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## Enhancing Communication During Disasters

The Washburn County Emergency Management Director/PSAP Coordinator along with the Sheriff's Office are working to enhance communications during disasters. Barron Electric Cooperative had the opportunity to help with this goal by donating \$1,000 to help purchase radio communication support equipment. They have renovated a camper to serve as an Incident Command Post ICP/Communications Trailer and have been installing necessary radio and communication tools. This will help to handle many calls for assistance in the field, as well as dispatching on-scene First Responders to their locations during an emergency or disaster. The ICP will also allow responding agencies to work from the field with land or generator power for laptops and cell phones, while providing a primary meeting location. Carol Buck, Director of the Washburn County Emergency Management, said, "We greatly appreciate Barron Electric's support of this project. The ICP will accommodate multiple functions and is a necessary tool." Barron Electric's General Manager Dallas Sloan said, "We are pleased to help the Washburn County Emergency Management and Sheriff's Office enhance communications during disasters."

Funds for the Barron Electric donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed capital credits of former members. Barron Electric Cooperative has served the rural area since 1936 and currently provides electricity to more than 18,000 members.

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*Barron Electric Cooperative was built by the community and for the community.*