the Central Minnesota EMS Region had staffing and funding to offer training programs, workshops, equipment grants, regional coordination and public education. The lack of funding has resulted in reductions of staff, programs, regional education and equipment grant projects. The dramatic decrease in funding and the new limited use of EMS Relief dollars, have pushed CMEMS to a critical point. Without additional funding, CMEMS will be unable to provide EMS Coordination and the current programming to our stakeholders starting July 1, 2023. This will leave our fire, first responder, law enforcement agencies and ambulance services without the resources they currently rely on.



May 4, 2023

Commissioners,

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) has asked Wright County to provide a recommendation for an appointment to the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (Minnesota Statute 473.1565). Until his retirement, Mark Daleiden represented Wright County on this committee. The appointment to this committee does not need to be an elected official but will be providing input on behalf of the county.

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) provides guidance to the Metropolitan Council as they do research on emerging water supply issues and develop tools to support local water supply planning. Committee input helps to shape the Council's request for Clean Water Fund appropriations, to support water supply-related projects for the metropolitan area. The committee also informs the direction of future updates of the Regional Development Framework and supports water supply-related policy plans, including the Metro Area Water Supply Plan and the Water Resources Policy Plan.

More information about the work of the committee is on the Council website at <https://metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Water-Supply-Advisory-Committee.aspx>.

MAWSAC is composed of representatives from all seven metropolitan counties (two counties and five non-county LGUs), four non-metropolitan counties, Minneapolis and St. Paul municipal water providers, four state agencies, and the Metropolitan Council. The committee meets at the Metropolitan Council office in downtown St. Paul approximately quarterly and on an ad hoc basis if a new project or topic requires it.

Appointments to the committee are made by the Governor, so candidates will need to apply through the Secretary of State's Open Appointments website. Although the deadline listed for the first review of applications has passed, the MAWSAC is working to make sure that all open positions can be filled. In speaking with their staff, they are seeking to have new members in place prior to their August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Applications are still being actively solicited and accepted.  
(<https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Agency/Details/282>).

I would request we discuss this as part of the May 9<sup>th</sup> workshop and recommend an appointment to this committee.

Thank you,  
Lee