

Draft Goals for Crawford County Comprehensive Plan (Intergovernmental Cooperation)

Each goal is followed by recommendations, policies and/or actions developed during the planning process to achieve the goals.

Goal 1 ► Cooperate with local units of governments, state and federal agencies to provide efficient and coordinated services to County residents.

- Continue to evaluate and enhance shared services between local units of government and agencies (police protection, fire protection, emergency response, etc).
- Maintain cooperative protective services countywide (Sheriff's Department, State Patrol, and local police departments).
- Maintain joint fire departments/emergency response units and mutual aid agreements throughout the County.

Goal 2 ► Enhance communication with governmental units and agencies and identify collaboration opportunities.

- Explore shared staffing between local units of government. Often local units of government have the same needs for services, but because of their size and budget constraints the needed services go unmet. This often leads to missed opportunities (grants, knowledge/awareness, specific skills, etc.) that could improve the local community and/or County. Sharing of staff between local units of government could help in providing needed services throughout the County.
- Consider regional marketing opportunities with other governmental/non-governmental units. Tourism is identified throughout this plan as an important component of the local and regional economy. There are numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations that promote the area and specific events/attractions. If local resources were combined into a regional marketing strategy (sensitive to all the various events/attractions) more value for the dollars spent may be realized by local organizations.
- Explore collaboration between governmental units to provide services based on service area versus traditional political boundaries. Political boundaries are necessary for governance but can lead to inefficient provision of services. For example Crawford County is nearly 600 square miles in size and the County Seat is located in Prairie Du Chien in the southwestern corner of the County. However, residents in northern Crawford County generally gravitate to Viroqua or La Crosse for services, while residents in eastern Crawford County generally utilize Richland Center for services. When government services are needed residents may be required to make a trip to Prairie Du Chien or the service providers must travel long distances. By exploring collaboration opportunities with neighboring counties more efficient service provision methods may be discovered.

- Consistent with the Working Lands Initiative and the purchase of development rights program explore the development of a regional purchase of development rights program in order to leverage additional state and federal funding.