

The meeting of the Utah Communications Authority's Public Safety Advisory Committee

Location: Via WebEX Remote Meeting

Monday, October 5th, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Welcome: Chief Mike Mathieu

Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Clint Smith

Darrin Adams

Mike Rapich

Rob Nelson

Tracy Glover

Mike Mathieu

Mike Brown

TJ Brewer

Mike Phillips

Christopher Smith (for Lynn Yokum)

Jared Rigby

Committee Members Absent:

Ken Wallentine

Alecia Gleave

Andy Smith

Approval of Minutes

April 13th 2022 Minutes

Motion: TJ Brewer

Second: Clint Smith

Vote: Motion Passed with all in favor

Follow up Radio Vendor Meetings:

Chief Mathieu mentioned that the UCA is planning to conduct vendor meetings similar to those sponsored by our committee at the UCA stakeholders conference in November. Mathieu stated that he has received positive feedback from the meetings. UCA is working with L3Harris to showcase a mobile demo site that will allow users to get an idea how the new system will work. Director Quin Stephens stated that UCA has been working on a number of angles for users to be able to actually test the new radios. DPS

Colonel Mike Rapich shared that he sent three radio technicians to the L3 Harris users conference. After talking to several users that had already gone through a similar migration, they came back with some positive feedback. Mathieu stated that this committee has not advocated any brand but rather we have encouraged every public safety entity to do their homework to find out what products will best meet their need. There will likely be a variety of radios on the system. We expect to see a mixed fleet of radios. Sheriff Glover stated that the meetings were helpful and that he appreciated the feedback from the DPS radio techs. Colonel Rapich shared the information for Lt. Cox from DPS to follow up with for details about what the DPS techs learned.

Report from Radio Network Division Director Phil Krebs:

Director Stephens cited some changes to the division. Division Director James Baker moved back to his home state of Florida which opened up the opportunity for UCA to hire Phil Krebs. Krebs spent 17 years at L3Harris on the defense side of the company in Salt Lake City. Phil has a network engineering background. Working now on P25 project and site expansion now, including 119 locations. Most of the sites now have the P25 trunked radio as well as the existing 800mhz Motorola system. Special projects are going on including moving to IP networking rather than T1 lines etc.

Report from P25 project manager Eric Larson:

Eric Larson got an introduction from Quin Stephens. This is a new position for UCA. Eric is returning to UCA managing the relationship between UCA and L3Harris for this migration. Eric has 27 years of experience. He is responsible for site configuration, testing RF, Grounding installation, Structural inspections etc. Currently able to cover about three sites per week. Chief Mathieu posed a question for Eric regarding the time involved in the installation of the new system vs the improvement of the existing system. Eric stated that the installation of the new system is going very well and that it is mostly installed. The next step is to begin testing the new system.

Report from Interoperability division director Michael Veenendaal:

Veenendaal stated that he was also able to attend the L3 Harris users conference where, like DPS, he was able to get answers to many questions about the migration and the user equipment. Mike mentioned upcoming training events that will highlight testing on user equipment. They have been working on getting up to speed on the programming measures that will be required to achieve interoperability across different consoles and user equipment. He stated that he expects that the PSAPs will have very little difficulty adapting to the new equipment because many of the functions will be very similar to what they are used to.

Discussion around newly appropriated UCA funds for radio purchases:

Director Stephens was asked to give an overview of the new grant funding program for user equipment. Money has been provided to UCA from the Utah legislature with some pointed restrictions/perimeters. Director Stephens sent out a letter explaining the

process and the detailed instructions and limitations. A breakdown matrix for the available funding and required match was included with the recent letter that went out. The timeline is tight. The legislature is requiring an end of year report and UCA is requiring radio orders to be submitted by October 31st.

Chief Mathieu asked for clarification on the pay requirements. 50% of the purchase price is due by the end of December but entities may pay more than 50% if they prefer.

Mathieu asked PSAC members to share the information packet about the program with all agencies that we represent through the committee.

Mathieu mentioned a concern for coverage. Documentation associated with the new system states that it is not designed to provide coverage inside of buildings. He mentioned that public safety personnel often work critical incidents inside buildings and asked for clarification. Director Stephens stated that while the system cannot guarantee coverage inside buildings, the statement doesn't necessarily mean that there will not be indoor coverage. As an example of a preferred improvement, Salt Lake City and others now require the installation of BDA systems as part of their fire code or building code which upgrades the indoor coverage. Director Stephens stated that the UCA does not have the authority to put a BDA system in a private building and that BDA's should be registered with the FCC as to not interfere with the on street coverage. The LTE option can be most helpful in dense parts of buildings. Director Stephens gave a brief overview of how the LTE system works in the radio. When your radio leaves an LMR signal, if you have the LTE card, the radio will search for an LTE signal and will work off that signal just the same as if it was working through LMR. The LTE card was part of the cost breakdown allowed by the legislature and specified by UCA in the allowable radios but the cost of subscription for LTE will fall on the agency.

Chris Smith from UDOT asked that his email be included in the correspondence because he will be filling in for Lynn Yokum on the PSAC meetings most of the time.

Sheriff Glover mentioned that the UCA funding letter states that the model 185 radio and the listed bells and whistles (LTE, GPS, single key inscription etc) seem to cover most of the most commonly preferred upgrades but noted that some additions are not included and would be an additional cost to the ordering agency. (multiband, longer warranty, larger battery, over the air programming, lapel mic, etc.)

Follow up Items, Agenda Items for next meeting

The PSAC had a meeting scheduled for December 7th but that meeting will be changed to line up with the UCA annual stakeholders meeting in St. George on November 30th from 9:15-10:10 am at the Hilton Garden Inn. This is an in person meeting but there will be an electronic option.

Chief Mathieu asked a vendor/UCA tech question. He would like to have some clarification regarding the actual finer details of gps location functionality. How well is the information actually pinpointed? How usable is the data? We all want GPS, but to what degree will the information actually be available and what does it look like?

Quin offered for UCA to take that question and provide answers via email and/or during a presentation at the next meeting.

Clint Smith asked if travel costs for going to the stakeholders meeting fall on the PSAC committee member's agency or if any of those costs are covered by UCA.
Quin stated that there is currently not any funding or requirement for UCA to cover travel costs for committee members.

Motion to adjourn: Clint Smith

Second: Jared Rigby

Unanimous vote

Meeting Adjourned.