



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 11, 2025

9:30 am

Remote Video Conference Call

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 816 2279 3036

Passcode: 529227

Dial In: 646 876 9923

- **Call to Order**
 - Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:35am.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - February 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson

- Approve the January 2025 Meeting Minutes.
 - Seconded by T. Dechene
 - In favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
 - The motion passed.
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- Budget Updates (9:35am)
 - FFY21 – Grant End Date: June 30th, 2025
 - FFY22 – Grant End Date: July 31st, 2025 - \$4,654.74 unallocated
 - FFY23 – Grant End Date: July 31st, 2025 - \$3,700.00 unallocated
 - FFY24 – Grant End Date: June 30th, 2026
 - “Full Council” NEMLEC section will be included in the Interop budget updates going forward because the IMT Command Vehicle will be overseen by the Interop committee too.
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- Project Updates (9:40am)
 - *BAPERN Simulcast Upgrade*
 - Noted at the last meeting as a priority with quick purchase (no install).
 - MAPC is working on approval documents.
 - *ECFCA UHF Wide Area Network Upgrades*
 - Approved at the March SIEC meeting and received EOPSS approval.
 - MAPC will be procuring from Tessco through PSE01 state contract.
 - Quote for ICIP was \$56,848.75 which is \$12,818.83 over budget.

MOTION put forth by M. Mansfield

- Transfer \$4,588.42 from B.07 Field Comm 20/60 Upgrades to B.02 ECFCA UHF Wide Area Upgrades, and allocate \$4,654.74 from FFY22 H. Interop Unallocated and \$3,700 from FFY23 C. Interop Unallocated to support this project.
 - Seconded by J. Griffin
 - In favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
 - The motion passed.
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- *ECFCA VHF Wide Area Network Upgrades*
 - Drafted specifications are under review with feedback from T. Dechene and C. Ryan.
 - *Field Comm Units 20 & 60 Upgrades*
 - RFQ received 2 quotes: one from All Comm, and the low quote from Northeast Two Way Radio for \$5,000.
 - PO is being signed at MAPC.
 - *FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders*
 - NERAC portion is complete.
 - Keeping on agenda to monitor installation.
 - *FD-6 Field Comm Portable Radio Cache*
 - Noted at the last meeting as a priority with quick purchase (no install).
 - MAPC is working on approval documents.
 - *FD-6 MW Groton to Westford*
 - All equipment arrived, and PO was issued for the cabinet.
 - *GBPC Microwave Routers and Switches*
 - T. Dechene sent info to answer all my questions.
 - Procurement is being drafted/reviewed by MAPC team.
 - *Metrofire North District Radio Common Platform*
 - PJ was approved by EOPSS.
 - MAPC will be procuring from Motorola through PSE01 state contract.
 - Quote is due to MAPC by 3/13.
 - *NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle*
 - Will be purchasing in 3 stages:
 - Chassis Purchase
 - Technology Purchases
 - Vehicle Outfitting and Tech Integration
 - MAPC is working on approval documents – will need approval for all 3 stages before we start the first.
 - *NERAC Radio Programming Initiative*
 - For MOTOROLA Radios: (½-day courses)
 - February 21, 2025 from 1pm-4pm in Lexington
 - February 28, 2025 from 10am-1pm in Lexington
 - For KENWOOD radios: (2-day courses)
 - March 4-5, 2025 from 9am-4pm in North Andover
 - March 6-7, 2025 from 9am-4pm in Westford
 - Approximately 50 participants from 46 agencies across 34 municipalities.
 - High interest and very long waitlists for both Motorola 3-hr classes. Small waitlist for the Tues/Wed Kenwood class, and didn't fill Thurs/Fri Kenwood class.

- Maximum possible BF/OT reimbursement based on applications would be \$16,100 (will likely be much less).
 - The Committee discussed BF reimbursement for the 3-hr Motorola classes, because the NERAC form instructions don't address BF for events under 4-hrs. The Committee was supportive of allowing 4-hrs of BF reimbursement based on typical shift schedules.
 - MAPC will be sending out a feedback survey and BF/OT reimbursement instructions.
 - The Committee recommended pursuing additional classes in the May timeframe and looking into whether Motorola vendors could provide courses for reasonable cost.
- **School Radio Best Practices**
 - The final versions of the formatted documents are in the meeting packet.
 - Interop Committee and EOPSS have already approved the content.
 - On NERAC Full Council agenda for approval on Thursday, then documents can be shared throughout the region.
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
 - D. Spinosa reported:
 - The SIEC had positive feedback about the School Radio Best Practices documents, and SWIC R. Fiske would like to distribute statewide.
 - Amended ICIP and new quote for *ECFCA UHF Wide Area Network Upgrades* was approved.
 - C. Ryan reported:
 - Last Friday was the deadline for feedback on the drafted revision of the MIFOG. The final version will be available soon.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - None.

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by M. Mansfield.
 - o In favor: All
 - o Opposed: None
 - o Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: April 8, 2025 ***
(Returning to in-person meetings.)

ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department
 Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering*
 Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department
 Dave Frizzell: Metrofire
 Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council
 Michael Mansfield: Essex County Fire Chiefs Association

Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union*
Rich Patterson: Region 3 EMS
Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department
Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center*
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department*
Matt Svatek: Fire District 6

ATTENDEES - OTHER

Ryan Higgins: Fire District 15
Sarah Malloy: EOPSS / OGR
Lauren Sacks: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch
Mike Kass: Northeast Regional Ambulance Service

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 2025 Meeting Agenda
- February 2025 Meeting Minutes
- FFY21, FFY22, FFY23, and FFY24 Interoperability Committee Budgets
- NERAC School Radio Best Practices Flyer - Draft
- NERAC Technical Considerations for School Radios Document - Draft