



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 12, 2024

9:30 am

Remote Video Conference Call

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 842 4473 5664

Passcode: 785884

Dial In: 646 876 9923

▪ **Call to Order**

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

▪ **Approval of Minutes**

- February 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by M. Mansfield.

- Approve the February 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
- Seconded by R. Patterson.
 - In favor: A. Chadis, M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, J. Targ.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

▪ **Budget Updates**

- Copies of the FFY20-FFY23 budgets were provided in the meeting packet.
- FFY20 – Grant End Date: June 30, 2024 – MAPC expects to close shortly.
- FFY21 – Grant End Date: June 30, 2024
- FFY22 – Grant End Date: July 31, 2024.
- FFY23 – Grant End Date: July 31, 2025.

▪ **Project Updates**

- *ECCOPA Radio Cache Transport Cases*
 - MAPC received invoices from the vendor and T. Dechene confirmed receipt of items. This project is complete.
- *ECFCA UHF Receivers*
 - This project is not eligible for Sole Source procurement, so MAPC is developing specs for a competitive procurement. Questions were sent to T. Dechene. They are custom items so specifications must be very clear about what is needed but not limit it to a specific vendor.
- *ECFCA Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios*
 - This project is in the EHP phase for the two sites of Beverly and Rockport. Beverly has provided all EHP information and Rockport Asst Fire Chief Ives has been in touch with Police Chief Horvath and regarding EHP information.

- For Rockport:
 - They will need to core a new hole for the cable, so the EHP will require pictures of the exact location.
 - The radio will be installed in the back room at their PD dispatch center so it will be available on the touch screen as a resource.
 - The existing D5 UHF antenna will be removed to create space for the new VHF antenna.
 - C. Ryan, T. Dechene, and/or M. Mansfield can discuss with Rockport and/or help obtain EHP pictures.
 - The committee mentioned looking into an Intermod study.
 - *Field Comm Units 20 & 60 Upgrades*
 - MAPC is drafting the scope for installation procurement.
 - *FD-6 MW Groton to Westford*
 - MAPC heard back from DLS regarding several questions, and can now re-release the IFB as a 30B procurement with prevailing wage requirements.
 - Due to the cost, the IFB needs to be published in the Goods & Services bulletin which goes out next Monday, and the IFB will be due approximately 2 weeks after that.
 - *GBPC Microwave Routers and Switches*
 - MAPC sent some questions to T. Dechene regarding the specifications.
 - *Littleton All-Band Console Upgrades*
 - This project work is complete, but MAPC is still working through prevailing wage documentation issues with the vendor.
 - *Metrofire North District Radio Common Platform*
 - MAPC has received the FFY23 Program Management PJ approval from EOPSS and can now move forward with working on the PJ and ICIP for this FFY23 funded project.
 - *NERAC Radio Programming Initiative*
 - The call for COMLs/COMTs was advertised through the NERAC newsletter, website, and social media.
 - MAPC will reach out to previously interested COMLs/COMTs with the new contract information.
 - Please send information on anyone else interested!
- **FFY24 Budget Planning**
 - Review of Project Requests
 - 8 interoperability project requests were submitted, totaling \$482,523.85.
 - The Committee determined that some projects did not meet the regional requirement for eligibility, and supported funding others on the A-List.

MOTION put forth by M. Mansfield.

- Suggest the following Interoperability A-List budget to the Full Council for inclusion in the FFY24 Plan:

- Seconded by D. Spinosa.
 - In Favor: A. Chadis, M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, J. Targ.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
 - A regional/statewide Public Safety Communications Exercise is being held on May 1st, 2024, at MEMA Reg 2 in Franklin, MA.
 - The SIEC Policy and Procedures committee is considering guidance on the following:
 - Ensuring new purchases are ready to operate on the new COMIRs, such as advising entities to include all COMIRs features with original procurement (vendors give discounts if added at the time of purchase, while upgrades later can increase overall cost).
 - Ensuring network redundancy if there is failure, and that devices won't be locked so they can take advantage of redundancy.

- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - School Radio Best Practices will be back on the agenda next month.

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by M. Mansfield.
 - In favor: A. Chadis, M. Collins, T. Dechene, M. Mansfield, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, D. Spinosa, J. Targ.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: April 9, 2024 ***

Virtual

ATTENDEES-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department
 Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering*
 Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department
 Chief Michael Mansfield: Andover Fire Rescue
 Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union*
 Chief Rich Patterson: Dracut Fire Department
 Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center*
 Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department*
 Chief Joe Targ: Westford Fire Department

ATTENDEES-OTHER

Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department
Chief Scott Carrigan: Salisbury Fire Department
Lauren Sacks: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

ABSENT

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch
Dave Frizzell: Metrofire
Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council
Mike Kass: Northeast Regional Ambulance Service

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 2024 Meeting Agenda
- February 2023 Meeting Minutes
- FFY20, FFY21, FFY22, and FFY23 Budget Updates
- FFY24 Interoperability Project Requests Packet
- FFY24 Interoperability Suggested Preliminary Budget