

**State of New Hampshire**  
Joint Committee for First Responder Interoperability



Fire Fighters Service



Emergency Medical Services



NH Department of Safety

January 6, 2006

**Re: Update on First Responder Radio Interoperability Committee  
Homeland Security Grant Program-Local Portable and POVs distribution  
\* up to 3 tasks need to be accomplished locally**

Dear Fire Chief and EMS Director:

The Department of Safety and the Radio Interoperability Committee have completed the bid and evaluation process for portable radios needed for Fire and EMS first responders. The successful providers of radios are presented in order of field-testing results:

Motorola  
Kenwood  
MACOM  
ICOM  
Racal  
\*Bendix King (Relm)

\* It should be noted that although all vendors meet basic acceptable bid specifications, the Bendix King (BK) portable radio was less than satisfactory in field testing conducted during the Radio Committee's review process. In addition the BK radio bid states it does not include the "immersion proof to one meter" standard as do the other providers.

The Department of Safety, in an effort to provide your agency with equipment that meets the needs your department, has averaged the cost of the accepted radios as depicted on the attached survey. We have determined an average cost of \$2,028.00 per radio. Funding provided by the US Department of Homeland Security may allow the Department of Safety (DOS) to provide your Department with approximately 85% of your portable radio needs as indicated in the initial program survey in September 2003 and dependent upon the total cost of selected equipment in relation to staff. **Since each radio has a different feature set specifications are available on the Department of Safety web site at:**

<http://www.state.nh.us/safety/homeland/2003firstresponder.html>

DOS will try to allocate one radio for each member of your department whose name appears on the attached list of active department members whom are currently engaged in fire fighting or EMS services.

### **TASK # 1 and 1a:**

#### **Portable radios –municipal Fire and EMS:**

In the enclosed survey please respond with the number and make of radios your department wishes to acquire no later than January 24, 2006. 1) Your department may select multiple vendors; note there is a standard certification statement that must be signed with your equipment request; This information as well as the (1a) certification statements and the list of firefighters and EMS personnel will need to be **sent back to the NH Department of Safety-Grant Management Unit (attn: Emy) NO LATER THAN January 24, 2006.** DOS will then tally the number of units per vendor and place bulk orders.

### **TASK #2:**

#### **Certification for Portable radios for Privately owned EMS units:**

This equipment is intended to facilitate interoperable communications among First Responder disciplines within your jurisdiction and from other jurisdictions in the event of a mass-casualty, WMD, CBRNE incident. The preferred/approved list of privately owned ambulance installations shall include a maximum of two portable radios allocated per surveyed agency tied to a responding vehicle in NH. Complete this certification and submit it to the DOS for review by January 24, 2006 if you might fit the criteria outlined on this attached form.

#### **Mobile Radios for POVs (personally owned responding vehicles):**

Personally owned vehicles *may* be eligible for installation if the following criteria are met and certified to:

- 1) Volunteer only Fire/EMS Department relying on call-in (approximately 187 departments meet these criteria and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis).
- 2) The Town and the Chief (the Certification statement is attached to this letter and must be returned) sign off the certification of the municipally owned status of this radio equipment.
- 3) There is a strict limit of a maximum of two POV installations per eligible volunteer status department for the Chief and a selected First Responder back up. DOS will review each request for POV installation upon receipt of required information and authorize installation.
- 4) Reminder: Analog only radios removed from Fire apparatus over the last two years for replacement by Interoperability project APCO-25 compliant digital/analog specific radios may be used on POVs or other non-project eligible vehicles. APCO-25 compliance allows digital/analog communications over the common open-air interface.

### **TASK #3**

#### **What needs to be completed and returned by January 24, 2006 for POV consideration:**

To be considered for POV installation please submit back the attached POV certification statement properly executed as indicated and include:

- The POV VIN Number
- The license plate number
- a copy of the vehicle registration for the vehicle to be considered
- installation shop to used for this project (check one on provided list)

#### **Mobile Radios for Fire Apparatus:**

After nearly two years this “mobile” phase of the FIRE/EMS Interoperability project is drawing to a close. Currently, after December 1, 2005 we cannot accommodate any additional project

funded mobile radio requests. If funding allows for additional mobile radio purchases in the future you will be notified.

We appreciate your attention to the details of this letter and the attachments. **Please return all items by January 24, 2006.** If you have any questions please contact 271-7663.

Return all information as required to:

NH Department of Safety-Grants Management (attn: Emy)  
33 Hazen Drive c/o Commissioner's Office  
Concord, NH 03305

Regards,

*Colonel Frederick Booth*, NH State Police, Tri- Chair Radio Committee  
*Pamela Urban-Morin*, Grant Administrator, Commissioner's Office-NH Dept. of Safety