

**Resolution Urging Legislature and Governor to Fix Broken System
of Funding Critical Local Services
#01-2023**

Whereas, Wisconsin's system for funding vital local services like well maintained streets, parks, libraries, police, fire protection, and EMS is broken, and needs to be reformed; and

Whereas, communities are forced to rely on property taxes and flat or declining state aid to pay for critical local services that residents and businesses need; and

Whereas, state sales and income tax revenues have tripled in the last 30 years, but the share of those taxes going to support police, fire, EMS, and other essential local services has decreased; and

Whereas, over the last 20 years, state aid for police, fire, and other critical services has steadily declined in real dollars, while inflation has caused average prices to increase by 51 percent. (The funding level for County and Municipal Aid in 2003 was \$938,529,507. Today, it is \$753,032,613); and

Whereas, the steady decline in the state's contribution to the cost of critical local services and essential infrastructure has forced communities to rely more heavily on property taxes to maintain police, fire, and EMS service levels; and

Whereas, the over reliance on property taxes to pay for critical local services is not sustainable and must end; and

Whereas, to compete globally, Wisconsin needs to develop and maintain quality communities that can attract and retain talent and enterprise and spur job creation; and


Whereas, for local communities to flourish and the state's economy to grow, state and local leaders must work collaboratively; and

Whereas, local governments need reliable, growing, sustainable, and diverse sources of revenue to continue to deliver police, fire protection, ambulance services and safe streets now and into the future.


Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the City of Fountain City urges the Legislature and the Governor to work collaboratively with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties Association, local government leaders, and business leaders to create a better way of funding local governments that includes revenue options other than property taxes to continue delivering police, fire, EMS, and other critical services.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the City of Fountain City Common Council on this 10th day of January, 2023.

Signatures:



Gwen Katula, Mayor



Marcia Drysdale, Clerk-Treasurer