



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Interoperability Committee Meeting

**January 13, 2026**

**9:30 am**

**Virtual via Zoom**

[Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID: 867 9412 0989**

**Passcode: 422997**

- **Call to Order**

- Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM

- **Approval of Minutes**

- December 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by S. Morrison

- Approve the December 2025 Meeting Minutes.
- Seconded by R. Patterson
  - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

- **Budget Updates**

- FFY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2026
  - Interop needs to complete \$261,557.09 of projects by this deadline.
  - Funding for FFY23 projects that cannot close out by July 31<sup>st</sup> will be reallocated soon if they can't be swapped.
- FFY24 Grant End Date: Extended from June 30, 2026 to July 31, 2027
- FFY25: TBD
  - Contracts from FEMA are under review at EOPSS with deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup> for them to accept.
- FFY26: The Committee will discuss pre-planning in February

- **Project Updates**

- *ECFCA / NSR911 VHF Combiner Upgrade*
  - This is large allocation with July deadline, and will require EHP approval.
  - T. Dechene previously noted this needs further discussion and engineering work, and is not ready to move forward.
  - A. Chadis suggested purchasing the combiner first if ready to move forward, and antenna later. MAPC will follow up with T. Dechene on this option.
- *ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy*
  - Scopes of work from original circuit installation differ and cannot be reused for this. MAPC will work on scope with C. Ryan.

- C. Ryan provided further information on the requirements, including surge protection and site walkthrough for vendors to confirm space, requirements, and installation for EHP.
- *ECFCA GPS Clocks*
  - The PJ and EHP have been submitted to EOPSS.
  - MAPC can begin procurement as soon as approval is received.
- *ECFCA Mini CRD*
  - Available from FirstNet through State Contract ITT72, but requires a FirstNet account which MAPC is not eligible for.
  - ECFCA previously offered to assist with account.
  - MAPC's procurement team is looking into logistics with FirstNet.
- *ECFCA Mobile Broadband Kit*
  - MAPC was told over the summer that it would be available on State Contract soon.
  - MAPC's procurement team is looking into whether it is on contract now and whether it will have similar requirements for FirstNet account.
- *ECFCA MW Middleton-Topsfield*
  - Structural analysis and licensing were done separately, what is needed now is installation of the MW link.
  - MAPC will contact T. Dechene to obtain quotes for SIEC/ICIP approval.
- *ECFCA Pow Wow Fiber Connection*
  - MAPC will contact T. Dechene to obtain quotes for SIEC/ICIP approval.
- *EMS Repeater and Multi-Discipline Co-Location*
  - MAPC will contact T. Dechene to obtain quotes for SIEC/ICIP approval.
- *FD-5/15 Simulcast UHF*
  - Equipment was ordered in November. MAPC has been requesting ETA from Cyber Comm/Motorola.
- *FD-6 Simulcast Receiver Upgrades*
  - ICIP and PJ were approved.
  - MAPC is working on EHP and procurement specifications/scope of work.
- *MW Lawrence Gen – Holt Hill*
  - The ICIP and PJ were approved.
  - This is expected to require additional funding, potentially from BAPER.N.
  - Then MAPC will working on EHP and procurement specifications/scope of work.
- *NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle Upfitting*
  - The vehicle and radios were procured.
  - The upfitting, laptops, and networking equipment are remaining.
  - D. Spinosa has now received the license plate and can bring van to determine exact upfitting needs for MAPC to develop a scope.
  - Specs for laptop procurement have been drafted and approved by D. Spinosa.
  - MAPC is confirming laptop approval with EOPSS, and then will procure.
- *Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study*
  - PJ has been approved by EOPSS, procurement next.
  - MAPC's procurement team provided feedback on the drafted scope of work, and will follow up with J. Collins-Brown.
  - C. Ryan will provide sanitized version of the Essex County Regional Emergency Communications Center Site Report as "Appendix A" as a format example for the evaluation.
- *Wide Area Network VHF Consolette Radios (Beverly/Rockport)*

- MAPC will email outstanding scope of work questions to C. Ryan and T. Dechene today.
- **New Project Considerations**
  - *FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Radios and Recorders Installation*
    - In November 2023, NERAC purchased 4 all-band mobile radios and 2 logging recorders for the FD-5/15 Mobile Gateways.
    - NERAC funded equipment only; ECFCA initially planned to handle installation internally but this has not been completed yet. The Committee was considering hiring a vendor instead.
    - Scope would include rack mounting, cabling, recorder setup, and programming.
    - C. Ryan will obtain quote to determine if NERAC can allocate funds.
  - *Replacing NERAC Cache Radios*
    - The NERAC Cache XTS radios are old and no longer compatible with Salem after encryption. This is a Cache item, but would require Interoperability Committee input.
    - Replacement items could include radios, lapel mics, spare batteries, and bank chargers.
    - M. Collins will gather data on how many are needed and borrowing history, and the Committee will revisit this at the February meeting as part of FFY26 pre-planning.
- **State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates**
  - A. Chadis attended the last SIEC meeting and NERAC's project submission was approved.
  - The SWIC will be sending out information on a COMU event later this month.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
  - None.

MOTION put forth by S. Morrison

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by D. Frizzell
  - In favor: S. Brown, A. Chadis, M. Collins, D. Frizzell, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, M. Svatek
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

\* Next Meeting: February 10, 2026 - Virtual\*

**ATTENDEES - COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Stephanie Brown: Beverly Public Safety Dispatch

Alex Chadis: Newton Fire Department

Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering\*

Dave Frizzell: Metrofire

Joe Griffin: Greater Boston Police Council

Ryan Higgins: Fire District 15  
Scott Morrison: Tri-Town School Union\*  
Rich Patterson: Region 3 EMS  
Graham Rowe: North Andover Fire Department  
Chris Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center\*  
Matt Svatek: Fire District 6

**ATTENDEES - OTHER**

Sarah Malloy: EOPSS / OGR  
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

**ABSENT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tyler Dechene: Middleton Fire Department  
Matt McKay: Essex County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department\*

**The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:**

- January 13, 2025 Meeting Agenda
- December 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- FFY23 and FFY24 Interoperability Committee Budgets