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Local Gov't's Ask State Lawmakers To Help With Efficiency

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MADISON, Wis. (WTAQ) - Wisconsin's local governments have asked state lawmakers to help them look for ways to consolidate services and save money. The Local Government Institute – made up of groups that represent counties and municipalities – put out a report on the subject Tuesday. It said legislative committees should be formed to research the most efficient ways for communities to combine services. It also proposed intergovernmental councils, in which local officials can trade ideas. They also suggested links to regional economic development groups.

The Institute said consolidations would let local governments spread out their costs and share equipment with each other – and the report suggested cost controls so the collaborations can keep their value. If they're going to work, the report said local leaders must appreciate the financial benefits, and trust each other. Turf battles have prevented such moves in the past.

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