



November 4, 2020

Governor Tony Evers  
Attn: Jennie Dye, Policy Director  
State Capitol, Madison, WI

RE: Support for the Department of Military Affairs Next Generation 911 Budget Request

Dear Governor Evers:

As representatives of organizations who develop, maintain, distribute, and utilize data critical to emergency management and public safety operations, we write today in support of your administration's ongoing efforts to modernize the state's 911 system.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) submitted a comprehensive budget request that represents significant progress towards enabling Next Generation 911 (NG911). The thoughtful and collaborative approach demonstrated by DMA and the 911 Subcommittee is greatly appreciated.

The DMA budget request acknowledges NG911 implementation is dependent upon the development and maintenance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, including street centerlines, address points, and emergency response boundaries. Standardized geospatial data is the backbone of NG911, helping to accurately locate 911 calls and efficiently route responders via dispatch.

Enhancing the local data to meet the needs of NG911 will place additional burdens on local governments. For this reason, DMA has proposed the creation of a grant program to assist local governments with preparing the GIS data and technology required for NG911 to function. As the administration prepares the Executive Budget, **our organization respectfully requests you adopt DMA's request to provide \$3 million beginning in FY 2023 for a GIS grant program.**

In closing, as difficult decisions are made in this challenging budgeting environment, we urge you to make the long overdue modernization of 911 a priority. Support for the DMA NG911 budget request in its entirety will help ensure Wisconsinites have access to timely, reliable emergency services for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership. If you would like additional information or to discuss further, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Zachery Newton, Chair  
Wisconsin Land Information Officer Network (LION)

cc: Maj. Gen. Paul E. Knapp, Adjutant General  
Erik Viel, Director Office of Emergency Communications  
Maggie Gau, Chief of Staff