

**Ordering Procedures and Update:**

The ordering process has been a hot topic recently and we are continuing our work with the advisory boards on defining our process. Our next meeting is scheduled for 12/10/2012.

On December 5, 2012 Motorola notified us that they have experienced internal order processing problems, and it's a specific issue between Motorola and their authorized dealers. It should be clearly understood that this is not a County issue, but specifically an issue between Motorola and their sales partners.

The contract for the purchase of radios is between Motorola and the County; however, in the spirit of cooperation, Motorola originally committed to allowing orders to flow through any authorized dealers for sales on the new system. Motorola has rescinded that commitment and we are unable to allow that process to continue. Motorola will continue working with their dealers to resolve the remaining open orders that are already in the queue.

Moving forward, processing orders through the County will allow us to have a true representation of what is being ordered for the new system and the County can better determine our financial needs. It is understood that the County technicians will need to program all radios that will operate on the system. Tracy Carl is managing the ordering procedures and he can be reached at: [bucksradioproject@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:bucksradioproject@co.bucks.pa.us)

If you need the order sheets, please contact Mike Dydak or Tracy Carl.

We have not yet finalized the funding details and rates. We anticipate having the funds available late in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013.

**2012 RDA Grants ("Casino Grant Money"):**

Per the RDA, for grants that were awarded in November 2011:

1. Funds must be committed by 12/31/2012. To be committed, the funds must be formally approved by the governing body of the municipality.
2. Orders must be submitted to Motorola by 12/31/2012.
3. Payment must be made by 3/31/2013.
4. Any grant funds not expended by 3/31/2013 will expire.

We know that many agencies have pending orders related to their expiring grants so those orders will be completed directly with those resellers. Motorola has notified their authorized resellers that moving forward, all orders should be submitted by our County staff. We will ensure that orders we receive by 12/17/2012 are submitted to Motorola by the 12/31/2012 deadline. We will require Motorola to provide us with an order confirmation.

**AFG Grant Extensions:**

Many of our fire departments have secured grant funding through the AFG program, and those grants are to be used by the first quarter of 2013. There is a tutorial on the AFG website, and we recommend you give the AFG staff at least 90 days notice from the expiration of your grant funding to insure it is reviewed and processed fully. We recommend asking for a one year extension. Please review your specific grant requirements and consult with your sponsoring agency for the details associated with your award.

A question was posed regarding the use of county funds for the match that may be necessary for grants. The County has committed to allowing those match funds with our finance plan; however, it is strongly recommended that you review the specific rules for your grant to insure that this type of loan is permissible under the rules of the grant.

**Site Acquisition Status:**

The site acquisition process continues. The RFP responses for tower mapping of county-owned towers are being evaluated now. We anticipate that the county tower sites will require enhancements to support the new system loading, but the extent of that work is not yet known.

We have completed the structural analyses for 6 tower sites and have 9 other sites in the queue.

**Change Orders Status:**

The change orders are complete and we anticipate that the Commissioners will evaluate the changes at the 12/19/2012 meeting. Once finalized, we expect the project will be on the move once again, and updates will be more frequent. Your patience with this lengthy process is greatly appreciated.

**Hiring Status for Dispatchers:**

The department has received authorization to hire 5 new dispatchers. We have received over 160 applications. Background checks are being conducted and testing and interviews will be conducted throughout January.

**Fireground:**

We are waiting for updates from Motorola's engineering team in reference to fireground monitoring in the new system. We have given direction to Motorola that this is what our fire service has asked for:

1. Radio IDs ("emergency button activation") passes through the system and be displayed both on the radios operating on the fireground and additionally at the dispatcher's console.
2. The ability to have recordings of the events that take place on the fire ground channel.
3. Dispatchers have an awareness of what's transpiring on the fireground.

We are evaluating some possible solutions for fireground; however, we must emphasize that we do not yet have something viable.

**Cutover:**

We have received questions regarding the ordering schedule and system cutover. Now that we have scrubbed the change orders, our next step will be to revising the schedule for the overall project. Once the revisions are completed, we will provide the schedule highlights through the advisory boards and on the project website.

**Encryption:**

The final plan, approved by the County Commissioners, regarding encryption has also been posted to our project website and emailed out to all of the services.