



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

STEPHEN C. McCRANEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States House of Representatives
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Covington County Emergency Operations Center Grant

Dear Representative Guest:

I write on behalf of Covington County to support a grant to construct a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Covington County EOC is currently housed in a cramped and outdated building in Collins, MS. This facility can only seat ten personnel maximum without space for the necessary computer and display equipment vital to response and life-saving efforts. While this facility may be sufficient for day-to-day operations, it is inadequate for an EOC responding to major disasters. Covington County is strategically placed to assist other counties prone to disasters. Their location is just far enough to be outside typical hurricane weather, making this facility a prime EOC for hurricane response. With the increased tempo of disasters and the county's vulnerability to tornadoes and floods, constructing a new EOC will enhance response and recovery for the 18,340 Mississippians in Covington County.

My agency fully supports awarding a grant for constructing a Covington County Emergency Operations Center. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at 601-933-6362.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen C. McCraney".

Stephen C. McCraney
Executive Director



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SEAN J. TINDELL, COMMISSIONER

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States Congress
450 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Covington County Emergency Operations Center Grant

Dear Representative Guest:

I write on behalf of the Covington County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), in support of a grant for the construction of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Covington County.

Covington County is seeking to secure funding through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grant program from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These funds will be used to construct a complete EOC in Covington County capable of coordinating emergency response efforts in the county and the region. As you know, there are significant assets in the county that require an enhanced hazmat and response capability. Having a centralized command and control center to coordinate response activities will significantly enhance their ability to mitigate the impacts of a disaster.

My agency supports awarding grant funds through the EOC grant to the Covington County EMA for this project. This project will serve the area and increase the capability to serve in day-to-day operations and in the event of a disaster. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (601)933-7200.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Baxter Kruger", is written over a horizontal line.

Baxter Kruger
Executive Director, Mississippi Office of Homeland Security
Mississippi Department of Public Safety