

# The State of the Utah Communications Authority

#### November 17, 2020 Executive Director, David Edmunds

# Who is UCA?

- "[E]stablish and maintain a statewide public safety communications network;" and
- "[P]rovide administrative and financial support for statewide 911 emergency services."

# **Agencies Served**

- Approximately 365,000 Push-to-Talks/Day on Network.
- Approximately 431.5 Hours of Air-Time per Day.
- Approximately 52,186 Subscribers on the System.
- Maintain 227 Sites/Locations.
- Provide Communications Services for Over 350 Federal, State, and Local Agencies.

# What Makes UCA Unique

- True Statewide Emergency Communications Network.
- Interrelationship Between UCA and the PSAPs, Police Departments, Fire Departments, and Other Emergency Personnel Leads to a Symbiotic Relationship Allowing for a Trusted Independent State Entity with Local Support and Input.
- Combination of Radio Division and 911 Division Under One Organizational Head Allows for Greater Cooperation and Efficiency as Technologies are Leveraged in Partnership and Not Competition.

### Existing 800 MHz Coverage



### Announced 25 Sites



### **Coverage After 25 Sites Online**



# P25 Upgrade

- We are now approximately 17 months into our statewide radio replacement.
- Majority of the sites and system have been engineered.
- Approximately ½ of all of UCA's sites have been remediated.
- P25 Equipment is being manufactured for ½ of UCA's sites.
- Installation begins next summer.
- On schedule for migration beginning in the second half of 2023.
- Everything is on target, on schedule, and going well!

# P25 Upgrade Funding

- We have had questions about the P25 funding given that the contract is for considerably less than original estimates.
- Original concept was for UCA to bond, but we're paying without bonding because of the lower price.
  - It's like paying a mortgage versus buying the house outright.
- Remediation and Equipment for 25 New Sites not part of original contract.
- The project is on budget and looks to remain on budget, but there will not be significant amounts of excess funds.

# Interoperability Division

- Statutorily responsible for the promotion of interoperability between agencies;
- Resource for training and emergency response planning;
- Asset for creation of best practices/SOPs for adoption by local agencies;
- Currently planning annual interoperability exercise and hopes you will all participate.

# 911

- > UCA has executed a contract with Vesta Solutions, a subsidiary of Motorola Solutions to provide a statewide, NG911 ESInet, core services, and call handling equipment.
- Migration is underway and should be fully completed by the end of 2021.
- Improved 911 service for citizens and first responders.



### Utah Code Ann. §63H-7a-304.5

- 2020 Legislative Session made changes to Utah Communications Authority Act.
- Utah Code Ann. §63H-7a-304.5 provides for funds to be provided to PSAPs for meeting certain qualifications.
- Measurement of these standards took effect July 1, 2020 and runs through June 30, 2021 – resets each year.
- Each year, UCA's Governing Board, through its budget process, will identify a certain amount of 911 funds for distribution in August/September of the following fiscal year.

### Utah Code Ann. §63H-7a-304.5

- These funds will be distributed to qualifying PSAPs. To qualify in *this* fiscal year, a PSAP must:
  - Have answered 90% of all 911 calls arriving at the PSAP within 15 seconds from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021;
  - Have answered 95% of all 911 calls arriving at the PSAP within 20 seconds July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021;
  - Have adopted and be using the statewide CAD-to-CAD call handling and 911 call transfer protocol;
  - Have participated in UCA's annual interoperability exercise; and
  - Have a transfer rate for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 that is: a) 2% or less; or b) is 5% lower than the transfer rate from the last fiscal year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020).

### Utah Code Ann. §63H-7a-304.5

- How does a qualifying PSAP seek these funds?
  - A qualifying PSAP should submit a certified statement to UCA between July 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021
    - A certified statement is defined as a "statement signed by a PSAP's director or other authorized administrator certifying the PSAP's compliance with the requirements.
  - UCA will confirm compliance and prepare proportionate payments for a PSAP's proportionate share meaning the percentage derived by dividing a PSAP's average three year average 911 call volume divided by the total of all PSAPs who have submitted a certified statement.
  - No PSAP may receive more than 15% of the total available funds.
  - These funds are subject to Utah Code Ann. §69-2-301, the PSAP permitted uses of funds.

### New UCA Website



#### What Radios Should I Buy?

- UCA does not promote one vendor over another.
- Motorola, Kenwood, and EF Johnson radios will work on the legacy network.
- All of these manufacturers and L3Harris have radios for sale that will work on the P25 system, and some of you already have some (which we will also address).
- Other manufacturers will likely be added down the road.
- All of these vendors have contracts under which agencies may purchase.
- To assist agencies, UCA has negotiated deeply discounted pricing for the purchase of new radios from Motorola and L3H.
- Because there are a number of models, configurations, and variables, and because UCA does not want to be seen as promoting one vendor over another, we encourage you to talk to these vendors to make the correct purchasing decision.
- Both vendors are committed to helping navigate these new and sometimes confusing waters.
- Additional information is available on our new website, <u>www.uca911.org</u>.

#### Will my current radio work on the new system?

- If you have a Motorola XTS, XTL, or APX radio or an EF Johnson/Kenwood radio, it has the *potential* of working on the P25 system.
- Whether it will or not is a question of the specific flash code (software) loaded into that specific radio.
- It is not always easy to tell the version of your flash code and, as such, we encourage you to work with Motorola or EF Johnson/Kenwood to determine if you need to upgrade your radio's flash code.
- Additional information is available on our new website, <u>www.uca911.org</u>.

#### When is all of this happening?

- As Harold will discuss, we are not targeting a migration until the second half of 2023.
- Until migration, the P25 upgrade will have little, if any, effect on agencies.
- Additional information is available on our new website, <u>www.uca911.org</u>.

#### Why can't I just find a one-pager of radio prices?

- Radio models, features, functions, etc. vary dramatically both within and among agencies. You may think your neighboring agency has the same radio as you, and on the outside, they probably do, but not so on the inside.
- Some contractual terms give greater discounts based on purchasing volumes, increasing discounts 5% over a 25% range, making a one-size-fits-all approach impossible.
- UCA is working with radio manufacturers to provide some sample pricing of common radios and configurations to give agencies a ballpark range on pricing.
- All manufacturers have representatives ready, willing, and able to assist in helping agencies determine pricing for their specific needs.
- Additional information is available on our new website, <u>www.uca911.org</u>.

#### I'm still confused.

- First, that's not a question.
- Second, don't worry, that's why we're here.
- For any and all specific questions about your radios, please feel free to contact James Baker, UCA's Radio Programming Manager (jbaker@uca911.org or 385-522-9530) or Harold Clements, UCA's P25 Division Director (hclements@uca911.org or 801-840-4200).
- Additional information is available on our new website, <u>www.uca911.org</u>.

# Agenda

- November 17<sup>th</sup>
- 9:45 Public Safety Advisory Committee Meeting
- 11:00 PSAP Advisory Committee Meeting
- 1:00 UCA Governing Board Meeting
- 3:30 Interoperability Division Update, Gordy Coles

# Agenda

- November 18<sup>th</sup>
- 8:30 Radio Division Update, Brad Morris
- 9:45 911 Division Update
- 11:00 P25 Division Update
- 1:00 Introduction to P25 Fleet Map