

## CVPSA Project Manager Report

May 13, 2021 – June 10, 2021

The following tasks related to the CVPSA Public Safety Communication Project have been performed.

**Liaison with Televate, LLC** – Numerous phone calls, and emails were exchanged between this reporting period especially related to organizing the site visit. I talked with Rick about including in the report the existing radio system is deficient and he may want to include the term dangerous if it fits with his analysis. I participated in a Zoom Meeting with Dona, Dom and Rick regarding the site visit, equipment costs and governance issues.

**Coordinated and Participated in the Site visit** – Coordinated with Joe Aldsworth and Brian Peete about visiting both the Montpelier Police Department and the Barre City Public Safety Building. Coordinated a visit with the hospital during the site visit.

**Sit Visit** – The site visit took place between Monday May 17 – Wednesday May 18, 2021. Tuesday was the day for tower site visits. The participants in this site visit included Paco Aumand, Kim Cheney, Dom Arcuri and Joe Aldsworth. Paul Cerruti joined us for the tour of the Woodbury site. Credit goes to Joe Alsworth for setting up our visit to the three tower sites. These included Mount Irish, Mount Pleasant and Woodbury. Joe used his own utility vehicle to transport us up the steep and the not so improved road at Mount Irish. I will wait until the analysis by Televate to fully determine the quality of the tower sites. However, it seemed that access to the Mount Irish and Woodbury site is problematic in that it requires an ATV/Utility vehicle and or walk. The Woodbury site does not have a connected generator to the radio equipment. CFMAS is aware of this issue. This day concluded with a discussion between all parties regarding governance. Of course, no decisions or agreements were made, but everyone did agree that the communication improvements were to be made as one project instead of three separate projects than some form of common governance should be implemented.

Monday afternoon we had a meeting at the Central Vermont Medical Center. At this meeting were Paco Aumand, Kim Cheney, Dom Arcuri, Joe Aldsworth and Doug Brent representing CVPSA. Mike Wolff, Director of Security and the Nurse Manager Director and the ER Nurse Manager participated on behalf of CVMC. After the meeting we also toured the fourth floor where the radio equipment is stored and accessed the roof top and observed their single RF (20') antenna. We learned the following.

- CVMC serves a population base of approximately 70,000 people.
- CVMC has a 50 mile radius service area.
- CVMC's radio capacity is only capable of receiving signals within a 25 mile radius.
- CVMC receives a lot of information on incoming patients over the cellular network because it is more private than the RF radio network.
- Only 4 of the EMS squads have equipment necessary to transmit EFK strips to the hospital prior to arrival. Poor cell coverage prohibits much of this communication.
- If they had better information prior to the patient's arrival, they could be making better information. This can also be seen as a life safety issue.

Wednesday morning was spent touring the Montpelier PD communications center and the Barre City PD communications center. Dispatchers were spoken with at both facilities. The new dispatch supervisor in Montpelier, Carrie McCool spent a lot of time addressing the issues she faces. The biggest concern is the

interference and channel crowding of the Cap West system. We also spoke with Chief Brian Peete and the group spoke with Deputy Chief Larry Eastman.

The fiber link that was put in between the two Cities allow for communication between the dispatch centers. This seems to be working well and allows both centers to work together. They seem open to working together more in the future.

Representatives from CVPSA got together for dinner on both Monday evening and Tuesday evening. Dom Arcuri gave a preliminary assessment of his tour of the facilities. Tom Golonka, former CVPSA Chair and CVMC Board Chair, joined us on Monday evening at dinner and heard about the hospital issues. He also was instrumental in getting a support letter from the hospital for our CDS applications.

**Congressional District Spending Request – FY 22** Two applications were submitted for the Congressional District Spending Request (CDS) for FY 22. One was submitted to Senator Sanders and one was submitted to Senator Leahy. I spent a total of 17.45 hours on these grant proposals.

Senator Sanders Request included:

• Project Oversight and Management	\$200,000
• Public Safety Frequency Search and Licensing support	\$ 30,000
• P 25 Compatible EQ, 150 new radios	\$1,490,000
• Create improved hardened tower sites	\$500,000
• Integration with Broadband PTT Applications	\$154,000
• Public Safety Broadband Applications and Integration	\$150,000
• Redundant fiber connection	\$100,000
• Operating Expenses for One Year	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total	\$2,824,000

Senator Leahy Request Included:

This request was refined after having time to reflect on the project.

- **Project planning funds** - Development of an RFP for Regional Communications System, Procurement Support, Contract Negotiations, Implementation Oversight and Verification. A Subject Matter Expert to support the effective development and implementation of a Regional Public Safety Emergency Communications System will be hired/contracted. An engineer design based on the recommended network options will also be included verifying that redundancy, failover and public safety hardening is properly being implemented. Total = \$400,000
- **Acquiring New Frequencies** - The Identification and integration of new interference free frequencies is needed for effective public safety communication. Total = \$30,000.
- **Equipment** - P25 compatible equipment for deployment of additional Public Safety frequency pair in Regional Communications System. For a simulcast system, the channel must be deployed at all sites throughout the Regional Communications System (assumes 11 sites). P25 compliant LMR radios, replacing and upgrading 200 regional mobile and portable radios is

necessary to comply with moving to a digital radio standard. New dispatch consoles are proposed. These consoles will update the existing consoles and standardize them across the two Cities providing primary dispatch services. This will allow for easy communication. Receiving radio equipment will be added on the proposed 11 sites to allow for fire ground communications.

P25 channel equipment	Subtotal = \$880,000
P25 LMR Radios 200@ \$3,400 ea.	Subtotal = \$680,000
7 Dispatch Consoles @85,000 ea.	Subtotal = \$595,000
11 Receivers at \$25,000 ea.	Subtotal = \$275,000
	Total = \$2,430,000

- **Tower/Site development** - Regional Communications Network must be developed to Public Safety Grade specifications at 11 sites. This line item also includes the development of the twin city tower/antenna proposal and the CFMAS simulcast system. Total = \$1,874,000
- **Broadband PTT applications** - **These integration strategies are required** to extend PTT communications to command and administrative users and extend the capability beyond the coverage of the Regional Communications System. Assumes gateway to LMR network and licenses for 50 users for 5 years. Total \$154,000
- **Broadband PTT applications**- This is necessary to enhance response for Fire (building pre-plans), EMS (EMS Charts) and Law Enforcement (Situational Awareness). Total = \$150,000
- **Fiber link** - The purchase of a redundant fiber link between the Montpelier Dispatch Center and the Barre City Dispatch Center, Addresses the existing single point of failure resulting from the current signal fiber connection. Total \$100,000
- **Operating expenses** - This seeding strategy is necessary to bridge the numerous funding cycles within the greater Washington and Orange County communities. One year of funding is requested. Total \$200,000

**Total** **\$5,438,000**

**Credit goes to Dona for gathering all the support letter needed to for this application. Credit also goes to Dan Richardson and Kim Cheney for their editing skills.**

**Washington Electric Co-Op** – I have arranged a meeting between Board Members, Televate and WEC on Thursday June 10, 2021, to discuss items of mutual interest.

**Electronic Surveys** - As of June 9<sup>th</sup>, Televate has received 30 surveys. 15 from members of Capital Fire, 3 from Barre City, 2 from Montpelier, 6 from Other Agencies (EMS and Capital Police) and 4 from Other municipalities. They are analyzing these now and will include them in their report.