

**IMPORTANT!! 9/30/2013 – All orders due to the Bucks County Radio Department!**

**Ordering Process Information:**

The Radio Technicians continue receiving subscriber equipment. Once a complete order is assembled, your agency's contact will receive notification from the Radio Shop. We will attempt to contact your agency via email and telephone. Once your agency receives this notification, your authorized representative must contact the Bucks County Finance Department at 215-348-6564 to schedule a time to remit payment and/or sign the promissory note for your order. The Finance Department is located on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building, 55 East Court Street, Doylestown.

We ask that you provide our Finance Department with at least 24 hours notice before arrival so that the staff can prepare your paperwork. Finance will provide you with an original and copy of the Promissory Note and amortization schedule if you are opting to finance through the County. If you have partial or total payment due to the County, please bring your check for the funding, financing, and payment option you indicated on your summary order sheet. After completed, please bring all documents to the radio shop at 1265 Almshouse Road to receive your order. No order will be released without those completed documents. If you ordered an APX7000 series radio and need it programmed, please call the radio shop prior to pickup.

We have several shipments in the warehouse. If your agency has been contacted, this equipment needs to be picked up by your agency ASAP so we can make room for incoming equipment. Please arrange to pick up your radios and accessories by calling the radio shop. Bring a vehicle that is large enough to hold all of your equipment or plan for multiple vehicles depending on the size of your order.

**AFG Grants:**

Application period for AFG grants is expected to open in the early part of October. When we receive an official notification, we will pass it along.

**License Update:**

The FCC granted three of the licenses for the 700 MHz Trunked system. The Commission had questions on one remaining application. Those questions have been answered and our remaining application is working its way through the Commission now.

**Leases:**

Three law firms have been hired to participate in various pieces of the radio project. Those firms are:

1. Fox Rothschild – this firm will handle new collocations inclusive of lease reviews and zoning efforts.
2. Hill Wallack – this firm will handle all leasing, zoning and permitting work for the proposed tower site in Buckingham Township.

3. Begley, Carlin and Mandio – this firm will handle existing collocations inclusive of lease reviews and zoning efforts.
4. **The lease for the I95 site in Bensalem Township was approved at the 9/18/2013 Commissioners' meeting. We await construction drawings from Motorola for this site.**

#### **General Updates:**

Permitting and zoning application submissions are underway. We are happy to announce that our first permit was received on 9/24/2013 for the site at the 911 Center in Ivyland Borough.

The county has approved the first 9 construction drawings. All microwave test equipment orders have passed completely through the system. Site specific antenna installation documents are completed. We are waiting on confirmation of VHF paging system delivery.

#### **Cutover Work Session:**

In October, the project staff will host a meeting with a small representation from each of the three Communications Advisory Boards to begin planning for the cutover. Please be sure to communicate your questions or requests with the chairman from your advisory boards.

1. Police Communications Advisory Chairman – Fred Harran, [fharran@bensalem-township.org](mailto:fharran@bensalem-township.org)
2. EMS Communications Advisory Chairman – Jason Dowd, [jdowd@tri-hampton.org](mailto:jdowd@tri-hampton.org)
3. Fire Communications Advisory Chairman – Adam Selisker, [aselisker@ntvfc.org](mailto:aselisker@ntvfc.org)

#### **Intrinsically Safe Radios:**

Important Reminder! Be sure that you order batteries that are intrinsically safe. The County Radio Shop requires that all of the equipment that operates on our system is intrinsically safe. If you have any questions, please contact the radio shop.

#### **Non-Motorola Equipment:**

We have heard from four (4) fire departments that notified us they purchased Harris radios. When there is a site online and available, we will bring in an engineer from Harris to test their equipment on the system. We cannot test until the new site is online.

As a continued reminder, there are some important things for our emergency responders to keep in mind as they move into ordering their equipment:

1. Be certain the equipment your agency is purchasing is P25, 700 MHz, Phase 2 ready to go. We are deploying a Phase 2 network out of the gate. We are not building Phase 1 network. In order for a radio to function properly on our network, it must be TDMA.
2. County technicians will have limited capabilities to assist with routine troubleshooting on non-Motorola equipment, and at this time will be limited to programming only.

### Fire Advisory Board Q & A:

The Communications Fire Advisory Board submitted questions to the county on 9/5/2013 during their normal monthly meeting. Please review these below.

1. When will the contract pricing for the radios change?
  - a. Question sent to Motorola sales team for details. As it currently stands, 9/30/2013 is our cutoff.
  
2. AFG Submission – can the county allow time for agencies to get AFG grants submitted?
  - a. The county’s deadline is 9/30/2013 to have final orders signed and submitted. We suspect the pricing may change after this date but we await clarification from Motorola on the timing.
  - b. From Grant Writer Brian Vickers:  
*“I spoke to the AFG Section Chief on Friday, the Program Guidelines are still going through the bureaucratic channels for approval so we’re looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October for the opening of the online application.*

*This doesn’t affect the radio “reservations” that everyone is making, as long as no money changes hand between applicants and vendors and/or no one takes possession of any new radios prior to the submission date then we’re fine on sending them in still.*

*When I spoke to the Section Chief I mentioned that they’re probably going to get a lot of emergency purchase requests based on the FCC deadlines and he expects those to come in and sees them all getting rubber stamped for approval.*

*So, we can probably put the wheels in motion in November to submit the pre-award purchase approval.”*

3. Will we still be able to buy radios after 9/30/2013 and do we need to go through the county?
  - a. Yes, you will still be able to purchase radios for the system after 9/30/2013. We have asked Motorola what the internal process will be after this date and we await a response.
  
4. What’s going on with Fireground?
  - a. We continue to look for viable solutions for the fireground monitoring and recording requests. We are working with Motorola on the following details:
    - i. 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.
    - ii. The ability to have recordings of the events that take place on the fire ground channel.
    - iii. Dispatchers have an awareness of what’s transpiring on the fireground.

5. How will we switch to the D-E-F bank?
  - a. This is a programming item and will be included with the training that we provide to the users as we move into 2014.
  
6. Would the county support or authorize the use of in-building amplifiers?
  - a. Yes. There are three companies that Motorola has vetted and approved for BDA work for our customers and they provide a turnkey solution. Please let us know if you want the contact information for any of the firms. They are:
    - i. Comdex Consulting
    - ii. Connectivity Wireless Solutions
    - iii. GPD Telecom, INC
  
7. A pending question involves the warranty on the batteries. There is rumor that the batteries will not be supported by a warranty. We have asked Motorola for clarification on this issue and will report back as soon as we have an answer.
  
8. Neighboring County programming – A number of agencies along the Montgomery County border have inquired about programming radios for both Bucks and Montgomery County systems. Both counties are in the midst of deploying their systems and programming for the new radios in a standard way for both counties has not been worked out. The Radio Directors from both counties have agreed to continue working on a standard profile and we will continue to update you on that status. We are sensitive to the funding and logistic concerns with regard to this matter and will keep working on a viable solution. We remind you to review the Montgomery County Radio Project page for updates on their system as well. The link is:  
<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=1395>