

February 6, 2014 Project Update

The Orange County Department of Emergency Services has received three (3) responses from our Request for Information (RFI's) from major communications companies interested in building our new radio system. Those companies were Harris, Motorola and Cassidian. After review of each RFI, the vendors conducted presentations to members of the Orange County Interoperable Emergency Communications Governance Board at the Emergency Services Center during the month of December 2013. These presentations included a hands-on demonstration of their respective products. The Interoperability Governance Board is further reviewing the information provided by each of the vendors as work continues in the development of our systems' Request for Proposals.

Our Project Team is continuously working on expanding our radio infrastructure by adding additional tower sites to the current infrastructure numbers. Properties are being evaluated in the Towns of Newburgh, Montgomery, Deerpark and Tuxedo as possible new tower sites. Additionally, we are planning to partner with Sullivan County to share a tower site with them in Wurtsboro to improve communications coverage for our public safety agencies.

As a member of the Hudson Valley Interoperable Communications Consortium, Orange County continues to work with our partner counties of Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester in planning for 'Regional' communications for all first responders on the National Interoperable Channels.

Chris Carney has been appointed to the position of Orange County Communications System Specialist within the Department of Emergency Services to assist with this Project as it moves forward. Chris' responsibilities in this position include managing equipment, inventory of radio assets, training, operations and maintenance of the radio system as well as integrating 911 operations and other Emergency Service departments into the new radio system. Chris can be best reached at CCarney@OrangeCountyGov.com.

Commissioner Walt Koury and our Fire Services Deputy Commissioner Vini Tankasali will be presenting an update of this Project to the Orange County Fire District Association at their meeting currently scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th at 7:30pm at the Coldenham Firehouse on Coldenham Road in Walden.