



Venango County
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Venango County's Public Safety Director and Deputy Director recently had the opportunity to have a teleconference with Major Stackhouse and Mr. Robert Barnham. The nature of this call was to discuss the P25 statewide radio network. Up until this point, the staff at Venango had limited knowledge of this system. The extent of their knowledge was this was going to be used by PSP to replace the 800 mhz state system. The representatives from PSP explained to Director Dunkle and Deputy Director Seigworth how this system was going to work and that counties would have the opportunity to "buy-in" to the system.

They explained that the county would bring their frequencies, base stations and radios to the table. Then the frequencies could be shared by both agencies and co-locating equipment on state towers where maintaining said towers would fall to the state. Mr. Barnham further explained that an MOU would be signed and that should the partnership go separate ways in the future the county would retain their radio frequencies.

Director Dunkle then reached out Director Lake of Warren County (who opted to be the test site) about this system. Director Lake was more than willing to assist Director Dunkle with his questions. Director Lake stated that his coverage area was wonderful. He stressed he had coverage in areas that we struggle to get decent radio coverage. He then broke down his cost for opting in to the system and shared his radio proposal outlining the equipment needed and cost associated. Director Lake also commented that several other counties within the Commonwealth have reached out to him as well. One of these counties directly borders Venango.

Director Dunkle and Deputy Director Seigworth then discussed amongst themselves the possibilities of opting into the system. Venango County's current system is aging and most of the components will be coming to end of life within the next five years. This means an upgrade is going to necessary. This system shows promise in achieving this needed update. There are areas within Venango County that struggle to maintain radio coverage. With the shared tower sites, it is possible that these areas will be reached and covered. We realize this system could not only make the county more interoperable, but allow the county to be interoperable with other agencies statewide. Venango is currently working on a regional CAD project with three other counties. Two of these counties are implementing the P25 system independent of the state's system. In theory, Venango should then be able to be interoperable with these two counties making the regional system more efficient.

Director Dunkle and Deputy Director Seigworth have identified more questions that they would need clarification to. They intend to follow up with Mr. Barnham and Major Stackhouse regarding such questions. Both gentlemen feel that Venango County could benefit from a partnership with the state. The major drawback to partnering with the state would be the costs to the county. It is recognized that they would see savings in the long run with the draw back in maintenance fees, however, the upfront costs

are going to be one of the driving forces behind this project. Venango would have to explore different options in obtaining funding. We are looking forward to an open discussion on how the Commonwealth and Counties' can work together to benefit our constituents through public safety as well as a financial benefit by working together. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Venango County residents. We look forward to a future working together for the benefit for all. Thank you!