

RESOLUTION 22-0202

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

WHEREAS, The County of Grant 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WHEREAS, Radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions.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.

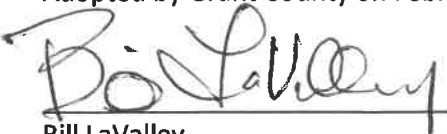
WHEREAS, the cost to replace the aging radios is a direct impact of our local taxpayers. ARMER radios are critical to deploying resources, protecting property and life, and protecting our workers. However, they often get overlooked for replacement because there is no existing funding source.


WHEREAS, in Grant County, there are 319 radios on the statewide ARMER system, most of these radios are used by our rural public safety responding departments. There are eight (8) public safety departments who serve Grant County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all departments.

WHEREAS, Grant County has aging radios on the ARMER system that will no longer be supported by Motorola, it is extremely difficult to find radio parts or used parts to fix or maintain the subscriber units. Our public safety departments rely on the ARMER radio system to provide the interoperability between the departments at the local, regional, State, and Federal levels. Replacement costs vary for the radios, they range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This does not include the cost of radio programming or additional equipment, or supplies required to add the radio onto the Statewide radio system. The additional costs vary as well, with an average consisting of \$400 per radio.

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

Adopted by Grant County on February 15, 2022.

 , Grant County Board Chair
Bill LaValley

Attest:  Clerk to the Grant County Board of Commissioners
Chad Van Santen, Grant County Auditor