

# Richland County

## Public Safety Standing Committee

June 6, 2025

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, June 6, 2025, in person and virtually at 8:30 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

**Call To Order:** Committee Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

**Roll Call:** Deputy Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee member(s) present: Craig Woodhouse, David Turk, Chad Cosgrove, Melvin “Bob” Frank, Kerry Severson, and Julie Fleming. Committee member(s) absent: Gary Manning.

**Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance:** Deputy Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

**Approval Of Agenda:** Motion by Cosgrove, second by Fleming to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

**Approval Of Minutes From May 2, 2025 Meeting:** Motion by Severson, second by Fleming to approve the May 2, 2025 minutes. Motion carried and the May 2, 2025, minutes declared approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

### Reports:

- A. Sheriff – Departmental Activities:** Sheriff Porter briefly presented the Sheriff’s Monthly Report for May 2025. Brief discussion on the seasonal increase in calls ensued.
- B. Coroner - Departmental Activities:** Richland County Emergency Management Director, Michael Jessen, presented the April 2025 and May 2025 Coroner’s Reports to the committee. Director Jessen reported that the coroner’s office is currently at 62 cases for the year and that Mr. Rossing is working on a job description for the Deputy Coroner position. Brief discussion ensued.
- C. Circuit Court Judge - Departmental Activities:** The Honorable Lisa McDougal, Richland County Circuit Judge, expressed her pleasure with her experience and competent staff and gave a verbal report to the committee on the departmental activities of the Circuit Court including the activities of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, the Courthouse Security Committee, the new prohibited items signs for the courtroom, and a brief synopsis of her attendance at the Court Security Conference held in Appleton, Wisconsin. Judge McDougal thanked Committee Chair Frank for his assistance in acquiring new chairs for the courtrooms and expressed her concerns on the continued lack of audio/visual capabilities in the small courtroom. Extensive discussion on the need for audio/visual capabilities in the small courtroom ensued. Chair Frank clarified with Judge McDougal that the issues she is concerned with were audio/video limitations of the small courtroom and the fire alarm system notification. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Severson stated that he had heard in a local news source that a bat was loose in the courtroom during an active trial. Brief discussion ensued. Judge McDougal reminded the committee that the next meeting of the Courthouse Security Committee was set for June 16, 2025.

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**D. Clerk Of Court - Departmental Activities:** No one present.

**E. Register In Probate - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue reported that it has been a very busy spring for the Register in Probate office and expressed her frustration regarding the continued delays outfitting the small courtroom with audio/visual equipment and shared a quote that had been received for the work needed in June of 2023. Ms. Laue also spoke the importance of security throughout the entire courthouse, not just the courtrooms. Extensive discussion on the audio/visual capabilities of the small courtroom ensued.

**F. District Attorney - Departmental Activities:** No one present.

**G. Emergency Management - Departmental Activities:** Richland County Emergency Management Director, Michael Jessen presented a report and presentation on the role and responsibilities of a County Emergency Manager. Discussion ensued.

**H. PSAP & NG-911 Grants:** Nothing to report.

**I. Radio Tower Project:** Sheriff Porter reported that ground was being broken on the last tower site and a Richland County Radio Project Monthly Summary – June 2025 was available for the committee.

**J. Courthouse Security Report:** Judge McDougal made a brief report on two incidents that occurred recently, including multiple phone calls received from an unstable member of the public, and the difficulties caused by the limited bathrooms during the recent trial.

**Approval of Monthly Invoices:** Sheriff Porter presented the May 2025 bills. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Woodhouse to approve the monthly invoices as presented. Motion carried and the monthly invoices were approved as presented.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Applying For And Accepting A PSAP Grant For 2026 and Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Applying For And Accepting A NG911 Grant For 2026:** Sheriff Porter gave a brief background on the two items. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Fleming to approved both items and move on to the Executive and Finance Standing Committee. Extensive discussion ensued on the wording of the resolutions ensued. Motion carried and both items were approved and moved on to the Executive and Finance Standing Committee.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Future Agenda Items:** None.

Discussion on an alternate date for the July meeting due to the holiday ensued.

**Adjourn:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn to June 27, 2025, at 8:30 AM. Motion by Fleming, second by Woodhouse to adjourn to June 27, 2025. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richland County  
Public Safety Standing Committee

*Myranda H. Hege*

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Deputy County Clerk

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