



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2025** **MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. McCarron, Mr. Bush, Mr. Garland, Ms. Fiato  
**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Burtis, Mr. Romeo; also see attached

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **ONONDAGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:** Monica Williams, Chief Diversity Officer
  - a. **Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County Justice Center Oversight Committee (Dr. Rishana S. Cohen)**
  - b. **Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County Justice Center Oversight Committee (Dr. Jay M. Brenner)** *(Sponsored by Mr. Burtis)*
  - These 2 JCOC appointments will fill the committee
  - Committee works diligently on issues at Justice Center, and at times issues at Jamesville
  - Committee looks at medical issues

*A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve item 1a. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mr. McCarron, to approve item 1b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

2. **SHERIFF:** Chief Lisa Dell, Civil; Tobian Delaney, Deputy Sheriff Custody; Detective Tyler Myers, Police
  - a. **Authorizing the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office to Accept a Gift of Drones and Associated Equipment From the Empire Drone Company, LLC (\$30,794)**

**PURPOSE:** *To accept a donation from the Empire Drone Company, LLC.*

**OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN:** *The Empire Drone Company, LLC., would like to donate, free of charge, the following drones and equipment: Seven AEE Mach 4 V2 Drones; Three AEE Mach 6 Drones; Three AEE IR Cameras with loudspeaker, spotlight and drop system for each drone; Three AEE Mach 4 Lighting Tether Systems; Extra AEE Parts; and BRINC Drones and accessory kits.*

*The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Drone Unit is desirous of such items for use in the training of new drone operators within the division.*

*The equipment is valued at approximately \$30,794.00*

**FUNDING SOURCE:** *Empire Drone Company, LLC.*

**BUDGET:** *\$0*

- \$5 /drone to register with federal government, and a remote ID module at \$40/drone
- Total cost of \$175 to department
- Drones will be used for training – training 2 new operators
- Empire Drone Company
  - Local company and have purchased through them previously
  - They sell for many manufacturers
  - One manufacturer for the drones went out of business, and Empire is the US warehouse for them
  - Other manufacturer is an older model drone they are no longer selling
  - Empire could not sell the drones, so they chose to donate to the Sheriff's office
- All new drones, but probably cannot get parts; as is

***A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Fiato, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**b. Authorizing the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office to Accept a Gift of a Thermo Fisher Scientific Firstdefender RM Chemical Identification System (\$45,000)**

***PURPOSE:*** *To accept a donation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration (TSA).*

***OBJECTIVE/ WORK PLAN:*** *The U.S Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration would like to donate a Thermo Fisher Scientific FirstDefender RM Chemical Identification System to the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad, fee of charge, to aid in rapid and accurate identification of unknown chemicals in the public.*

*The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad currently does not have this device and must rely on the availability of other agencies to provide assistance, sometime resulting in a delay.*

*The Thermo Fisher Scientific FirstDefender RM Chemical Identification System is valued at approximately \$45,000.00.*

***FUNDING SOURCE:*** *U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration*

***BUDGET:*** *\$0*

- Donated by US Department of Homeland Security TSA
- Allows for field identification of unknown liquids and powders specifically related to bomb squad functions
- TSA upgraded their equipment and looking to give the county one
- County does not have one; currently rely on federal partners to bring one to identify unknown powders and liquids

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- How many times a year does this happen?
  - Not often, but does happen nationwide several times
  - If there was an incident, would call FBI
  - Have had to wait over an hour to get one, then need to make sure it was working and charged
  - If Sheriff's had one, can maintain and have available for use
- Will neighboring counties use this?
  - Bomb squad is regional; will go to neighboring counties
- How often does an unknown happen?
  - Fairly frequently
  - Can look at something and think it could be drugs, explosives or precursor chemical to making explosives
  - Usually looking for precursor chemicals
  - Drug labs are similar to where people would be manufacturing explosives

- What is the life span of the unit?
  - Do not know, but would guess several years
  - It would be something the Sheriff's office would allocate through grants if they were to purchase it
  - Other equipment has been prioritized over it, so the donation is big
  - TSA will provide training for free
  - TSA has had theirs for 13 years with no issue
  - Any inexpensive repair could be paid for out of grants, unless it is too expensive

*A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Fiato, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**c. A Local Law Authorizing the County to Re-Enter into a Twenty-Year Lease Agreement With the Town of Onondaga**

Law:

- Original lease included paying a portion of the construction costs of the new town hall amortized over 20 years

Sheriff's Office:

- New lease is ~\$7K/year with annual increase of 3% for utilities
- Town wants the Sheriff presence there

*A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Fiato, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

**3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Dan Wears, Commissioner**

**a. INFORMATIONAL: Requests from previous Public Safety Committee**

- M50 – Mobile Command Vehicle
  - Available to all local public safety agencies
  - Scheduled for delivery early June; on track
  - No major updates until it comes
  - Onboarding timeframe will be a few days
    - Shipped radios down that were not programmed yet
    - Radios will be installed, then when it is back, it will go to United Radio for programming
    - Some were done with reprogramming project with E911
    - Wanted the most up-to-date template
    - Similar to current mobile unit, which will expedite things
    - Will take things off existing vehicle
    - When the new one is delivered, the old one will be taken away
  - 1-2 weeks max; will go to Ohio in May for final inspection with IT person to make sure everything is working
- 2024 Funds Appropriated for Radios
  - Distributed in 2024; very early in the year
  - Piggybacked off Sheriff's contract to buy radios at reduced rate shortly after budget passed
  - 267 radios distributed to public safety agencies
  - Everyone that applied, received some radios; no one got everything that was asked for
  - Went through application process that was scored using percentages based on what was applied for, size of department, and number of vehicles
  - One application was not received – had IT check all servers before making final allocation to make sure it was not blocked by a firewall or other
  - Multiple agencies did not apply, so there was no way to contact all agencies
- EMS Study
  - 2 proposal responses to RFP; vendor selected in late February/early March – in contracting process currently
  - Expect it to begin in June (when contract will be finalized)

- 1 year timeline to complete the study
  - Vendor broke into 5 phases (i.e. data collection, initial report, report delivery)
- Will not necessarily receive something at each phase, but that is their timeline
- Expect to see complete report in June 2026
- Vendor selected has experience in NYS doing similar studies (other vendor did not); nuances of state law weighed into selection of the vendor
- Budget – proposal is \$165K; \$200K appropriated for study
- If there are recommendations with the study, there will be seed money
  
- Fire Mutual Aid Plan
  - Have very active Fire Advisory Board that wanted to take on this plan
  - Fire Advisory Board's primary mission is to advise the County Fire Director and County Executive's office on mutual aid and training programs in the county
  - Plan not updated since 2008; not unusual as most counties will not touch it; going through process, seeing why
  - Started in Nov. 2022; Board is working with the Fire Chiefs Association on feedback and recommendations
  - Late fall received initial draft
    - Sent to NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) for initial unofficial review
    - OFPC to give feedback on what is or is not there
  - Came back to Board with edits suggested by the state
  - Emergency Management got it in late March; considering next steps
  - Before it can be officially adopted, it has to be approved by OFPC
  
- Operational Support Deputy Coordinators
  - Deputy Coordinators historically focus on fire side and assigned divisions to work directly with fire departments in the geographical area where they live (first or intermediary responder)
  - Working on expanding that scope, as EM is more than fire and EMS calls
  - Brought on a few part-time Deputy Coordinators to focus on:
    - Working with equipment – being well versed on the equipment
    - Deployment of the equipment - getting it to fire, EMS, law enforcement, etc. for training and drill opportunities
    - Making sure agencies are aware of what EM has
    - Allowing agencies to use the equipment for their drills, exercises for familiarity
  - EM is the chauffeur, and the agency will be doing the work; agencies need to be familiar with the equipment
  - These are for larger broader incident focus for equipment to be in a better position for deployment
  - 2 groups of Deputy Coordinators with different focuses
  - These Deputy Coordinators will pay attention to (i.e.) multi-occupancy fires and other things, and will coordinate for resource support

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

#### ATTENDANCE

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE MCNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
DATE: APRIL 15, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Isabelle Harris	CE office
Dan Krane	CE Office
Kristi Smiley	Finance
John DeSantis	Leg
Darcie Lesniak	Leg
Dan Weary	EM
Dell, Yong, Passaro, Shultz, DeBianchi	OCSO
Monica Loney	OCEd
Joe Frateschi	Leg
Ben Yaus	Law
Jim Zerbe	Leg.
Ethan LaMontagne	Leg.