



Milwaukee County

Office of Emergency Management

Director, Christine Westrich

9.14.2017

Dear Members of the Civil Service Commission:

I respectfully request to transfer the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Emergency Management Administrator from classified service to unclassified. This position is currently under review by Human Resources for compensation. Also, its presentation to the County Board for reclassification from an Administrator to a Division Director, is anticipated in the October cycle.

The EM Administrator (or Director, pending reclassification) is charged with leading a significant change in the way emergency preparedness is executed today. Urban environments such as Houston, Miami and New York City are well advanced in communicating with the public on vigilance – OEM's goal is to develop Milwaukee County as a government leader in public safety. This evolution involves implementing:

- A hefty digital presence and on-line following thereby increasing our credibility and accuracy of information disseminated during a crisis;
- A continued Homeland Security presence through the Command Duty Officer (within OEM's 911 center) serving as the eyes & ears of Milwaukee County's operational wellness;
- The collection and analysis of municipal 'big' data that provides both community and policymaker awareness on levels of emergency preparedness;
- The collection and analysis of County departmental data related to emergency procedures and business continuity for budget efficacy, IT disaster recovery and priority resourcing during a crisis; and,
- The political will and negotiation acumen to ensure OEM's preparedness operations grow in conjunction with the goals of 911 consolidation for a command center environment.

The discretion, confidentiality and loyalty of this individual cannot be understated. This position serves the OEM Director as a senior professional liaison with external organizations that include all county first responder agencies such as police and fire/EMS (paramedic) agencies; a/k/a, a "deputy" or "executive officer".

Public safety is steeped in the benefits of home-rule yet this OEM advocate must balance that local control with modernity to ensure every community has the benefits of emergency preparedness activities and processes; thus, policymakers can make decisions that are unbiased – and achieve the greatest economies. This requires a creative personality that is steadfast to the modernization of emergency management, possesses a deep understanding of the power of analytics, and, can keep the peace with a multitude of elected officials.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincere regards,

Christine Westrich

Director, OEM

Attachments: Job Evaluation Questionnaire (JEQ) for Emergency Management Division Director
 OEM Organizational Chart
 Listing of OEM Unclassified Positions and Corresponding Pay Ranges