

STEVENS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

DATE: February 15, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Motion by Commissioner Ennen

Seconded by Commissioner Wiese

RESOLUTION 220215-11
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
OF HF 2821/SF 2670 AND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, The County of Stevens is writing in support of this important public safety initiative, HF 2821/SF 2670.

WHEREAS, Effective radios are the backbone of public safety in the State of Minnesota. Our first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel depend upon this ARMER system to effectively perform their jobs. Radios save lives and serve every constituent of the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions. They are costly to maintain and replace. In local government units, where budgets are tight, it is very difficult to plan for the costly process of replacing this critical infrastructure. Local government units would urge the state to fund a grant program that allows for the critical upgrade of radios. We would also encourage sustainable funding to support ongoing replacement costs.

WHEREAS, The cost to replace the aging radios is a direct impact of our local taxpayers. ARMER radios are critical to deploying resources, protecting property and life, and protecting our workers. However, they often get overlooked for replacement because there is no existing funding source.

WHEREAS, In Stevens County, there are 270 radios on the statewide ARMER system, most of these radios are used by our small rural emergency departments. There are thirteen emergency services departments who serve Steven County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all emergency services departments

WHEREAS, Stevens County has aging radios on the ARMER system that are no longer supported by Motorola, it is extremely difficult to find radio parts or used parts to fix or maintain the subscriber units. Our emergency services departments rely on the ARMER radio system to provide the interoperability between the departments at the local, regional, State, and Federal levels. The replacement cost for the radios that are at the end of their life expectancy, range from \$2,500 to \$4,800 each, this expense does not include the radio programming or additional equipment, or supplies required to add the radio onto the Statewide radio system. The additional cost will be approximately \$400 per radio.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Stevens County supports the HF 2821/SF 2670 and urges the importance of public safety initiative.

Table with 6 columns: Name, Aye, Ennen, Aye, Wohlers, Aye. Rows: Staples, Kopitzke.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF STEVENS)

I, Rebecca Young, County Administrator and Clerk To The Board, for the County of Stevens, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Stevens County, Minnesota at their session held on the 15th day of February, 2022, now stored electronically on the County's M-Files storage system, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Young, County Administrator