



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Angela
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Witwer
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Eaton County
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1045 Independence Boulevard, Charlotte, MI 48813
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
-
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Angela Witwer, 76th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
The Eaton County Animal Control Building, constructed in 1984, has served its community for over four decades. However, the 41-year-old facility has reached the end of its useful life and is no longer capable of supporting the essential functions of modern animal care and control. Due to its advanced age, the building presents serious safety, operational, and structural challenges that cannot be resolved through repairs or temporary fixes.

Critically, the facility does not have a fire suppression system, placing staff and animals at significant risk in an emergency. The main air handling unit, original to the building, is inefficient, unreliable, and incapable of maintaining consistent air quality and temperature, both of which are crucial in a shelter environment. Additionally, the building's underground piping and drainage infrastructure are failing, causing frequent backups, leaks, and disruptions to daily operations.

The walk-in freezer used for humane euthanasia, a sensitive but necessary part of animal control work, has also exceeded its expected lifespan and needs replacement. As these essential systems continue to deteriorate, so does the County's ability to provide safe, humane, and responsive animal control services.

The outdated and deteriorating nature of the current facility severely limits the operational capacity of Eaton County Animal Control. From insufficient kennel space to inadequate ventilation and sanitation systems, the building no longer meets even minimum standards for animal welfare or workplace safety. The current office can only take in domestic dogs, no other animals, because of these limitations, despite the public need for expanded services.

Replacing the Eaton County Animal Control Building is not just a matter of infrastructure, it is a matter of public safety, staff well-being, and humane treatment of animals. A new, purpose-built facility will ensure compliance with modern building codes and animal care standards, improve operational efficiency, and better serve the residents and pets of Eaton County for generations to come.

Eaton County is facing a historic financial crisis, hindering its ability to maintain and fund infrastructure. There is no alternative Animal Control equivalent operating in Eaton County that can provide these critical services. All Townships, Cities, and Villages within the County are reliant upon Eaton County Animal Control, which exists under a County-adopted ordinance. Eaton County Animal Control would be at risk if the county's financial stability were to deteriorate further.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

2500000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

October 2025 to July 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes