

## August 2009

### Saratoga County Radio update

- There are at least 10 – 14 departments that still haven't ordered pagers.
- The \$60 rebate per pager (for extra pagers ordered by depts.), is only available until August 31
- Rebate goes back to the department, so if your department wants extra pagers, 2 frequencies, chargers, batteries, or anything other than what the County is paying for, it's important to get orders in quickly
- Departments must send Paul Lent a Purchase Order and a Tax Exempt form because Motorola wants the County to authorize the order according to our contract
- An email will be sent again with the required order form.
- Pagers were recently delivered to Gansevoort, Wilton, South Glens Falls and Corinth. Next will be Maple Ave., Greenfield and Ballston Spa. Please remember to charge your pager battery as soon as you receive it. They are not charged up when delivered to you.
- The EMS dispatch cut over will not emphasize the efficiency of the system until all departments in the Mutual Aid group are in use. Mutual Aid will entail a single set of tones. Dispatch will benefit from not having to determine if a department is high or low band. There are still some calls coming in to Dispatch from EMS on the wrong frequency, but not as often.
- The monitors installed last year for sirens are low band only and cannot be programmed for high band. They do have the capability to be programmed for simultaneously activating both Fire/EMS response and Ambulance agency calls with a single set of tones.
- The Fire Investigator and Coordinator teams will receive new pagers, but are asked to wait and use the old pagers until they're all distributed.

- There was discussion about the transition from low band to high band paging and the trial period for dual simulcasting. With the amount of changes being made to upgrade this system and the multitude of people having to adjust and learn a new process, understandably there's going to be confusion during the transition. The next 8 – 10 months are going to be rocky, but in the end, we will have a more reliable system. As more towers go up, the coverage will improve.

- South Glens Falls has had difficulty receiving voice on their pagers. D/Sgt. Gordon said the tone is still the same going out, there's no switching back and forth at dispatch. If So. Glens Falls isn't simulcasting out on 155.925, it could contribute to errors with voice. If it happens again, he suggests calling the desk supervisor as soon as possible to troubleshoot the problem. Paul said if there are isolated problems, it may be a programming issue and to let him know.

- Radio System:

- Bids were received on the re-bid for the County Radio System. The County Attorney had rejected the first set of bids last month due to non-compliance. There are 3 bidders for this \$13M project, and surprisingly, 2 bidders are within \$40 of each other. Our Blue Wing consultant is reviewing the bid documents and will try to have a report for the September Public Safety meeting.

- The Stillwater site is nearly complete and the shelter is scheduled for delivery on August 10. When this site is online, we'll do the VHF part and not wait for the 800 bid to be decided because we want to get the paging frequency on it.

- The bid for construction at Fraker Mountain, Edinburg has been awarded.

- A purchase order has been cut for Alcatel-Lucent to add the microwave to those sites. All the systems have been transitioned to the microwave; the T-1 is gone.

- The tower contract for Mount McGregor has been awarded and the construction bid is due out in a couple of weeks.

- At this time, with Halfmoon done, there are 3 towers left to build and possibly 1 to occupy, as a rooftop installation.

- Based on costs for construction and equipment, we are at least \$1M under the anticipated budget.