

Aumand and Associates

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To: Dona Bate, Chair, CVPSA Board of Directors
From: Francis (Paco) X. Aumand III
Date: October 11, 2021
Subject: Central Vermont Public Safety Communications Project

I was asked to create a small working group to explore who should be in the *Core Team* proposing structure and concepts for regional public safety governance and cost allocation.

On Wednesday October 6, 2021, I convened a meeting of representatives of the Capital Fire Mutual Aid System, the Barre City Fire Department, and the Montpelier Police Department. Doug Hoyt representing the CVPSA Board was also present. These agencies were represented because they were the most active members of the Televate Needs Assessment and Conceptual Communications Design Study.

I proposed the following agenda to the group.

Vision for the project-

- How important is a single coordinated project vs moving forward individually?

Cost –

- who pays for what and what is the best cost model?

Roles-

- what role should CVPSA play?
- Should a committee be formed as The Televate Report suggests?
- Who coordinates the effort? And who should participate.?

Moving Forward

- Suggestions

Core Team

The following individuals were on the Zoom conference call.

Chief Doug Brent – Barre City Fire Department
Chief Brian Peete – Montpelier Police Department
Eric Nordenson – Montpelier Police Department
Carrie McCool – Montpelier Police Department
Paul Cerutti – Capital Fire Mutual Aid System (CFMAS)
Sally Dillon – Capital Fire Mutual Aid System (CFMAS)
Will Sutton – Capital Fire Mutual Aid System (CFMAS)

It should be noted Sally, Will and Doug are members of the CVPSA Board of Directors. I asked them to participate in this discussion because of Sally and Will are key members of the CFMAS and Doug has been charged as being the chair of the CVPSA Outreach Committee.

Recommendation

This should be the core group to help make decisions about the future of the radio project. Consideration should be given to ask the City Managers (as fiscal agents) to either join or attend when issues needing their expertise are to be decided. An alternative to this core group would be to utilize the Twin City Working Group, which is already established and has previously discussed the radio problem. Members of CFMAS should be asked to join the Twin City Group.

Outcomes

The following are statements that represent the outcomes of the group discussions.

- Keeping all communications on the air is what the vision should be. Recognition the radio system is failing is both a reality and a safety issue for first responders.
- Funding this project should be the focus the fiscal agents need to weigh on this project before any further decisions about working groups can be made.
- Not everyone agreed this should be one project with costs shared by all.
- It is pointless to move forward without the governing bodies providing guidance as to how to move forward especially around finances.
- No one has said this project is not needed but an understanding of costs is very important. A summary of costs and payment models is important.
- The Televate report needs to be shared with all CFMAS member communities.
- Select Board representatives from CFMAS communities need to attend the upcoming CFMAS/CVPSA meeting.
- Work together on a single radio communications project, not separately.
- A CVPSA future budget request should be asked of all CVPSA members. CFMAS should contribute to CVPSA.

Next Steps

- Paul Cerutti, Will Sutton and Sally Dillon will work on making sure representatives from the CFMAS member Select Boards are at the CFMAS/CVPSA October 19th meeting.
- Finalize the Cost of the project.
- Work to get all Select Boards of CFMAS communities exposed to this project.
- Work together on a single radio communications project, not work separately.
- Obtain a realistic bond interest rate and develop a cost model.

Recommendation

Cost models showing the different scenarios have been developed. A cost model that shares the costs of this equally may not be acceptable by all. Therefore, four cost models have been prepared for review. These include the following.

1. A proposal that includes one project/one cost divided equally amongst the communities.

2. A proposal showing the two cities going out and acquiring the in-building solution. A cost for Montpelier and Barre City is shown.
3. A proposal showing the two cities going out and acquiring the in-building solution. A cost for Capital Fire Mutual Aid System Communities is shown.
4. A proposal showing the cost to Montpelier and Barre City to include the purchase of dispatching consoles has been provided.

The two cities may be in a better position to move forward earlier than the communities of CFMAS. Therefore, a cost model breaking out the two projects has been identified. Regardless, of how this project evolves all entities need to be involved to coordinate this acquisition and support each other.

The costs associated with this project must be evaluated further to determine if the budget proposal presented by Televate are final numbers. Perhaps a “request for information” from vendors might be in order or ask Televate to review the budget to see if there might be any additional savings. Any reduction in the budget estimates will change the annual costs to the communities.

The **City Councils** and the Capital Fire Mutual Aid **Communities need to provide guidance** to the core/working group and CVPSA on moving forward. The core/working group represent staff members of the CVPSA member communities. These individuals need to know their managers and/or governing bodies support their work and efforts. CVPSA should be asked at a minimum to help facilitate the discussion surrounding how to move forward.

Bonding and Interest Rate

The Vermont Bond Bank advises the typical loan for the type of project the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) might be looking to fund is a general obligation bond. A general obligation bond is a type of municipal bond that is backed entirely by the issuers creditworthiness and ability to levy taxes on its residents.

CVPSA does not have any assets and only has a short budget history. Its capacity to take on a debit of this nature is questionable according to representative at the Bond Bank. At a minimum they require 2 years of audited financial statements. The Vermont Bond Bank thought an easy way to fund this project was through the two Cities. Both have a history of financial audits and have assets.

The interest rate on a 10-year loan currently is 1.6%.

Budget Estimates

The following is a budget estimate for this project depicting four scenarios.

1. Everyone shares equally in one project. (Public Safety Radio Priority 1 Project)
2. Montpelier and Barre City will build the in-building radio system themselves with their estimates. (Twin City In-Building Radio Project)
3. CFMAS moves forward with their own simulcast project using the Televate cost estimates minus the Barre City Fire Department Cost Estimate.
4. An alternative budget and cost proposal (last page) includes the cost of the dispatch consoles.

Budget

Public Safety Radio Priority 1 Projects	
Televate Costs	
Description	Costs
Regional Radio System Infrastructure, Procurement, PM, Governance, Construction	\$2,900,000
Mobile and portable radios: P25 capable (assume 200)	\$700,000
Tower upgrades and reinforcement / Radio equipment shelters (if and where required)	\$330,000
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$3,930,000

Budget

Twin City In-Building Radio Project	
Barre City Fire Department Cost Estimate	
Description	Costs
Radio and Infrastructure Costs	\$284,907
Mobile and portable radios: P25 capable (assume 50)	\$93,541
Installation Costs (Project Mgmt., Engin) Site Work/Tower/Building Eliminated	\$90,087
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$468,535

Budget

CFMAS New Project Costs	
Reduction from Twin City Project	
Description	Costs
Regional Radio System Infrastructure, Procurement, PM, Governance, Construction	\$2,525,006
Mobile and portable radios: P25 capable (assume 200)	\$606,459
Tower upgrades and reinforcement / Radio equipment shelters (if and where required)	\$330,000
Total Priority 1 Projects	\$3,461,465

The following cost modeling (next page) does not consider any grant funding for any of the projects. It also does not consider the use of general fund money or other funding sources. It only assumes a 10-year bond scenario.

Cost Model Based on a 10 Year Bond

Public Safety Radio Priority 1 Projects		CFMAS New Project Costs, less Twin City		Twin City In-Building Radio Project	
Estimated Cost of Project	\$3,930,000	Estimated Cost of Project	\$3,461,465	Estimated Cost of Project	\$468,535
10 Year Per year Cost	\$393,000	10 Year Per year Cost	\$346,147	10 Year Per year Cost	\$46,854
1.6% Per year interest rate	\$6,288	1.6% Per year interest rate	\$5,538	1.6% Per year interest rate	\$749.66
Total per year costs	\$399,288	Total per year costs	\$351,685	Total per year costs	\$47,603
RADIO PROJECT Annual costs	\$399,288	RADIO PROJECT Annual costs	\$351,685	RADIO PROJECT Annual costs	\$47,603
Equal Distribution of Costs		CFMAS Only costs		Montpelier and Barre City Costs	
<u>TOWN / CITY</u>	Costs Per Community	<u>TOWN / CITY</u>	Costs Per Community	<u>TOWN / CITY</u>	Costs Per Community
Barre City	\$19,014	Barre City		Barre City	\$23,802
Berlin	\$19,014	Berlin	\$18,510	Berlin	
Cabot	\$19,014	Cabot	\$18,510	Cabot	
Calais	\$19,014	Calais	\$18,510	Calais	
Duxbury	\$19,014	Duxbury	\$18,510	Duxbury	
E Montpelier	\$19,014	E Montpelier	\$18,510	E Montpelier	
Fayston	\$19,014	Fayston	\$18,510	Fayston	
Marshfield	\$19,014	Marshfield	\$18,510	Marshfield	
Middlesex	\$19,014	Middlesex	\$18,510	Middlesex	
Montpelier	\$19,014	Montpelier		Montpelier	\$23,802
Moretown	\$19,014	Moretown	\$18,510	Moretown	
Northfield	\$19,014	Northfield	\$18,510	Northfield	
Plainfield	\$19,014	Plainfield	\$18,510	Plainfield	
Roxbury	\$19,014	Roxbury	\$18,510	Roxbury	
Waitsfield	\$19,014	Waitsfield	\$18,510	Waitsfield	
Walden	\$19,014	Walden	\$18,510	Walden	
Washington	\$19,014	Washington	\$18,510	Washington	
Waterbury	\$19,014	Waterbury	\$18,510	Waterbury	
Williamstown	\$19,014	Williamstown	\$18,510	Williamstown	
Woodbury	\$19,014	Woodbury	\$18,510	Woodbury	
Worcester	\$19,014	Worcester	\$18,510	Worcester	
Total per year costs	\$399,288	Total per year costs	\$351,685	Total per year costs	\$47,603

Twin City In-Building Radio Project with Dispatch Consoles

Twin City In-Building Radio and Console Project	
Barre City Fire Department Cost Estimate	
Description	Costs
Radio and Infrastructure Costs	\$284,907
Mobile and portable radios: P25 capable (assume 50)	\$93,541
Installation Costs (Project Mgm, Engin) Site Work/Tower/Building Eliminated	\$90,087
Dispatch consoles	\$700,000
Estimated Total Priority 1 Projects (with Consoles)	\$1,168,535
Twin City In-Building Radio and Console Project	
Estimated Cost of Project	\$1,168,535
10 Year Per year Cost	\$116,854
1.6% Per year interest rate	\$1,870
Total per year costs	\$118,723
RADIO/Console PROJECT Annual costs	\$118,723

Montpelier and Barre City Costs Per Year	
TOWN / CITY	Costs Per Community
Barre City	\$59,362
Berlin	
Cabot	
Brookfield	
Duxbury	
E Montpelier/Calais	
Marshfield	
Middlesex	
Montpelier	\$59,362
Moretown	
Northfield	
Plainfield	
Roxbury	
Waitsfield/Fayston	
Walden	
Washington	
Waterbury	
Williamstown	
Woodbury	
Worcester	
Total per year costs	\$118,723