

RESOLUTION 2022-11
BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OF HF 2821/SF 2670 AND PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, The County of Big Stone 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WHEREAS, Radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions.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 Big Stone County, there are 253 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 Big Stone County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all emergency services departments

WHEREAS, Big Stone 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 Big Stone County supports the HF 2821/SF 2670 and urges the importance of public safety initiative.

Adopted by Big Stone County on February 15, 2022


Jeff Klages, Big Stone County Board Chair

Attest: 
Pam Rud, Clerk to the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners