



Comm. # 2 - July 9, 2024
City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia Connecticut 06401

Office of Emergency
Management

Emergency Operations Center

President Joshua Shuart
Board of Alderman
253 Main Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

July 8th, 2024

Request for Funding: Public Safety Radio Communications Upgrade

Dear President Shuart & Alderman,

As you may be aware, the various Public Safety Departments have been collaborating to affect a citywide radio upgrade. Over ten years ago, the departments collectively decided to bring communications under the Emergency Management/EOC oversight. That included combining our various service contracts and vendors under one contract to save money. I write to you as the Emergency Management Director and the Communications Project Manager seeking your support in authorizing the use of funding for this critical project.

As our equipment has aged, both fixed infrastructure and mobile/portable radios, the need for an upgrade was realized around 2018. At that time, we began to outline what was needed. The relocation of the Ansonia Police Department was first priority and funding was sought and awarded for the Dispatch Center. That project was completed in 2021.

The focus of this major upgrade is to replace the fixed-end equipment (repeaters, antennas and other components) as well as replacement of subscribers (mobile and portable radios). Most of what we have issued have outlived their life expectancy and are no longer supported. Over the past few years, the various departments have made band aid type repairs in anticipation of the combined upgrade that we are currently speaking of.

The previous major radio upgrades occurred during the following years:
Police- 2006 (entire system) 2018- (repeaters & limited portable radios)
Fire- 2003 (entire system)
EMS- 2004 (entire system) 2018- (mobile & portable radio upgrades)
Public Works- unable to determine, some mobile radios from time to time as needed

Of note, a radio system (fixed equipment) that is rated for "continuous duty" (running 24/7) average lifespan is approximately 8 years, with a 10-year maximum. Mobile and Portable radios are rated based on their replacement schedule per each manufacturer, on average 10 years. As they age out, replacement parts and batteries become difficult to obtain.

After meeting with each department, we have identified the following needs for upgrade. I will briefly outline the project. Since we began the process, we have had to add two major components:

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- The first, Ansonia Public Works, we had not planned on including in the project, however earlier this year their main system failed and could not be repaired. We have loaner equipment in its place now as a temporary fix.
- Second, it was discovered since the radio system operates on an IP based network for backhaul communications, there was an issue having two dispatch consoles on different networks operating on the Fire and EMS frequencies. This is because Ansonia Police have their dispatch console for Police Dispatch and both Fire/EMS are dispatched by Northwest CT Public Safety which is on the State of CT Land Mobile Radio Network. We have reviewed the various options and recommend that the city merges our radio network with the State of CT's. This will allow seamless integration of both dispatch consoles and will afford Ansonia PD the opportunity to access additional radio channels on their Dispatch console without having to add additional radios. Noteworthy, by joining the State's radio network, we will be required to have a Service Agreement to keep our network equipment compatible with the State's. This will be accomplished by expanding our annual service agreement to ensure compliance with certain hardware/software requirements. There is an increase in annual costs and after discussing this with the mayor's staff, we have determined for long-term sustainability this is the best option.

A very brief overview/summary of the proposed Fixed Network Equipment upgrade, broken out as best as possible by Department is included below:
(note some equipment is shared across Departments)

1. Police
 - a. Upgrade existing 2 repeaters to P25 Digital as well as a digital comparator
2. Fire
 - a. Change operating frequency from VHF to UHF
 - b. Replace all fixed end equipment with new P25 Digital repeaters and comparator
 - c. Replace all unsupported equipment
3. EMS
 - a. Replace all fixed end equipment with new P25 Digital repeaters and comparator
 - b. Replace all unsupported equipment
4. Public Works
 - a. Change operating frequency from VHF to UHF
 - b. Replace all fixed end equipment with new P25 Digital repeater
5. Dispatch/EOC
 - a. Upgrade to most current software
 - b. Upgrade software and hardware to State of CLMRN requirements
 - c. Integration of the NWCTPS console

A very brief overview/summary of the proposed subscriber equipment (mobile/portable radios) upgrade, broken out as best as possible by Department is included below:

1. Police
 - a. 27 VHF portable radios and accessories
 - b. 14 All Band portable radios and accessories
 - c. Replacement of all portable radio batteries and accessories for existing APX portable radios purchased in 2018
 - d. 2 additional rack chargers and 15 new desktop chargers
 - e. 14 VHF Mobile radios for cruisers/detective cars
 - f. 11 7/800 Mobile radios for cruisers
 - g. 3 All Band mobiles for Administrative Vehicles
2. Fire
 - a. 65 UHF portable radios (Apparatus and Officers)
 - b. 8 All Band portable radios (Officers seat on Apparatus)
 - c. Spare batteries, Speaker Microphones, Leather cases & straps
 - d. 28 single chargers, 7 rack chargers and 6 vehicle chargers
 - e. 5 UHF Portables and accessories (Fire Police)
 - f. 9 UHF Dual Head UHF Mobile Radios (Apparatus)
 - g. 3 UHF Mobile Radios (Apparatus)
 - h. 5 All Band Mobile Radios (Chiefs Personal Vehicles)
 - i. 10 All Band Mobile Radios (Apparatus Mutual Aid Radios)
 - j. 3 Base/Control Stations (PD, NWCTPS, Station 2)
 - k. 9 Dual Band Digital Fire Pagers
 - l. 98 UHF Digital Fire Pagers
 - m. 5 Station Alert modules
 - n. 8 Digital Scanners
3. EMS
 - a. 1 Dual Head UHF Mobile
 - b. 2 Remote Mount UHF Mobile
 - c. 2 Remote Mount All Band Mobiles
 - d. 1 Dual Head All Band Mobile
 - e. 2 Tri Head All Band Mobile
 - f. 5 Flash upgrades to existing equipment
 - g. 2 Base/Control Stations (ARMS HQ & NWCTPS)
 - h. 5 Dual Band Digital Pagers
 - i. 15 UHF Digital Pagers
4. Public Works
 - a. 12 UHF Portable Radios
 - b. 28 UHF Mobile Radios
 - c. 3 All Band Mobile Radios
 - d. 3 Base/Control Stations (PW, Scale, PD)
 - e. 3 Dual Band Pagers
5. Dispatch/EOC
 - a. 3 All Band Portables

- b. 3 All Band Mobiles
- c. 3 UHF Mobiles
- d. 11 Scanners

IN CONCLUSION:

On behalf of all Departments involved, I am requesting that in accordance with State of CT Master Contract 99ITZ001MA, leveraging any available other State Contracts, incentives or discounts; Mayor Cassetti be authorized to execute any and all documents not to exceed \$2,241,905.67 for the Public Safety Radio Communications 2024 Upgrade for the Police, Fire, EMS, Dispatch/EOC and Public Works Departments & Integration to the State of Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network.

Without the collaborative efforts of each of the Departments involved, this project would not have come to fruition and would likely have cost the City of Ansonia additional monies if it was not done together. A special "Thank you" to the following individuals who have helped along the way: Mayor Cassetti, Sheila O'Malley, John Marini, Kurt Miller, Rich Bshara, The Past and Current Commissioners of the Ansonia Police Department, Chief Andrew Cota (Ret.), Chief Wayne Williams, LT James Frolish, LT Patrick Lynch, Executive Assistant Dawn LaBaire, Sergeant Michael Castillo, The Past and Current Commissioners of the Ansonia Fire Department, Past Chief Dan Mudry, Chief Alex Horjatschun, Assistant Chief Anthony Delucia, Assistant Chief Ken Pawlak, Assistant Chief Tim Lembo, Fire Marshal Darrick Lundeen, Past and Current Commissioners of the Ansonia Rescue & Medical Services, Chief Mike Warhola, Superintendent Tim Holman, Foreman Michael Eheman, Administrative Assistant Darlene Zawisza, Assistant EMD David Geloso, Facilities Director Robert Evans as well as Ansonia Resident Jonathan Awalt who have all given their time and effort to this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I will be available at this meeting as well for any further information. My email address is JHeon@ansoniac.org.

Best Regards,

Jared P. Heon
Communications Project Manager
Emergency Management Director
City of Ansonia