

DRAFT

Dear Select board,

Members of the Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association, Inc, (GICMAA, Inc.) and the Local Emergency Planning Commission, (LEPC 13) are requesting each Select board in the five Island communities give consideration to funding a part time, Countywide Emergency Services Coordinator to be shared by GICMAA, Inc. and LEPC 13.

Since the ice storm of "98" and the events of 9/11, GICMAA, Inc, and more recently LEPC 13 have functioned to plan for and implement certain aspects of emergency services affecting the entire County of Grand Isle and our neighbor to the north, Clarenceville, Quebec. Jurisdictional issues such as applying for federal grants, planning for natural and manmade disasters, maintaining a functioning, interoperable communication and dispatching system, and multi agency training have been successfully managed at the County level.

To date, with very few exceptions, all of the management of GICMAA, Inc., LEPC 13 and associated activities has been undertaken by a group of very dedicated volunteers. These same volunteers are the Chiefs and leaders of your local Rescue Squads, Fire Departments and Sheriff's Department. As the complexity of managing the delivery of emergency services in our respective communities increases so does the demand on the volunteers serving GICMAA, Inc and LEPC 13. Faced with overwhelming need and demand on individual time, the members of GICMAA, Inc. and LEPC 13 are requesting each Island community incorporate into their FY08 budget the amount of \$3,900.00 for hiring a part time Countywide Emergency Services Coordinator.

The Countywide Emergency Services Coordinator, accountable to GICMAA, Inc. and LEPC 13, would have the following job responsibilities:

- 1) Research availability, apply for and administer County and individual EMS and Fire Service grants.
- 2) Facilitate the interaction of local emergency service providers with State and Federal Agencies.
- 3) Coordinate County level EMS and Fire Service training efforts and standards.
- 4) Coordinate equipment, apparatus and communication interoperability within the County.
- 5) Develop County level standard operating guides.
- 6) Allocate time to assist individual Rescue Squads and Fire Departments in administrative functions.
- 7) Assist in the management of GICMAA, Inc. and LEPC 13.

Members of GICMAA, Inc. and LEPC 13 recognize the challenge each Select board faces in the budget preparation process. Many worthy interests compete for finite resources, and it is incumbent upon the Select board to balance the needs of the community while delivering to their constituency a budget respectful of the local tax burden.

Our communities are growing and the demands placed upon local, volunteer emergency service providers are escalating at an alarming rate. The members of GICMAA, Inc. and LEPC 13, (your friends and neighbors), ask for your support and consideration as we work diligently to provide emergency services to the Island communities.

Sincerely,

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