DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION AGENDA – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM 25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534 4:00 PM

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Presentation of Renewal of a Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement- Emergency Services Director Troy Leist
- 2. Presentation of COVID Employee Leave Policy Change Recommendation- County Manager Joey Leverette
- 3. Presentation of a Resolution to Clarify and Restate the Terms of Office for Members of the Board of Tax Assessors- County Attorney Angela Davis
- 4. Presentation of Board Appointments:
 - a. EMS Advisory Council
 - i. Justin Mitchell- reappointment (Term: Through June 2025)
 - ii. Johnny Irvin- replacing Bridget Rigby (Term: Through June 2024)
- 5. County Manager Report
- 6. County Attorney Report

*A Voting Session meeting will immediately follow the Work Session meeting.



DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA FORM

Department: _	Emergency Se			W	ork Session	n: Febru	ıary 1, 2024
-	Troy Leist				ng Session:		
	Troy Leist			Public I	Hearing: Ye	es	No <u>X</u>
Agenda Item T	itle: Renewal of	a Statewide M	utual Aid Agree				
Background In	formation:						
disaster strik all emergend	the foundation t es, mutual aid m cies on their owr k in response an	nay become ned n. The county h	cessary as mos	t organizations	may not be	e able to	mitigate
Current Inform	ation:						
Dawson County's current Statewide Mutual Aid agreement is set to expire March 1, 2024. This agreement is vital to ensure the county can receive expedited assistance in our time of need. Furthermore, the agreement also makes the county available to help our neighbors in their time of need.							
Budget Informa	ation: Applicab	le: Not /	Applicable:	Budgeted: `	Yes	No	
Fund	Dept.	Acct No.	Budget	Balance	Requeste	ed R	Remaining
Recommendat	tion/Motion:						
	ead Authorizatio				Date:		
•							
Finance Dept. Authorization: Vickie Neikirk County Manager Authorization: JSL Date: 1-							
County Attorney Authorization:						1474.	
		·			Daio.		
Comments/Attachments:							

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SWMAA) FAQs

Why do I need to do this?

Pre-existing agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies help to ensure the timely provision of mutual aid assistance and reimbursement of costs incurred by those parties who render such assistance. This agreement also provides the framework to support mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster occurring within any political subdivision that is a Participating Party, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, human caused disaster, civil emergency, community disorders, insurgency, enemy attack, acts of terrorism, or other significant events or homeland security activities.

What other jurisdictions are involved?

Participating Party means a county or municipality of the State of Georgia that has become party to this Agreement by its approval and execution of this agreement. Your GEMA/HS EM Field Coordinator can assist you with this.

What kind of assistance are we talking about?

"Assistance" includes personnel, equipment, facilities, services, supplies and other resources furnished to a Requesting Party pursuant to this Agreement during an emergency or disaster.

Who will our resources be working for?

The Assisting Party's mutual aid resources will continue under the command and control of their own supervisors, but the organizational units will be under the <u>operational</u> control of the emergency services authorities of the Requesting Party unless the Assisting Party approves an alternative.

What if my jurisdiction doesn't want to send resources?

A jurisdiction may withhold resources to the extent necessary to meet the current or anticipated needs of the jurisdiction's own political subdivision.

What about liability and reimbursement?

Those issues are covered in Article VI Liability and Immunity, and Article VIII Reimbursement in the Agreement.

What if my jurisdiction wants to withdraw from this agreement?

Any Participating Party may withdraw from this Agreement by mailing notice of withdrawal, approved by the governing authority of such political subdivision, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the governing authority of the withdrawing political subdivision has given notice in writing of such withdrawal to the governing authorities of all other Participating Parties. Such action shall not relieve the withdrawing political subdivision from obligations assumed hereunder prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

County/Municipality:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

The State of Georgia is vulnerable to a wide range of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. The Georgia Emergency Management Act, as amended (The Act) gives the local governments of the State the authority to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies. Pre-existing agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies help to ensure the timely provision of mutual aid assistance and the reimbursement of costs incurred by those parties who render such assistance.

This mutual aid agreement is entered pursuant to authorities contained in Articles I through III, Chapter 3, Title 38, Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

ARTICLE I STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT, DEFINITIONS AND AUTHORITIES

This Agreement is made and entered into between the participating political subdivisions, which approve and execute this Agreement, hereinafter called "Participating Parties" and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS). For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms and expressions shall apply:

- (1) "Agreement" means this agreement, generally referred to as the "Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement" (SWMAA).
- (2) "Assistance" includes personnel, equipment, facilities, services, supplies and other resources furnished to a Requesting Party pursuant to this Agreement during an emergency or disaster.
- (3) "Assisting Party" means a party that provides assistance pursuant to this Agreement during an emergency or disaster.
- (4) "Authorized Representative" means a Participating Party's elected or appointed official or employee who has been authorized in writing by that party to request, to offer, or otherwise to provide mutual aid assistance.
- (5) "Participating Party" means a county or municipality of the State of Georgia that has become party to this Agreement by its approval and execution of this agreement.
- (6) "Participating Parties" means the combination of counties and municipalities that have become parties to this Agreement by their approval and execution of this Agreement.
- (7) "Requesting Party" means a party that requests assistance pursuant to this Agreement during an emergency or disaster.

Any term or expression not defined in this Agreement shall have the meaning specified in the Georgia Emergency Management Act, as amended (the Act) and rules promulgated thereunder, unless used in a context that clearly suggests a different meaning.

ARTICLE II GENERAL PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to:

- 1. Provide the framework to support mutual assistance in managing an emergency or disaster occurring within any political subdivision that is a Participating Party, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, human caused disaster, civil emergency, community disorders, insurgency, enemy attack, acts of terrorism, other significant events or homeland security activity; and
- 2. Identify those persons who are authorized to act on behalf of the Participating Party signing this Agreement as their Authorized Representative(s) concerning the provision of mutual aid resources and requests for mutual aid resources related to any mutual aid assistance sought from another Participating Party, or from or through the State of Georgia. Appendix A of this Agreement shall contain the name(s) of the Participating Party's Authorized Representative for purposes of this Agreement. Appendix A can be amended by the authorizing Participating Party as needed with no effect on the entire Agreement. All such amendments to Appendix A shall be done in writing and the Participating Party shall notify GEMA/HS and all other Participating Parties of such amendment within thirty (30) days.

ARTICLE III ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The prompt, full and effective utilization of resources of the Participating Parties, including any resources on hand or available from the State or Federal Government or any other source, that are essential to the safety, care and welfare of the people shall be the underlying principle on which all articles of this Agreement shall be understood.

In the event of a conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any existing intrastate mutual aid agreement affecting a Participating Party, the provisions of this Agreement shall be controlling.

On behalf of the governing authority of each political subdivision of this State participating in the Agreement, the director of emergency management of such political subdivision will be responsible for formulation of the appropriate mutual aid plans and procedures necessary to implement this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV PARTICIPATING PARTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of each Participating Party to formulate procedures and programs for intergovernmental cooperation in the performance of the responsibilities listed in this Article. In formulating such plans, and in carrying them out, each Participating Party, insofar as practical, shall:
 - (1) Protect and assure uninterrupted delivery of services, medicines, water, food, energy and fuel, search and rescue, and critical lifeline equipment, services, and resources, both human and material; and

- (2) Inventory and set procedures for the loan and delivery of human and material resources, together with procedures for reimbursement.
- (b) Whenever a Participating Party requires mutual aid assistance from another Participating Party and/or the State of Georgia, the Requesting Party may request assistance by:
 - (1) Contacting the Participating Party who is the owner/operator/employer of the supplies, equipment and/or personnel being sought for mutual aid assistance (the Assisting Party); or
- (2) Contacting GEMA/HS to serve as the facilitator of such request for those resources being sought for mutual aid that are owned/operated/employed by Participating Parties (where such Participating Parties have submitted a record of those resources to GEMA/HS for such use); and/or, when such resources being sought for mutual aid are owned/operated/employed directly by the State of Georgia.

The provisions of this Agreement shall only apply to requests for assistance made by an Authorized Representative. Requests may be verbal or in writing. If verbal, the request must be confirmed in writing within 30 days of the verbal request. Requests shall provide the following information:

- (1) A description of the emergency service function for which assistance is needed, such as but not limited to fire services, law enforcement, emergency medical, transportation, communications, public works and engineering, building inspection, planning and information assistance, mass care, resource support, health and medical services, damage assessment, volunteer and donated goods and search and rescue; and
- (2) The amount and type of personnel, equipment, materials and supplies needed, and a reasonable estimate of the length of time each will be needed; and
- (3) The specific place and time for staging of the Assisting Party's response and a point of contact at that location.

The Assisting Party will (a) maintain daily personnel time records, material records and a log of equipment hours (or miles, if appropriate) and (b) report work progress to the Requesting Party at mutually agreed upon intervals.

ARTICLE V LIMITATIONS

Any Participating Party requested to render mutual aid shall take such action as is necessary to provide and make available the resources covered by this Agreement in accordance with the terms hereof; provided that it is understood that the Participating Party who is asked to render aid may withhold resources to the extent necessary to meet the current or anticipated needs of the Participating Party's own political subdivision to remain in compliance with such Participating Party's policy, rule or law.

The Assisting Party's mutual aid resources will continue under the command and control of their own

supervisors, but the organizational units will be under the operational control of the emergency services authorities of the Requesting Party unless the Assisting Party approves an alternative.

In the event the Governor should declare a State of Emergency, any and all provisions of this Agreement which may conflict with the declared State of Emergency shall be superseded by the terms and conditions contained within the State of Emergency.

ARTICLE VI LIABILITY AND IMMUNITY

- (a) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-35(a), no political subdivision of the state, nor the agents or representatives of the state or any political subdivision thereof, shall be liable for personal injury or property damage sustained by any person appointed or acting as a volunteer emergency management worker or member of any agency engaged in emergency management activity. The foregoing shall not affect the right of any person to receive benefits or compensation to which he might otherwise be entitled under Chapter 9 of Title 34, Code Section 38-3-30, any pension law, or any act of Congress.
- (b) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-35(b), no political subdivision of the state nor, except in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith, the employees, agents, or representatives of the state or any political subdivision thereof, nor any volunteer or auxiliary emergency management worker or member of any agency engaged in any emergency management activity complying with or reasonably attempting to comply with Articles 1 through 3, Chapter 3, Title 38, Official Code of Georgia Annotated; or any order, rule, or regulation promulgated pursuant to Articles 1 through 3 of title, or pursuant to any ordinance relating to precautionary measures enacted by any political provisions of Articles 1 through 3 of said chapter and title, or pursuant to any ordinance relating to precautionary measures enacted by any political subdivision of the state shall be liable for the death of or the injury to person or for damage to property as a result of any such activity.
- (c) It is the express intent of the parties that the immunities specified in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-35 shall apply in addition to any other immunity provided by statute or case law.

ARTICLE VII RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-30(a), whenever the employees of any Assisting Party or political subdivision are rendering outside aid pursuant to this agreement and the authority contained in Code Section 38-3-27, the employees shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges and immunities as if they were performing their duties in the political subdivisions in which they are normally employed.

ARTICLE VIII REIMBURSEMENT

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 38-3-30(b), The Requesting Party shall be liable for any loss of or damage to equipment used or placed within the jurisdiction of the Requesting Party and shall pay any expense incurred in the operation and maintenance thereof. No claim for the loss, damage or expense shall be allowed unless, within 60 days after the same is sustained or incurred, an itemized notice of

the claim under oath is served by mail or otherwise upon the designated fiscal officer of the Requesting Party. Appendix B of this Agreement shall contain the name(s) of the Participating Party's designated fiscal officer for purposes of this Agreement. Appendix B can be amended by the authorizing Participating Party as needed with no effect on the entire Agreement. Appendix B can be amended by the authorizing Participating Party as needed with no effect on the entire Agreement. All such amendments to Appendix B shall be done in writing and the Participating Party shall notify GEMA/HS and all other Participating Parties of such amendment within thirty (30) days.

The Requesting Party shall also pay and reimburse the Assisting Party for the compensation paid to employees furnished by the Assisting Party during the time of the rendition of the aid, as well as the actual travel and per diem expenses of such employees while they are rendering the aid. The reimbursement shall include any amounts paid or due for compensation due to personal injury or death while the employees are engaged in rendering the aid. The term "employee," as used herein, shall mean, and this provision shall apply with equal effect to, paid, volunteer and auxiliary employees and emergency management workers.

Expenses to be reimbursed by the Requesting Party shall include the following:

- (1) Labor costs, which shall include all usual wages, salaries, compensation for hours worked, mobilization and demobilization, the Assisting Party's portion of payroll taxes (as employer), insurance, accrued paid leave and other fringe benefits, but not those amounts paid or due as a benefit to the Assisting Parties personnel under the terms of the Georgia Workers Compensation Act; and
- (2) Equipment costs, which shall include the fair rental value, the cost of fuel and other consumable supplies, service and repairs. If the equipment is damaged while in use under this Agreement and the Assisting Party receives payment for such damage under any contract for insurance, the Requesting Party may deduct such payment from any item or items invoiced; and
- (3) Material costs, which shall include the total reasonable cost for the use and consumption of any and all consumable supplies delivered by the Assisting Party for the benefit of the Requesting Party; and
- (4) Meals, lodging and other related expenses, which shall include charges for meals, lodging and other expenses relating to the provision of assistance pursuant to this Agreement shall be the actual and reasonable costs incurred by the Assisting Party.

The Assisting Party shall maintain records and submit invoices within 60 days for reimbursement as specified hereinabove and the Requesting Party shall pay the invoice no later than 30 days following the invoice date.

ARTICLE IX IMPLEMENTATION

This Agreement shall become operative immediately upon its approval and execution by GEMA/HS and any two political subdivisions of this State; thereafter, this Agreement shall become effective as to any other political subdivision of this State upon its approval and execution by such political subdivision.

Any Participating Party may withdraw from this Agreement by mailing notice of withdrawal, approved by the governing authority of such political subdivision, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 30 days after the governing authority of the withdrawing political subdivision has given notice in writing of such withdrawal to the governing authorities of all other Participating Parties. Such action shall not relieve the withdrawing political subdivision from obligations assumed hereunder prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

Copies of this Agreement shall, at the time of their approval, be deposited with each of the respective Participating Parties and with GEMA/HS.

ARTICLE X TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement, once executed, is valid until March 1, 2028. Agreement of the Participating Parties to extend the term of this agreement at any time during the last year of its original term or the last year of any subsequent four-year term shall extend the term of this agreement for four years. Each four-year extension shall constitute a separate agreement.

ARTICLE XI VALIDITY

If any provision of this Agreement is declared unconstitutional, or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of this Agreement and the applicability thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Agreed:	
Chief Executive Officer - Signature	Chief Executive Officer – Print Name
County/Municipality:	_
Date:/	
GEMA/HS Director – Signature	GEMA/HS Director – Print Name
Date:/	

$\frac{\text{APPENDIX A}}{\text{AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE}}$

Representative(s)" for	(county/municipality), and are authorized
to request, offer, or otherwise provide and coon named county/municipality:	rdinate mutual aid assistance on behalf of the above-
Print Name	Job Title/Position
Signature of Above Individual	
Print Name	Job Title/Position
Signature of Above Individual	
Print Name	Job Title/Position
Signature of Above Individual	
Chief Executive Officer - Signature	Date:/
Chief Executive Officer – Print Name	Paga

APPENDIX B DESIGNATED FISCAL OFFICER(S)

(county/municipality) for the purpose of reim	bursement sought for mutual aid:
Print Name	Job Title/Position
Signature of Above Individual	
Print Name	Job Title/Position
Signature of Above Individual	
Print Name	Job Title/Position
Signature of Above Individual	
	Date:/
Chief Executive Officer - Signature	Date
Chief Executive Officer – Print Name	



Joey Leverette County Manager

DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: County Manager Joey Leverette

RE: Sun-setting Covid Leave

DATE: January 18, 2024

In late 2020/early 2021, the Dawson County Board Commissioners enacted a new policy granting up to 80 hours (or 10 work days) of paid COVID leave for employees who tested positive for the virus. The funding source for the COVID leave was the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds allocated to local governments.

In 2021, a vaccine for COVID became widely available in the United States. In May 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) officially declared an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has changed recommendations for self-quarantine when a person is infected by COVID. Currently, the recommendation is 5 days of self-quarantine to prevent the spread of the virus.

Dawson County has experienced an overall decline in first-time positive COVID cases amongst its employees. Therefore, I recommend, after conferring with the Human Resources director and the Emergency Management Agency director, that the Board of Commissioners considers sun-setting (eliminating) the policy granting paid COVID leave for county employees effective April 1, 2024.

Thank you for your consideration.

25 Justice Way Suite 2236 Dawsonville, GA 30534 Phone 706-344-3501 Fax 706-344-3504

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DAWSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

TO CLARIFY AND REAFFIRM THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, as the governing authority for Dawson County, Georgia, is responsible for establishing the terms of office for members of the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessors and for making appointments to said board by resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-295 (a); and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 48-5-295 (a) provides that the terms of office for members of a county board of tax assessors shall be staggered so as to prevent a majority of the board from having their term of office expire in any single year; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 48-5-295 (a) provides further that once a county governing authority establishes the terms of office for the county board of tax assessors and makes appointments thereto, the county governing authority is permitted to increase or decrease such terms, but the county governing authority may not increase or shorten the term of office for any member currently appointed to such board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on November 5, 2015, which provided that the term of office for members of the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessors would thereafter be for a period of three years; and

WHEREAS, following the November 5, 2015 resolution, some members of the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessors were nevertheless appointed for five-year terms in order to comply with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-299 (c) so that a majority of the members of said board would not have their terms expire in a single calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners now deems it desirable to clarify and restate the terms of office for all current members of the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessors, without shortening or extending the terms of office for current members, and to reaffirm that all subsequent appointments to the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessors should be for a period of three years consistent with the November 5, 2015 resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. The terms of office for each of the current members of the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessors is hereby preserved and restated as follows:

	Beginning	Ending
Jim Perdue	January 1, 2024	December 31, 2026
Tom Camp	January 1, 2020	December 31, 2024

	<u>Beginning</u>	Ending		
Sam Gutherie	January 1, 2021	December 31, 2025		
Roxanne Howard	January 1, 2022	December 31, 2026		
Kandi Bolton	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2027		
Section 2. All subsequent appointments to the Dawson County Board of Tax Assessor shall be for a term of three years.				
Section 3. Any and all resolution and they are hereby repealed.	utions in conflict with	this resolution this day passed shall be		
PASSED, ADOPTED, SIG , 2024.	NED, APPROVED, A	AND EFFECTIVE this day of		
	DAWSON COUNTY	BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS		
	Billy Thurmond, Chairman			
[COUNTY SEAL]	Seth Stowers, District 1			
	Chris Gaines, District 2			
	Alexa Bruce, District 3			
Attest:	Emory Dooley, District 4			
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk				

DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO COUNTY BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES



The Dawson County Board of Commissioners accepts applications for appointments. Interested parties should submit this form and supporting documentation to the County Clerk.

Board or Author	rity Applied for Georgia EMS Advisory Council
Name Justin Mit	chell, Division Chief
Home Address _	No
City, State, Zip	Hiawassee, GA 30546
Mailing Address	(if different) 393 Memory Lane
City, State, Zip	Dawsonville, GA 30534
Telephone Numl	ber _44506 Alternate Number _
Fax Telephone N	lumber
E-Mail Address	jmitchell@dawsoncountyga.gov
Additional infor	mation you would like to provide:
	Just Mittel Date 1/23/24
	e: Submission of this application does not guarantee an appointment.
Return to:	Dawson County Board of Commissioners Attn: County Clerk
	25 Justice Way, Suite 2313 Dawsonville, GA 30534
	(706) 344-3501 FAX: (706) 344-3504
	kcloud@dawsoncountyga.gov

DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO COUNTY BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES



The Dawson County Board of Commissioners accepts applications for appointments. Interested parties should submit this form and supporting documentation to the County Clerk.

Board or Autho	ority Applied for	Georgia EMS Adv	sory Council	
Name Johnny I	rvin, Division Cl	nief		
Home Address				
City, State, Zip				
Mailing Addres	ss (if different)	393 Memory Lane		
City, State, Zip	Dawsonville,	GA 30534		
Telephone Nun	1ber <u>44506</u>	Alternate	Number_	7 × 7
Fax Telephone	Number			
E-Mail Address	jirvin@dawson	ncountyga.gov		
Additional info	rmation you wo	uld like to provide:		

Signature			Date_	
* 1	te: Submission (of this application does	i not guarantee an	appointment.
Return to:	Attn: Cour 25 Justice	ounty Board of Comm nty Clerk Way, Suite 2313	issioners	

(706) 344-3501 FAX: (706) 344-3504 kcloud@dawsoncountyga.gov