

STEVE CHABOT
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FIRST DISTRICT, OHIO

INCLUDES MOST OF HAMILTON COUNTY
AND ALL OF WARREN COUNTY

DEAN OF THE OHIO
REPUBLICAN DELEGATION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

I write today in support of an important community project in my Congressional District. As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations legislation, please consider my request to provide a \$1,600,000 million funding level for a P25 Radio System Enhancement as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is Hamilton County, Ohio located at 138 E. Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will upgrade critical emergency communications technology which will increase public safety in Hamilton County, Ohio.

The Hamilton County Communications Center (HCCC) is a multi-jurisdictional emergency management and communications center that has been in operation since 1949. HCCC handles 9-1-1, police, and fire traffic for forty-eight municipalities that surround the City of Cincinnati. In 2020, HCCC processed over 582,000 telephone calls and over 437,000 documented computer aided dispatch incidents. HCCC employs nearly 90 individuals each dedicated to the mission of protecting the citizens of Hamilton County.

It is my understanding that Hamilton County currently maintains a Motorola P25 digitally trunked 800MHz radio system which was originally deployed in 2004 and was most recently upgraded for Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communications System compatibility in 2016. Since then, Hamilton County has identified the need for further enhancements to its radio system to better support public safety operations throughout the county. All aspects of the upgraded equipment will be used to enhance the systems used to investigate, respond to and prevent crime. These enhancements and upgrades are estimated to cost \$1.854M and include the following components:

- **Microwave System-Bandwidth and Diversification.** A microwave network is one of the core aspects of HCCC's radio system. As the system ages, Hamilton County intends to continue to add subscriber loading which diminishes overall microwave capacity. This project will facilitate an increase in bandwidth and will also address a "spur" route that is a single access point for failure.

- **Radio/9-1-1 Recording System.** A central necessity for any dispatch center is the ability to provide audio recordings. This is a complicated endeavor due to the volume of actual voice paths that must be recorded for public safety. HCCC's original recorder is nearing its end of life and needs to be upgraded to continue to provide voice records to their users. Additionally, HCCC's current recording system does not have the ability to handle day-to-day emergency needs due to changes in technology, such as NEXTGEN 9-1-1.
- **GPS Location Services for P25 System.** The ability to locate public safety responders when they experience life threatening situations is critical. GPS locating for HCCC's radio subscribers was not available at the time of the original system design. This project's enhancement will give HCCC the ability to quickly and accurately locate responders during a time of an emergency.
- **Radio Receiver/Transmitter Site Security Enhancement.** HCCC's radio system incorporates fifteen satellite receiver sites that are distributed across 413 square miles, several of which are located in very remote, unpopulated areas. Hamilton County has conducted several security reviews and have determined that their radio sites are vulnerable and in need of increased security. This would include motion detection equipment, video monitoring, cable cut detection as well as physical site security. The need to increase security has been documented several times through risk assessment exercises such as the Community Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.
- **Portable Radio Cache.** HCCC has a need to increase its cache of spare portable radios to backup their existing radio consoles as a result of its new back-up communications center. There are currently a total of five primary dispatch consoles in operation twenty-four hours a day. In order to appropriately stock their communications centers, Hamilton County needs roughly fifteen to twenty portable radios to be housed at HCCC and its back-up communications center.

As you continue to assess appropriations requests, I ask that you give every consideration of this community project in my Congressional District which will upgrade critical emergency communications technology to increase public safety in Hamilton County, Ohio. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Steve Chabot (OH-01)

MEMBER OF CONGRESS