



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Robert L. Thomas, Chairman
Commissioner's Office
14 N. Main Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-261-3812
commissioners@co.franklin.pa.us

FIRST RESPONDERS PRAISE RADIO UPGRADES

July 2, 2009 — Chambersburg, PA – Franklin County Commissioners on Tuesday June 30 voted to make significant improvements to the county's 911 Communications System. A committee of first responders representing Fire, EMS and Police and municipalities has been working closely with the county since 2003 and strongly recommended the change order with Motorola. Digital Trunking technology complies with future narrow banding requirements of the Federal Communications Commission and should serve the county well into the future.

Bill Little, Chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee told the commissioners "with the proposed improvements, there is just one choice for you to make." By adopting the "Digital Trunking" system, emergency responders will be able to communicate across agencies within the county and neighboring counties. This critical improvement was highly recommended by the 9/11 commission.

Added security will also be another benefit. A police officer will be able to summon help with just the push of a button. The system utilizes a radio control channel to automatically notify dispatchers of an emergency call and identify the user. Another security feature with the new system is encryption for police agencies. This scrambling effect of the radio transmissions will prevent unauthorized monitoring of communications. A representative from the Drug Task Force told the commissioners that encryption is critical to success of certain police operations, such as drug busts. An additional security feature allows the county 911 center to remotely make a stolen radio inoperable, thereby preventing abuse.

Commissioner Bob Thomas said "It is incumbent on us to insure our Firefighters; EMS and Police agencies get the best communications capabilities available. It's a matter of public safety."

The improvements will add \$4,225 million to the radio project which will be paid for over ten years financed by Motorola's Government Financing Division.

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