



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

April 12, 2022

9:30am

Remote Via Zoom:

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 895 5907 8408

Passcode: 933533

Dial In: 646 876 9923

Call to Order

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:34am.

Approval of Minutes

- March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by J. Brickett.

- Approve the March 8, 2021 meeting minutes.
 - Seconded by Chief M. Mansfield.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, M. Collins, T. Dechene, J. Griffin, Chief M. Mansfield, Chief J. Targ
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

Budget Updates

- FFY19
 - Current deadline is June 30, 2022.
 - EOPSS is receiving an extension from FEMA, and MAPC plans to request an extension from EOPSS.
 - The goal is still to spend down FFY19 by June 30, 2022.
 - The ECFCA UHF Receivers project has \$58,017.02 in FFY19, but that is the only project remaining and it is in motion.
- FFY20
 - Current deadline is July 31, 2022 but MAPC is requesting an extension to June 2023.
 - B.02 COML/COMT Training has \$24,364. Per Dave Spinosa, that funding isn't needed anymore, so it is available to be reallocated.
- FFY21
 - Grant End Date: July 31, 2023

MOTION put forth by J. Brickett.

- Un-allocate all FFY20 B.02 COML/COMT Training (\$24,364) and move to general Interoperability line.

- Seconded by J. Griffin.
- In Favor: J. Brickett, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, M. Collins, T. Dechene, J. Griffin, Chief M. Mansfield, Chief J. Targ
- Opposed: None.
- Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

Project Updates

- *ECFCA UHF Receivers*
 - ICIP/SIEC and PJ/EOPSS approval were received last week.
 - MAPC is meeting with T. Dechene to discuss the EHP.
- *Fire District 5 and 15 Portable Radio Cache*
 - Engraving is done and payment is being processed.
 - Thank you to D. Spinosa and T. Dechene and NSR911 staff for their help on the project. The equipment will be shown at the ECFCA meeting tomorrow.
 - The PJ was submitted for the three 6-bank chargers.
 - 1 charger and 1 speaker mic are still unaccounted for. MAPC is working with the vendors and POCs to look into tracking and delivery information.
- *Fire District 6 Communications Upgrades*
 - The IFB is published and due April 22, 2022.
- *Microwave Routers and Switches*
 - MAPC is meeting with T. Dechene to discuss the PJ/ICIP.
- *Pow Wow Hill Tower*
 - This project is still on hold. The originally proposed land will not be able to be used, and alternate locations are being reviewed.
- *ECCOPA Radio Cache*
 - This project is waiting on Motorola's PSE01 contract to be finalized.
- *Littleton All-Band Console Upgrades*
 - EHP approval has now been received.
 - The project is waiting on Motorola's PSE01 contract to be finalized.
 - There is construction involved in this project so there are some additional considerations like prevailing wage, but we should still be able to purchase through a State Contract procurement.
- *Metrofire North District Feasibility Study*
 - PJ has been submitted to EOPSS.
 - A draft scope was included in the meeting packet and the Committee provided the following feedback:
 - Have more descriptive/specific tasks so that vendor work will meet standards.
 - Re: "research existing radio infrastructure facilities" - Ask them to identify free site options wherever possible.
 - Ask the consultant to develop a phased plan (ex: 5-year plan).
 - Identify workable phases of equipment procurement to grow incrementally.
 - Research expected pricing of each phase.
- *NERAC Radio Programming Initiative*
 - ICIP/SIEC and PJ/EOPSS approval were received last week.

- And MOU will be required between MAPC/NERAC and the COML/COMT's departments outlining the agreement for BF/OT and the responsibilities and liabilities of each party.
- MAPC is looking into creating one document that combines a request for programming assistance with the signoffs that the work is complete (from Interop Committee, department of the COML/COMT, and department the works is done for).
 - The Committee discussed that the following information should be included on the request form:
 - How many portables/radios need programming?
 - What makes/models?
 - What disciplines would be using them? (Ex: Police, Fire, EMS)
 - Where are they located?
 - Office use only – which COML/COMT is assigned to it.
- MAPC will look into what caps on BF/OT would apply to this project
- This project received accolades at the last SIEC meeting, and other regions were encouraged to look into similar programs.

Fire District 14 Equipment Disposal

- *Motorola 7500 Consoles*
 - MAPC is working on the MOU and will send questions to C. Ryan and Chief J. Targ.
- *ARINC Equipment*
 - There was no interest in the equipment from the Council.
 - The deadline for stakeholders to notify me if interested is April 18.

NERAC Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) Updates

- MAPC is working on updates and evolving questions, and obtaining information from stakeholders, while balancing with ensuring that funded projects are moving along.
- At the last meeting the Committee asked:
 - Do other regions have a TICP and how to do they manage it? – Other regions do not have comprehensive plans for keeping a TICP up to date.
 - Does the Full Council need to approve the TICP? – No, just the Interop Committee.

Interoperable Communications at NERAC Trainings and Exercises

- There have been recent discussions regarding ensuring that interoperable communications are a larger component of trainings and exercises across all regions.
- MAPC is reviewing this with the SWIC and EOPSS and will report back with further guidance.

FFY22 Plan Development

- EOPSS is awaiting the NOFO before sending out official guidance, but they have shared preliminary information.
- Regions can expect near-level funding.
- The six national priority areas are:
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places (3% minimum spend)
 - Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies, including DHS (3% minimum spend)

- Combating domestic violent extremism (3% minimum spend)
- NEW: Enhancing community preparedness and resilience (3% minimum spend)
- Enhancing cybersecurity (no minimum)
- NEW: Enhancing election security (no minimum spend)
- The FY22 Project Request Form has been sent to all committees and stakeholders.
- There will likely be a tight turnaround for the deadlines from EOPSS, so Committee members should come to the May meeting ready to discuss ideas and put a project list together.

New Business Unforeseen by the Chair

- None.

MOTION put forth by Chief M. Mansfield.

- Adjourn the meeting.
 - Seconded by J. Griffin.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, M. Foster, D. Frizzell, M. Collins, T. Dechene, J. Griffin, Chief M. Mansfield, Chief J. Targ
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**** Next Meeting: May 10, 2022 ****

ATTENDEES-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jon Brickett: Executive Director, Northeast EMS Inc.*
 Mike Collins: Commissioner, Beverly Public Services & Engineering
 Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department
 Mark Foster: Director, Beverly Emergency Management*
 Dave Frizzell: Executive Director, MetroFire
 Joe Griffin: Director of Operations, Greater Boston Police Council
 Chief Michael Mansfield: Andover Fire Rescue
 Chris Ryan: Deputy Director, North Shore Regional 911 Center*
 Chief Joe Targ: Westford Fire Department

ATTENDEES-OTHER

Lauren Sacks: MAPC

ABSENT

Charlie Dunne: Greater Boston Police Council
 Chief Rich Patterson: Dracut Fire Department; Preparedness Coordinator, Northeast EMS, Inc.
 Brian Roberts: Fire District 14
 Dave Spinosa: Communications Director, Essex County Sheriff's Department*
 Michael Torosian: Ashland Fire Department

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- FFY19, FFY20, and FFY21 Budget Updates
- NERAC Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
- Metrofire North District Feasibility Study Draft Scope