

October 1st, 2008 Pager Updates

George Downs reports that the Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors attended last night's Advisory Board Meeting. The topic of discussion was the purchase of pagers by the County for each Fire Department. It is our understanding that the purchase of pagers has been turned over to Dave Wickerham, the County Administrator, to be included in next year's budget. At this point it is anticipated that the county will purchase at least some of the pagers. The county is requesting a realistic number of how many pagers each department will need. For example, if you have 60 members on the books, we can expect 35 pagers or so to be purchased by the county. The Chairman's main concern is that they do not want to buy pagers for fire companies who have members on the active list that are not active. Each department may still have to buy some pagers. When the county purchases the pagers it will be a one time only deal. After the initial purchase it will be the responsibility of each department to purchase additional pagers in the future. The county is looking at the Motorola Minitor 5's. During the warranty period, if there are any problems the county will service the pager and once the warranty period runs out the individual fire departments will be responsible for repairs. At this time the cut over date for high band paging is projected to be June of 2009. Paul Lent has advised that when the new 800 radio system goes into service, the county will retain the low band frequencies we currently use. There will be 4 tiers of 800 band portable radios with tier 2 and 3 being the most popular. The county is looking at leasing the portable radios with each portable costing \$1,800 to \$2,500. Tier 2&3 will contain over 100 different talk groups, with tier 4 being administrator (command and control) radios.

Ed Trembley asked all departments to be careful when burning in the new tower, recently some of the paint was burned off one of the walls. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors did not realize how much money was actually needed by Emergency Services to operate and, hopefully next years budget will see fewer cuts due to his attendance and his conversation with Dennis Ferrar from the T/O Waterford, who had an excellent presentation on budget priorities for 2009.