

Resolution # 2015-053

**Emergency Management Fund
Disaster Response and Mitigation Allocation**

WHEREAS, in Ouray County, the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as individual citizens, must work together to protect against, mitigate, respond to, recover from, and, to the extent possible, prevent threats and hazards that pose a risk to Ouray County; and

WHEREAS, Ouray County has the responsibility to respond, provide resources, and pay for certain emergency incident and disaster response activities that are the responsibility of the local government;

WHEREAS, incidents begin at the County or local government level (this includes special districts) and will remain the responsibility of the local government throughout the incident and through the recovery phase. Generally, local jurisdictions (up through the county) should not plan on the arrival of significant state resources ordered for 24 to 36 hours after the incident. Federal resources may not arrive until 48-72 hours after the incident; and

WHEREAS, it can take months to years for certain state or federal agencies to reimburse the county for its portions of emergency incident and disaster response activities; and

WHEREAS, an emergency or disaster can occur without warning at any time and any location and it may create a significant degree of human suffering and loss of life, property damage and economic hardship to individuals, government, public services, the environment and the business community; and

WHEREAS, the size and complexity of emergency incidents and disasters are unable to be known or budgeted for in advance; and

WHEREAS, Ouray County has an Emergency Operations Plan that continues to be updated collaboratively with stakeholders to best ensure public health, safety, and welfare and appropriate emergency and disaster response, and highlights some opportunities to reduce risks of certain types of disasters and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan, serves as a policy level and guidance document. It has been written and approved for use in responding to major incidents and disasters within Ouray County. All organizations participating in emergency management activities (mitigation, preparedness, response and/or recovery) are to follow the concepts and coordination systems specified in this plan and the accompanying Support Annexes, recognizing that each incident is unique and may require some variations in implementation; and

WHEREAS, major emergencies and disaster incidents are unique events that present communities and emergency personnel with extraordinary problems and challenges that cannot be adequately addressed within the routine operations of local government; and

WHEREAS, government agencies need to anticipate how they will provide services AND FUNDING during a disaster, how to resume services once they have been interrupted, or consider alternative means for providing services during a disaster. The Ouray County Emergency Operations Plan provides guidance to Ouray County staff, volunteers, departments and agencies,

private and non-profit sectors to respond to an emergency. A special fund is needed to provide funding for such emergency and disaster response services; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that Ouray County have readily available an appropriate level of dedicated funds for emergency and disaster response, that does not impact County funds such as the General Fund, Road and Bridge, Emergency Medical Services Fund, etc., so that day-to-day county priorities, citizen services and mandates are not adversely financially impacted and reserves are not “zeroed” out from a single incident or disaster; and

WHEREAS, as just one example, a single day of a wildfire response may cost the county over \$1 million dollars, and wildfires can cause costly decades-long post-fire effects requiring additional mitigation and response such as post-fire flooding in areas that did not experience pre-fire flooding; and

WHEREAS, since disasters differ significantly and it is impossible to plan for every contingency, a highly detailed operational plan with procedures is necessary and important to address hazards risk reduction; and

WHEREAS, pre-disaster mitigation is often much less expensive than disaster response and recovery costs, and it is beneficial and a wise use of funds to reduce the risk of certain types of disasters by funding activities and programs that have proven to be successful in reducing the risks that can increase the possibility of certain disasters from occurring and/or reducing the level of impacts from certain disasters should they occur; and

WHEREAS, Ouray County has adopted Resolution 2014-040, and the 2013 Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan for the purpose of emergency preparedness and to maintain eligibility for emergency and disaster assistance funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and incorporates hazard mitigation plans; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of natural hazards mitigation is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, Ouray County and participating jurisdictions have developed and updated a multi-hazard mitigation plan to reduce future losses to the County and its communities resulting from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, funding is required to prioritize and implement risk reduction actions designed to meet identified goals and objectives of the Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan and updates.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County (“Board”) has established an Emergency Management Fund and has created a new line-item entitled MJ Excise Tax within the fund to deposit monies to be allocated for Emergency Disaster Response and Mitigation efforts from the MJ Excise Tax Fund.

2. The Board may appropriate funds on an annual basis to the Emergency Management Fund into the MJ Excise Tax line-item to achieve a fund balance accumulation over time in an amount adequate to cover several days of a complex emergency or disaster response responsibilities and post-disaster recovery activities.
3. The Board recognizes the value of appropriating revenues into the Emergency Management Fund for a number of emergency disaster and response reasons, but most especially to accumulate funding to be used for this purpose as recommended in the Multi-Jurisdictional, Multi-Hazard Plan and in other Emergency Operations Plans for Ouray County.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

Voting for:
Voting against:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

Attest:

Don Batchelder, Chair

Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair

Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the
Board

Ben Tisdell, Commissioner Member