

TO: Richland County Law Enforcement Committee

RE: Richland County Emergency Radio Project


The Richland Fire District Board of Directors is requesting the Richland County Board to move ahead with the proposed Option #3 in the Public Safety Radio System Assessment by the True North Consulting Group. All emergency service agencies in this county want and need a reliable county-wide communications system. For too many years this has been an issue for the emergency services agencies in Richland County. For too many years the county government has been talking about the issue and only band-aid approaches have been applied to a system that needed major surgery. It is time to stop talking and take action to repair a critical piece of county communications infrastructure.

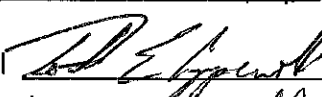
When county residents dial 911, they expect their call for help to be answered as soon as possible, not delayed by a poor communications system that cannot provide vital information to be relayed by the dispatch center to responding emergency units or between responding units. These delays could result in possible loss of life or excessive property damage that may be prevented or reduced with a reliable system. Given the topography of this area of the state, there are locations within our county where the best radio system available will not resolve the communication problem in those areas, but we can look to reduce the number of those areas with this proposal.

We realize there is a high cost to fully implement this proposal involving new radio equipment for the sheriff's dispatch center, constructing additional towers, etc. Failing to implement the proposal also comes with a cost in the form of human suffering, property loss and voter frustration. If you don't act now, then when? The communications problem will not get better by ignoring it, but it certainly will get worse.

Please consider the full funding of the afore-mentioned proposal for the safety of our county residents and our law enforcement, ambulance, fire department and first responder personnel. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Banker 

Todd Coppernoll 

Scott Wallace 

Calvin Brown 