

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the state of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Communication Networks, and the Southwest Regional Advisory Committee outlines the terms and conditions for the allocation and usage of U.S. Department of Commerce Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant funds for the purposes of interoperable communications for local and state emergency responders and other emergency officials.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Regional Advisory Committee is composed of local units of government and public safety officials situated within the following Minnesota counties:

Chippewa	Cottonwood	Jackson
Lac Qui Parle	Lincoln	Lyon
Murray	Nobles	Pipestone
Redwood	Renville	Rock
Yellow Medicine		

WHEREAS, the Southwest Regional Advisory Committee has sought to engage all local units of government, public safety officials, non-governmental public safety agencies and tribal governments operating in the above described counties into the public safety communication infrastructure planning process.

WHEREAS, the FY 2007 to FY 2010 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program provides funding for Planning, Acquisition, Deployment, Training and Management and Administration for interoperable communications systems that use or enable interoperability with communications systems that can use the reallocated public safety spectrum in the 700 MHz frequency band for radio communication for state and local emergency responders and other officials. The federal grant guidance requires that 80% of grant funds be obligated to local units of government.

WHEREAS, the federal grant guidance allows that non-local entities may hold portions of the 80% allocation of grant funds on behalf of local units of government providing that local organizations enter into a memorandum of understanding specifying the amount of funds to be retained by the non-local entity.

WHEREAS, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is the State Administrative Agency for the FY 2007 to FY 2010 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. Based upon this MOU, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will allocate PSIC grant funds to the Division of Emergency Communication Networks to be utilized for interoperable

communications on behalf of local emergency responders and other local officials in accordance with the following approved Investment Justifications:

1. \$636,377 as allocated by the PSIC grant for Investment #2 designated as Strategic Technology Reserve- Local Component.

The purpose for the allocation of these funds to a non-local entity is to allow for common acquisition of uniform equipment making up Minnesota's Strategic Technology Reserve (transportable repeaters and VHF radio caches). As the 20% matching fund requirement for this investment will be provided by funds appropriated to the department of public safety for the Statewide Radio Board, this allocation provides for the coordination of grant fund expenditures and matching fund expenditures.

2. \$1,400,000 as allocated by the PSIC grant for Investment #3 designated as Radio Control Stations- ARMER System to provide cross spectrum interoperability to all PSAP's & EOC's (75 non-metro counties of the state)

The purpose for the allocation of these funds to a non-local entity is to allow the Division of Emergency Communication Networks to seek a contract with one or multiple vendors to install the designated radio control stations in accordance with the Investment Justification. As the 20% matching fund requirement for this investment will be provided by funds appropriated to the department of public safety for the Statewide Radio Board, this allocation provides for the coordination of grant fund expenditures and matching fund expenditures.

3. \$1,200,000 as allocated by the PSIC grant for Investment #4 designated as Local/County/Regional comprehensive public safety communication assessment (Current infrastructure, alternative solutions and alternative selection-55 counties of the state).

The purpose for the allocation of these funds to a non-local entity is to allow the Division of Emergency Communication Networks to seek a contract with one or more vendors to conduct comprehensive assessments in a uniform manner throughout the state. In furtherance of this item, the Division of Emergency Communication Networks published a Request for Proposal for Local and Regional Public Safety Communications Assessments on March 24, 2008 and will select one or more vendors for that project and has allocated additional non-federal funds to the cost of this project.

4. \$300,000 of planning funds allocated by the PSIC grant for Investment #5 designated as VHF/UHF Interoperability- ARMER Backbone (78 Counties-effecting all Public Safety services and tribal governments in those counties).

The purpose for the allocation of these funds to a non-local entity is to allow the Division of Emergency Communication Networks to seek a contract with a single vendor to develop specific plans and designs in coordination with each of the regional radio boards/regional advisory committees and with the Statewide Radio Board (Minnesota's State Interoperability Executive Committee) for the implementation a VHF or UHF interoperability channel throughout the ARMER backbone and to coordinate that implementation with the department of transportation's ARMER implementation plan (currently under final development).

5. \$3,000,000 of equipment funds allocated by the PSIC grant for Investment #5 designated as VHF/UHF Interoperability- ARMER Backbone (78 Counties-effecting all Public Safety services and tribal governments in those counties).

The purpose for the allocation of these funds to a non-local entity is to allow for the development of specific plans and designs in coordination with each of the regional radio boards/regional advisory committees and with the Statewide Radio Board, at which time the Division of Emergency Communication Networks shall re-allocate the designated funds to each of the regional radio boards/regional advisory committees consistent with that plan and as finally determined by the Statewide Radio Board. It should be noted that a 20% matching fund requirement exists with respect to the acquisition of equipment in this Investment and that the identification of a source of those matching funds must be resolved before an allocation of funds can be made.

On November 29, 2007 the Statewide Radio Board authorized the allocation of funds to provide the 20% matching funds for the development of Minnesota's Strategic Technology Reserve (\$238,644.25) provided for in PSIC Investment #1 and 2 and for the placement of radio control stations in Public Safety Answering Points and Emergency Operation Centers (\$350,000.00) provided for in PSIC Investment #3 from funds appropriated to the department of public safety for the Statewide Radio Board. There is and has not been any additional commitment of matching funds by the Statewide Radio Board, the Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety or by any other division or unit of the state of Minnesota.

The Division of Emergency Communication Networks will ensure that appropriate personnel will be assigned to accomplish the purposes provided for in each interoperable

communications project as outlined in Minnesota's Public Safety Interoperable Communications Applications and as required by the DHS and SAFECOM FY07 Grant Guidance.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Regional Advisory Committee agrees to the use of local grant funds to support the development and implementation of the designated interoperable communications project by Division of Emergency Communication Networks.

This agreement shall be effective from May 1, 2008 to September 30, 2010 subject to renewal upon mutual agreement by both parties.

Joel C. Dahl, Chair SWMN RAC

Dated _____