



Communications Advisory Board of Cortland County

ADVISORY BOARD GOALS

Enhance public safety operations through structured planning for a Countywide Emergency Communications System that facilitates multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional incident response and coordination. *Talk and share data in real time, on demand, when needed.*

Countywide user driven network design that connects first responders and other County agencies. (Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, DPW, SUNY, BOCES and State Police). *Maximize available resources while retaining day-to-day operations independence.*

Reduce capital and operating costs through competitive procurement and aggressive pursuit of partnerships and grant funding. *Solution designed to incorporate multiple technologies, open-architecture and standards allowing diversity and growth.*

Only one or two budget cycles remain for an agency to raise money, design, purchase and implement a new narrowband radio system.

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Williams
Chairman of the Legislature

Michael Park
Chairman, Judiciary and Public Safety

Rob Corpora
IT Director

Jack Hess
IT Deputy Director

Don Chambers
Highway Superintendent

David Hicks
Highway Department

MJ Uttech
Deputy Public Health Director

Sheriff Lee Price
Sheriff's Department

Undersheriff Herb Barnhart
Sheriff's Department

Chief Mike Catalano
City of Cortland Police Department

Deputy Chief Paul Sandy
City of Cortland Police Department

Captain Larry Jackmin
New York State Police

David Tanner
911 Center

Nick Wagner
911 Center

Paul Van Valkenburg
SUNY Police

Wayne Friedman
EMS Advisory Board

John Tillotson
EMS Advisory Board

John Pitman
Fire Advisory Board

Robert Duell
Fire and Emergency Management

Kevin Whitney
Deputy Fire Coordinator

Cortland County Interoperable Emergency Communications System



WHAT IS THE COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD?

The Communications Advisory Board (CAB) was created in 2005 to facilitate emergency communications, develop a structured plan and determine long term communications requirements within Cortland County.

NARROWBAND MANDATE

To achieve spectrum efficiency, the FCC has mandated all VHF and UHF land mobile radio (LMR) systems migrate to narrowband or 12.5 KHz channels by January 1, 2013.

To comply with the FCC mandate, most of Cortland County's existing radio system equipment which lacks narrowband capability will require replacement.

In December 2009, the FCC reiterated the deadlines in Public Notice DA 09-2589 stating, "Operation in violation of the commission's rules may subject licensees to enforcement action, including admonishments, monetary forfeitures and / or license revocation, as appropriate".



SYSTEMS PLAN

The County initially intended to use the New York Statewide Wireless Network (SWN) for emergency communications use.

The termination of the New York SWN program, in February of 2009, required CAB investigation of an alternative approach for upgrading or replacing the county public safety communications system.

Regional partnerships with Tompkins County, Onondaga County and Northern Counties Consortium were also considered.

USER REQUIREMENTS

Federal Engineering, (*FE*) interviewed representatives from the following stakeholders to determine user requirements and operational goals:

- **Sheriff's Office** – Road Patrol, Jail and 911
- **County DPW** – 22 operating agencies
- **County Fire and EMS** – 14 operating agencies
- **City of Cortland Police Dept.**
- **Health Dept.**
- **SUNY Cortland** – Police, Facilities and Rescue
- **BOCES** – six different school districts
- **New York State Police**

Deploying the Cortland Emergency Communications System as a standards-based system provides for competitive procurement of infrastructure and user subscriber equipment which results in capital expense reductions.

SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES

The following communication system alternatives were researched and evaluated.

- **Stand-alone VHF System** – Lack of available spectrum to implement
- **Independent UHF** – Lack of available spectrum to implement
- **Onondaga Partnership UHF** – Lack of spectrum and backhaul limitations
- **Tompkins Partnership 700/800MHz** – sole source procurement (Motorola)
- **Independent 700/800MHz System** – competitive procurement, does not preclude Tompkins County Partnership

BASELINE DESIGN RECOMMENDATION

Standards-based (Project 25) countywide trunked communications system operating on the 700 or 800 MHz frequency band that provides for interoperability with neighboring systems.

PROJECT 25

A standards-based shared system will offer the highest level of interoperability as defined in the SAFECOM Continuum.

The SAFECOM Continuum represents five essential elements of interoperable communications. Additional information can be found at:

www.safecomprogram.gov

