

Public Safety Radio Communications Committee

October 29, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

Administration Building - Juneau, Wisconsin

The October Meeting of the Public Safety Radio Communications Committee was called to order by Sheriff Schmidt, Committee Vice Chair at 3:04 p.m.

Roll call was taken with the following committee members being present:

Paul Conway Dodge County Supervisor District No. 19	Dale Schmidt Dodge County Sheriff	Eric Howlett CLR Fire & Rescue Fire Chief	BJ DeMaa City of Waupun Fire Chief
Brian Field Dodge County Highway Commissioner	Joseph Meagher Emergency Management Director	Cameron Clapper Dodge County Administrator	

Approval of Minutes

Schmidt called for approval of the minutes. A motion was made DeMaa and seconded by Meagher to approve the minutes from September 3, 2025, meeting as recorded. The motion to approve the minutes carried by voice vote.

Review, discuss, and take action: FY26 Daily Use Radio Grant Program

Meagher provided the committee with a summary of the grant program and made the committee aware that only specific Wisconsin Counties are eligible for the grant and Dodge County is not on the list.

Review, discuss, and take action: FY26 Interoperable Radio Grant Program

Meagher provided the committee with a summary of the grant program, outlining the requirements and opportunities available. Meagher noted that all municipalities, as well as the County, are eligible to apply for the grant and stated that a letter would be sent from Emergency Management encouraging municipalities to submit applications. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Johnson, to approve Dodge County's application for the grant. The motion carried by voice vote.

Review, discuss, and consider optimization of the existing radio system

Meagher and Schmidt informed the committee that they plan to meet with Tusa Consulting to discuss the current microwave project. They noted that this meeting will provide a better understanding of the project's scope and the support required upon completion.

Review, discuss, and consider a plan to create an RFP for replacement of current radio system

Sheriff Schmidt reported that a closed session will be necessary with Dean from Tusa Consulting Services to gather the information needed to initiate the RFP/RFI process. It was noted that vendor demonstrations will be scheduled for January to collect information on current technologies and to establish available options for radio equipment.

Future Agenda Items

Establish an RFI/RFP process with purchasing agent Trista Steinbach
Vendor shows for radio technology vendors

Determine Next Meeting Date & Time

The Committee will convene for vendor demonstrations on January 20 and January 21.
A closed session meeting will be held on January 22 to discuss information related to the RFI process.

Adjourn

At 3:52 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by call of the Chair.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next meeting.

Public Safety Radio Communications Committee

January 22, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

Administration Building - Juneau, Wisconsin

The January Meeting of the Public Safety Radio Communications Committee was called to order by Supervisor Conway, Committee Chair at 8:04 a.m.

Roll call was taken with the following committee members being present:

Paul Conway
Dodge County Supervisor
District No. 19

Dale Schmidt
Dodge County
Sheriff

Eric Howlett
CLR Fire & Rescue
Fire Chief

Evan Meinel
Dodge County Supervisor
District No.25

Jeremiah Johnson
City of Beaver Dam
Police Lieutenant

Joseph Meagher
Emergency Management
Director

Cameron Clapper
Dodge County
Administrator

Report, discuss, and review current grant opportunities

Meagher reported on the municipalities that submitted grant applications, noting that ten municipalities have applied for the grant. Meagher reviewed the costs of the current equipment and discussed the projected cost of radios, including an estimate of how much of those expenses the grant funding is expected to cover. Meagher also reviewed the deadline by which grant funds must be expended, indicating a date of either June 2026 or June 2027. Clarification on the exact deadline will be obtained.

Meagher discussed State standards and encryption requirements for the radio system. He provided recommendations regarding a programming plan, as well as a training plan and available resources for users of the radio system.

Sheriff Schmidt informed the group of an additional grant opportunity for which only the Sheriff's Office is eligible to apply. He noted that this same grant opportunity will be available again in July 2027 and that the Sheriff's Office intends to apply at that time as well.

Report, discuss, and review the current status of system optimization

Dean Hart of Tusa presented information regarding ongoing self-feedback issues within the current radio system. Allen Talkington discussed options to optimize the existing system to improve efficiency until a new system is implemented. He reported that an engineer from Bay Com confirmed that when a new tower was added, it was not synchronized with the existing towers, resulting in additional self-feedback issues. He further noted that frequency levels at towers located in proximity should be adjusted to prevent interference. Mr. Talkington is awaiting additional information from Bay Com to allow timing adjustments to be made at a cohesive level. Dean indicated that the current system will be reconfigured in coordination with Bay Com to optimize the existing network and extend its usability until a replacement system is in place. Sheriff Schmidt advised that municipalities should begin budgeting for the new radio system, noting that there will be associated costs to municipalities for both the system and equipment. Dean also stated that under the current network, unauthorized users could potentially access the system without the County's knowledge. He explained that a new system would allow for controlled access, ensuring that only authorized individuals can operate radios on the network and that the number of devices can be monitored and managed.

Entertain a motion to convene in closed session

At 8:40 a.m. a motion was made by Sheriff Schmidt to enter into closed session to discuss the RFI process. Supervisor Meinel seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. Committee received a presentation from Tusa Consulting LLC regarding the proposed RFP Process and discussed general topics, strategies and timing of release of RFP. Cameron left the closed session at 9:30 am; Jesse O'Neill joined the closed session at 10:01 to discuss mapping for critical buildings. At 11:28 a.m. Supervisor Meinel made a motion to reconvene in open session. Sheriff Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next Meeting Date & Time

Committee established March 4, 2026 at 8:00 am as the next meeting date.

Adjourn

By order of Chair, meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

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