



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Interoperability Committee Meeting

February 10, 2026

9:30 am

Virtual via Zoom

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 831 6820 7183

Passcode: 252240

- Call to Order
 - Chair C. Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM
- Approval of Minutes
 - January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by J. Griffin

- Approve the January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - Seconded by T. Dechene
 - In favor: A. Chadis, M. Collins, T. Dechene, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
 - The motion passed.
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- Budget Updates
 - FFY23 Grant End Date: July 31, 2026
 - Interop needs to complete \$261,557.09 of projects by this deadline.
 - We'll need to evaluate feasibility of all projects, transfer where possible, and potentially re-allocate if enough projects can't close out.
 - FFY24 Grant End Date: July 31, 2027
 - FFY25: TBD
 - Funding has been on hold while under review with EOPSS/FEMA.
 - FFY26: MAPC has not received information on expected timing, but the Committee will discuss pre-planning.
 - Project Updates
 - ECFCA / NSR911 VHF Combiner Upgrade
 - VHF combiner for NSR911 tower to integrate with the FD-5 Communications Center and allow for usage of multiple channels off the same antenna.
 - This is large allocation with July deadline.
 - It will require SIEC and EHP approval.
 - There is a potential change in location and then design is required, so this project is not ready to move forward yet.
 - ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy
 - Provide a secondary electrical circuit with backup service to the communications equipment shelter at NSR911.

- RFQ is being revised to add additional circuit breakers and outlets.
- This will require EHP, but procurement will be conducted first because we will need information from vendor site visit to determine install details for EHP.
- This project may require additional funding with the increased scope.
- (Transfers were combined in single motion at the end of the meeting for efficiency.)
- ECFCA GPS Clocks
 - Purchase of two GPS Clocks (frequency reference) and associated antenna/cabling to be installed at Long Hill and NSR911 to provide time synchronization for all aspects of the ECFCA radio system.
 - The PJ and EHP were submitted to EOPSS – FEMA requested further EHP information and revisions were submitted.
 - State Contract PSE01 procurement once approval is received.
 - \$25,000 allocated, preliminary quote \$20,172.
- ECFCA Mini CRD (see MBK below)
- ECFCA Mobile Broadband Kit (combined update with MiniCRD)
 - MAPC, Chief M. McKay and Chief P. Parisi from ECFCA, and FirstNet representatives had few calls to discuss procurement logistics.
 - During those discussions, some questions came up regarding whether these were the right items to meet the needs, and whether ECFCA was equipped to pay the associated operations costs.
 - ECFCA decided not to move forward with these purchases.
 - \$48,419 now available in FFY23
 - Committee will need a new plan to ensure spend down by July.
- ECFCA MW Middleton-Topsfield
 - Structural analysis and licensing were done separately, what is needed now is installation of the MW link.
 - Just installation of previously purchased equipment, so should not need SIEC approval.
 - MAPC will look into past projects and find the information to determine if EHP was done and still applicable, and other details to submit new PJ and develop procurement scope of work.
- ECFCA Pow Wow Fiber Connection
 - Provide redundant backhaul for the ECFCA and BAPERN UHF and VHF simulcast systems, including 1000 feet of fiber and 2 Cisco 9300 Series switches for laterals to connect the BAPERN Tower and equipment shelter to the Amesbury Fire and Police radio antenna tower and equipment shelter.
 - PJ is with EOPSS for approval.
 - No EHP because it will use existing conduits.
 - Scope of Work draft and questions are with T. Dechene.
 - \$40,000 allocated, preliminary quote for ~\$20,000.
- EMS Repeater and Multi-Discipline Co-Location
 - Broken into a few phases to Phase 1 was procuring receiver and base radios – complete.
 - Phase 2 for 3 antennas – PJ is with EOPSS for approval. Will also need EHP.
 - Phase 3 would be combiner rehab – requires TXRX engineering and would not close out in FFY23. Expected cost ~\$5,000-\$10,000.

- Currently \$20,000 allocated, quote for Phase 2 only was for \$20,000 + \$5,000 if prevailing wage will be required.
- FD-5/15 Simulcast UHF
 - Equipment to transition FD-5/15 from a two-site standalone to a simulcast system and establish a UHF command and control channel while retaining the current VHF mutual aid dispatch channel.
 - Equipment was delivered and the invoice should be paid out of FFY23 to help towards closeout.
 - (Transfers were combined in single motion at the end of the meeting for efficiency.)
- FD-6 Simulcast Receiver Upgrades
 - Upgrade two receivers which reached end of life, add simulcast to three transmit sites, and replace the mobile radio which serves as the VHF tie with a base radio meant for this purpose.
 - ICIP and PJ were approved.
 - EHP has been submitted to EOPSS for FEMA approval.
 - MAPC is working on scope/specs for procurement once approval is received, and will send questions to Matt Svatek.
- MW Lawrence Gen – Holt Hill
 - Replacement of the unlicensed legacy NERAC/BAPERN link with an upgraded licensed link, replacement of antennas, radios, cabling, and FCC coordination and licensing on both ends.
 - The ICIP and PJ were approved.
 - MAPC is working on EHP and procurement specifications/scope of work.
 - NERAC has \$75,000 allocated, but the preliminary quote came in at \$95,869.47. Additional \$20,869.47 may be needed.
 - (Transfers were combined in single motion at the end of the meeting for efficiency.)
- NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle Upfitting
 - The remaining items:
 - Laptops and Networking Equipment: combined into one RFQ, specs approved by D. Spinosa, final questions from procurement team sent to Dave, will be sent to vendors this week.
 - MegaFi Mobile HPUE: FirstNet item, similar purchasing challenges as MiniCRD and MBK in that MAPC isn't eligible for an account. MAPC is looking into NEMLEC purchasing and being reimbursed by NERAC.
 - Van Upfitting: D. Spinosa provided a quote and scope outline. The vendor claims to be on State Contract so we are looking at that option.
 - Based on preliminary quotes for all of these, we are looking closer to \$75,000.
- Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study
 - Hiring a consultant to conduct a radio feasibility study looking at line of site to eastern Essex County to determine feasibility of utilizing the Topsfield DPW water tank vs. construct new tower attached to DPW.
 - Scope was under review with MAPC's procurement team, a bit of internal back-and-forth, this week I will be sending final questions to Chief Collins-Brown.
- Wide Area Network VHF Console Radios (Beverly/Rockport)

- Purchase and installation of VHF console radios, antennas, and cabling in Beverly and Rockport to allow for a control point channel and separate wide area network.
 - After the last Interop meeting I sent some of my questions to Tyler, integrated his replies, and sent to MAPC procurement team.
 - Will send draft and questions to all project stakeholders for final input.
- Radio Communications Checklist Review
 - ASHER Tabletop Exercise
 - Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response TTX, with main participation from Acton, Boxborough, Groton, Littleton.
 - NERAC hired a consultant to plan the exercise and is paying BF/OT for participants. Initial Planning Meeting occurred, and Mid-Term Planning meeting in a few weeks. Planned date is March 23rd.
 - Scenario will be homegrown violent extremist attack on at a school/polling site, on an election day when school is in session.
 - Checklist for Committee review and determine any guidance/support.
 - D. Spinosa will reach out to Acton regarding MA Tactical Channel Plan and 205 process.
- 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.
 - (Transfers were combined in single motion at the end of the meeting for efficiency.)
 - 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.
 - The Committee agreed to discuss under FFY26 Pre-Planning, but it looks like the Cache Committee may have approximately \$100,000 to spend before FFY23 closeout which they could consider using towards this.
 - The cache committee suggested all-band radios, which SWIC R. Fiske advocated for as well. Consider the same make/model as the recent Kenwood All-Band radios purchased for Field Comm Units.
 - If purchased in segments, the same make/model can be procured for consistency and compatibility within the cache.
 - FFY26 Pre-Planning
 - NERAC has not yet received any guidance for FFY26, but based on the tight timeline we were given for FFY25, will likely start collecting project requests soon.
 - This discussion was tabled until March.

- State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Updates
 - CoMIRS Radio System Notice
 - SWIC R. Fiske reported that entitlements are available for the out of service radios through March 31st. Owners would need to determine what feature sets are still needed and how to transition to use them on the new system.
- New Business Unforeseen by the Chair
 - The committee discussed supporting a new project for the purchase of an 8-channel 800 MHz control station combiner for NSR911 with available funding.

MOTION put forth by R. Patterson

- Reallocate \$18,095.00 from FFY23 C.09 NSR199 VHF Combiner Upgrade to FFY23 C.12 FD-5/15 Simulcast UHF, and reallocate FFY24 C.07 FD-5/15 Simulcast UHF to a new line item for NSR911 VHF Combiner (even swap).
- Reallocate \$25,000 from FFY23 C.14 MBK and/or C.15 Mini CRD to FFY23 C.06 LGH-Holt MW.
- Reallocate \$10,000 from FFY23 C.14 MBK and/or C.15 Mini CRD to fund new project FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway installation.
- Reallocate \$10,000 from FFY23 C.14 MBK and/or C.15 Mini CRD to ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy.
- Reallocate \$12,000 to fund new project 8-channel 800 MHz control station combiner at NSR911 from FFY23 C.14 MBK and/or C.15 Mini CRD and FFY24 C.03 Pow Wow Fiber Connection balance.
- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by D. Spinosa
 - In favor: A. Chadis, M. Collins, T. Dechene, J. Griffin, R. Higgins, S. Morrison, R. Patterson, G. Rowe, D. Spinosa, M. Svatek
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

*** Next Meeting: March 10, 2026 – Virtual ***