

ANALYSIS

Item 11: Department of Emergency Management Evacuation Planning Tool

Analyst: Travis Miller

Request: Allocate \$1,135,200 General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for natural disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery to the Department of Emergency Management for contractually obligated payments for the maintenance of the statewide evacuation planning and management system.

Analysis: The statewide evacuation and planning management system, Genasys, is a software-as-a-service (SaaS) tool that streamlines and accelerates evacuation zone mapping and public alert routing for emergency managers and first responders. After-action reviews following the 2020 wildfire season (e.g., Alameda Drive Fire), identified gaps in communication, coordination, and targeted alerting as critical vulnerabilities, leaving residents without advance notice or clear evacuation routes. Zone-based evacuation planning tools, like Genasys, directly address these gaps by enabling emergency managers to map and activate precise evacuation zones in minutes rather than hours. Genasys is actively used by 21 counties (56%) and two Tribal governments statewide and has been incorporated into the OR-Alert, the statewide emergency alert and warning program. Six additional counties are in the active implementation stage ahead of the 2026 wildfire season.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) originally contracted with Genasys in June 2024, to improve evacuation planning capabilities for Oregonians in DHS-funded facilities. However, the software was purchased independently by DHS without an approved funding source. As a result, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) and DHS entered into an interagency agreement to cover the first-year payment using one-time Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement funds available to ODEM at the close of the 2023-25 biennium. With no identified funding for the remainder of the five-year Genasys contract within the DHS budget, the Governor's Office directed ODEM and DHS to work collaboratively to transfer the Genasys contract to ODEM and submit a request to the Emergency Board for funding for the second payment due in July 2026.

The requested \$1,135,200 represents the contractual second-year payment due in July 2026. Ongoing annual costs are estimated at \$720,000 per year, with the contract up for renewal in June 2029. The ongoing projected biennial cost for the 2027-29 biennium is \$1,440,000. ODEM does not anticipate hiring additional positions to support Genasys, as vendor-provided help desk and technical support are included in the contract. Administrative support for the system will be absorbed by existing personnel.

OEM has examined and exhausted available own-source funding options (e.g., federal grants, 9-1-1 tax revenues, and the Statewide Interoperability Council Assessment). Additionally, OEM does not have the General Fund flexibility within its current legislatively adopted budget to cover this obligation. Without an allocation, DHS will be in breach of the Genasys contract by mid-July 2026, which will likely result in a discontinuation of service.

While OEM has explored a contingency option of downloading available data to replicate static zone maps using other tools, this approach would not allow new zones to be drawn, would not permit additional county onboarding, and carries legal risk related to intellectual property under the existing contract.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$1,135,200 General Fund from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for natural disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery to the Department of Emergency Management for contractually obligated payments for the maintenance of the statewide evacuation planning and management system.

Department of Emergency Management Filimoehala

Request: Allocate \$1,135,200 from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for natural disaster preparedness, prevention, and response for the Genasys zone-based evacuation planning system.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is requesting the release of \$1.1 million from the special purpose appropriation for natural disaster preparedness, prevention and response to support ongoing costs of operating the Genasys system, which utilizes long-range acoustic device (LRAD) products for incorporation into emergency alert systems for faster evacuation alerts, management, and planning. The Genasys LRAD system has been incorporated into emergency management systems throughout the Pacific Coast and Hawaii.

The initial incorporation of the Genasys system into Oregon emergency management capabilities began in 2024 at the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) at which time ODHS entered into a contract with Genasys to provide the software for all 36 Oregon counties and the nine federally recognized Tribes for incorporation into local emergency management systems. ODHS also incorporated the Genasys system into OR-Alert, which provides statewide emergency alerts and warnings.

After establishing Oregon's contract with Genasys, ODHS decided to transfer the maintenance of the contract to OEM, as the entity responsible for managing the OR-Alert system. To do so, OEM and ODHS entered into an Interagency Agreement (IAA) in which OEM would provide one year of funding within the 2025-27 biennium for the contract with Genasys and ODHS would provide funding for the second year. To comply with the IAA, OEM provided a one-time transfer of \$1.1 million to ODHS to pay contracted costs for the first year of contract funding. Within the IAA, both agencies are responsible for exploring funding options for future biennia to contract with Genasys.

ODHS has been unable to secure funding to maintain the contract with Genasys. While work is ongoing to complete the transfer of the contract to OEM, additional work to further integrate the Genasys system into more emergency management systems has occurred. Following the completion of the current biennial portion of the contract with Genasys, ongoing costs for maintenance of the Genasys contract are estimated to cost \$720,000 per year.

Legal Reference: Allocation of \$1,135,200 from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board by chapter 628, section 5(1), Oregon Laws 2025, to supplement the appropriation made by chapter 423, section 1(2), Oregon Laws 2025, for the Department of Emergency Management, Genasys zone-based evacuation planning system for the 2025-27 biennium.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

3930 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

Phone: 503-378-2911

TTY: 7-1-1

www.Oregon.gov/OEM

May 11, 2026

The Honorable Senator Rob Wagner, President of the Senate
The Honorable Representative Julie Fahey, Speaker of the House
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Wagner and Representative Fahey:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is requesting an allocation of \$1,135,200 General Fund to pay for the Genasys Zone-based evacuation planning tool.

Agency Action

Amidst the destruction of the 2024 wildfire season, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) recognized a need to be able to quickly and safely evacuate vulnerable Oregonians from ODHS-funded institutions. ODHS purchased Genasys software, a software-as-a-service solution that dramatically simplifies evacuation planning for emergency managers and first responders, reducing the time needed to plan for an evacuation from hours to minutes. Genasys is actively used by local emergency managers and county sheriffs in 21 counties and two Tribes to map out where emergency alerts and warnings will be sent to the public during an evacuation. This ensures the right message is sent to the right people affected by the emergency, saving time and lives during an emergency.

ODHS requested funding for the Genasys contract for the 2025-27 biennium, and funding was included in the Governor's Budget, but the request was ultimately unsuccessful. At the same time, the 2025 wildfire season was threatening to create significant challenges for Oregon residents and first responders. To ensure system access was not cut off heading into the 2025 wildfire season, OEM and ODHS came to an interagency agreement to use one-time funds available from OEM at the end of the 2023-25 biennium to support the first year of the contract. ODHS incorporated Genasys into the OR-Alert¹ governance structure, including OEM in project implementation meetings, provide OEM access to and training on the system, and make other changes designed to speed implementation of Genasys across the state.

ODHS has been unable to identify funding for the second required payment due in July of 2026. In April of 2026, the Governor's Office directed OEM and ODHS work collaboratively to transfer the contract to OEM and to submit a request to the Emergency Board to continue funding for this critical tool. This work is in progress; OEM is working with ODHS, DAS Procurement, and the Department of Justice to transition the contract. Genasys is currently in the process of being rolled out statewide and is actively in use by 21 counties and 2 tribal governments. Six additional counties are in the process of implementing prior to the beginning of summer and the height of wildfire season.

¹ OR-Alert is Oregon's Statewide Emergency Alerts and Warning Program.

OEM and ODHS have worked collaboratively with Genasys to integrate the tool with other state-supported emergency communication systems, including OR-Alert (Everbridge), the Real Time Assessment and Planning Tool for Oregon (RAPTOR), the State of Oregon Fire Situation Analyst (SOFSA), and others, helping strengthen Oregon's layered public alert and warning and situational awareness capabilities. Additionally, the tool provides vetted information to widely used third party apps like Watch Duty and Waze.

Ongoing costs for the system are estimated at \$720,000 per year, with the contract up for renewal in June 2029. IT support costs for Genasys are built into the contract. OEM and ODHS will use existing personnel to support the programmatic and administrative aspects of this work.

Maintaining this system is vital to support emergency evacuation planning and alert and warning during emergency incidents, especially with wildfire season rapidly approaching.

Action Requested

The Department requests an allocation of \$1,135,200 from the special purpose appropriation specified in Oregon Laws 2025, Chapter 628, Section 5 to make contractually obligated payments for the maintenance of the Genasys Zone-based evacuation planning system.

Legislation Affected

Oregon Laws 2025, Chapter 423, Section 1(2)

Best regards,



Erin McMahon, Director
Oregon Department of Emergency Management