

DIANA HARSHBARGER  
1ST DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

167 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

205 REVERE STREET  
KINGSPORT, TN 37660  
PHONE: (423) 398-5186

1501 E. MORRIS BLVD., STE 12  
MORRISTOWN, TN 37813  
PHONE: (423) 254-1400

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$900,000 in funding for the Emergency Operations Center in Johnson County Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, located at 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN 37204. The funding would be used for constructing an Emergency Operations Center in Johnson County. The County's existing emergency management facility lacks the capacity to support simultaneous emergency activation, isolated training functions, coordinated resource distribution, and large-scale volunteer coordination during complex incidents. During Hurricane Helene, extended activation, communications disruptions, and increased coordination demands exposed significant facility limitations. Temporary measures, including Starlink deployment and use of external facilities, were required. The former National guard Armory, used for POD operations and housing first responders, is no longer available. This eliminates a critical contingency location. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it protects the health and safety of East Tennesseans. As a rural, mountainous community vulnerable to severe weather, flooding, winter storms, and limited access routes, Johnson County requires a resilient facility designed specifically for emergency management operations.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Harshbarger".

Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress