



VIOLA FIRE DEPARTMENT

March 17, 2022

To: Richland County Law Enforcement Committee

This letter is to show total support to move forward with a new Richland County radio system for use by fire departments, EMS and law enforcement.

For many years the Viola Volunteer Fire Department has struggled with communicating to Richland County. We can't use the Sylvan Fire Tower from Viola. To date the county has not fixed the issue.

Our fire station sits in Richland County, making us a Richland County service, but we have to be paged out of Vernon County because Richland County can't. Vernon County has a radio tower just west of Viola. We want to be paged out of Richland County also, but it has never been possible.

What we need to communicate is a tower at Viola. The terrain in the north western part of Richland County is challenging. That is why we feel we need a tower here so our ability to communicate can be as dependable as what we have with Vernon County. Currently, it is not at all dependable and often unusable. We need to be able to receive pages from Richland County and be able to talk to Richland Dispatch and each other while out on calls in the Richland County portion of our coverage area.

The radio system in Richland County is unreliable. It hasn't worked right for years. It needs replaced.

I strongly request a tower in our area that our service can rely on.



Jeff Liska, Viola Fire Chief

Cc: Sheriff Clay Porter

Cc: County Board Chair