IMPORTANT!! 9/30/2013 – All orders due to the Bucks County Radio Department.

Ordering Workshops and Updates:

The first round of evening workshops is complete. We had the opportunity to meet with many of our Police, Fire and EMS community and have heard that they were helpful in creating orders for the agencies to take back to their agencies. The next workshop is scheduled for 3/11/2013 at the Public Safety Training Center in Doylestown. It will run from 0900-1500 hours.

To continue supporting all of the agencies, we will host 2 workshops every month through July 2013 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 1900-2100 hours. The schedule is outlined below:

2nd Wednesday of each month: Station 93, 1195 York Road, Warminster, PA
4th Wednesday of each month: Station 26, 100 N. 5th Street, Perkasie, PA

We have processed the first series of orders and issued purchase orders to those departments. If a department needs “early invoicing” for their purchase, please make sure that information is identified with the order in writing. We will add that requirement to the order that is being placed and instruct Motorola to provide an early invoice if required.

The ordering worksheets are available on the project website. Please feel free to download them and use for your department. The County radio staff is available to assist agencies that require specialized assistance.

Finance Details News:

General:

✓ All Motorola orders must be processed through the County’s radio shop.
✓ The County will submit orders on behalf of each agency and will provide purchase orders for each department. Once the equipment is received, an invoice will be provided.
✓ System users are asked to complete the excel spreadsheets; and provide authorization from a chief, director or executive staff designee. Electronic signatures will be treated as originals and will serve as an official order for equipment. Your agency will be held to the order that is submitted and will be responsible for the costs associated with your order.
✓ The system cutover is slated for the 3rd quarter of 2014.
✓ Grants
  ◦ Please refer to the rules that govern your grant to ensure you are meeting those requirements.
✓ County-funding
  ◦ In order to take advantage of county funding, users will be required to sign a promissory note for their equipment.
  ◦ County financing will not be available until the end of the 1st quarter 2013.
  ◦ Installation and removal costs will be the responsibility of the agencies.
✓ Replacements as a bridge until cutover.
  ◦ If an agency is looking to purchase replacement radios out of necessity, their repayment terms would be deferred until their full order is filled.
The County will not provide funding for the purchase of equipment or accessories not specifically planned for with the existing radio contract.

- Non-Motorola equipment.
  - We will allow funding for Motorola radios and accessories only.
  - Non-Motorola equipment will not be purchased with County funds.

- Terms
  - Repayment installment plans will not begin until one month after system acceptance.
  - System users can select up to a 7 year repayment term. There is no early payment penalty.
  - Financing plans will have a 7 year term. Agencies can make payments over a 7 year span with no early pre-payment penalties. The agencies will also receive the same borrowing rate that the County receives, which is expected to fall between 1.5% and 1.75%.

**Single Cell Design:**

The County Commissioners have approved a design change which will allow our system to become a single cell radio system from the proposed 2-cell design. The new design will allow us to have a more robust system with greater capacity throughout the county. It will also eliminate the geographic “split” in the middle of the county, and the entire county will operate on one cell. The biggest benefits include:

- This is a single zone solution which will increase our capacity by an estimated 30%.
- This design would allow us to more efficiently use the frequencies that we have been assigned through the region, and potentially cut long-term costs.
- Roaming between cells will no longer be an issue.
- This system will be easier for the technical staff to manage.

**County Towers:**

Structurals for all county towers have been completed by Advantage. The majority of sites were built in the 1980s under earlier standards. We will need to bring the towers modern loading standard to support the infrastructure on these tower sites.

**Leases for Towers:**

The county solicitor staff continues to evaluate the leases for the collocations. We hope to have information on this for the system users soon. The tentative start of site development work is July 2013.