



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Gina
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Johnsen
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:  
Barry County
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
220 West State Street, Hastings, MI 49058
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
n/a
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Gina Johnsen, 78th 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 purpose of this proposed legislatively directed spending item is to fund the construction of a modern facility that will house a new county jail, the Sheriff's Department offices, and the County's Emergency Operations Center. This facility will serve multiple critical functions required by statute and essential to public safety, emergency preparedness, and the administration of justice. The current facility is outdated, unsafe, and no longer meets the operational, structural, or legal standards required of such institutions.

The new facility will directly serve a broad public purpose by enhancing the safety, security, and efficiency of county operations. It will ensure that inmates are housed in a secure and humane environment and that Sheriff's Department staff can perform their duties under safe and functional conditions. Additionally, by including rehabilitative programming aimed at supporting inmates' successful reintegration into society, the facility contributes to long-term public safety and community strength.

Furthermore, the Emergency Operations Center component of the facility will provide a dedicated space for coordinating emergency response efforts, allowing the county to more effectively manage disasters, respond to crises, and aid residents in recovery efforts.

This appropriation request represents a wholly appropriate proposed use of taxpayer funding. It would support a core governmental function—law enforcement and emergency management—through the construction of a facility that would be owned and operated by the County. All requested funds would be directed toward public use, infrastructure development, and fulfillment of statutory obligations. As such, the project fully aligns with the requirements of Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution, which prohibits the appropriation of public funds for private purposes. No private benefit would result from this investment, and the facility would remain under full public control and ownership for the duration of its operation.

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.**

10000000

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

["Local"]

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:

Construction expected to start in 2027 with completion in 2028.

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

Yes

**Barry County Administration**  
220 West State Street  
Hastings, MI 49058  
Ph. (269) 945-1284  
Fax (269) 948 4884



## Barry County

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**Eric Zuzga**  
County Administrator

**Luella Dennison**  
Deputy County Administrator

April 17, 2025

Representative Gina Johnsen  
Michigan State House of Representatives  
N-1097 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Barry County Request for State Funding for Public Safety Facility

Dear Representative Johnsen:

Thank you for considering our request for state funding to support the development of a new Barry County Public Safety Facility. This facility will house new offices for the Sheriff's Department, a modern County Jail, offices for our Emergency Management Office, and will serve as the primary County Emergency Operations Center. The current county facilities are over fifty (50) years old, are in poor shape, and not suitable for a modern corrections and public safety environment. The facilities are a detriment to the safety of both our employees and inmates.

We are in the process of working with our consultants on a Jail Study and have convened a Jail Stakeholder Committee that will be working with the consultants and internal departments to design a facility that will meet the present and future needs of Barry County. The state's funds would be applied to the construction cost of the facility. Barry County would fund the remaining construction and related costs with internal funds and other funding that we are in the process of identifying.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 269-945-1414 or [ezuzga@barrycounty.org](mailto:ezuzga@barrycounty.org).

Sincerely,

Eric Zuzga  
County Administrator  
Sent via email