

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Announces \$6.6 Million for State Emergency Operations

(Jackson, MS) Governor Ronnie Musgrove announces today \$6.6 million in a federal grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist in the construction of a new State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC.)

“Having a state of the art emergency operations center to coordinate and provide disaster assistance to our citizens is crucial during times of uncertainty,” said Governor Ronnie Musgrove. “We appreciate the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA recognizing the critical needs of a new EOC in MS by providing us this grant money. We also appreciate the assistance provide by Senator Thad Cochran to our dedicated MEMA team in making this a reality.”

In January 2003, the FEMA FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriation included \$56 million to help State governments make improvements to Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs.) FEMA established a two-phase approach to award the EOC funding. Phase 1 consisted of a \$50,000 allocation per state for conducting an assessment of the existing State and Local EOCs. Phase 2 involved a national competitive grant application process to address the most immediate EOC deficiencies nationwide.

In May of 2003, MEMA submitted the grant to FEMA that was based on the Phase 1 needs assessment with an estimated project cost of \$11.3 million for a new EOC in Mississippi. A total of \$9.3 million is estimated for construction costs of the Emergency Operations Center, which does not include the estimated cost of \$2 million for the information systems package.

Today FEMA announced that the approved project cost would be \$8.8 million with a Federal share of \$6.6 million or 75% and a State share of \$2.2 million or 25% plus any additional costs above the approved \$8.8 million. The State share will be provided through bonds provided through legislation during the 2002 session.

“We took advantage of this grant opportunity from FEMA to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of our State,” said Robert Latham, executive director of MEMA. “By FEMA awarding Mississippi this grant, the total estimated cost to the State would be only \$4.7 million verses our original estimated cost of \$11.3 million.”

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