



BARRON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Barron County Public Assistance Damage Assessment

This year the particularly long and frigid winter conditions caused a particularly unique frost situation across Wisconsin. Due to these extreme circumstances, many Barron County municipalities incurred significantly higher operating costs. Subsequently, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) decided to explore the possibility of seeking a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance. A Public Assistance declaration is intended for local government entities or municipalities and not for individual assistance/the public.

Through an initial assessment of all counties, Wisconsin Emergency Management tabulated that 69 counties throughout the State received a total of around \$24 million in damages. In Barron County, a total of \$494,271.44 of damages above normal operating costs was incurred (see chart below). With such a high amount of damages, the State decided to pursue a disaster declaration. WEM contacted specific 'pilot' counties and asked for documentation to submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Barron County was the county chosen for all of northwestern Wisconsin as such a high cost of damages occurred here.

Some costs incurred by municipalities in Barron County include water main replacement, repair work, thawing, labor, equipment, materials and contracts. All costs must have been directly related to the extreme winter conditions and have been above normal operating procedures.

Municipalities reporting damages are still able to submit costs, documentation and receipts to Barron County Emergency Management. Issues that have not been repaired are still eligible for possible inclusion on the Barron County assessment. All costs must have been accrued from 2014 only.

With Barron County participating as the pilot representative from northwestern Wisconsin, a lot of the preliminary work that municipalities and the County would have to do if a disaster declaration is approved is already done.

Locally, Barron County met required thresholds to declare a disaster; across the state, Wisconsin met thresholds to declare a disaster. Even though Barron and the State met thresholds, this does not guarantee a Presidential Disaster Declaration will be approved. Since the declaration is in the beginning stages, it is unknown what percentages of funds will be available to Wisconsin and ultimately to Barron County.

If your municipality has accrued costs that have not been submitted, or have questions on possible damages, please contact Todd Volk, Barron County Emergency Services Director, at (715) 537-6595.

Barron County:

Public Assistance Damage Assessment

Total Cost: Labor, Equipment, Materials and Contracts

Municipality	Total
Almena (Village of Almena)	35,605.66
Barron (Light & Water Department)	11,839.72
Chetek (City of Chetek)	18,783.26
Cumberland (City of Cumberland)	95,510.74*
Cumberland (Cumberland Municipal Utility)	147,007.90
Rice Lake (Rice Lake Utilities)	96,742.44
Turtle Lake (village of)	88,781.72
Total Barron County	494,271.44

*less \$91,966.15

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