



STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The State of Minnesota operates the ARMER radio network. ARMER currently serves as the primary communications tool for the majority of state, county and local public safety entities in Minnesota. Establishing and maintaining interoperable communications between state agencies and local responders will continue to provide the State of Minnesota with the capability to vastly improve current operations by providing a more rapid response coordination in time and effort to make a difference between life and death.

The COVID-19 public health emergency dramatically altered the manner in which volunteer first responders answered calls for emergency services. The lack of the ability to communicate using reliable mobile and portable radios with co-volunteer emergency first responders, dispatch centers, law enforcement, and hospitals, only emphasized the communication issues volunteer first responders already struggled with during emergencies caused by floods, blizzards, and wildland fires. Minnesota citizens and the State of Minnesota rely upon the members of volunteer fire and rescue departments for emergency first response services. Minnesota's 757 volunteer fire departments, EMS and law enforcement provide services to Minnesotans, tourists, and visitors. In fact, the United States Secretary of the Treasury has adopted as final the interim final rule at 31 CFR Part 35 recognizing the importance of capital expenditures in which the Department of Treasury identified making improvements to or construction of emergency operations centers, including the acquisition of emergency response equipment to include, emergency response radio systems.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT MINNESOTA'S AGENCIES:

VOLUNTEER FIRE

Volunteer Firefighters fight fires, but many also conduct rescues, inspect buildings for compliance with fire code provisions, offer information and demonstrations on fire prevention, and respond to hazardous materials releases and emergencies requiring medical services. This includes activities related to COVID-19 patients; treatment, transport, and direct patient care.

- Top 5 in US in Volunteer Departments, 97.2%
- 775 Registered Fire Departments, only 18 are Paid in MN
- 2% Percentile of LEAST funded departments in the U.S.
- 86 Counties operating on ARMER
- 85% of Counties use Motorola
- Current radios are 12-16 years old
- 18,000+ Volunteer Firefighters

EMS

Minnesota EMS is comprised of private, hospital-based, municipal, and fire department agencies. These professionals respond to 9-1-1 calls to treat and transport people in crisis. Their emergency responses are due to a wide variety of life threatening situations.

- 264 Licensed Ambulance Services
- 823 Ground Ambulances
- 21 Air Ambulances
- 65% of ambulance services are comprised of either all volunteers or a combination of paid staff and volunteers

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Minnesota Law Enforcement is made up of several key groups including jurisdiction on campuses, tribal grounds, cities, counties and Statewide. Law Enforcement's ability to communicate within a geographic area is critical to ensure community safety as well as the safety of Minnesota's 76 million annual visitors.

- 305 Municipal Police Departments
- 87 Sheriff's Offices
- 8 Specialized Law Enforcement
- 6 State Agencies
- 9 Tribal Law Enforcement
- Current radios are 12-16 years old
- 12,000+ Law Enforcement Personnel



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS

BILL: APPROPRIATION; STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION; STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

\$250,000,000 is appropriated from the state fiscal recovery federal fund to the commissioner of public safety for grants to local government units participating in the statewide public safety radio communication system established under Minnesota Statutes, section 403.36. The grants must be used to purchase portable radios and related equipment that is interoperable with the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system. Each local government unit may receive only one grant. The grant is contingent upon a match of at least five percent from nonstate funds. The director of the Emergency Communications Networks division, in consultation with the Statewide Emergency Communications Board, must administer the grant program. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2023.

This proposed initiative will provide the radios, communication capability, training and support required to connect all rural and volunteer fire departments, responders, and agencies to the ARMER system. This will allow direct communication with the Minnesota State Patrol, MN DOT, and other Emergency Responders in the area. This will give agencies the ability to respond and assist with disasters throughout the entire State of Minnesota, which will help to keep Citizens in Minnesota cities, towns, villages and the Metro areas safe.

HOW THIS WILL WORK

DPS will administer a one-time program to provide grants to all volunteer fire departments and volunteer emergency care providers for the purpose of providing portable and mobile radios, programming and installation of all radios and equipment, and training for interoperability with the Statewide Radio System and provide the communication capability with state agencies, training and support required to connect rural and volunteer fire and rescue departments, responders, and agencies to the Statewide Radio System. DPS will determine the number and type of radios required for each volunteer fire department based upon such department's needs, size, and the number of emergency responses. This will allow volunteer first responders direct communication with the Minnesota State Patrol, Minnesota Department of Transportation, local law enforcement agencies and other emergency responders.

- The proposed initiative will benefit:
 - 86 Counties
 - 770+ Agencies
 - 25,000+ First Responders
- Estimated project completion is 36 months
- Proposed Estimates: \$250,000,000
- Project Includes:
 - Portable and Mobile Radios
 - Related equipment
 - Project Management team
 - Training for staff and First Responders
 - Programming, Setup, and Installation



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