

State of Louisiana



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-018**

***STATE OF EMERGENCY
CITY OF TALLULAH WATER SYSTEM***

WHEREAS, the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and its citizens presented by emergencies and disasters;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to address disasters resulting from natural or man-made events that cause or threaten loss of life, injury, or property damage, as well as emergencies, which include actual or potential conditions created by such disasters, in order to ensure that preparations by the State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency or disaster by executive order which has the force and effect of law;

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 29:724 authorizes the governor during a declared state of emergency to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute prescribing procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

WHEREAS, a declaration of emergency activates the state's emergency response and recovery program under the command of the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP");

WHEREAS, the City of Tallulah has approximately 8,601 persons that depend on the Tallulah Water System;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health has determined that the Tallulah Water System is continuously at risk of failure and unable to provide safe and accessible water to the residents of Tallulah on a consistent basis;

WHEREAS, the failure of the Tallulah Water System would impact the health and safety of the citizens of the City of Tallulah;

WHEREAS, the failure of the Tallulah Water System would greatly impact the operability and sustainability of critical infrastructure within the City;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana desires to avoid the failure of the Tallulah Water System and to protect the city's citizens and critical infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, and more specifically, La. R.S. 29:724, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist within the City of Tallulah in the Parish of Madison.

Section 2: The Director of GOHSEP and the Louisiana Department of Health are hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law deemed appropriate in response to this declaration;

Section 3: The Louisiana Department of Health shall identify and designate an experienced certified operator to serve as the operator for the Tallulah Water System within three days of the signing of this order.

Section 4: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code, (R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*), and Louisiana Public Bid Law (R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*), and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any goods or services necessary to respond to this emergency, including emergency contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and any other emergency amendments to existing contracts.

Section 5: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this event.

Section 6: This Order is effective Thursday, February 13, 2025, and shall continue in effect until Saturday, March 15, 2025, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded earlier by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 13th day of February 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Landry", is written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE