

New Radio System Update

November 2008

During 2008 we have made some significant progress toward the implementation of the new countywide public safety radio system. While this progress has been exciting, we still have considerable work remaining and 2009 promises to be year where much of our hard work comes to fruition.

In 2008 we have accomplished the following:

- New communications towers erected 175' at the County Communications and a 225' at Providence.
- New communications shelters have been purchased to house our equipment for all our sites.
- County has cutover to a new 6GHz Alcatel-Lucent digital microwave system capable of 28 T-1's.
- A contract has been awarded for the construction of a 5,200 roadway to our planned site on Fraker Mt. in Edinburg. This award occurred in November and we plan doing as much work as weather will allow.
- A contract has been awarded to ANS Network Services to construct our new facility at the Halfmoon water tank site.
- We have received written confirmation from the FAA allowing us to use their tower at the old Air Force radar station in Stillwater. We anticipate work to start on this site early in 2009.
- Final engineering is taking place for our proposed site at Mt. McGregor Department of Corrections facility. Our final piece of the puzzle to finish there is the routing of electrical service to the site.
- We have consolidated our radio site on top of Spruce Mt. in Corinth at a new location on top of the hill. We are currently sharing the National Grid tower and our equipment will be in the former Channel 13 transmitter building which the county owns. This new facility will give us much more room and better environmental conditions for our equipment.

Issuance of the Bid Specification for the new radio system

The bid specification for the procurement or lease of the new radio system should be on the "streets" in November. We anticipate receipts of bids in early January 2009.

Paging Difficulties

This office is aware since our move of the Fire B antenna on Spruce Mt. to its new location on Spruce we have experienced some loss of paging coverage. We have made many attempts at various remedies for this problem. It should be noted at our new location we are actually 5' higher than we were at our old location. The actual move was only about 450' from the former location.

We are going to be conducting some paging tests utilizing 155.925 with some demonstration pagers to collect data if the high band paging provides better coverage. The first to be part of the test will be Corinth FD.