

To: All Municipalities and Fire Chiefs in the Capital Fire Mutual Aid System

From: The City of Montpelier, City of Barre, Capital Fire Mutual Aid, Central Vermont Public Safety Authority

Re: Update on the proposed Radio Communications system

Date: 01/09/23

Montpelier and Barre City officials in conjunction with Televate, Central Vermont Public Safety Authority and the Capital Fire Mutual Aid System would like to update our Community partners and address inaccurate information which has been communicated by an individual.

The City of Montpelier and Barre have been transparent with this process. The project team is composed of Barre City Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth, Montpelier Police Chief Brian Peete, Woodbury Fire Chief Paul Cerutti, Waterbury Fire Chief Gary Dillon, Retired Chief Douglas Hoyt and Waterbury Municipal Manager Bill Shepeluk. Retired Barre City Fire Chief Doug Brent contributed valued input and guidance during this process. Montpelier Fire Chief Bob Gowans, Montpelier Deputy Fire Chief James Quinn, Dispatch Supervisor Carrie McCool, Barre City Police Chief Braedon Vail, Barre City Deputy Police Chief Larry Eastman, former Barre City Manager Steve MacKenzie, current Barre City Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro, and Montpelier City Manager Bill Fraser have also been actively involved.

The team is happy to report that Phase 1 of our grant application was successful. We were conditionally awarded 2.44 million dollars for communications infrastructure covering the Capital Fire Mutual Aid System region. Our project will move forward after the State's final technical review to ensure that our plan is sufficient to provide Emergency Dispatching and take on state customers within the region. We are encouraged by our grant evaluation score that we will win the States full support. We will also be applying in Phase 2 for the remaining 1.1 million dollars as outlined in the Televate report.

This work was made possible by financial support from CVPSA to contract with Televate to evaluate our current system as well as prior studies. Televate and our project Team has worked with various community partners including State of Vermont, CV-Fiber, Consolidated, Norwich University and throughout the country to develop and engineer the most cost-effective system.

The project team has consistently kept the City, CVPSA, and CFMAS leadership informed about progress. The team met regularly to troubleshoot and formulate a cost sensitive, modern, and resilient dispatching system. We also chose to keep the individual selectboards and councils abreast of the progress of the project this occurred over the last few months through you respective Fire Chiefs.

In the design phase of this project, we embraced the future and the use of technology to the fullest while keeping the current proposed system upgrade at a reasonable and effective price. The ultimate goal was to pursue a balanced proposal which represented a long term solution to improve communications across the entire area.

The designed system embraces the use of the most current technologies but can be adapted to embrace and integrate future technologies as they evolve and are made available throughout the Central Vermont region. The engineering provided by Televate was thorough and all solutions considered during the formulation of this proposal. Additionally, creation of this project was done in consultation with Terry LaValley from the State of Vermont. Mr. LaValley is in charge of the development and implementation of State wide radio system technologies.

Following the guidance of Commissioners of Public Safety Michael Shirling and Jennifer Morrision, we implemented a continuity of operations plan. This plan will insure redundancy and continued resiliency in providing this essential mission critical service. A Capital Improvement plan has been drafted and recently adopted by CFMAS to provide for future equipment upgrades and replacement which you have been provided already.

The proposed system is a cost effective solution which is equitable for all involved. Our team will continue to work with its partners in the Capital Fire Mutual Aid system, CVPSA, town Select Boards, and City Councils, to present a realistic, effective and responsible plan to address, fix and move our antiquated communications system into a modern, reliable, expandable and balanced network. We would like to thank you for your continued support with this project we look forward to our continued partnership into the future.

Sincerely Yours;



William Fraser, City Manager Montpelier



Nicholas Storellicastro, City Manager Barre



Dona Bate, CVPSA



Skip Bothfeld, President Capital Fire Mutual Aid System