



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: James Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: September 12, 2008
Subject: JFO #2333

No Joint Fiscal Committee member has requested that the following item be held for review:

JFO #2333 — \$4,476,761 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Public Safety. These grant funds will be used to achieve measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.

[JFO received 08/13/08]

In accordance with 32 V.S.A. §5, the requisite 30 days having elapsed since this item was submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee, the Governor's approval may now be considered final. We ask that you inform the Secretary of Administration and your staff of this action.

cc: Linda Morse, Administrative Assistant
Thomas Tremblay, Commissioner



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: August 13, 2008
Subject: Grant Request

Enclosed please find one (1) request which the Joint Fiscal Office recently received from the Administration:

JFO #2333 — \$4,476,761 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Public Safety. These grant funds will be used to achieve measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.

[JFO received 08/13/08]

The Joint Fiscal Office has reviewed this submission and determined that all appropriate forms bearing the necessary approvals are in order.

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at 802/828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us or Stephen Klein at 802/828-5769; sklein@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by August 27 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner
Linda Morse, Administrative Assistant
Thomas Tremblay, Commissioner

STATE OF VERMONT
GRANT ACCEPTANCE FORM

JFO # 2333

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety

DATE: July 9, 2008

GRANT/DONATION: Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program

GRANTOR/DONOR: Department of Homeland Security
Office of Grants & Training

GRANT PERIOD: October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2010

AMOUNT/VALUE:

Federal Funding	\$4,476,761	
State Funding	919,190	In-kind funding
Local Funds (match)	<u>200,000</u>	
Total	\$5,595,951	

POSITIONS REQUESTED (LIMITED SERVICE): None

ANY ON-GOING, LONG-TERM COSTS TO THE STATE: None

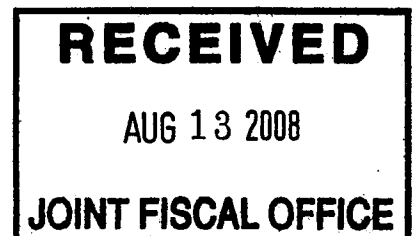
COMMENTS:

Attached Form AA-1 provides details.

I recommend acceptance of this grant. *DB*

DEPT. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT:
SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION:
SENT TO JOINT FISCAL OFFICE:

(INITIAL) *M 7/10/08*
(INITIAL) *rpm*
(DATE) 7/28/08



**Dept. of Public Safety
Administration
Division
Accounting Unit**

Memo

To: David Beatty, Budget & Management Analyst
From: Tracy Bedard, Programs Administration Supervisor (TB)
Date: 06/26/2008
CC: file
Re: Request for Grant Acceptance

Attached you will find a Request for Grant Acceptance for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program received from U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 802-241-5574 or tbedard@dps.state.vt.us; or Melissa Jenkins at 802-241-5496 or mjenkins@dps.state.vt.us.

Thank you.

**STATE OF VERMONT
REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE
(use additional sheets as needed)**

**FORM AA-1
(Rev. 9-90)**

1. **Agency:**
 2. **Department:** Public Safety
 3. **Program:** Homeland Security
 4. **Legal Title of Grant:** Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program
 5. **Federal Catalog No.:** 11.555
 6. **Grantor and Office Address:** Dept. of Homeland Security
 Preparedness Directorate
 Office of Grants & Training
 Washington, D.C 20528

7. **Grant Period:** From: 10/1/2007 To: 9/30/2010

8. **Purpose of Grant:** (attach additional sheets if needed)
 The PSIC Grant Program is a one-time formula-based, matching grant program intended to enhance interoperable communications with respect to voice, data, and/or video signals. PSIC provides public safety agencies with the opportunity to achieve meaningful and measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.

9. **Impact on Existing Programs if Grant is not Accepted:**
 If this grant is not accepted, then VCOMM would not be able to complete the build out of the VCOMM Lifeline. The Lifeline is a statewide interoperable radio communications platform that will allow all of Vermont's first responders and stakeholders the ability to communicate during critical and significant events. The establishment of interoperable communications for Vermont's first responders are priorities both nationally as well as for Governor Douglas.

10. Budget Information:	(1st State FY) FY 2009	(2nd State FY) FY 2010	(3rd State FY) FY 2011
EXPENDITURES:			
Personal Services	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,897,475.00	\$ 1,898,476.00	\$ 0.00
Grants	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,797,475.00	\$ 2,798,476.00	\$ 0.00
REVENUES:			
<u>State Funds:</u>			
Cash	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
In-Kind	\$ 459,595.00	\$ 459,595.00	\$ 0.00
<u>Federal Funds:</u>			
(Direct Costs)	\$ 2,237,880.00	\$ 2,238,881.00	\$ 0.00
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
(Department Indirect)	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
<u>Other Funds:</u>			
Local Funds Match	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,797,475.00	\$ 2,798,476.00	\$ 0.00

<u>Appropriation Nos.</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
2140071000	\$ 4,476,761.00
	\$
	\$

-over-

RECEIVED
 JUN 30 2008

BY:

11. Will grant monies be spent by one or more personal service contracts?

YES NO

If YES, signature of appointing authority here indicates intent to follow current guidelines on bidding.

X *Thomas R. Tully* 6/20/08

12a. Please list any requested Limited Service positions:

Titles	Number of Positions
N/A	N/A
TOTAL Positions 0	

12b. Equipment and space for these positions:

Is presently available.
 Can be obtained with available funds.

n/a

13. Signature of Appointing Authority

I certify that no funds have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant.

 Thomas R. Tully 6/20/08
(Signature) (Date)
 Commissioner
(Title)

14. Action by Governor:

Approved
 Rejected

 Committee 7/24/08
(Signature) (Date)

15. Secretary of Administration:

Request to JFO
 Information to JFO

 Ronda P. McEnt 7/14/08
(Signature) (Date)



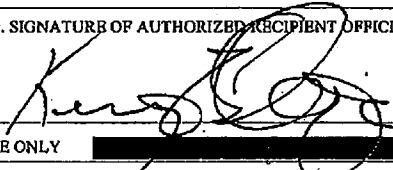
16. Action by Joint Fiscal Committee:

(Dates)

Request to be placed on JFC agenda
 Approved (not placed on agenda in 30 days)
 Approved by JFC
 Rejected by JFC
 Approved by Legislature

(Signature) (Date)

match req. \$ 1,119,190.25 PG# 7115M

 Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Directorate Office of Grants and Training		Grant		PAGE 1 OF 3
1. RECIPIENT NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-2101		4. AWARD NUMBER: 2007-GS-H7-0031		
		5. PROJECT PERIOD: FROM 10/01/2007 TO 09/30/2010 BUDGET PERIOD: FROM 10/01/2007 TO 09/30/2010		
		6. AWARD DATE 09/30/2007	7. ACTION	
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NO. 036000274		8. SUPPLEMENT NUMBER 00	Initial	
		9. PREVIOUS AWARD AMOUNT \$0		
3. PROJECT TITLE Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program		10. AMOUNT OF THIS AWARD		\$ 4,476,761
		11. TOTAL AWARD		\$ 4,476,761
12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS THE ABOVE GRANT PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS OR LIMITATIONS AS ARE SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED PAGE(S).				
13. STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR GRANT This project is supported under Section 3006 of Pub. L. No. 109-171 as amended by Section 2201(a) of Pub. L. No. 110-53, and Section 4 of Pub. L. No. 109-459				
15. METHOD OF PAYMENT PAPRS				
AGENCY APPROVAL		GRANTEE ACCEPTANCE		
16. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF APPROVING DHS OFFICIAL Corey D. Gruber Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Grants and Training		18. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL Kerry Sleeper Commissioner - Vermont Department of Public Safety		
17. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING DHS OFFICIAL 		19. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL 		19A. DATE 10/2/07
AGENCY USE ONLY				
20. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODES FISCAL FUND BUD. DIV. YBAR CODE ACT. OFC. REG. SUB. POMS AMOUNT 7 H GS 25 00 00 4476761		21. GS07V40050		

PG# 7115

OJP FORM 4000/2 (REV. 5-87) PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE.

Funding Source - PSIC07

OJP FORM 4000/2 (REV. 4-88)

FS allocation ✓

Budget journal # 955235

(4B) 12/6/07



Department of Homeland Security
Preparedness Directorate
Office of Grants and Training

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET
Grant

PAGE 2 OF 3

PROJECT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031

AWARD DATE 09/30/2007

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The recipient agrees to comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the current edition of the Office of Grant Operations Financial Management Guide.
2. The recipient agrees to comply with the organizational audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.
3. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of G&T.
4. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of the Department of Commerce. Please note: Special Condition #4 overrides Special Award Condition #3.
5. The recipient agrees that all allocations and uses of the funds under this grant will be in accordance with the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit (revised August 16, 2007).
6. The recipient further agrees to comply with the standards put forth in OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments.
7. The recipient may only fund investments that are included in the PSIC Investment Justifications approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, and supported by the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIP) that are submitted to DHS and evaluated through the peer review process.
8. When implementing PSIC funded activities, the recipient must comply with all federal civil rights laws, to include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as amended. The recipient is required to take reasonable steps to ensure persons of limited English proficiency have meaningful access to language assistance services regarding the development of proposals and budgets and conducting PSIC funded activities.
9. Recipient acknowledges that the U.S. Government reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and authorize others to use, for Federal government purposes: (a) the copyright in any work developed under an award or sub-award; and (2) any rights of copyright to which a recipient or sub-recipient purchases ownership with Federal support. The recipient agrees to consult with the U.S. Government regarding the allocation of any patent rights that arise from, or are purchased with, this funding.
10. The recipient agrees that all publications created with funding under this grant shall prominently contain the following statement: "This document was prepared under a grant from the Department of Commerce. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department of Commerce." The recipient also agrees that, when practicable, any equipment purchased with grant funding shall be prominently marked as follows: "Purchased with funds provided by the Department of Commerce."
11. The recipient agrees to cooperate with any assessments, national evaluation efforts, or information or data collection requests, including, but not limited to, the provision of any information required for the assessment or evaluation of any activities within this project.
12. The recipient agrees that federal funds under this award will be used to supplement, but not supplant; state or local funds for the same purpose.



Department of Homeland Security
Preparedness Directorate
Office of Grants and Training

**AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET**
Grant

PAGE 3 OF 3

PROJECT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031

AWARD DATE 09/30/2007

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

13. The recipient is prohibited from using PSIC funds for anything other than PSIC approved costs or Investment Justifications.
14. The recipient shall provide such information as may be requested by the Department of Commerce to ensure compliance with any applicable environmental laws and regulations. The recipient shall not undertake any construction project without the prior approval of the Department of Commerce, as required by the PSIC Grant Program Guidance and Application kit (revised August 16, 2007). The recipient agrees and understands that other proposed activities, i.e., those to be identified in the Investment Justifications in the post-award phase, are subject to Department of Commerce review and final NEPA decision. The recipient is restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternative prior to the Department of Commerce providing a NEPA decision regarding the action. Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to, demolition of existing building, site clearing, ground breaking, construction, and/or detailed design. The recipient may be requested to assist the Department of Commerce in drafting an environmental assessment; this includes providing sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact is necessary. If an EIS is necessary, the recipient may be required to assist the Department of Commerce complete the EIS, should such a measure be deemed necessary. The recipient will also be required to cooperate with the Department of Commerce in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of its proposal. This restriction does not preclude the recipient from expending award funds to prepare the information for the Department of Commerce.
15. Recipient will provide, from non-Federal sources, not less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications systems funded under this award. Although the matching costs proposed in the Recipient's application represents the Recipient's best estimate of actual required matching costs, the final amount of required matching costs will be determined after submission and approval of the Recipient's Investment Justification. The final approved matching costs will not be less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications systems funded under this award.
16. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending or drawing down funds provided through this award until the required Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and Investment Justifications are reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.
17. The recipient may request reimbursement for up to 5% of the total award amount, associated with incorporating the PSIC required elements into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), which have been incurred for allowable pre-award costs from the period of 04/01/07 through 09/30/07, as well as for allowable post-award costs from the period of 10/01/07 through 12/03/07.
18. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending or drawing down any funds allowable for costs associated with incorporating the PSIC elements into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans provided through this award until a revised SF-424A Budget Information is reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.
19. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending, or drawing down any funds provided through this award until the recipient submits a revised Brief Narrative, containing a high level overview of the planning process that includes how PSIC criteria is being incorporated into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, is reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.

AB 11/20/07



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Grant Programs Directorate

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

1. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-2101	3. GRANT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031
	4. ADJUSTMENT NUMBER 1
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NUMBER 036000274	5. DATE NOV 28 2007
2. PROJECT TITLE FY 07 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program	6. GRANT MANAGER Lynn Bagorazzi

SECTION I. DEOBLIGATIONS & REOBLIGATIONS

7. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODE FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. OFC. DIV.REG. SUB. MBO	9. PREVIOUS GRANT AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761
	10. DEOBLIGATION AMOUNT \$ 0.00
DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	11. ADJUSTED AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761

SECTION II. CHANGES

12. CHANGE GRANT MANAGER	FROM: _____	TO: _____
13. CHANGE GRANT PERIOD	FROM: _____	TO: _____

SECTION III. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS & INFORMATION

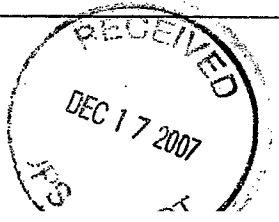
14

The grantee has submitted a brief narrative for this project which has been reviewed and approved by the Grant Programs Directorate (GPD). The grantee has declined the 5% associated with incorporating the PSIC required elements into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan. GPD has also approved the release of up to 3% of M&A grant funds. The budget for this grant is as follows:

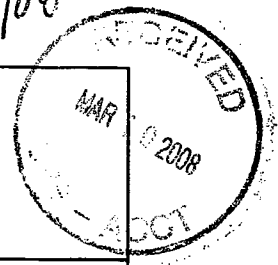
Cost Category	Budget	Hold	Release
M&A	\$134,303	\$ -	\$134,303
Total:	\$134,303	\$4,342,458	\$134,303

Special conditions # 18 and 19 are rescinded. Grant funds in the amount of \$134,303 are available for immediate drawdown and expenditure. Special condition #16 has been revised. The grantee is prohibited from expending or drawing down the remaining grant funds in the amount of \$4,342,458 until the required Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and Investment Justifications are reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.

15. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Tracey Trautman, Director, Grant Development and Administration	16. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL <i>Tracey Trautman</i>
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Wally
2/29/08



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Grant Programs Directorate

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

1. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-2101	3. GRANT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031
	4. ADJUSTMENT NUMBER 2
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NUMBER 036000274	5. DATE FEB 27 2008
2. PROJECT TITLE FY 07 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program	6. GRANT MANAGER Lynn Bagorazzi

SECTION I. DEOBLIGATIONS & REOBLIGATIONS

7. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODE FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. OFC. DIV.REG. SUB. MBO	9. PREVIOUS GRANT AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761
	10. DEOBLIGATION AMOUNT \$ 0.00
DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	11. ADJUSTED AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761

SECTION II. CHANGES

12. CHANGE GRANT MANAGER	FROM: _____	TO: _____
13. CHANGE GRANT PERIOD	FROM: _____	TO: _____

SECTION III. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS & INFORMATION

14
The signatory authority for this grant is changed as of this date. Please direct all mail, fax and electronic correspondence and telephone contacts to:

Thomas R. Tremblay, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101
Office: (802) 244-8718
Fax: (802) 241-5551
Cell: (802) 839-0063
Home: (802)879-6634
Email: ttrembla@dps.state.vt.us

15. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Tracey Trautman, Director, Grant Development and Administration	16. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL <i>Tracey Trautman</i>
--	--

Done 5/29/08



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Grant Programs Directorate

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

1. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671	3. GRANT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031
	4. ADJUSTMENT NUMBER 3
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NUMBER 036000274	5. DATE MAY 29 2008
2. PROJECT TITLE Fiscal Year 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program (PSIC)	6. GRANT MANAGER Erin Edwards

SECTION I. DEOBLIGATIONS & REOBLIGATIONS

7. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODE FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. OFC. DIV.REG. SUB. MBO	9. PREVIOUS GRANT AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761
	10. DEOBLIGATION AMOUNT \$ 0
DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	11. ADJUSTED AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761

SECTION II. CHANGES

12. CHANGE GRANT MANAGER	FROM: _____	TO: _____
13. CHANGE GRANT PERIOD	FROM: _____	TO: _____

SECTION III. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS & INFORMATION

14
The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has approved all of the Investments submitted in Vermont's Investment Justification on May 7, 2008 and has authorized the Grant Program Directorate (GPD) to release all PSIC funds. Vermont may now expend and drawdown funds up to Vermont's award of \$4,476,761.00.

Special Conditions #16, 18 and 19 have been rescinded.



15. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Tracey Trautman, Director, Grant Development and Administration	16. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL <i>Tracey Trautman</i>
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Supplemental Request to Vermont PSIC Investment Justification: Technology

Primary Point of Contact:

Lieutenant Michael J. Manning
Northern Field Manager – Vermont Homeland Security Unit
Vermont State Police
103 So. Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671
Phone: (802) 241-5095
E-Mail: mmanning@dps.state.vt.us

Lieutenant Manning is the primary point of contact and manager of the Vermont Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan. Lieutenant Manning's primary assignment is Vermont's Interoperable Communications efforts.

This section address the following Action Required:

- **Provide written clarification that addresses the following issue(s):**
 - **Technology:** The Investment has not clearly described the proposed solution.

Provide additional detail on the solution/equipment that is proposed (e.g., frequency band, number of units, required infrastructure) and how it will support interoperability. Response should address who is procuring this equipment, how it is being distributed, and who are the end users of this equipment.

Vermont Communications (VCOMM), radio network design provides a robust new platform for radio interoperability within Vermont and an IP Gateway that can integrate Federal and adjoining jurisdiction public safety communications systems. This system is known as the Vermont Statewide Interoperable Radio Communications Lifeline. Infrastructure and technology upgrades and build out will begin in the summer of 2008. The Lifeline will be completed in February of 2010 with a statewide goal of 90% mobile and portable radio coverage with a D.A.Q. of 3.0.

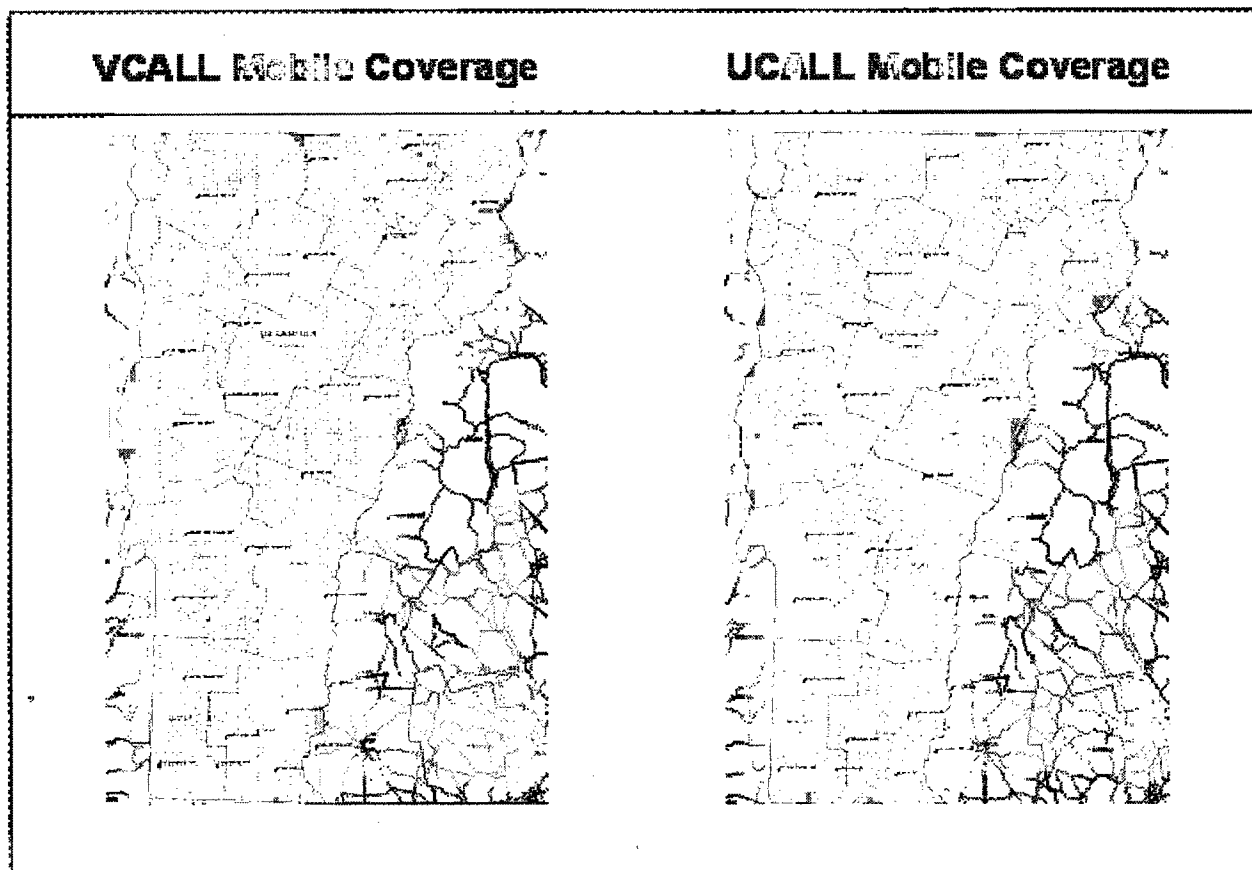
VCOMM is currently engaged in contract negotiations with a radio vendor to perform the build out and system upgrades. Due to Vermont State Contracting Regulations VCOMM cannot identify the name of the vendor until a contract is signed.

VCOMM's solution utilizes VHF and a UHF Nationwide Interoperability Call-In channel at (32) fixed locations. The proposed network expands the State of Vermont's current radio coverage area while maximizing the reuse of existing radio tower sites. The proposed configuration provides a wide area network with distributed control. First Responders in the field need only select the appropriate channel to reach a Vermont PSAP by radio. Responders are not required to know what site is the closest. The proposed system infrastructure eliminates the need for sectioning off the state and automatically provides the dispatchers with the best signal at the console.

The proposed system permits any narrowband capable mobile or portable radio in Vermont to access the VCALL and UCALL channels and communicate with one or more of the (9) regional PSAPS.

Vermont's rugged terrain presents a challenge to radio network coverage. VCOMM will utilize towers at high elevations help minimize the number of sites required. Using the State's existing Microwave backbone as the foundation for the proposed system, we have developed a site constellation that maximizes the use of existing radio tower sites. To accomplish this, during site selection, VCOMM focused on the reuse of sites where Vermont public safety or utility companies existed. As a result, nearly all the sites selected for the proposed solution are already in existence.

Our proposed system coverage area vastly increases the coverage area experienced by the wide area systems currently operated by the State Department of Public Safety. The design proposed includes 32 transmit/receive sites. The maps represent mobile coverage using 100-watt mobiles on VCALL and UCALL Channels.



The VCOMM system plan has been adopted by the State's First Responders. Early adoption was possible because the system was easy to use, had minimal training requirements, and compatibility with existing radios. VCOMM has already started the process of reprogramming existing mobile and portable radios for compatibility with the VCALL, VTAC, UCALL, and UTAC narrowband channels. In keeping with the developing National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) recommendations for use of the VCALL and UCALL channels, VCOMM proposes a narrowband analog configuration for the CALL channels. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules require narrowband operation, however, analog is still the most widely used modulation in Vermont and the United States. Narrowband analog operation ensures that Vermont First Responders will have the most flexible use of the VCOMM system today.

VCOMM's Tactical Interoperability channels are assigned nationally as common channels. The two tables below list the VHF and UHF channels we have chosen.

VHF Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan

Frequency/ Authorized Use	Name
151.1375 Base/Mobile	VTAC 1
154.4525 Base/Mobile	VTAC 2
158.7375 Base/Mobile	VTAC 3
159.4725 Base/Mobile	VTAC 4

UHF Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan

	Name
453.4625 Base/Mobile	UTAC 1a
458.4625 Mobile Only	UTAC 1
453.7125 Base/Mobile	UTAC 2a
458.7125 Mobile Only	UTAC 2
453.8625 Base/Mobile	UTAC 3a
458.8625 Mobile Only	UTAC 3

This channel plan provides for the widest possible use of the CALL channels with analog only operation. The plan also recognizes that the TAC channels provide for more operational flexibility and can operate either analog or digital modulation. The plan sets standards for CTCSS tones and P25 Network Access Codes on these channels. Following the established guidelines will ensure the broadest possible interoperable communications with First Responders from Vermont and throughout the U.S. VCOMM’s plan:

- ◆ Maximizes the use of state-owned infrastructure.
- ◆ Minimizes green site construction by expanding at new sites already in place.
- ◆ Maximizes coverage by selecting new sites based on coverage contribution.
- ◆ Creates four regional subsystems on VCALL and UCALL channels.
- ◆ Provides a network that can be used with currently fielded First Responder radios.

- ◆ Simplifies First Responder access.
- ◆ Provides redundant answering points through networking on existing infrastructure.
- ◆ Provides IP gateways to other systems.
- ◆ Promotes scalability and phased implementation as funding is available.

If requested the six signed copies of the following MOU could be scanned and sent:

Memorandum of Understanding

- SAMPLE -

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the *Vermont Communications Board (VCOMM)*, and the *<organization>* outlines the terms and conditions for the allocation and usage of U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Commerce grant funds for the purposes of interoperable communications for local and state emergency responders and other emergency officials.

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) provides funding for M&A, Planning, Equipment, Training and Exercises 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 FY 2007 to FY 2010 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program provides funding for Planning, Acquisition, Deployment, Training and M&A for the use of 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. The Homeland Security Unit agrees to provide up to \$4,476,761 as allocated by the PSIC grant as well as the amount of HSGP funding specified by the Statewide Local Grants Review Committee during the period covered by this MOU to VCOMM to be utilized for interoperable communications HSGP M&A, Planning, Equipment, Training and Exercises and PSIC Planning, Acquisition, Deployment, Training and M&A to local emergency responders and other local officials including the members of the DPS.

VCOMM will ensure that appropriate personnel and funds will be assigned to the homeland security interoperable communications project as outlined in Vermont's FY07 Homeland Security and Public Safety Interoperable Communications Applications and as required by the DHS and SAFECOM FY07 Grant Guidance.

WHEREAS, the *<organization>* agrees to the use of local grant funds to support the development and implementation of the homeland security interoperable communications project by VCOMM. The VCOMM project will be a multi-year, multi-phase project addressing interoperability, and agency's emergency needs of existing capabilities and current FCC and HSU mandates.

VCOMM will oversee the implementation of the U-Call/V-Call (U-Tac/V-Tac) lifeline system for Vermont. VCOMM will also address individual agency needs in obtaining communications equipment if such equipment is lacking and is needed by that agency to function within the VCOMM project. VCOMM, in future phases, will implement programs to address narrow-banding issues as mandated by the FCC (radios, pagers, etc.). In addition, the VCOMM project will be supported by multiple funding sources, including local and state funds as directed by DHS Guidance. VCOMM will assume as much responsibility as allowable in implementing these narrow-banding mandates, with available funds.

This agreement shall be effective from August 1, 2007 to September 30, 2010 subject to renewal upon mutual agreement by both parties.

By: Vermont Communications Board

By: *<insert organization name>*

<organization head>
<title>

Kerry Sleeper
Commissioner

Date Signed: _____

Date Signed: _____

PSIC Investment Justification

Overall

The state of Vermont has requested a waiver for the STR portion of the PSIC grant program and is submitting one Investment Justification for the Vermont Communications (VCOMM) Interoperable Communications Lifeline System. The Lifeline is based upon using national calling and tactical channels combined with infrastructure and technology upgrades to 32 existing tower sites and 11 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) for a cost effective, spectrum efficient, interoperable communications platform. Vermont's SCIP is a common sense, NRF/NIMS compliant approach to the acquisition, deployment and usage of the statewide interoperable communications system.

Vermont is a small state with limited funding requiring a common sense and cost effective solution to interoperable communications. This PSIC Investment Justification is the best approach toward achieving this goal. There are no tribal or county governments in Vermont. This solution provides interoperable connectivity for radio and information sharing for all first responders, the military, NGOs and other sharing partners.

The Vermont Communications (VCOMM) Board has the executive authority and responsibility of establishing interoperable communications within Vermont. The Board is made up of traditional and non-traditional first responders, sharing partners, the military and NGOs. The broad membership of VCOMM represents all stakeholders providing input on the interoperable communications needs and requirements for Vermont.

II.A. Project Narrative - Describe the proposed Investment

- **Interoperability problem(s)**
- **Proposed solution(s)**
- **Expected outcome(s)**
- **Partners and end users that will be involved**
- **Plans to evaluate the Investment**

VCOMM has the responsibility to establish statewide interoperable communications. At this time there is limited interoperability due to legacy radio systems and VT's unique geography. VCOMM proposes reprogramming all first responders (fire, police, EMS) radios and upgrading technology at 32 communication towers and 11 PSAPs in order to use the national calling and tactical channels and build a communications Lifeline System. The Lifeline will provide an interoperable communications platform for all first responders and sharing partners to utilize during any multi-agency response whether natural or man-made, planned or unplanned. By using fixed gateways, VT will also be able to establish interoperable communications with neighboring states and Canada.

VCOMM is made up of representatives of both traditional and non-traditional first responders, sharing partners, the military and NGOs. All of VT's first responders and sharing partners will utilize the Lifeline System. Expected outcomes include, but are not limited to, increase in UHF and VHF coverage and an increase in the number of users that are interoperable. Specific

performance measures will include technical/systems testing, user feedback and exercise After Action Reports.

III.A. Baseline – Historical Funding and Request Name

If the Investment has previously been funded or if funding has been requested (e.g. Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grants, Infrastructure Protection Program, Assistance to Firefighter Grants, and/or Department of Justice grants such as those from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services), provide the name of this project and the total amount of funding that was dedicated or proposed to it, if any. (1,024 Char. Max)

Through the State SAA, VCOMM was granted 7.5M from the FY06 HSGP and 2.3M from the FY 07 HSGP for the build-out of the Lifeline System. The State of Vermont will also provide funding for aspects of the project not covered by HSGP or PSIC grant guidance. No additional taxes, user fees or bonds have been requested for this project.

III.B. Baseline – Description of Need

Provide a summary description of the current state of this Investment, its objectives, and any outcomes that will be completed prior to the application of PSIC funds. Reference should also be made to the PSIC objectives (highlighted in Section I.A Program Funding Goals) addressed by the Investment. (3,000 Char. Max)

This investment is designed to strengthen statewide interoperable communications to enable fire, police and EMS to communicate across all geographic areas of the state. VT is using the NRF approach to all-hazards planning and response. As part of an existing effort, this project is in direct alignment with FY06 HSGP and FY07 HSGP Interoperable Communications Investments submitted by the State of VT. In future phases of the project, this Investment will be coordinated with the FY07 HSGP Intelligence, Fusion and Analysis Investment Justification requesting mobile data technologies.

The following outcomes have been completed:

1. The VCOMM board has received proposals for a statewide Voice Radio Interoperability Solution.
2. VCOMM has hired a Frequency Coordinator and Project Manager.
3. VCOMM has established MOUs with first responder organizations to allow for the combining of local and state portions of FY06 and FY07 HSGP funding and PSIC funding for the VCOMM project.
4. Contracts have been created with the state for local radio repair businesses to reprogram all first responder mobile and portable radios with the national calling and tactical channels as the basis of the Lifeline System.
5. As identified in the regional TICP After Action Report, ten fire departments in the northeast quadrant of the state have received funding to provide upgraded and compatible radio equipment.
6. Use of the national calling and tactical channels has been incorporated into the state's Training & Exercise Plan.

These efforts have enabled the Public Safety communities within VT to efficiently communicate with each other overcoming legacy capability gaps, challenges posed by VT's unique geographical terrain, expectations by the public that emergency service providers can communicate, inadequate radio coverage throughout the state, channel congestion, interference issues and a dramatically changing wireless communications environment.

In evaluating proposed radio system designs, VT considered challenges such as the state's unique environmental laws, complicated FCC licensing guidelines and limited funding opportunities. The VCOMM board selected a solution that was functional, cost effective, attainable and that will meet the Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan requirements. VCOMM is dedicated to providing VT's first response community with the necessary communications tools and has identified this program as a priority.

By using national calling and tactical channels the Lifeline System will provide an interoperable platform to be utilized by all first responders. Fixed gateway systems will be established at 11 PSAPs and radio caches and mobile gateway systems already exist as part of VT's existing strategic reserve.

It is imperative that open, free-flowing communications be established with all parties in VT. Through a combination of outreach methods, VCOMM continues to relay project information to the first responder community.

III.C. Baseline – Description of Governance Structure and Activities

Provide a summary description of the current state of your governance structure and activities. (2,500 Char. Max)

VCOMM was established through Executive Order with representatives consisting of traditional and non-traditional first responders, the military, NGOs and sharing partners. More than 25 entities are listed in the Executive Order, representing over 500 federal, state, local and non-governmental organizations. VCOMM has secured MOUs with the representatives of the VT first responder community to utilize state and local funds for the build-out of the Lifeline System. MOUs exist for the sharing of communications usage, equipment and technology both nationally, within New England as well as with Canada.

In alignment with the SAFECOM guidance, three sub-committees were established as follows: Technical Committee, Operational Committee and an Institutional Committee. In addition to these three sub-committees, the Steering Committee has been created to provide broad oversight of the project to ensure that all sub-committees are working towards a common goal. The Steering Committee is also responsible for budgetary oversight and working with other members of state and municipal government for the coordination of all plans and activities that are directly related to interoperable communications. A Project Manager has been hired to oversee the project on a day to day basis and will apprise the VCOMM board on the status of the project ensuring we are meeting our time lines. The VCOMM board will keep the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (SAA) updated on the progress of the statewide communications project. VCOMM reports to the Commissioner of Public Safety (SAA) who has the

responsibility by statute to brief the Governor's Office and the Legislative Oversight Committees on the progress of the project.

The Technical Committee has overseen the proposals for the build-out of the Lifeline System. VCOMM is currently negotiating with a radio communications company for the build-out of the Lifeline.

The Operational Committee has created a U-Call/V-Call User's Guide, is responsible for training materials posted on the VCOMM web site and is working with VT's Public Safety Academies to provide training on the Lifeline System for all current and future first responders and dispatchers. They are drafting NIMS compliant SOPs for the use of the Lifeline System.

III.D. Baseline – Stakeholder Involvement

Provide information on the public safety agencies involved in the Investment Justification Process. (1,024 Char. Max)

There are no tribal entities within VT. VCOMM includes members appointed by the Governor who represent Volunteer Firefighters, the Professional Fire Fighters of VT, the VT State Firefighters Association, the VT Career Fire Chiefs' Association, the VT Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the VT Ambulance Association, the E-911 Board, the VT State Police, the VT Sheriffs' Association, the VT Association of Chiefs of Police, the VT Department of Fish & Wildlife/Law Enforcement Division, the VT Agency of Transportation, VT Emergency Management, the VT Division of Fire Safety, VT Criminal Justice Services, the VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, the VT Department of Motor Vehicles, the VT League of Cities & Towns, the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the VT Department of Information and Innovation, the VT National Guard, a federal law enforcement agency, the American Red Cross and appropriate private community organizations.

IV.A. Strategy – Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Objectives

Explain how this Investment supports the State/Territory Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan PSIC criteria. (2,250 Char. Max)

This PSIC Investment will be submitted concurrently with Vermont's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). This Investment is in direct alignment with VCOMM's vision, mission, goals and objectives referenced in the SCIP:

The vision of VCOMM is to create a public safety communications network throughout the State of Vermont capable of meeting the two-way voice and data needs of all first responder. To leverage Homeland Security funds, Federal earmarks and other funding opportunities to reduce the construction financial burden on the first responder community within Vermont.

VCOMM's mission is to assess the State's overall interoperable communications capability, policies and needs; to advise on strategies to create an interoperable, accessible radio system for police, fire and emergency service responders that links local, state and federal agencies in

Vermont as well as international and regional agencies in Canada and our neighboring states; to meet ... mandates from the Federal government...

Goals

1. Provide good to excellent mobile coverage.
2. Minimize new construction and permitting challenges.
3. Allow first responder agencies to maintain their own radio systems with an access to an interoperable network.
4. Keep the financial investment practical.

In alignment with VCOMM's goals, vision and mission to assess the State's overall interoperable communications capabilities, policies and needs, the following objectives have been completed:

1. User Needs Assessment
2. Technology Assessment
3. New Systems Design
4. Request for Budgetary Quotation
5. Request for Proposals

IV.B. Strategy – Technology Priorities

Explain how this Investment supports the PSIC technology objectives. (2,250 Char. Max)

- **Adopt advanced technological solutions**
- **Improve spectrum efficiency**

VT does not have a trunked system or a “system of systems.”

VCOMM is building a Lifeline Communications System that integrates advanced gateway technology at the 11 Public Safety Answering Points to ensure connectivity with all sharing partners during the first phase of the project. The use of national calling and tactical channels will maximize spectrum efficiency and provide the best solution to meet the user requirements.

Cost effectiveness and the use of existing infrastructure were important factors in determining technological solutions to VT's interoperable communications needs. System upgrades and the acquisition and deployment of P-25 compliant equipment and advanced gateway technology at the 11 PSAPs will allow for the utilization of V-Call/ and U-Call. These gateway devices will have the ability to establish communications with IP-based and 700 MHz systems. The system technology will have the ability to migrate to an IP-based platform during future phases of the project. Due to State of VT contract rules (Bulletin 3.5) we are forbidden from disclosing the radio vendor or specific proposed technologies at this time.

VCOMM will use 700MHz for data interoperability where commercial solutions do not exist. The use of 700MHz and fixed gateways will also be used to establish interoperable connectivity with surrounding states.

Training on these advanced systems will be provided by the contracted vendor.

IV.C. Strategy – All Hazards Mitigation Priorities

Explain how this Investment supports the PSIC all hazards priorities. (2,250 Char. Max)

- Improve communications in areas at high risk for natural disasters**
- Continue to improve interoperability efforts in urban and metropolitan areas at high risk for threats of terrorism**

VT has identified flooding, winter/ice storms and extreme weather as the top concerns for natural disasters through the Hazards Inventory and Risk Assessment planning process. These naturally occurring events represent the majority of risk VT has experienced over the past century. VT has significant bodies of water that are prone to flooding causing threats to life safety and damage to infrastructure and property.

VT's current core radio system was built with fault tolerance in mind to minimize radio capabilities lost due to a natural or man-made event. The build-out of the Lifeline System will provide a much greater and more robust interoperable communications platform to be utilized during all-hazards events both planned and unplanned.

The Lifeline, in conjunction with the national calling and tactical channels, will provide all responders, regardless of region or discipline, with the ability to communicate with all other responders during a multi-agency response.

The Lifeline will establish greater communications abilities in the Northeast Quadrant, the area selected for VT's regional TICP. The Lifeline System will provide a common set of calling and tactical channels and fixed gateways where currently only mobile gateways exist and shared channels are inter-disciplinary only. VT does not have a designated UASI.

VT has made significant investments for the purposes of strategic reserves. Currently the State Police, the agency responsible for statewide Incident Management, has two MCPs and one Rapid Response Tactical Communications vehicle. These assets are supported by a Critical Incident Dispatch Team and technicians from the Department of Public Safety Radio Division and are available to respond anywhere within the state or surrounding regions 24/7. There are also two locally owned MCPs and multiple mobile tactical gateways that can further deploy if needed. There are currently multiple radio caches owned by both state and local agencies that can be shared during significant planned and unplanned events. In addition, the state has access to the communications capabilities of the National Guard. MOUs exist for the sharing of radio communications technology within state, nationally and with Canada.

V.A. Funding Plan

Detail the total estimated cost for the Investment throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 21 Describe any other concurrent funding sources that may also support this Investment, including fo share. Detailed estimated expenditure plan which credibly demonstrates ability to meet expenditur September 30, 2010.

	PSIC Federal Funds Requested	Non-Federal Matching Fund Amount	Total Investment*
Acquisition	\$ 2,238,380.50	\$ 682,385.90	\$ 2,920,766.40
Deployment	\$ 2,238,380.50	\$ 238,700.00	\$ 2,477,080.50
Training			\$ -
Planning/Coord.			\$ -
Total	\$ 4,476,761.00	\$ 921,085.90	\$ 5,397,846.90

* - Total investment includes the Non-Federal Match and Total PSIC Federal Funds Requested. 20% match is required for all Acquisition and Deployment funds; however, match can be identified and allocated at either the Investment level or the total PSIC IJ level (on the Overall Funding Summary tab). Therefore, individual investments can be undermatched or overmatched according to the needs of the applicant.

V.B Matching Plan

How does your investment meet the non-Federal cash or in-kind matching requirement? Please itemize both the funding category and amount in the table below. (1,000 Char. Max)

PSIC funds in the acquisition and deployment cost categories will be used for the site development and civil work necessary at the 32 existing tower sites and 11 PSAPs of the Lifeline System. Equipment, installation, performance bond, project management, training and warranty services will be covered by FY06 and FY07 HSGP funding and State monies will be used to fill funding gaps due to AEL restrictions.

Several state and local employees will now be spending time on the PSIC grant project. This time will be used as an in-kind match toward the acquisition of the System. Indirect costs associated with these employees to include maintenance of non-vehicle equipment, maintenance of vehicles, office fees, insurance, vehicle supplies and gasoline will also be used as a match toward the acquisition of the System. Site lease fees for the existing state and municipal tower sites and usage fees at these sites (telephone, power) will be used as in-kind match towards the System deployment.

Non-Federal Matching Fund Category	Non-Federal Matching Fund Amount
Cash - State	
Cash - Local/Tribal	
Cash - Non-governmental	
In-Kind - Donated volunteer services	
In-Kind - Donated salaries	\$ 765,766.75
In-Kind - Donated equipment	
In-Kind - Donated property	\$ 93,600.00
In-Kind - Indirect costs	\$ 26,599.15

* - Please explain Matching Plan

Other*	\$	35,100.00
Total	\$	921,085.90

**Total Matching Fund Amount Must be Equal to Section V.A. Total Matching Fund Amount of:
Matching Self
Check:**

VI. Milestones

Provide specific milestones for the Investment over the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010), including a description, and start and end dates for each milestone; up to 10 milestones may be provided. (850 Char. max per milestone)

1 - Complete negotiations and sign a contract with a radio communications vendor for the infrastructure and technological upgrades needed for the 32 communication tower sites and 11 PSAPs to establish the foundation for the Vermont Lifeline.

October 10, 2007 – March 31, 2008

2 – Complete the FCC frequency coordination process to allow for the use of the national calling and tactical channels.

October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

3 – Complete NIMS compliant SOPs for the use of the Lifeline System.

December 3, 2007 – March 31, 2008

4 – Complete reprogramming of all first responders mobile and portable radios with the national calling and tactical channels. (No PSIC funds will be used for this aspect of the Lifeline System)

March 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

5 – Replacement of non-narrowband first responder mobile and portable radios unable to use the national calling and tactical channels. ~~(No PSIC funds will be used for this aspect of the Lifeline System)~~ *NL per discussion w/ Jason Gosselin - see email at back of package.*

September 1, 2006 – March 31, 2008

6 – Build-out of the Lifeline System to include the acquisition and deployment of equipment, engineering costs, factory staging, system installation, microwave installation, performance bond, site development/civil work and training for 32 existing tower sites and 11 Public Safety Answering Points.

April 1, 2008 – February 1, 2010

VII. Project Management

Describe the management team that is directly responsible for the implementation of this Investment. Specifically, describe any key Investment roles and responsibilities, structures, and subject matter expertise required by this Investment, including at least the project manager and the contracts management structure. An organizational chart may be included in the response and should be placed in Section X., Attachments. (3,500 Char. Max)

VCOMM has the executive authority and responsibility of establishing statewide interoperable communications. In alignment with the SAFECOM guidance, three sub-committees were established as follows: Technical Committee, Operational Committee and an Institutional Committee. In addition to these three sub-committees, the Steering Committee has been created to provide broad oversight of the project to ensure that all sub-committees are working towards a common goal. The Steering Committee is also responsible for budgetary oversight and working with other members of state and municipal government for the coordination of all plans and activities that are directly related to interoperable communications.

A Project Manager (Beliveau Consulting, Inc.) has been hired to work with VCOMM through development, acquisition, implementation and deployment of a wireless network solution in support of mobile radio voice communications for federal, state, local, traditional and non-traditional first responders, military and NGOs operating with, and adjacent to, the State of Vermont. The Project Manager oversees the project on a day to day basis and apprises the VCOMM Board on the status of the project ensuring we are meeting our time lines. The VCOMM Board will keep the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (SAA) updated on the progress of the statewide communications project. VCOMM reports to the Commissioner of Public Safety (SAA) who has the responsibility by statute to brief the Governor's Office and the Legislative Oversight Committees on the progress of the project.

Due to the potential impact to legacy networks, the Project Manager will work in collaboration with all the Communications Program Managers affected by the VCOMM build-out.

The Project Manager has experience with large projects, extensive RF system engineering background and the ability to collaborate with and build consensus among a diverse group of emergency service providers.

The Project Manager will provide the necessary project outline detailing all necessary steps both at a macro and micro level including timelines for the development, acquisition, implementation and full deployment of any wireless network solution.

The Project Manager reports to the VCOMM Steering Committee.

The Project Manager attends any and all meetings associated with the replacement and implementation of the new wireless network.

The Project Manager may be required to participate in formal hearings regarding tower site issues and radio replacement issues.

The Project Manager will be expected to prepare briefings and documents to meetings of stakeholders and the VCOMM Board.

The Project Manager may be required to complete contracts and other documents in accordance with State guidelines, to ensure purchases and compliance with the standards in any RFP and subsequent contract that is developed.

The Project Manager will represent the State of Vermont in ensuring that all requirements of the RFP and any subsequent contract to build a system are adhered to.

The Project Manager contract will not be funded through PSIC.

VIII. Investment Challenges

List and describe up to five potential challenges to effective implementation of this Investment over the entire PSIC period of performance. For each identified challenge, provide a brief description of how the challenge will be mitigated, and indicate a probability of occurrence (high, medium, low), and level of impact should it occur (high, medium, low). Applicants should consider the Investment's technical feasibility as a possible investment challenge.

Challenge: To obtain capital funding for radio equipment and supporting hardware not included in the AEL.

Mitigation: VCOMM is working with the Governor's administration and the Vermont Legislature to secure funding that will allow for the purchase of this critical hardware. VCOMM is also in communications with Vermont's congressional delegates in an effort to secure federal earmarks or grants to purchase this necessary equipment. Another approach is to partner with the private sector.

High:High

Challenge: Securing funding necessary to sustain ongoing operational costs.

Mitigation: VCOMM is working very closely with the Governor's administration and the legislative body for funding necessary to sustain this program. Additional approaches include partnering with the private sector in an attempt to find creative ways to share sustainability costs.

High:High

Challenge: FCC frequency coordination.

Mitigation: FCC frequency licensing is a challenge for all states along the Canadian Border. This milestone is critically important to accomplish so that the Lifeline will provide adequate radio coverage for all first responders. VCOMM is currently working with the FCC, Vermont's Congressional Delegation and Canadian partners to coordinate and receive licensing for the national calling and tactical channels.

High:High

IX.A. Impact - Outcomes

Describe the outcome(s) that will indicate that this Investment is successful throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). The description should include compelling reasons why the Investment will make a difference in the communications capabilities of its stakeholders. Note: Must address how the outcomes will be evaluated. (4,000 Char. Max)

The VCOMM board was established with the goal of finding a solution to address legacy communication problems within Vermont's first responder community. The first task VCOMM addressed was to identify the major communications issues through the use of a survey process. The results of the survey identified three major shortcomings: coverage, capacity and interoperability. The study also showed a desire in the first responder community for mobile data in a future phase. VCOMM realized that interoperability was not obtainable without first achieving radio coverage. VCOMM's mission is to identify funding and to provide a solution to address these issues. The statewide interoperable communications system is a multi-year, multi-phase project that will overlap through multiple funding cycles. The success of the project is contingent upon obtaining recurring funding.

The outcomes for the PSIC period of performance are as follows:

- The State of Vermont will secure a contract with a radio communications vendor for the build-out of the Lifeline System. This contract will include equipment, engineering costs, factory staging, system installation, microwave installation, performance bond, site development/civil work and training for 32 existing tower sites and 11 Public Safety Answering Points. The results of which will be a core interoperable communications platform providing greater safety and information sharing among first responders and sharing partners. The completion of the acquisition and deployment of this project will be completed by February 1, 2010.
- As a result of enhanced communications infrastructure improvements, the first responder community along with sharing partners to include the military and NGOs will be able to communicate with all other first responders and Public Safety Answering Points throughout the state where RF coverage was historically not available. This directly relates to the safety of the first responders within the state.
- VCOMM and sub-contractors have identified additional radio spectrum within Vermont. This has resulted in additional channel capacity for the first responder community thereby helping to resolve congestion issues identified by the User Needs Assessment in 2004. The use of national calling and tactical channels results in a cost-effective, spectrum efficient and easily obtainable solution. Any first responder or sharing partner, irregardless of discipline or region of response, will have full interoperable communications with any and all first response agencies.
- As a result of VCOMM working with the Police and Fire Academies, training and in-service programs have been developed and will continue to be refined to address the needs of our first responders. These programs have begun and will continue to train first responders and dispatchers in the use of the Vermont Lifeline communications system. These training efforts will result in more efficient use of the Lifeline System, decreased channel congestion and improved radio discipline.

IX.B. Impact - Cost-Effective Measures

Describe the cost-effective measures that will indicate that this Investment is successful throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). (4,000 Char. Max)

Based on the statewide User Needs Assessment (2004), Macro Corporation provided the State of Vermont with a 260 – 300M proposal for a new interoperable communications network including 110 new tower sites. VCOMM found this proposal to be cost prohibitive and economically unsustainable. Members of the VCOMM Board deliberated and defined a statewide plan that would use existing state and local infrastructure as the backbone of a standards-based, cost-effective and spectrum efficient interoperable communications network. The Vermont Lifeline System will use 32 existing tower sites and 11 existing PSAPs in order to build-out the interoperable communications platform. Cost savings is demonstrated through the sharing of state and local infrastructure. The procurement of advanced technology and infrastructure enhancements will decrease maintenance and upkeep of aged legacy systems, making for a more efficient and cost effective solution.

Vermont's SCIP is based upon the Vermont interoperable communications Lifeline, which will utilize national calling and tactical channels to provide an interoperable communications platform for all first responders and sharing partners.

IX.C. Impact - Sustainability

Describe the long-term approach to sustaining this Investment. (4,000 Char. Max)

The statewide interoperable communications system is comprised of communications infrastructure located within the boundaries of Vermont belonging to a cooperative comprised of local and state government. Most of the infrastructure currently exists and is being maintained by state and local emergency service providers, public works organizations and other governmental agencies. The VCOMM plan to utilize existing infrastructure is economically wise because much of the sustainability costs are currently funded at various levels by these agencies. The VCOMM partners will contribute 32 existing tower sites and 11 PSAPs that have developed infrastructure. Participation in the statewide interoperable communications system is voluntary and contributing a community's infrastructure to VCOMM reflects a substantial cost savings. This represents in kind funding at the state and local level. The state communications budget will be increased to maintain sustainability of the system.



Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program FACT SHEET

EMBARGOED FOR REPORTING UNTIL 10:30 EDT TODAY

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was authorized to establish and administer the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program as directed by Section 3006 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-171.) The Call Home Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-459) required NTIA to make grant awards by September 30, 2007.

Under this PSIC Grant Program, \$968,358,000 will be made available in grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands. The Governor of each State and Territory has designated a State Administrative Agency (SAA) which can apply for and administer the funds under the PSIC Grant Program. The SAA is responsible for obligating PSIC funds to eligible pass-through recipients, which is statutorily defined as a public safety agency that is a State, local, or tribal government entity or nongovernmental organization authorized by such entity, whose sole or principal purpose is to protect safety of life, health, or property.

The PSIC Grant Program is designed to assist public safety agencies in the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications systems that utilize – or enable interoperability with communications systems that can utilize – reallocated 700 MHz spectrum for radio communications.

Each public safety agency receiving PSIC funds is required to meet and document a 20 percent statutory match requirement for each project during the period of performance of the grant.

Up to 5 percent of the State's and Territory's total allocation can be used by the applicant to complete its Statewide Plan to ensure that the PSIC criteria are incorporated in the Statewide Plans. Funds designated for this purpose will be made available upon award.

For more information on the PSIC Grant Program, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov. Press and congressional offices should contact NTIA at 202-482-1840.

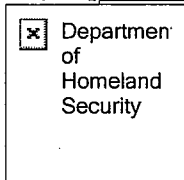
PSIC Grant Program updates will be posted on the NTIA website: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic>



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FY 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program (PSIC)



Synopsis
Full Announcement
How to Apply

The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis contains all of the updates to this document that have been posted as of 07/19/2007. If updates have been made to the opportunity synopsis, update information is provided below the synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes to the grant opportunity click [send me change notification emails](#). The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is requested.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

Document Type:	Grants Notice
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-07-OGT-025-1673
Opportunity Category:	Mandatory
Posted Date:	Jul 19, 2007
Creation Date:	Jul 19, 2007
Original Closing Date for Applications:	Aug 22, 2007
Current Closing Date for Applications:	Aug 22, 2007
Archive Date:	Sep 21, 2007
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Category of Funding Activity:	Other (see text field entitled "Explanation of Other Category of Funding Activity" for clarification)
Category Explanation:	Interoperable Communications
Expected Number of Awards:	56
Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$968,385,000
Award Ceiling:	
Award Floor:	
CFDA Number:	11.555 -- Public Safety and Interoperable Communications
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes

Eligible Applicants



State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Agency Name

Preparedness - OG&T

Description

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program is a one-time formula-based, matching grant program intended to enhance interoperable communications with respect to voice, data, and/or video signals. PSIC provides public safety agencies with the opportunity to achieve meaningful and measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.

Link to Full Announcement

[Link to Full Announcement](#)

If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID)
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Federal Emergency Management Agency,
National Preparedness Directorate
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Email: askcsid@dhs.gov
Fax: (202)786-9920

CSID hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday.
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Synopsis Modification History

There are currently no modifications for this opportunity.



Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following questions and answers are summarized from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Investment Justification Workshops. These workshops occurred September 24 through October 1, 2007 in Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Newark, New Jersey; and Los Angeles, California. A recording of the Denver Workshop along with all relevant PSIC information can be found on the NTIA website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic>.

Q1. What is the PSIC Grant Period of Performance?

A1. The PSIC Grant Program Period of Performance began on October 1, 2007 and continues until September 30, 2010. A Special Condition has been placed on the grants so that the applicant cannot expend, obligate, or drawdown federal funds until approval of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and Investment Justifications (IJ). From the period between October 1, 2007 and the approval in early 2008, applicants can (at their own risk) incur matching costs associated with the acquisition, deployment, and management and administration (M&A) of the interoperability project. Applicants should not obligate federal dollars prior to NTIA approval of the Investment.

Q2. What happens to the State's allocated funds at the end of the period of performance (September 30, 2010)?

A2. All PSIC grant funds must be **EXPENDED** by September 30, 2010. All funds not expended by September 30, 2010 must be remitted by the grantee to NTIA, which will deobligate the funds and return them to the U.S. Treasury.

Q3. What is the period of time that States and Territories may use the funds related to the SCIP? Do these Statewide Planning funds require a match?

A3. Up to 5 percent of the total funds allocated to a State or Territory will be reimbursed for costs incurred directly related to incorporating the PSIC criteria into the SCIP. The period for which costs are reimbursable started on April 1, 2007 and ends on December 3, 2007 with the submission of the SCIP. Only costs incurred during this period and requested by the State or Territory's PSIC application are eligible for reimbursement. The costs related to the Statewide Plans do not have a match requirement.

Q4. Can a State or Territory receive an extension to the December 3, 2007 submission deadline?

A4. December 3, 2007 is the final deadline for States and Territories to submit the SCIP and IJ to the DHS National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) secure portal. The PSIC Program will not accept late submissions nor will it extend the deadline. States and Territories that miss the December 3 deadline risk losing their PSIC funds.



Q5. Can a State or Territory submit the shell plan of Investments on December 3 instead of the final slate of projects?

A5. Pursuant to the PSIC program regulations, a State or Territory should submit its final slate of Investments for the State, local, tribal government, and authorized non-government entities. Some States have reported that their competitive process will not be fully complete by the December 3 deadline. States and Territories should be aware that only providing a shell plan for an Investment may delay the approval of an Investment and the release of PSIC funds, until the final slate of projects has been provided.

Q6. What is the timeline for the IJ and SCIP review process?

A6. By December, NTIA will solicit, select, and train peers to conduct a review of SCIPs and IJs for compliance with PSIC requirements. After being trained, the peers will conduct individual reviews and then gather for a panel review in February 2008. Based on peer and staff recommendations, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce will authorize the release of funding for approved IJs in March/April 2008. States and Territories may also be contacted as part of the review to submit additional information if their SCIP or IJ neglected to meet the PSIC requirements. The SCIP must be approved by the DHS Office of Emergency Communications prior to the approval of funding for the IJ and individual Investments. IJs and SCIPs will be reviewed concurrently.

Q7. Can a State or Territory submit the IJ package for more than what is allocated?

A7. No. The total Investment Justification package should not exceed the total award for the State or Territory, which is consistent with the amount as published in the revised PSIC Grant Guidance.

Q8. Must every criterion in the IJ elements be addressed in order to be compliant?

A8. No. All of the criteria may not be applicable, but you should address all that are relevant to your Investment.

Q9. Should a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be submitted as part of the IJ? What happens if an MOU is underdevelopment and not yet signed?

A9. Yes, existing MOUs should be noted in the Governance section of the Investment. MOUs may also be included with the IJ/SCIP submission through the NPD Secure Portal (note that only pictures can be attached into the IJ Template "Attachment" Section). If an MOU is under development, it should be noted in Section III.C with an anticipated completion date.



Q10. What level of budget detail is required in the IJ? Should each Investment reflect this information?

A10. The PSIC Grant Guidance and IJ Reference Guide outline the budget information that should be included in your IJ. Inadequate budget details in an Investment may delay the approval and the release of PSIC funds.

Q11. How much detail will be required on the matching source for the IJ submission?

A11. By December 3, you should provide the projected source of the matching funds for your Investments.

Q12. Can the State use planning or training activities to meet the 20 percent match required for acquisition and deployment?

A12. No. The statute requires that the recipient provide, from non-federal sources, not less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications system. The matching costs must be met by the acquisition, deployment, or M&A expenses. Planning, coordination, and training costs do not require a match, and those categories will also not count towards meeting the acquisition and deployment match requirement.

Q13. Can the State decide to provide a cash match to meet the overall acquisition, deployment, and M&A costs of the program?

A13. Yes. The State can decide to provide a cash match, from non-federal sources, to meet the overall matching requirements for the acquisition, deployment, and M&A categories. The match needs to be expended in areas related to acquisition, deployment, and M&A and not in areas of planning, coordination, and training.

Q14. Does a match need to be provided for each Investment? Can one Investment have a higher matching share and one Investment have a lower matching share?

A14. A match does not need to be provided for each Investment. One Investment could provide a higher matching share and another Investment could provide a lower matching share, so long as at the aggregated State-level the costs associated with the overall acquisition and deployment categories have met the minimum requirement of the 20 percent match.

Q15. Are salaries and benefits qualified matches?

A15. The salary and benefits associated with someone working on or for the PSIC grant are eligible match sources. The funding for the salary and/or benefits must be from a non-federal source. The grantee must demonstrate and document the time, salary, and benefits costs. Salaries and benefits for existing employees, sworn officers, dispatchers,



grant writers, and other staff who do not directly contribute to the implementation of the project are not eligible costs to meet the matching requirement.

Q16. Does a state/local employee that moves from working on a state/local project to a PSIC project have to track their time in a time reporting system or are timesheets enough?

A16. Auditors prefer tracking via accounting systems. These systems should document PSIC-related salary and benefit costs. It is important for accounting and auditing purpose to demonstrate and document these activities.

Q17. Do we have to use or expend the match at the same rate as the grant funding?

A17. Yes. As stated in the PSIC Grant Guidance, the non-federal share, whether cash or in-kind, is expected to be paid out at the same general rate as the federal share. Some programmatic exceptions can be granted, if the grant recipient can show pending budget appropriations, bond initiatives, etc. Unless the Grants Officer allows an exception, the grant recipient should drawdown federal funds in proportion to demonstrated non-federal matching funds.

Q18. How are third party donations counted towards the PSIC match requirement?

A18. Third party donations are allowable, but they must be included as an allowable cost in accordance with OMB Circular A-87 and relate to the PSIC Grant Program. Additionally, the grantee has the burden to document the donation, including (but not limited to) fair market value for the donation, donor, date, and description of item/services. Discounts or rebates from vendors are not an allowable matching source.

Q19. Is a statewide interoperability project that is currently underway an allowable Investment under the PSIC program?

A19. To be an eligible project, each Investment must have a separate scope, schedule and budget to ensure against supplanting. If the State can identify distinct, unfunded phases of the project, the statewide interoperability project may be submitted as an Investment.

Q20. Are internal auditing costs associated with a contract auditor allowable?

A20. No. Audit costs fall into indirect cost category and are not allowed as an eligible cost. However, costs associated with monitoring of sub-grant recipients are allowable in the M&A category.

Q21. Is the Wireless Priority Service applicable to a standard wireless or cell system?

A21. The Department of Homeland Security's National Communications System (NCS) has implemented a Wireless Priority Service that provides various levels of priority to governments and responders on common carrier wireless systems. More information on this service can be found at www.wps.ncs.gov.



Q22. What is the definition of "multi-jurisdiction" or "multi-agency/discipline?"

A22. In order to meet the PSIC requirements, Investments must meet both the multi-jurisdiction and multi-agency/discipline requirements. A multiple jurisdictional project is a combination or group of more than one local, nongovernmental, or tribal entity, or any state or regionally-focused project. Multiple agencies and/or multiple disciplines projects should involve multiple function areas such as fire, law enforcement, emergency management, public health, public works, and communications centers.

Q23. What are some specific examples of eligible sub-recipients?

A23. Public safety agency can include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, communication centers, public health, public works, transportation, and jails/corrections. Additionally, if a State or Territory uses an Information Technology department or agency to provide public safety communications support for towers, repeaters, microwave link connectivity, or frequency management, this agency would be an eligible sub-recipient.

Q24. What are some specific examples of ineligible sub-recipients?



A24. Public utilities and hospitals would be two examples of entities that are not eligible to be direct sub-recipients under the PSIC program. While they might benefit from the program through equipment usage, a local or State public safety agency needs to be the actual sub-recipient of the funds to purchase the equipment and to own it. There is nothing in the PSIC regulations that would preclude the State or local agency from housing and letting the public utilities or hospitals use some of the equipment for their interoperability needs.

Q25. Are there unique circumstances for Territories?

A25. Yes. One unique circumstance relates to the multi-jurisdictional requirement. Territories that are comprised of only one jurisdiction are still eligible to receive the PSIC funds. Second, the match requirement for certain Territories is different than for States, as described in the PSIC Grant Guidance - Revised August 16, 2007. The Territories might receive an "error" in the match and overall self-check boxes in the IJ Template. For the designated Territories, this is fine and it will be handled at the program level prior to the peer review process.

Q26. Can a State or Territory dedicate more funds to the Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) Investment, if the need is identified?

A26. Each State or Territory has a pre-determined minimum allocation already identified in the PSIC Grant Guidance - Revised August 16, 2007. A State or Territory may decide to dedicate more than the minimum allocation to the STR Investment.



Q27. *Must a State or Territory submit one Investment for the STR?*

A27. Unless the State or Territory is seeking a waiver of the presumptive funding allocation, a minimum of one Investment must be dedicated for the STR allocation.

Q28. *Can a local Investment serve as an STR?*

A28. Yes. A local STR project should be coordinated with your State or Territory to include it as part of the overall STR. An explanation describing the rationale behind a local Investment should be included in the IJ Template's STR section.

Q29. *What are the presumptive conditions that would exempt a State or Territory from the STR funding requirement?*

A29. There are three reasons that a State or Territory may seek a waiver on the STR presumptive funding amount, including (1) the capability currently exists, (2) a portion of the capability exists (and therefore the full STR presumptive funding amount is not necessary), or (3) the State or Territory has higher priority interoperability needs. The State or Territory should present a detailed written justification supporting its case to waive the STR or a portion of the STR presumptive funding allocation.

Q30. *If a State or Territory is interested in seeking the STR presumptive funding waiver, can it submit a detailed justification prior to the December 3 deadline?*


A30. Yes. A State or Territory may seek the STR waiver prior to the December 3 deadline. A formal letter with the detailed justification should be sent to the DHS Preparedness Officer.

Q31. *Please explain the pre-negotiated contracts to fulfill the STR requirement. What are the terms, durations and sustainability aspects?*

A31. Pre-negotiated contracts might include agreements with vendors or service providers to supply communications equipment or capabilities in the event of an emergency. These STR contracts should be paid within the period of performance, but the benefit may extend beyond the September 30, 2010 end date. The grant recipient is responsible for any additional costs that occur outside of the pre-negotiated contract and beyond the period of performance. The State or Territory is responsible for the sustainability beyond the contract period. It is not allowable for the grant recipient to "hold" PSIC funds until a major disaster or emergency occurs.

Q32. *Should the State plan to use the STR on a daily basis or keep it pre-positioned in a safe place?*

A32. This will vary for each State and Territory. States and Territories are required to establish the STR to pre-position or secure interoperable communications in advance in an emergency or major disaster. The STR should be ready for deployment in an



emergency, but it is up to the State whether that solution is pre-positioned or used daily. In some cases, the State might decide to do a combination of both options and keep some of the STR pre-positioned and use some of it on a daily basis.

Q33. *How is the drawdown of funds for this grant program different than other Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) grants?*

A33. There are two important differences in the drawdown process for the PSIC Grant Program from HSGP. First, grantees will only be permitted to drawdown PSIC funds in proportion to demonstrated non-federal matching funds. Second, grantees may elect to drawdown funds up to 30 days prior to the expenditure/disbursement, which is different than the 120 days allowed in HSGP.

Q34. *Will PSIC have similar reporting requirements to HSGP?*

A34. The reporting requirements for the two programs are the same. Following the PSIC awards, a State or Territory and its sub-recipients will be responsible for providing updated obligation and expenditure information through the Biannual Strategy Implementation Reports (BSIR.) The BSIR is due 30 days after the end of the reporting period.

Q35. *The SF-269a is required to be submitted by the end of October. How should the total allocation and match be shown without knowing the acquisition and deployment Investment breakdown?*

A35. The SF-269a reporting form only requires the grant recipient to report the total outlays for both the recipient share and the federal share. For the quarter-ending September 30, 2007, only planning costs will be included in the SF-269a, which do not require a match. For the future reports in which a matching portion is required, the grant recipient should know the outlays as they align with the cost categories of planning, coordination, training, acquisition, deployment, and M&A. The Financial State Report (FSR) forms are available online through the DHS Payment and Reporting System.

Q36. *Can States and Territories submit National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for review simultaneously with their SCIP and IJ submissions?*

A36. Yes. Grantees can submit NEPA documents for simultaneous review with their SCIP and IJ. If the State or Territory does not have its NEPA documentation ready to submit at the December 3 deadline, the grantee can submit the NEPA documentation anytime thereafter for review. In order to help the grantee, NTIA is preparing a NEPA packet that will be posted to the NTIA web site soon.

From: "Jason Gosselin" <jgosseli@dps.state.vt.us>
To: <nlavery@leg.state.vt.us>
Date: 8/8/2008 9:22 AM
Subject: JFO PSIC Questions

CC: "Chris Reinfurt" <creinfur@dps.state.vt.us>, "Michael Manning" <mmanning...
Good Morning Nate,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me yesterday afternoon. I hope all of your questions have been answered. To recap:

1) The MOU in the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) application is a sample only. The Homeland Security Unit (HSU), according to grant guidance, has 45 days from acceptance of the award to obligate 80% of the funds to local first responders (local fire, EMS and law enforcement). Once approval is received from JFO to accept the award, the 45 day requirement will be accomplished by having the Memorandum of Understanding executed between local representatives (Association of Chief of Police, and Professional Firefighters of Vermont, for example) and VCOMM. VCOMM is the Vermont Interoperable Communications Board and is responsible for interoperable communications projects throughout Vermont. More information about VCOMM can be found on their web site - <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vcomm/>

2) Regarding the Milestones referenced in the application, please be advised that even though the dates referenced have passed, each Milestone remains in effect and we are working towards completion. Each Milestone remains unchanged, with the exception of Milestone No. 5 - Replacement of non-narrowband first responder mobile and portable radios unable to use the national calling and tactical channels. (No PSIC funds will be used for this aspect of the Lifeline System). Please be advised that in an effort to meet the grant match requirements, effective September 1, 2008, PSIC funds will be utilized to support the replacement of obsolete equipment to include the replacement of mobile and portable radios so that local first responders will have the equipment that can utilize the national calling and tactical channels. The Homeland Security Unit will pass along a portion of the match requirements to the local first responders.

I hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to contact either Lt. Manning (241-5095) or myself should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jason E. Gosselin



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative William Lippert

From: Nathan Lavery

Date: August 13, 2008

Subject: JFO #2333 (Public Safety Communications)

Representatives Michael Obuchowski and Shap Smith asked that I forward to you a copy of the enclosed request and cover memo. They are requesting you provide them with your observations regarding the enclosed item.

cc: Rep. Michael Obuchowski
Rep. Shap Smith
Stephen Klein

Vermont Communications Board

November 14, 2007

WHEREAS, the September 11 terror attacks and the Hurricane Katrina natural disaster underscored the need for coherent and effective radio communication among the various local, state and federal emergency response agencies; and

WHEREAS, our local, state and national leaders have consistently resolved to provide effective emergency response to deliberately or accidentally caused natural or man-made events; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of local, state and federal government to react quickly to all hazards and threats to safety and security with coherent plans leveraging available resources; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these efforts, the challenge of providing effective radio communication within the State of Vermont remains acute across law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, public health, national guard, and various homeland security agencies of local, state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, a radio-based communication system that is truly interoperable, accessible to the various agencies, capable of providing voice and/or data transmission, and that provides coverage throughout the State, should be available among the various agencies to enable more effective coordination of response in time of emergency, contributing to greater public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this State, as set forth in 20 V.S.A. §1, that the Governor coordinate, to the maximum extent, the protection of the public health and safety, as the possibility of natural or man-made disasters remains compelling; and

WHEREAS, the State's Homeland Security Unit has conducted extensive studies through its Communications Study Group and concludes that it is imperative that there be common radio frequency communication among local, state and federal government agencies, and international and emergency responders in Canada; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security requires, as a condition of federal funding, that each state have an approved statewide communications interoperability plan by the end of December, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is requiring Public Safety Radio Pool licensees to achieve narrow banding in order to create more frequencies for first responders by January 1, 2013; and WHEREAS, these key groups should coalesce under a common entity to provide the State with a truly interoperable radio-based

communication and dispatch capability as soon as possible to strengthen and improve our emergency preparedness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, by virtue of the power vested in me as Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby create and establish the Vermont Communications Board (hereinafter VCOMM). VCOMM shall include members appointed by the Governor who represent Volunteer Firefighters, the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont, the Vermont State Firefighters Association, the Vermont Career Fire Chiefs' Association, the Vermont Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Vermont Ambulance Association, the E-911 Board, the Vermont State Police, the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police, the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife/Law Enforcement Division, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Vermont Criminal Justice Services, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation, the Vermont National Guard, a federal law enforcement agency, the American Red Cross, and appropriate private community organizations.

The Governor shall appoint the Chair. VCOMM shall meet at the call of the Chair and shall brief the Commissioner of Public Safety as needed on the State's overall interoperable communications policies and capability. The Chair may request participation of other public or private persons, including agency or department heads. The Chair shall have authority to appoint Committees, as needed, to provide oversight for the VCOMM Project. The Chair will report findings to the Governor.

VCOMM shall have the following functions and duties: 1. to assess the State's overall interoperable communications capability, policies and needs; 2. to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation, establishing guidelines and principles to reduce jurisdictional conflicts; 3. to improve the policies, processes and procedures on interoperability projects; 4. to develop strategies to establish a statewide VCALL/UCALL interoperable, accessible radio system for police, fire and emergency service responders that links local, state and federal agencies in Vermont as well as international and regional agencies in Canada and our neighboring states; 5. to recommend the use of any funds appropriated by the General Assembly for statewide interoperability to the Commissioner of Public Safety; 6. to insure that the State has a statewide interoperability plan by December 31, 2007; and 7. to insure that all Vermont Public Safety Radio Pool licensees operating Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) services in the same bands are prepared to comply with the Federal Communications Commission deadline for migration to 12.5 KHz technology or an equivalent by January 1, 2013.

VCOMM shall report the State's progress on achieving a statewide interoperability plan and the status and use of federal homeland security grant funds for this purpose to the Governor on or before September 1 of each year.

This Executive Order supersedes and replaces Executive Order No. 02-06 (codified as No. 20-33), which sunsets on January 31, 2008. The board created by this order, however, shall be a continuation of and successor to the board established by Executive Order No. 02-06. Members of VComm on the effective date of this order shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms and may be re-appointed.

This order shall take effect upon signing and shall expire on January 31, 2010.

Witness my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 14th day of November, 2007, A.D.

James H. Douglas Governor

By the Governor:

Dennise R. Casey Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 08-07

Vermont Communications Board (superseded by 08-07)

June 5, 2006

SUPERSEDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 08-07

WHEREAS, the September 11 terror attacks and the Hurricane Katrina natural disaster underscored the need for coherent and effective radio communication among the various local, state and federal emergency response agencies; and

WHEREAS, our local, state and national leaders have consistently resolved to provide effective emergency response to deliberately or accidentally caused natural or man-made events; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of local, state and federal government to react quickly to all hazards and threats to safety and security with coherent plans leveraging available resources; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these efforts, the challenge of providing effective radio communication within the State of Vermont remains acute across law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, public health, national guard, and various homeland security agencies of local, state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, a radio-based communication system that is truly interoperable, accessible to the various agencies, capable of providing voice and/or data transmission, and that provides coverage throughout the State, should be available among the various agencies to enable more effective coordination of response in time of emergency, contributing to greater public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this State, as set forth in 20 V.S.A. §1, that the Governor coordinate, to the maximum extent, the protection of the public health and safety, as the possibility of natural or man-made disasters remains compelling; and

WHEREAS, the State's Homeland Security Unit has conducted extensive studies through its Communications Study Group and concludes that it is imperative that there be common radio frequency communication among local, state and federal government agencies, and international and emergency responders in Canada; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security requires, as a condition of federal funding, that each state have an approved statewide communications interoperability plan by the end of December, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is requiring Public Safety Radio Pool licensees to achieve narrow banding in order to create more frequencies for first responders by January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these key groups should coalesce under a common entity to provide the State with a truly interoperable radio-based communication and dispatch capability as soon as possible to strengthen and improve our emergency preparedness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James H. Douglas, by virtue of the power vested in me as Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby order and direct that the Homeland Security Unit's Communications Study Group be renamed and established as the "Vermont Communications Board" (hereinafter VCOMM).

VCOMM shall include members appointed by the Governor who represent Volunteer Firefighters, the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont, the Vermont State Firefighters Association, the Vermont Career Fire Chiefs' Association, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Ambulance Association, the E-911 Board, the Vermont State Police, the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police, the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife/Law Enforcement Division, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Vermont Criminal Justice Services, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation, federal law enforcement agencies, the American Red Cross, and appropriate private community organizations.

The Governor shall appoint the Chair. VCOMM shall meet at the call of the Chair and shall brief the Commissioner of Public Safety as needed on the State's overall interoperable communications policies and capability. The Chair may request participation of other public or private persons, including agency or department heads. The Chair shall have authority to appoint Committees, as needed, to provide oversight for the VCOMM Project. The Chair will report findings to the Governor.

VCOMM shall have the following functions and duties:

1. to assess the State's overall interoperable communications capability, policies and needs;
2. to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation, establishing guidelines and principles to reduce jurisdictional conflicts;
3. to improve the policies, processes and procedures on interoperability projects;
4. to develop strategies to establish a statewide VCALL/UCALL interoperable, accessible radio system for police, fire and emergency service responders that links local, state and federal agencies in Vermont as well as international and regional agencies in Canada and our neighboring states;
5. to recommend the use of any funds appropriated by the General Assembly for statewide interoperability to the Commissioner of Public Safety;
6. to insure that the State has a statewide interoperability plan by December 31, 2007; and
7. to insure that all Vermont Public Safety Radio Pool licensees operating Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) services in the same bands are prepared to comply with the Federal Communications Commission deadline for migration to 12.5 KHz technology or an equivalent by January 1, 2013.

VCOMM shall report the State's progress on achieving a statewide interoperability plan and the status and use of federal homeland security grant funds for this purpose to the Governor on or before September 1 of each year.

This Executive Order shall take effect upon signing and shall expire on January 31, 2008.

Witness my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 5th day of June, 2006, A.D.

James H. Douglas, Governor

By the Governor: Kiersten Bourgeois, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02-06

From: "Jason Gosselin" <jgosseli@dps.state.vt.us>
To: "Jason Gosselin" <jgosseli@dps.state.vt.us>, "Nathan Lavery" <nlavery@le...>
Date: 8/28/2008 3:57 PM
Subject: RE: Communications interoperability grant questions

CC: "Michael Obuchowski" <OBIE@leg.state.vt.us>, "Michael Manning" <mmanning...>

Nathan,

Following up on my e-mail from yesterday, thank you for taking the time to speak with me last week. Per our conversation, I have researched your questions with the VCOMM technical liaisons and offer the following responses:

1) Both Congress and Governor Douglass have made the establishment of interoperable communications a top priority. It should also be noted that the FCC has required the migration of public safety radio communications to be narrowband (P25 compliant) compliant by 2013. The acceptance of the PSIC grant will ease fiscal pressure upon local first response agencies and their respective local governments by providing 80% of the funding needed to purchase and install the needed equipment.

The Vermont Communications Board (VCOMM) was established and tasked with the mission of establishing an interoperable radio communications solution for Vermont's first response community. By using multiple federal grants, VCOMM, through the Vermont Homeland Security Unit (VTHSU), will create a Lifeline based upon National calling and tactical frequencies for the establishment of a statewide interoperable radio communications platform. Hardware and technological upgrades at existing tower sites and the nine PSAPs throughout the state create the backbone of the system. Through VCOMM, first responder mobile and portable radios are being reprogrammed to utilize the National frequencies. As these are narrowband frequencies, VCOMM is also providing a funding source to aid first response agencies in the replacement of non-narrowband radio communications equipment.

2) The VCOMM Lifeline will provide an interoperable communications solution to establish regional interoperable communications with the neighboring states and the Province of Quebec. The use of National calling and tactical frequencies as outlined in the National Emergency Communications Plan will move Vermont forward towards establishing nationwide interoperable radio communications.

Each of the neighboring states is held to the same expectations by Congress and DHS as Vermont. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York all received PSIC funding.

3) VCOMM continues to work closely with the Authority to share infrastructure where feasible. At this point in time, the PSIC program will address only public safety interoperable communications and the infrastructure to be supported by this program will only address public safety interoperable communications needs for all local first responders throughout Vermont.

4) There are only 2 line items that will be addressed with PSIC funds, as follows:

\$1 million for the replacement of radios and equipment needed by first responders.

\$3.47 million for the site development and civil work necessary at the existing tower sites and PSAP's of the Lifeline System.

5) VCOMM, through VTHSU, is utilizing federal grant monies from DHS, US Coast Guard and PSIC to build the Lifeline. Based upon the research done by DPS, VTHSU and VCOMM, the Lifeline is a fiscally responsible and common sense solution for establishing an interoperable radio communications platform for Vermont. These shared funds will meet the required funding needed to meet this goal. PSIC funds will be used for items and services not authorized by DHS grant guidance. PSIC is a critical component of the overall funding solution.

6) Based on the current system design of the Lifeline we anticipate an additional \$800,000 per year to sustain the Lifeline System. The VCOMM Board is working with VTHSU on methods to secure the funding.

Options include, but are not limited to, surcharges back to participants, requesting transportation or special funds and earmarks. The VCOMM Board is also working towards pre-paying anticipated maintenance and recurring fees during the first several years through the RFP process.

-----Original Message-----

From: Nathan Lavery [mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 11:43 AM
To: Jason Gosselin
Cc: Michael Obuchowski
Subject: Communications interoperability grant questions

Hello Mr. Gosselin,

I am writing with a few questions from Rep. Obuchowski regarding the \$4,476,761 grant from the US Dept. of Homeland Security for improving the interoperability of Vermont's public safety communications system. I hope you are able to help me with this inquiry.

1. Will acceptance of this grant put any fiscal pressure on local police/fire/EMS/etc departments as they attempt to convert or replace equipment to become fully interoperable? Additionally, will there be increased ongoing fiscal pressure on these groups as they attempt to maintain interoperability in the future?
2. Will Vermont's public safety communications system be fully interoperable with our neighboring states (NY, MA, NH)? Will acceptance of this grant result in additional fiscal pressures on these states?
3. To what extent do the solutions for public safety interoperability overlap with the goals of the Telecommunications Authority? Specifically, is it possible to share infrastructure in an effort to enhance public safety while also extending high speed internet access across Vermont?
4. Could you please forward a detailed budget of how VCOMM plans to spend this budget? The submission contained a budget that does not contain much detail at the line item level.

5. What controls are in place at VCOMM to ensure that the monies from this grant will be sufficient to attain the goal of a truly interoperable communications system throughout the Vermont? How will VCOMM ensure that we do not run over budget, or exhaust the grant funds without achieving this goal?

6. What additional maintenance & operating costs does the Department of Public Safety expect to incur as a result of achieving a truly interoperable communications system in Vermont? After achieving this goal, how will the Department of Public Safety fund these increased costs?

I hope these questions are clear and I appreciate your assistance. If you need further clarification, please contact me via phone (828-1488) or email. Please copy Rep. Obuchowski (obie@leg.state.vt.us) on your response. Thank you.

Nathan Lavery

Fiscal Analyst

Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street

Montpelier VT 05633-5301

(802) 828-1488

nlavery@leg.state.vt.us

From: Trevor Lashua <tlashua@vlct.org>
To: "obie@leg.state.vt.us" <obie@leg.state.vt.us>, "sklein@leg.state.vt.us" ...
Date: 9/9/2008 12:08 PM
Subject: RE: Impact of grant on towns

CC: Steven Jeffrey <sjeffrey@vlct.org>
Good afternoon all,

Steve Jeffrey forwarded the message on VCOMM and asked me to respond. Thanks for thinking of us and soliciting our feedback, we really appreciate it.

It's hard to say exactly where we'd fall on any of the funding possibilities mentioned, seeing as they're fairly vague.

Generally, the possibility that VCOMM's continuing efforts are funded through "surcharges back to participants" (assuming that's a subscription fee or annual charge, similar to what occurs now with some of the criminal information databases police departments use) set up in a reasonable and equitable manner where charges reflect utilization among all of the users (including the state), the funding source would seem fair. However, with no other detail, it's hard to say...

Some of the other options, particularly the use of Transportation Fund dollars, would not be palatable. The use of Transportation Fund money is counter to VLCT's long-held position against the transfer of transportation funds to the General Fund, and also runs counter to the organization's goal of meeting the overwhelming infrastructure challenge facing local, state, and federal government by utilizing all available transportation dollars for direct infrastructure or transit purposes.

We'd really need more detail than this to say that one option is better or worse than another from a municipal perspective.

Regards,
Trevor
Senior Associate for Advocacy and Information

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 3:00 PM
To: Trevor Lashua
Subject: FW: Impact of grant on towns

Any thoughts on this?

-----Original Message-----

From: Nathan Lavery [mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 2:32 PM
To: Steven Jeffrey
Cc: Michael Obuchowski; Steve Klein
Subject: Impact of grant on towns

Hello Mr. Jeffrey,

My name is Nathan Lavery. I am an analyst at the Legislative Joint Fiscal Office. Rep. Obuchowski asked that I forward you a response to a question about a grant for enhancing public safety communications interoperability in Vermont.

We would appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

Background: This grant is to be used to enhance interoperable communications (voice, data, etc), specifically, VCOMM's "Lifeline" radio communications platform that will allow all Vermont first responders to communication during critical events.

Question to Public Safety:

6. What additional maintenance & operating costs does the Department of Public Safety expect to incur as a result of achieving a truly interoperable communications system in Vermont? After achieving this goal, how will the Department of Public Safety fund these increased costs?

Response from Public Safety:

6) Based on the current system design of the Lifeline we anticipate an additional \$800,000 per year to sustain the Lifeline System. The VCOMM Board is working with VTHSU on methods to secure the funding.

Options include, but are not limited to, surcharges back to participants, requesting transportation or special funds and earmarks.

The VCOMM Board is also working towards pre-paying anticipated maintenance and recurring fees during the first several years through the RFP process.

Specifically, Rep. Obuchowski is interested in your thoughts on the increased maintenance costs that are associated with the new system, and the possible funding sources described by Public Safety.

I hope this request is clear and I appreciate your assistance. If you need further clarification, please contact me via phone (828-1488) or email. Please copy Rep. Obuchowski (obie@leg.state.vt.us) on your response. Thank you.

Nathan Lavery
Fiscal Analyst
Legislative Joint Fiscal Office
One Baldwin Street
Montpelier VT 05633-5301
(802) 828-1488
nlavery@leg.state.vt.us



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: August 13, 2008
Subject: Grant Request

Enclosed please find one (1) request which the Joint Fiscal Office recently received from the Administration:

JFO #2333 — \$4,476,761 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Public Safety. These grant funds will be used to achieve measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.
[JFO received 08/13/08]

The Joint Fiscal Office has reviewed this submission and determined that all appropriate forms bearing the necessary approvals are in order.

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at 802/828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us or Stephen Klein at 802/828-5769; sklein@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by August 27 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner
Linda Morse, Administrative Assistant
Thomas Tremblay, Commissioner

STATE OF VERMONT
GRANT ACCEPTANCE FORM

JFO # 2333

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety

DATE: July 9, 2008

GRANT/DONATION: Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program

GRANTOR/DONOR: Department of Homeland Security
Office of Grants & Training

GRANT PERIOD: October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2010

AMOUNT/VALUE:

Federal Funding	\$4,476,761	
State Funding	919,190	In-kind funding
Local Funds (match)	<u>200,000</u>	
Total	\$5,595,951	

POSITIONS REQUESTED (LIMITED SERVICE): **None**

ANY ON-GOING, LONG-TERM COSTS TO THE STATE: **None**

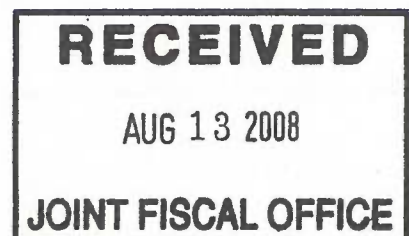
COMMENTS:

Attached Form AA-1 provides details.

I recommend acceptance of this grant. *DB*

DEPT. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT:
SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION:
SENT TO JOINT FISCAL OFFICE:

(INITIAL) *[Signature]*
(INITIAL) *[Signature]*
(DATE) 7/10/08
7/28/08



**Dept. of Public Safety
Administration
Division
Accounting Unit**

Memo

To: David Beatty, Budget & Management Analyst
From: Tracy Bedard, Programs Administration Supervisor (TB)
Date: 06/26/2008
CC: file
Re: Request for Grant Acceptance

Attached you will find a Request for Grant Acceptance for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program received from U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 802-241-5574 or tbedard@dps.state.vt.us; or Melissa Jenkins at 802-241-5496 or mjenkins@dps.state.vt.us.

Thank you.

**STATE OF VERMONT
REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE
(use additional sheets as needed)**

FORM AA-1
(Rev. 9-90)

1. **Agency:**
 2. **Department:** Public Safety
 3. **Program:** Homeland Security
 4. **Legal Title of Grant:** Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program
 5. **Federal Catalog No.:** 11.555
 6. **Grantor and Office Address:** Dept. of Homeland Security
 Preparedness Directorate
 Office of Grants & Training
 Washington, D.C. 20528

7. **Grant Period:** From: 10/1/2007 To: 9/30/2010

8. **Purpose of Grant:** (attach additional sheets if needed)
 The PSIC Grant Program is a one-time formula-based, matching grant program intended to enhance interoperable communications with respect to voice, data, and/or video signals. PSIC provides public safety agencies with the opportunity to achieve meaningful and measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.

9. **Impact on Existing Programs if Grant is not Accepted:**
 If this grant is not accepted, then VCOMM would not be able to complete the build out of the VCOMM Lifeline. The Lifeline is a statewide interoperable radio communications platform that will allow all of Vermont's first responders and stakeholders the ability to communicate during critical and significant events. The establishment of interoperable communications for Vermont's first responders are priorities both nationally as well as for Governor Douglas.

10. Budget Information:	(1st State FY) FY 2009	(2nd State FY) FY 2010	(3rd State FY) FY 2011
EXPENDITURES:			
Personal Services	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,897,475.00	\$ 1,898,476.00	\$ 0.00
Grants	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,797,475.00	\$ 2,798,476.00	\$ 0.00
REVENUES:			
<u>State Funds:</u>			
Cash	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
In-Kind	\$ 459,595.00	\$ 459,595.00	\$ 0.00
<u>Federal Funds:</u>			
(Direct Costs)	\$ 2,237,880.00	\$ 2,238,881.00	\$ 0.00
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
(Department Indirect)	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
<u>Other Funds:</u>			
Local Funds Match	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,797,475.00	\$ 2,798,476.00	\$ 0.00

Appropriation Nos.	Amounts
2140071000	\$ 4,476,761.00
	\$
	\$

-over-

RECEIVED
 JUN 30 2008

BY:

11. Will grant monies be spent by one or more personal service contracts?

YES NO

If YES, signature of appointing authority here indicates intent to follow current guidelines on bidding.

X Thomas R. Tully 6/20/08

12a. Please list any requested Limited Service positions:

Titles	Number of Positions
N/A	N/A
TOTAL Positions	0

12b. Equipment and space for these positions:

- Is presently available.
- Can be obtained with available funds.

n/a

13. Signature of Appointing Authority

I certify that no funds have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant.

Thomas R. Tully 6/20/08
 (Signature) (Date)
Commissioner
 (Title)

14. Action by Governor:

- Approved
- Rejected

[Signature] 7/24/08
 (Signature) (Date)

15. Secretary of Administration:

- Request to JFO
- Information to JFO

Ronda P. McEnts 7/14/08
 (Signature) (Date)



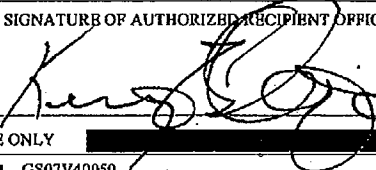
16. Action by Joint Fiscal Committee:

(Dates)

- Request to be placed on JFC agenda
- Approved (not placed on agenda in 30 days)
- Approved by JFC
- Rejected by JFC
- Approved by Legislature

 (Signature) (Date)

match req. \$1,119,190.25 PG# 7115M

 Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Directorate Office of Grants and Training		Grant		PAGE 1 OF 3
1. RECIPIENT NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-2101		4. AWARD NUMBER: 2007-GS-H7-0031		
		5. PROJECT PERIOD: FROM 10/01/2007 TO 09/30/2010 BUDGET PERIOD: FROM 10/01/2007 TO 09/30/2010		
		6. AWARD DATE 09/30/2007	7. ACTION	
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NO. 036000274		8. SUPPLEMENT NUMBER 00		Initial
		9. PREVIOUS AWARD AMOUNT \$0		
3. PROJECT TITLE Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program		10. AMOUNT OF THIS AWARD \$4,476,761		
		11. TOTAL AWARD \$4,476,761		
12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS THE ABOVE GRANT PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS OR LIMITATIONS AS ARE SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED PAGE(S).				
13. STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR GRANT This project is supported under Section 3006 of Pub. L. No. 109-171 as amended by Section 2201(a) of Pub. L. No. 110-53, and Section 4 of Pub. L. No. 109-459				
15. METHOD OF PAYMENT PAPRS				
AGENCY APPROVAL		GRANTEE ACCEPTANCE		
16. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF APPROVING DHS OFFICIAL Corey D. Gruber Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Grants and Training		18. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL Kerry Sleeper Commissioner - Vermont Department of Public Safety		
17. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING DHS OFFICIAL 		19. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL 		19A. DATE 10/2/07
AGENCY USE ONLY				
20. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODES FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. DIV. OFC. REG. SUB. POMS AMOUNT 7 H GS 25 00 00 4476761		21. GS07V40050		

PG# 7115

OJP FORM 4000/2 (REV. 5-87) PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE.

OJP FORM 4000/2 (REV. 4-88)

Funding Source - PSIC07
 FS allocation ✓
 Budget journal # 955235
 (4B) 12/6/07



Department of Homeland Security
Preparedness Directorate
Office of Grants and Training

**AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET**
Grant

PAGE 2 OF 3

PROJECT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031

AWARD DATE 09/30/2007

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The recipient agrees to comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the current edition of the Office of Grant Operations Financial Management Guide.
2. The recipient agrees to comply with the organizational audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.
3. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of G&T.
4. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior written approval of the Department of Commerce. Please note: Special Condition #4 overrides Special Award Condition #3.
5. The recipient agrees that all allocations and uses of the funds under this grant will be in accordance with the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit (revised August 16, 2007).
6. The recipient further agrees to comply with the standards put forth in OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments.
7. The recipient may only fund investments that are included in the PSIC Investment Justifications approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, and supported by the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIP) that are submitted to DHS and evaluated through the peer review process.
8. When implementing PSIC funded activities, the recipient must comply with all federal civil rights laws, to include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as amended. The recipient is required to take reasonable steps to ensure persons of limited English proficiency have meaningful access to language assistance services regarding the development of proposals and budgets and conducting PSIC funded activities.
9. Recipient acknowledges that the U.S. Government reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and authorize others to use, for Federal government purposes: (a) the copyright in any work developed under an award or sub-award; and (2) any rights of copyright to which a recipient or sub-recipient purchases ownership with Federal support. The recipient agrees to consult with the U.S. Government regarding the allocation of any patent rights that arise from, or are purchased with, this funding.
10. The recipient agrees that all publications created with funding under this grant shall prominently contain the following statement: "This document was prepared under a grant from the Department of Commerce. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department of Commerce." The recipient also agrees that, when practicable, any equipment purchased with grant funding shall be prominently marked as follows: "Purchased with funds provided by the Department of Commerce."
11. The recipient agrees to cooperate with any assessments, national evaluation efforts, or information or data collection requests, including, but not limited to, the provision of any information required for the assessment or evaluation of any activities within this project.
12. The recipient agrees that federal funds under this award will be used to supplement, but not supplant; state or local funds for the same purpose.



Department of Homeland Security
Preparedness Directorate
Office of Grants and Training

**AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET**
Grant

PAGE 3 OF 3

PROJECT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031

AWARD DATE 09/30/2007

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

13. The recipient is prohibited from using PSIC funds for anything other than PSIC approved costs or Investment Justifications.
14. The recipient shall provide such information as may be requested by the Department of Commerce to ensure compliance with any applicable environmental laws and regulations. The recipient shall not undertake any construction project without the prior approval of the Department of Commerce, as required by the PSIC Grant Program Guidance and Application kit (revised August 16, 2007). The recipient agrees and understands that other proposed activities, i.e., those to be identified in the Investment Justifications in the post-award phase, are subject to Department of Commerce review and final NEPA decision. The recipient is restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternative prior to the Department of Commerce providing a NEPA decision regarding the action. Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to, demolition of existing building, site clearing, ground breaking, construction, and/or detailed design. The recipient may be requested to assist the Department of Commerce in drafting an environmental assessment; this includes providing sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact is necessary. If an EIS is necessary, the recipient may be required to assist the Department of Commerce complete the EIS, should such a measure be deemed necessary. The recipient will also be required to cooperate with the Department of Commerce in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of its proposal. This restriction does not preclude the recipient from expending award funds to prepare the information for the Department of Commerce.
15. Recipient will provide, from non-Federal sources, not less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications systems funded under this award. Although the matching costs proposed in the Recipient's application represents the Recipient's best estimate of actual required matching costs, the final amount of required matching costs will be determined after submission and approval of the Recipient's Investment Justification. The final approved matching costs will not be less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications systems funded under this award.
16. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending or drawing down funds provided through this award until the required Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and Investment Justifications are reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.
17. The recipient may request reimbursement for up to 5% of the total award amount, associated with incorporating the PSIC required elements into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP), which have been incurred for allowable pre-award costs from the period of 04/01/07 through 09/30/07, as well as for allowable post-award costs from the period of 10/01/07 through 12/03/07.
18. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending or drawing down any funds allowable for costs associated with incorporating the PSIC elements into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans provided through this award until a revised SF-424A Budget Information is reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.
19. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending, or drawing down any funds provided through this award until the recipient submits a revised Brief Narrative, containing a high level overview of the planning process that includes how PSIC criteria is being incorporated into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, is reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.

AB 11/20/07



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Grant Programs Directorate

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

1. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-2101	3. GRANT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031
	4. ADJUSTMENT NUMBER 1
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NUMBER 036000274	5. DATE NOV 28 2007
2. PROJECT TITLE FY 07 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program	6. GRANT MANAGER Lynn Bagorazzi

SECTION I. DEOBLIGATIONS & REOBLIGATIONS

7. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODE FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. OFC. DIV. REG. SUB. MBO	9. PREVIOUS GRANT AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761
	10. DEOBLIGATION AMOUNT \$ 0.00
DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	11. ADJUSTED AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761

SECTION II. CHANGES

12. CHANGE GRANT MANAGER	FROM: _____	TO: _____
13. CHANGE GRANT PERIOD	FROM: _____	TO: _____

SECTION III. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS & INFORMATION

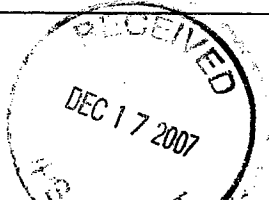
14

The grantee has submitted a brief narrative for this project which has been reviewed and approved by the Grant Programs Directorate (GPD). The grantee has declined the 5% associated with incorporating the PSIC required elements into the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan. GPD has also approved the release of up to 3% of M&A grant funds. The budget for this grant is as follows:

Cost Category	Budget	Hold	Release
M&A	\$134,303	\$ -	\$134,303
Total:	\$134,303	\$4,342,458	\$134,303

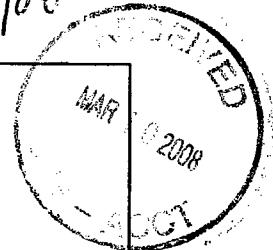
Special conditions # 18 and 19 are rescinded. Grant funds in the amount of \$134,303 are available for immediate drawdown and expenditure. Special condition #16 has been revised. The grantee is prohibited from expending or drawing down the remaining grant funds in the amount of \$4,342,458 until the required Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and Investment Justifications are reviewed and approved and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) is issued removing this special condition.

15. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Tracey Trautman, Director, Grant Development and Administration	16. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL <i>Tracey Trautman</i>
--	--





**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Grant Programs Directorate**



*Wally
2/25/08*

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

1. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671-2101	3. GRANT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031
	4. ADJUSTMENT NUMBER 2
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NUMBER 036000274	5. DATE FEB 27 2008
2. PROJECT TITLE FY 07 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program	6. GRANT MANAGER Lynn Bagorazzi

SECTION I. DEOBLIGATIONS & REOBLIGATIONS

7. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODE FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. OFC. DIV.REG. SUB. MBO	9. PREVIOUS GRANT AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761
	10. DEOBLIGATION AMOUNT \$ 0.00
DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	11. ADJUSTED AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761

SECTION II. CHANGES

12. CHANGE GRANT MANAGER	FROM: _____	TO: _____
13. CHANGE GRANT PERIOD	FROM: _____	TO: _____

SECTION III. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS & INFORMATION

14

The signatory authority for this grant is changed as of this date. Please direct all mail, fax and electronic correspondence and telephone contacts to:

Thomas R. Tremblay, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101
Office: (802) 244-8718
Fax: (802) 241-5551
Cell: (802) 839-0063
Home: (802)879-6634
Email: ttrembla@dps.state.vt.us

15. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Tracey Trautman, Director, Grant Development and Administration	16. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL <i>Tracey Trautman</i>
--	--

Done 5/29/08



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Grant Programs Directorate

GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE

1. GRANTEE NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Department of Public Safety 103 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05671	3. GRANT NUMBER 2007-GS-H7-0031
	4. ADJUSTMENT NUMBER 3
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NUMBER 036000274	5. DATE MAY 29 2008
2. PROJECT TITLE Fiscal Year 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Program (PSIC)	6. GRANT MANAGER Erin Edwards

SECTION I. DEOBLIGATIONS & REOBLIGATIONS

7. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODE FISCAL YEAR FUND CODE BUD. ACT. OFC. DIV. REG. SUB. MBO	9. PREVIOUS GRANT AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761
	10. DEOBLIGATION AMOUNT \$ 0
DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	11. ADJUSTED AWARD AMOUNT \$ 4,476,761

SECTION II. CHANGES

12. CHANGE GRANT MANAGER	FROM: _____	TO: _____
13. CHANGE GRANT PERIOD	FROM: _____	TO: _____

SECTION III. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS & INFORMATION

14
The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has approved all of the Investments submitted in Vermont's Investment Justification on May 7, 2008 and has authorized the Grant Program Directorate (GPD) to release all PSIC funds. Vermont may now expend and drawdown funds up to Vermont's award of \$4,476,761.00.

Special Conditions #16, 18 and 19 have been rescinded.



15. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL Tracey Trautman, Director, Grant Development and Administration	16. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL <i>Tracey Trautman</i>
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Supplemental Request to Vermont PSIC Investment Justification: Technology

Primary Point of Contact:

Lieutenant Michael J. Manning
Northern Field Manager – Vermont Homeland Security Unit
Vermont State Police
103 So. Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671
Phone: (802) 241-5095
E-Mail: mmanning@dps.state.vt.us

Lieutenant Manning is the primary point of contact and manager of the Vermont Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan. Lieutenant Manning's primary assignment is Vermont's Interoperable Communications efforts.

This section address the following Action Required:

- **Provide written clarification that addresses the following issue(s):**

- **Technology:** The Investment has not clearly described the proposed solution.

Provide additional detail on the solution/equipment that is proposed (e.g., frequency band, number of units, required infrastructure) and how it will support interoperability. Response should address who is procuring this equipment, how it is being distributed, and who are the end users of this equipment.

Vermont Communications (VCOMM), radio network design provides a robust new platform for radio interoperability within Vermont and an IP Gateway that can integrate Federal and adjoining jurisdiction public safety communications systems. This system is known as the Vermont Statewide Interoperable Radio Communications Lifeline. Infrastructure and technology upgrades and build out will begin in the summer of 2008. The Lifeline will be completed in February of 2010 with a statewide goal of 90% mobile and portable radio coverage with a D.A.Q. of 3.0.

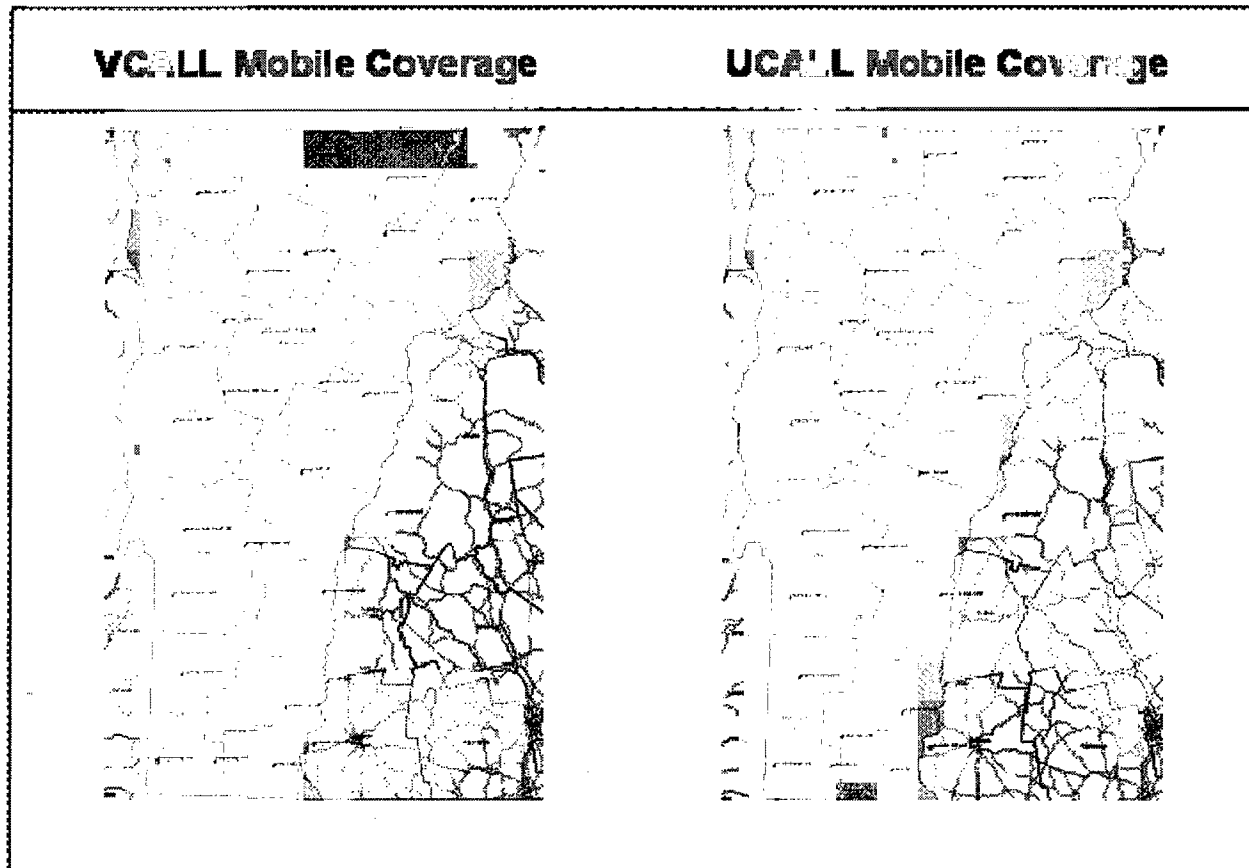
VCOMM is currently engaged in contract negotiations with a radio vendor to perform the build out and system upgrades. Due to Vermont State Contracting Regulations VCOMM cannot identify the name of the vendor until a contract is signed.

VCOMM's solution utilizes VHF and a UHF Nationwide Interoperability Call-In channel at (32) fixed locations. The proposed network expands the State of Vermont's current radio coverage area while maximizing the reuse of existing radio tower sites. The proposed configuration provides a wide area network with distributed control. First Responders in the field need only select the appropriate channel to reach a Vermont PSAP by radio. Responders are not required to know what site is the closest. The proposed system infrastructure eliminates the need for sectioning off the state and automatically provides the dispatchers with the best signal at the console.

The proposed system permits any narrowband capable mobile or portable radio in Vermont to access the VCALL and UCALL channels and communicate with one or more of the (9) regional PSAPS.

Vermont's rugged terrain presents a challenge to radio network coverage. VCOMM will utilize towers at high elevations help minimize the number of sites required. Using the State's existing Microwave backbone as the foundation for the proposed system, we have developed a site constellation that maximizes the use of existing radio tower sites. To accomplish this, during site selection, VCOMM focused on the reuse of sites where Vermont public safety or utility companies existed. As a result, nearly all the sites selected for the proposed solution are already in existence.

Our proposed system coverage area vastly increases the coverage area experienced by the wide area systems currently operated by the State Department of Public Safety. The design proposed includes 32 transmit/receive sites. The maps represent mobile coverage using 100-watt mobiles on VCALL and UCALL Channels.



The VCOMM system plan has been adopted by the State's First Responders. Early adoption was possible because the system was easy to use, had minimal training requirements, and compatibility with existing radios. VCOMM has already started the process of reprogramming existing mobile and portable radios for compatibility with the VCALL, VTAC, UCALL, and UTAC narrowband channels. In keeping with the developing National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) recommendations for use of the VCALL and UCALL channels, VCOMM proposes a narrowband analog configuration for the CALL channels. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules require narrowband operation, however, analog is still the most widely used modulation in Vermont and the United States. Narrowband analog operation ensures that Vermont First Responders will have the most flexible use of the VCOMM system today.

VCOMM's Tactical Interoperability channels are assigned nationally as common channels. The two tables below list the VHF and UHF channels we have chosen.

VHF Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan

Frequency/ Authorized Use	Name
151.1375 Base/Mobile	VTAC 1
154.4525 Base/Mobile	VTAC 2
158.7375 Base/Mobile	VTAC 3
159.4725 Base/Mobile	VTAC 4

UHF Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan

	Name
453.4625 Base/Mobile	UTAC 1a
458.4625 Mobile Only	UTAC 1
453.7125 Base/Mobile	UTAC 2a
458.7125 Mobile Only	UTAC 2
453.8625 Base/Mobile	UTAC 3a
458.8625 Mobile Only	UTAC 3

This channel plan provides for the widest possible use of the CALL channels with analog only operation. The plan also recognizes that the TAC channels provide for more operational flexibility and can operate either analog or digital modulation. The plan sets standards for CTCSS tones and P25 Network Access Codes on these channels. Following the established guidelines will ensure the broadest possible interoperable communications with First Responders from Vermont and throughout the U.S. VCOMM’s plan:

- ◆ Maximizes the use of state-owned infrastructure.
- ◆ Minimizes green site construction by expanding at new sites already in place.
- ◆ Maximizes coverage by selecting new sites based on coverage contribution.
- ◆ Creates four regional subsystems on VCALL and UCALL channels.
- ◆ Provides a network that can be used with currently fielded First Responder radios.

- ◆ Simplifies First Responder access.
- ◆ Provides redundant answering points through networking on existing infrastructure.
- ◆ Provides IP gateways to other systems.
- ◆ Promotes scalability and phased implementation as funding is available.

If requested the six signed copies of the following MOU could be scanned and sent:

SAMPLE

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the *Vermont Communications Board (VCOMM)*, and the *<organization>* outlines the terms and conditions for the allocation and usage of U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Commerce grant funds for the purposes of interoperable communications for local and state emergency responders and other emergency officials.

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) provides funding for M&A, Planning, Equipment, Training and Exercises 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 FY 2007 to FY 2010 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program provides funding for Planning, Acquisition, Deployment, Training and M&A for the use of 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. The Homeland Security Unit agrees to provide up to \$4,476,761 as allocated by the PSIC grant as well as the amount of HSGP funding specified by the Statewide Local Grants Review Committee during the period covered by this MOU to VCOMM to be utilized for interoperable communications HSGP M&A, Planning, Equipment, Training and Exercises and PSIC Planning, Acquisition, Deployment, Training and M&A to local emergency responders and other local officials including the members of the DPS.

VCOMM will ensure that appropriate personnel and funds will be assigned to the homeland security interoperable communications project as outlined in Vermont's FY07 Homeland Security and Public Safety Interoperable Communications Applications and as required by the DHS and SAFECOM FY07 Grant Guidance.

WHEREAS, the *<organization>* agrees to the use of local grant funds to support the development and implementation of the homeland security interoperable communications project by VCOMM. The VCOMM project will be a multi-year, multi-phase project addressing interoperability, and agency's emergency needs of existing capabilities and current FCC and HSU mandates.

VCOMM will oversee the implementation of the U-Call/V-Call (U-Tac/V-Tac) lifeline system for Vermont. VCOMM will also address individual agency needs in obtaining communications equipment if such equipment is lacking and is needed by that agency to function within the VCOMM project. VCOMM, in future phases, will implement programs to address narrow-banding issues as mandated by the FCC (radios, pagers, etc.). In addition, the VCOMM project will be supported by multiple funding sources, including local and state funds as directed by DHS Guidance. VCOMM will assume as much responsibility as allowable in implementing these narrow-banding mandates, with available funds.

This agreement shall be effective from August 1, 2007 to September 30, 2010 subject to renewal upon mutual agreement by both parties.

By: Vermont Communications Board

By: *<insert organization name>*

<organization head>
<title>

Kerry Sleeper
Commissioner

Date Signed: _____

Date Signed: _____

PSIC Investment Justification

Overall

The state of Vermont has requested a waiver for the STR portion of the PSIC grant program and is submitting one Investment Justification for the Vermont Communications (VCOMM) Interoperable Communications Lifeline System. The Lifeline is based upon using national calling and tactical channels combined with infrastructure and technology upgrades to 32 existing tower sites and 11 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) for a cost effective, spectrum efficient, interoperable communications platform. Vermont's SCIP is a common sense, NRF/NIMS compliant approach to the acquisition, deployment and usage of the statewide interoperable communications system.

Vermont is a small state with limited funding requiring a common sense and cost effective solution to interoperable communications. This PSIC Investment Justification is the best approach toward achieving this goal. There are no tribal or county governments in Vermont. This solution provides interoperable connectivity for radio and information sharing for all first responders, the military, NGOs and other sharing partners.

The Vermont Communications (VCOMM) Board has the executive authority and responsibility of establishing interoperable communications within Vermont. The Board is made up of traditional and non-traditional first responders, sharing partners, the military and NGOs. The broad membership of VCOMM represents all stakeholders providing input on the interoperable communications needs and requirements for Vermont.

II.A. Project Narrative - Describe the proposed Investment

- Interoperability problem(s)**
- Proposed solution(s)**
- Expected outcome(s)**
- Partners and end users that will be involved**
- Plans to evaluate the Investment**

VCOMM has the responsibility to establish statewide interoperable communications. At this time there is limited interoperability due to legacy radio systems and VT's unique geography. VCOMM proposes reprogramming all first responders (fire, police, EMS) radios and upgrading technology at 32 communication towers and 11 PSAPs in order to use the national calling and tactical channels and build a communications Lifeline System. The Lifeline will provide an interoperable communications platform for all first responders and sharing partners to utilize during any multi-agency response whether natural or man-made, planned or unplanned. By using fixed gateways, VT will also be able to establish interoperable communications with neighboring states and Canada.

VCOMM is made up of representatives of both traditional and non-traditional first responders, sharing partners, the military and NGOs. All of VT's first responders and sharing partners will utilize the Lifeline System. Expected outcomes include, but are not limited to, increase in UHF and VHF coverage and an increase in the number of users that are interoperable. Specific

performance measures will include technical/systems testing, user feedback and exercise After Action Reports.

III.A. Baseline – Historical Funding and Request Name

If the Investment has previously been funded or if funding has been requested (e.g. Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grants, Infrastructure Protection Program, Assistance to Firefighter Grants, and/or Department of Justice grants such as those from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services), provide the name of this project and the total amount of funding that was dedicated or proposed to it, if any. (1,024 Char. Max)

Through the State SAA, VCOMM was granted 7.5M from the FY06 HSGP and 2.3M from the FY 07 HSGP for the build-out of the Lifeline System. The State of Vermont will also provide funding for aspects of the project not covered by HSGP or PSIC grant guidance. No additional taxes, user fees or bonds have been requested for this project.

III.B. Baseline – Description of Need

Provide a summary description of the current state of this Investment, its objectives, and any outcomes that will be completed prior to the application of PSIC funds. Reference should also be made to the PSIC objectives (highlighted in Section I.A Program Funding Goals) addressed by the Investment. (3,000 Char. Max)

This investment is designed to strengthen statewide interoperable communications to enable fire, police and EMS to communicate across all geographic areas of the state. VT is using the NRF approach to all-hazards planning and response. As part of an existing effort, this project is in direct alignment with FY06 HSGP and FY07 HSGP Interoperable Communications Investments submitted by the State of VT. In future phases of the project, this Investment will be coordinated with the FY07 HSGP Intelligence, Fusion and Analysis Investment Justification requesting mobile data technologies.

The following outcomes have been completed:

1. The VCOMM board has received proposals for a statewide Voice Radio Interoperability Solution.
2. VCOMM has hired a Frequency Coordinator and Project Manager.
3. VCOMM has established MOUs with first responder organizations to allow for the combining of local and state portions of FY06 and FY07 HSGP funding and PSIC funding for the VCOMM project.
4. Contracts have been created with the state for local radio repair businesses to reprogram all first responder mobile and portable radios with the national calling and tactical channels as the basis of the Lifeline System.
5. As identified in the regional TICP After Action Report, ten fire departments in the northeast quadrant of the state have received funding to provide upgraded and compatible radio equipment.
6. Use of the national calling and tactical channels has been incorporated into the state's Training & Exercise Plan.

These efforts have enabled the Public Safety communities within VT to efficiently communicate with each other overcoming legacy capability gaps, challenges posed by VT's unique geographical terrain, expectations by the public that emergency service providers can communicate, inadequate radio coverage throughout the state, channel congestion, interference issues and a dramatically changing wireless communications environment.

In evaluating proposed radio system designs, VT considered challenges such as the state's unique environmental laws, complicated FCC licensing guidelines and limited funding opportunities. The VCOMM board selected a solution that was functional, cost effective, attainable and that will meet the Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan requirements. VCOMM is dedicated to providing VT's first response community with the necessary communications tools and has identified this program as a priority.

By using national calling and tactical channels the Lifeline System will provide an interoperable platform to be utilized by all first responders. Fixed gateway systems will be established at 11 PSAPs and radio caches and mobile gateway systems already exist as part of VT's existing strategic reserve.

It is imperative that open, free-flowing communications be established with all parties in VT. Through a combination of outreach methods, VCOMM continues to relay project information to the first responder community.

III.C. Baseline – Description of Governance Structure and Activities

Provide a summary description of the current state of your governance structure and activities. (2,500 Char. Max)

VCOMM was established through Executive Order with representatives consisting of traditional and non-traditional first responders, the military, NGOs and sharing partners. More than 25 entities are listed in the Executive Order, representing over 500 federal, state, local and non-governmental organizations. VCOMM has secured MOUs with the representatives of the VT first responder community to utilize state and local funds for the build-out of the Lifeline System. MOUs exist for the sharing of communications usage, equipment and technology both nationally, within New England as well as with Canada.

In alignment with the SAFECOM guidance, three sub-committees were established as follows: Technical Committee, Operational Committee and an Institutional Committee. In addition to these three sub-committees, the Steering Committee has been created to provide broad oversight of the project to ensure that all sub-committees are working towards a common goal. The Steering Committee is also responsible for budgetary oversight and working with other members of state and municipal government for the coordination of all plans and activities that are directly related to interoperable communications. A Project Manager has been hired to oversee the project on a day to day basis and will apprise the VCOMM board on the status of the project ensuring we are meeting our time lines. The VCOMM board will keep the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (SAA) updated on the progress of the statewide communications project. VCOMM reports to the Commissioner of Public Safety (SAA) who has the

responsibility by statute to brief the Governor's Office and the Legislative Oversight Committees on the progress of the project.

The Technical Committee has overseen the proposals for the build-out of the Lifeline System. VCOMM is currently negotiating with a radio communications company for the build-out of the Lifeline.

The Operational Committee has created a U-Call/V-Call User's Guide, is responsible for training materials posted on the VCOMM web site and is working with VT's Public Safety Academies to provide training on the Lifeline System for all current and future first responders and dispatchers. They are drafting NIMS compliant SOPs for the use of the Lifeline System.

III.D. Baseline – Stakeholder Involvement

Provide information on the public safety agencies involved in the Investment Justification Process. (1,024 Char. Max)

There are no tribal entities within VT. VCOMM includes members appointed by the Governor who represent Volunteer Firefighters, the Professional Fire Fighters of VT, the VT State Firefighters Association, the VT Career Fire Chiefs' Association, the VT Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the VT Ambulance Association, the E-911 Board, the VT State Police, the VT Sheriffs' Association, the VT Association of Chiefs of Police, the VT Department of Fish & Wildlife/Law Enforcement Division, the VT Agency of Transportation, VT Emergency Management, the VT Division of Fire Safety, VT Criminal Justice Services, the VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, the VT Department of Motor Vehicles, the VT League of Cities & Towns, the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the VT Department of Information and Innovation, the VT National Guard, a federal law enforcement agency, the American Red Cross and appropriate private community organizations.

IV.A. Strategy – Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Objectives

Explain how this Investment supports the State/Territory Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan PSIC criteria. (2,250 Char. Max)

This PSIC Investment will be submitted concurrently with Vermont's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). This Investment is in direct alignment with VCOMM's vision, mission, goals and objectives referenced in the SCIP:

The vision of VCOMM is to create a public safety communications network throughout the State of Vermont capable of meeting the two-way voice and data needs of all first responder. To leverage Homeland Security funds, Federal earmarks and other funding opportunities to reduce the construction financial burden on the first responder community within Vermont.

VCOMM's mission is to assess the State's overall interoperable communications capability, policies and needs; to advise on strategies to create an interoperable, accessible radio system for police, fire and emergency service responders that links local, state and federal agencies in

Vermont as well as international and regional agencies in Canada and our neighboring states; to meet ... mandates from the Federal government...

Goals

1. Provide good to excellent mobile coverage.
2. Minimize new construction and permitting challenges.
3. Allow first responder agencies to maintain their own radio systems with an access to an interoperable network.
4. Keep the financial investment practical.

In alignment with VCOMM's goals, vision and mission to assess the State's overall interoperable communications capabilities, policies and needs, the following objectives have been completed:

1. User Needs Assessment
2. Technology Assessment
3. New Systems Design
4. Request for Budgetary Quotation
5. Request for Proposals

IV.B. Strategy – Technology Priorities

Explain how this Investment supports the PSIC technology objectives. (2,250 Char. Max)

- **Adopt advanced technological solutions**
- **Improve spectrum efficiency**

VT does not have a trunked system or a “system of systems.”

VCOMM is building a Lifeline Communications System that integrates advanced gateway technology at the 11 Public Safety Answering Points to ensure connectivity with all sharing partners during the first phase of the project. The use of national calling and tactical channels will maximize spectrum efficiency and provide the best solution to meet the user requirements.

Cost effectiveness and the use of existing infrastructure were important factors in determining technological solutions to VT's interoperable communications needs. System upgrades and the acquisition and deployment of P-25 compliant equipment and advanced gateway technology at the 11 PSAPs will allow for the utilization of V-Call/ and U-Call. These gateway devices will have the ability to establish communications with IP-based and 700 MHz systems. The system technology will have the ability to migrate to an IP-based platform during future phases of the project. Due to State of VT contract rules (Bulletin 3.5) we are forbidden from disclosing the radio vendor or specific proposed technologies at this time.

VCOMM will use 700MHz for data interoperability where commercial solutions do not exist. The use of 700MHz and fixed gateways will also be used to establish interoperable connectivity with surrounding states.

Training on these advanced systems will be provided by the contracted vendor.

IV.C. Strategy – All Hazards Mitigation Priorities

Explain how this Investment supports the PSIC all hazards priorities. (2,250 Char. Max)

- Improve communications in areas at high risk for natural disasters**
- Continue to improve interoperability efforts in urban and metropolitan areas at high risk for threats of terrorism**

VT has identified flooding, winter/ice storms and extreme weather as the top concerns for natural disasters through the Hazards Inventory and Risk Assessment planning process. These naturally occurring events represent the majority of risk VT has experienced over the past century. VT has significant bodies of water that are prone to flooding causing threats to life safety and damage to infrastructure and property.

VT's current core radio system was built with fault tolerance in mind to minimize radio capabilities lost due to a natural or man-made event. The build-out of the Lifeline System will provide a much greater and more robust interoperable communications platform to be utilized during all-hazards events both planned and unplanned.

The Lifeline, in conjunction with the national calling and tactical channels, will provide all responders, regardless of region or discipline, with the ability to communicate with all other responders during a multi-agency response.

The Lifeline will establish greater communications abilities in the Northeast Quadrant, the area selected for VT's regional TICP. The Lifeline System will provide a common set of calling and tactical channels and fixed gateways where currently only mobile gateways exist and shared channels are inter-disciplinary only. VT does not have a designated UASI.

VT has made significant investments for the purposes of strategic reserves. Currently the State Police, the agency responsible for statewide Incident Management, has two MCPs and one Rapid Response Tactical Communications vehicle. These assets are supported by a Critical Incident Dispatch Team and technicians from the Department of Public Safety Radio Division and are available to respond anywhere within the state or surrounding regions 24/7. There are also two locally owned MCPs and multiple mobile tactical gateways that can further deploy if needed. There are currently multiple radio caches owned by both state and local agencies that can be shared during significant planned and unplanned events. In addition, the state has access to the communications capabilities of the National Guard. MOUs exist for the sharing of radio communications technology within state, nationally and with Canada.

V.A. Funding Plan

Detail the total estimated cost for the Investment throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2010-2011). Describe any other concurrent funding sources that may also support this Investment, including fo share. Detailed estimated expenditure plan which credibly demonstrates ability to meet expenditure September 30, 2010.

	PSIC Federal Funds Requested	Non-Federal Matching Fund Amount	Total Investment*
Acquisition	\$ 2,238,380.50	\$ 682,385.90	\$ 2,920,766.40
Deployment	\$ 2,238,380.50	\$ 238,700.00	\$ 2,477,080.50
Training			\$ -
Planning/Coord.			\$ -
Total	\$ 4,476,761.00	\$ 921,085.90	\$ 5,397,846.90

* - Total investment includes the Non-Federal Match and Total PSIC Federal Funds Requested. 20% match is required for all Acquisition and Deployment funds; however, match can be identified and allocated at either the Investment level or the total PSIC IJ level (on the Overall Funding Summary tab). Therefore, individual investments can be undermatched or overmatched according to the needs of the applicant.

V.B Matching Plan

How does your investment meet the non-Federal cash or in-kind matching requirement? Please itemize both the funding category and amount in the table below. (1,000 Char. Max)

PSIC funds in the acquisition and deployment cost categories will be used for the site development and civil work necessary at the 32 existing tower sites and 11 PSAPs of the Lifeline System. Equipment, installation, performance bond, project management, training and warranty services will be covered by FY06 and FY07 HSGP funding and State monies will be used to fill funding gaps due to AEL restrictions.

Several state and local employees will now be spending time on the PSIC grant project. This time will be used as an in-kind match toward the acquisition of the System. Indirect costs associated with these employees to include maintenance of non-vehicle equipment, maintenance of vehicles, office fees, insurance, vehicle supplies and gasoline will also be used as a match toward the acquisition of the System. Site lease fees for the existing state and municipal tower sites and usage fees at these sites (telephone, power) will be used as in-kind match towards the System deployment.

Non-Federal Matching Fund Category	Non-Federal Matching Fund Amount
Cash - State	
Cash - Local/Tribal	
Cash - Non-governmental	
In-Kind - Donated volunteer services	
In-Kind - Donated salaries	\$ 765,786.75
In-Kind - Donated equipment	
In-Kind - Donated property	\$ 93,600.00
In-Kind - Indirect costs	\$ 26,599.15

* - Please explain Matching Plan

Other*	\$ 35,100.00
Total	\$ 921,085.90

Total Matching Fund Amount Must be Equal to Section V.A. Total Matching Fund Amount of:
Matching Self
Check:

VI. Milestones

Provide specific milestones for the Investment over the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010), including a description, and start and end dates for each milestone; up to 10 milestones may be provided. (850 Char. max per milestone)

1 - Complete negotiations and sign a contract with a radio communications vendor for the infrastructure and technological upgrades needed for the 32 communication tower sites and 11 PSAPs to establish the foundation for the Vermont Lifeline.

October 10, 2007 – March 31, 2008

2 – Complete the FCC frequency coordination process to allow for the use of the national calling and tactical channels.

October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

3 – Complete NIMS compliant SOPs for the use of the Lifeline System.

December 3, 2007 – March 31, 2008

4 – Complete reprogramming of all first responders mobile and portable radios with the national calling and tactical channels. (No PSIC funds will be used for this aspect of the Lifeline System)

March 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

5 – Replacement of non-narrowband first responder mobile and portable radios unable to use the national calling and tactical channels. ~~(No PSIC funds will be used for this aspect of the Lifeline System)~~ *ML per discussion w/ Jason Gosselin - see email at back of package.*

September 1, 2006 – March 31, 2008

6 – Build-out of the Lifeline System to include the acquisition and deployment of equipment, engineering costs, factory staging, system installation, microwave installation, performance bond, site development/civil work and training for 32 existing tower sites and 11 Public Safety Answering Points.

April 1, 2008 – February 1, 2010

VII. Project Management

Describe the management team that is directly responsible for the implementation of this Investment. Specifically, describe any key Investment roles and responsibilities, structures, and subject matter expertise required by this Investment, including at least the project manager and the contracts management structure. An organizational chart may be included in the response and should be placed in Section X., Attachments. (3,500 Char. Max)

VCOMM has the executive authority and responsibility of establishing statewide interoperable communications. In alignment with the SAFECOM guidance, three sub-committees were established as follows: Technical Committee, Operational Committee and an Institutional Committee. In addition to these three sub-committees, the Steering Committee has been created to provide broad oversight of the project to ensure that all sub-committees are working towards a common goal. The Steering Committee is also responsible for budgetary oversight and working with other members of state and municipal government for the coordination of all plans and activities that are directly related to interoperable communications.

A Project Manager (Beliveau Consulting, Inc.) has been hired to work with VCOMM through development, acquisition, implementation and deployment of a wireless network solution in support of mobile radio voice communications for federal, state, local, traditional and non-traditional first responders, military and NGOs operating with, and adjacent to, the State of Vermont. The Project Manager oversees the project on a day to day basis and apprises the VCOMM Board on the status of the project ensuring we are meeting our time lines. The VCOMM Board will keep the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (SAA) updated on the progress of the statewide communications project. VCOMM reports to the Commissioner of Public Safety (SAA) who has the responsibility by statute to brief the Governor's Office and the Legislative Oversight Committees on the progress of the project.

Due to the potential impact to legacy networks, the Project Manager will work in collaboration with all the Communications Program Managers affected by the VCOMM build-out.

The Project Manager has experience with large projects, extensive RF system engineering background and the ability to collaborate with and build consensus among a diverse group of emergency service providers.

The Project Manager will provide the necessary project outline detailing all necessary steps both at a macro and micro level including timelines for the development, acquisition, implementation and full deployment of any wireless network solution.

The Project Manager reports to the VCOMM Steering Committee.

The Project Manager attends any and all meetings associated with the replacement and implementation of the new wireless network.

The Project Manager may be required to participate in formal hearings regarding tower site issues and radio replacement issues.

The Project Manager will be expected to prepare briefings and documents to meetings of stakeholders and the VCOMM Board.

The Project Manager may be required to complete contracts and other documents in accordance with State guidelines, to ensure purchases and compliance with the standards in any RFP and subsequent contract that is developed.

The Project Manager will represent the State of Vermont in ensuring that all requirements of the RFP and any subsequent contract to build a system are adhered to.

The Project Manager contract will not be funded through PSIC.

VIII. Investment Challenges

List and describe up to five potential challenges to effective implementation of this Investment over the entire PSIC period of performance. For each identified challenge, provide a brief description of how the challenge will be mitigated, and indicate a probability of occurrence (high, medium, low), and level of impact should it occur (high, medium, low). Applicants should consider the Investment's technical feasibility as a possible investment challenge.

Challenge: To obtain capital funding for radio equipment and supporting hardware not included in the AEL.

Mitigation: VCOMM is working with the Governor's administration and the Vermont Legislature to secure funding that will allow for the purchase of this critical hardware. VCOMM is also in communications with Vermont's congressional delegates in an effort to secure federal earmarks or grants to purchase this necessary equipment. Another approach is to partner with the private sector.

High:High

Challenge: Securing funding necessary to sustain ongoing operational costs.

Mitigation: VCOMM is working very closely with the Governor's administration and the legislative body for funding necessary to sustain this program. Additional approaches include partnering with the private sector in an attempt to find creative ways to share sustainability costs.

High:High

Challenge: FCC frequency coordination.

Mitigation: FCC frequency licensing is a challenge for all states along the Canadian Border. This milestone is critically important to accomplish so that the Lifeline will provide adequate radio coverage for all first responders. VCOMM is currently working with the FCC, Vermont's Congressional Delegation and Canadian partners to coordinate and receive licensing for the national calling and tactical channels.

High:High

IX.A. Impact - Outcomes

Describe the outcome(s) that will indicate that this Investment is successful throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). The description should include compelling reasons why the Investment will make a difference in the communications capabilities of its stakeholders. Note: Must address how the outcomes will be evaluated. (4,000 Char. Max)

The VCOMM board was established with the goal of finding a solution to address legacy communication problems within Vermont's first responder community. The first task VCOMM addressed was to identify the major communications issues through the use of a survey process. The results of the survey identified three major shortcomings: coverage, capacity and interoperability. The study also showed a desire in the first responder community for mobile data in a future phase. VCOMM realized that interoperability was not obtainable without first achieving radio coverage. VCOMM's mission is to identify funding and to provide a solution to address these issues. The statewide interoperable communications system is a multi-year, multi-phase project that will overlap through multiple funding cycles. The success of the project is contingent upon obtaining recurring funding.

The outcomes for the PSIC period of performance are as follows:

- The State of Vermont will secure a contract with a radio communications vendor for the build-out of the Lifeline System. This contract will include equipment, engineering costs, factory staging, system installation, microwave installation, performance bond, site development/civil work and training for 32 existing tower sites and 11 Public Safety Answering Points. The results of which will be a core interoperable communications platform providing greater safety and information sharing among first responders and sharing partners. The completion of the acquisition and deployment of this project will be completed by February 1, 2010.
- As a result of enhanced communications infrastructure improvements, the first responder community along with sharing partners to include the military and NGOs will be able to communicate with all other first responders and Public Safety Answering Points throughout the state where RF coverage was historically not available. This directly relates to the safety of the first responders within the state.
- VCOMM and sub-contractors have identified additional radio spectrum within Vermont. This has resulted in additional channel capacity for the first responder community thereby helping to resolve congestion issues identified by the User Needs Assessment in 2004. The use of national calling and tactical channels results in a cost-effective, spectrum efficient and easily obtainable solution. Any first responder or sharing partner, irregardless of discipline or region of response, will have full interoperable communications with any and all first response agencies.
- As a result of VCOMM working with the Police and Fire Academies, training and in-service programs have been developed and will continue to be refined to address the needs of our first responders. These programs have begun and will continue to train first responders and dispatchers in the use of the Vermont Lifeline communications system. These training efforts will result in more efficient use of the Lifeline System, decreased channel congestion and improved radio discipline.

IX.B. Impact - Cost-Effective Measures

Describe the cost-effective measures that will indicate that this Investment is successful throughout the PSIC period of performance (FY 2007 – FY 2010). (4,000 Char. Max)

Based on the statewide User Needs Assessment (2004), Macro Corporation provided the State of Vermont with a 260 – 300M proposal for a new interoperable communications network including 110 new tower sites. VCOMM found this proposal to be cost prohibitive and economically unsustainable. Members of the VCOMM Board deliberated and defined a statewide plan that would use existing state and local infrastructure as the backbone of a standards-based, cost-effective and spectrum efficient interoperable communications network. The Vermont Lifeline System will use 32 existing tower sites and 11 existing PSAPs in order to build-out the interoperable communications platform. Cost savings is demonstrated through the sharing of state and local infrastructure. The procurement of advanced technology and infrastructure enhancements will decrease maintenance and upkeep of aged legacy systems, making for a more efficient and cost effective solution.

Vermont's SCIP is based upon the Vermont interoperable communications Lifeline, which will utilize national calling and tactical channels to provide an interoperable communications platform for all first responders and sharing partners.

IX.C. Impact - Sustainability

Describe the long-term approach to sustaining this Investment. (4,000 Char. Max)

The statewide interoperable communications system is comprised of communications infrastructure located within the boundaries of Vermont belonging to a cooperative comprised of local and state government. Most of the infrastructure currently exists and is being maintained by state and local emergency service providers, public works organizations and other governmental agencies. The VCOMM plan to utilize existing infrastructure is economically wise because much of the sustainability costs are currently funded at various levels by these agencies. The VCOMM partners will contribute 32 existing tower sites and 11 PSAPs that have developed infrastructure. Participation in the statewide interoperable communications system is voluntary and contributing a community's infrastructure to VCOMM reflects a substantial cost savings. This represents in kind funding at the state and local level. The state communications budget will be increased to maintain sustainability of the system.



Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program FACT SHEET

EMBARGOED FOR REPORTING UNTIL 10:30 EDT TODAY

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was authorized to establish and administer the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program as directed by Section 3006 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-171.) The Call Home Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-459) required NTIA to make grant awards by September 30, 2007.

Under this PSIC Grant Program, \$968,358,000 will be made available in grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands. The Governor of each State and Territory has designated a State Administrative Agency (SAA) which can apply for and administer the funds under the PSIC Grant Program. The SAA is responsible for obligating PSIC funds to eligible pass-through recipients, which is statutorily defined as a public safety agency that is a State, local, or tribal government entity or nongovernmental organization authorized by such entity, whose sole or principal purpose is to protect safety of life, health, or property.

The PSIC Grant Program is designed to assist public safety agencies in the acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications systems that utilize – or enable interoperability with communications systems that can utilize – reallocated 700 MHz spectrum for radio communications.

Each public safety agency receiving PSIC funds is required to meet and document a 20 percent statutory match requirement for each project during the period of performance of the grant.

Up to 5 percent of the State's and Territory's total allocation can be used by the applicant to complete its Statewide Plan to ensure that the PSIC criteria are incorporated in the Statewide Plans. Funds designated for this purpose will be made available upon award.

For more information on the PSIC Grant Program, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov. Press and congressional offices should contact NTIA at 202-482-1840.

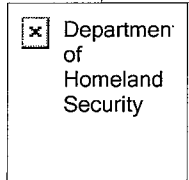
PSIC Grant Program updates will be posted on the NTIA website: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic>



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FY 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program (PSIC)



Synopsis	Full Announcement	How to Apply
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The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis contains all of the updates to this document that have been posted as of 07/19/2007. If updates have been made to the opportunity synopsis, update information is provided below the synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes to the grant opportunity click [send me change notification emails](#). The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is requested.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

Document Type:	Grants Notice
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-07-OGT-025-1673
Opportunity Category:	Mandatory
Posted Date:	Jul 19, 2007
Creation Date:	Jul 19, 2007
Original Closing Date for Applications:	Aug 22, 2007
Current Closing Date for Applications:	Aug 22, 2007
Archive Date:	Sep 21, 2007
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Category of Funding Activity:	Other (see text field entitled "Explanation of Other Category of Funding Activity" for clarification)
Category Explanation:	Interoperable Communications
Expected Number of Awards:	56
Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$968,385,000
Award Ceiling:	
Award Floor:	
CFDA Number:	11.555 -- Public Safety and Interoperable Communications
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes

Eligible Applicants



State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Agency Name

Preparedness - OG&T

Description

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program is a one-time formula-based, matching grant program intended to enhance interoperable communications with respect to voice, data, and/or video signals. PSIC provides public safety agencies with the opportunity to achieve meaningful and measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.

Link to Full Announcement

[Link to Full Announcement](#)

If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID)
Department of Homeland Security,
Federal Emergency Management Agency,
National Preparedness Directorate
Phone: (800)368-6498
Email: askcsid@dhs.gov
Fax: (202)786-9920

CSID hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday.
[CSID's email address](#)

Synopsis Modification History

There are currently no modifications for this opportunity.

Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following questions and answers are summarized from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Investment Justification Workshops. These workshops occurred September 24 through October 1, 2007 in Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Newark, New Jersey; and Los Angeles, California. A recording of the Denver Workshop along with all relevant PSIC information can be found on the NTIA website at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/psic>.

Q1 What is the PSIC Grant Period of Performance?

A1. The PSIC Grant Program Period of Performance began on October 1, 2007 and continues until September 30, 2010. A Special Condition has been placed on the grants so that the applicant cannot expend, obligate, or drawdown federal funds until approval of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and Investment Justifications (IJ). From the period between October 1, 2007 and the approval in early 2008, applicants can (at their own risk) incur matching costs associated with the acquisition, deployment, and management and administration (M&A) of the interoperability project. Applicants should not obligate federal dollars prior to NTIA approval of the Investment.

Q2. What happens to the State's allocated funds at the end of the period of performance (September 30, 2010)?

A2. All PSIC grant funds must be **EXPENDED** by September 30, 2010. All funds not expended by September 30, 2010 must be remitted by the grantee to NTIA, which will deobligate the funds and return them to the U.S. Treasury.

Q3. What is the period of time that States and Territories may use the funds related to the SCIP? Do these Statewide Planning funds require a match?

A3. Up to 5 percent of the total funds allocated to a State or Territory will be reimbursed for costs incurred directly related to incorporating the PSIC criteria into the SCIP. The period for which costs are reimbursable started on April 1, 2007 and ends on December 3, 2007 with the submission of the SCIP. Only costs incurred during this period and requested by the State or Territory's PSIC application are eligible for reimbursement. The costs related to the Statewide Plans do not have a match requirement.

Q4. Can a State or Territory receive an extension to the December 3, 2007 submission deadline?

A4. December 3, 2007 is the final deadline for States and Territories to submit the SCIP and IJ to the DHS National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) secure portal. The PSIC Program will not accept late submissions nor will it extend the deadline. States and Territories that miss the December 3 deadline risk losing their PSIC funds.



Q5. Can a State or Territory submit the shell plan of Investments on December 3 instead of the final slate of projects?

A5. Pursuant to the PSIC program regulations, a State or Territory should submit its final slate of Investments for the State, local, tribal government, and authorized non-government entities. Some States have reported that their competitive process will not be fully complete by the December 3 deadline. States and Territories should be aware that only providing a shell plan for an Investment may delay the approval of an Investment and the release of PSIC funds, until the final slate of projects has been provided.

Q6. What is the timeline for the IJ and SCIP review process?

A6. By December, NTIA will solicit, select, and train peers to conduct a review of SCIPs and IJs for compliance with PSIC requirements. After being trained, the peers will conduct individual reviews and then gather for a panel review in February 2008. Based on peer and staff recommendations, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce will authorize the release of funding for approved IJs in March/April 2008. States and Territories may also be contacted as part of the review to submit additional information if their SCIP or IJ neglected to meet the PSIC requirements. The SCIP must be approved by the DHS Office of Emergency Communications prior to the approval of funding for the IJ and individual Investments. IJs and SCIPs will be reviewed concurrently.

Q7. Can a State or Territory submit the IJ package for more than what is allocated?

A7. No. The total Investment Justification package should not exceed the total award for the State or Territory, which is consistent with the amount as published in the revised PSIC Grant Guidance.

Q8. Must every criterion in the IJ elements be addressed in order to be compliant?

A8. No. All of the criteria may not be applicable, but you should address all that are relevant to your Investment.

Q9. Should a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be submitted as part of the IJ? What happens if an MOU is underdevelopment and not yet signed?

A9. Yes, existing MOUs should be noted in the Governance section of the Investment. MOUs may also be included with the IJ/SCIP submission through the NPD Secure Portal (note that only pictures can be attached into the IJ Template "Attachment" Section). If an MOU is under development, it should be noted in Section III.C with an anticipated completion date.



Q10. What level of budget detail is required in the IJ? Should each Investment reflect this information?

A10. The PSIC Grant Guidance and IJ Reference Guide outline the budget information that should be included in your IJ. Inadequate budget details in an Investment may delay the approval and the release of PSIC funds.

Q11. How much detail will be required on the matching source for the IJ submission?

A11. By December 3, you should provide the projected source of the matching funds for your Investments.

Q12. Can the State use planning or training activities to meet the 20 percent match required for acquisition and deployment?

A12. No. The statute requires that the recipient provide, from non-federal sources, not less than 20 percent of the costs of acquiring and deploying the interoperable communications system. The matching costs must be met by the acquisition, deployment, or M&A expenses. Planning, coordination, and training costs do not require a match, and those categories will also not count towards meeting the acquisition and deployment match requirement.

Q13. Can the State decide to provide a cash match to meet the overall acquisition, deployment, and M&A costs of the program?



A13. Yes. The State can decide to provide a cash match, from non-federal sources, to meet the overall matching requirements for the acquisition, deployment, and M&A categories. The match needs to be expended in areas related to acquisition, deployment, and M&A and not in areas of planning, coordination, and training.

Q14. Does a match need to be provided for each Investment? Can one Investment have a higher matching share and one Investment have a lower matching share?

A14. A match does not need to be provided for each Investment. One Investment could provide a higher matching share and another Investment could provide a lower matching share, so long as at the aggregated State-level the costs associated with the overall acquisition and deployment categories have met the minimum requirement of the 20 percent match.

Q15. Are salaries and benefits qualified matches?

A15. The salary and benefits associated with someone working on or for the PSIC grant are eligible match sources. The funding for the salary and/or benefits must be from a non-federal source. The grantee must demonstrate and document the time, salary, and benefits costs. Salaries and benefits for existing employees, sworn officers, dispatchers,



grant writers, and other staff who do not directly contribute to the implementation of the project are not eligible costs to meet the matching requirement.

Q16. Does a state/local employee that moves from working on a state/local project to a PSIC project have to track their time in a time reporting system or are timesheets enough?

A16. Auditors prefer tracking via accounting systems. These systems should document PSIC-related salary and benefit costs. It is important for accounting and auditing purpose to demonstrate and document these activities.

Q17. Do we have to use or expend the match at the same rate as the grant funding?

A17. Yes. As stated in the PSIC Grant Guidance, the non-federal share, whether cash or in-kind, is expected to be paid out at the same general rate as the federal share. Some programmatic exceptions can be granted, if the grant recipient can show pending budget appropriations, bond initiatives, etc. Unless the Grants Officer allows an exception, the grant recipient should drawdown federal funds in proportion to demonstrated non-federal matching funds.

Q18. How are third party donations counted towards the PSIC match requirement?

A18. Third party donations are allowable, but they must be included as an allowable cost in accordance with OMB Circular A-87 and relate to the PSIC Grant Program. Additionally, the grantee has the burden to document the donation, including (but not limited to) fair market value for the donation, donor, date, and description of item/services. Discounts or rebates from vendors are not an allowable matching source.

Q19. Is a statewide interoperability project that is currently underway an allowable Investment under the PSIC program?

A19. To be an eligible project, each Investment must have a separate scope, schedule and budget to ensure against supplanting. If the State can identify distinct, unfunded phases of the project, the statewide interoperability project may be submitted as an Investment.

Q20. Are internal auditing costs associated with a contract auditor allowable?

A20. No. Audit costs fall into indirect cost category and are not allowed as an eligible cost. However, costs associated with monitoring of sub-grant recipients are allowable in the M&A category.

Q21. Is the Wireless Priority Service applicable to a standard wireless or cell system?

A21. The Department of Homeland Security's National Communications System (NCS) has implemented a Wireless Priority Service that provides various levels of priority to governments and responders on common carrier wireless systems. More information on this service can be found at www.wps.ncs.gov.



Q22. What is the definition of "multi-jurisdiction" or "multi-agency/discipline?"

A22. In order to meet the PSIC requirements, Investments must meet both the multi-jurisdiction and multi-agency/discipline requirements. A multiple jurisdictional project is a combination or group of more than one local, nongovernmental, or tribal entity, or any state or regionally-focused project. Multiple agencies and/or multiple disciplines projects should involve multiple function areas such as fire, law enforcement, emergency management, public health, public works, and communications centers.

Q23. What are some specific examples of eligible sub-recipients?

A23. Public safety agency can include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, communication centers, public health, public works, transportation, and jails/corrections. Additionally, if a State or Territory uses an Information Technology department or agency to provide public safety communications support for towers, repeaters, microwave link connectivity, or frequency management, this agency would be an eligible sub-recipient.

Q24. What are some specific examples of ineligible sub-recipients?

A24. Public utilities and hospitals would be two examples of entities that are not eligible to be direct sub-recipients under the PSIC program. While they might benefit from the program through equipment usage, a local or State public safety agency needs to be the actual sub-recipient of the funds to purchase the equipment and to own it. There is nothing in the PSIC regulations that would preclude the State or local agency from housing and letting the public utilities or hospitals use some of the equipment for their interoperability needs.

Q25. Are there unique circumstances for Territories?

A25. Yes. One unique circumstance relates to the multi-jurisdictional requirement. Territories that are comprised of only one jurisdiction are still eligible to receive the PSIC funds. Second, the match requirement for certain Territories is different than for States, as described in the PSIC Grant Guidance - Revised August 16, 2007. The Territories might receive an "error" in the match and overall self-check boxes in the IJ Template. For the designated Territories, this is fine and it will be handled at the program level prior to the peer review process.

Q26. Can a State or Territory dedicate more funds to the Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) Investment, if the need is identified?

A26. Each State or Territory has a pre-determined minimum allocation already identified in the PSIC Grant Guidance - Revised August 16, 2007. A State or Territory may decide to dedicate more than the minimum allocation to the STR Investment.



Q27. *Must a State or Territory submit one Investment for the STR?*

A27. Unless the State or Territory is seeking a waiver of the presumptive funding allocation, a minimum of one Investment must be dedicated for the STR allocation.

Q28. *Can a local Investment serve as an STR?*

A28. Yes. A local STR project should be coordinated with your State or Territory to include it as part of the overall STR. An explanation describing the rationale behind a local Investment should be included in the IJ Template's STR section.

Q29. *What are the presumptive conditions that would exempt a State or Territory from the STR funding requirement?*

A29. There are three reasons that a State or Territory may seek a waiver on the STR presumptive funding amount, including (1) the capability currently exists, (2) a portion of the capability exists (and therefore the full STR presumptive funding amount is not necessary), or (3) the State or Territory has higher priority interoperability needs. The State or Territory should present a detailed written justification supporting its case to waive the STR or a portion of the STR presumptive funding allocation.

Q30. *If a State or Territory is interested in seeking the STR presumptive funding waiver, can it submit a detailed justification prior to the December 3 deadline?*

A30. Yes. A State or Territory may seek the STR waiver prior to the December 3 deadline. A formal letter with the detailed justification should be sent to the DHS Preparedness Officer.

Q31. *Please explain the pre-negotiated contracts to fulfill the STR requirement. What are the terms, durations and sustainability aspects?*

A31. Pre-negotiated contracts might include agreements with vendors or service providers to supply communications equipment or capabilities in the event of an emergency. These STR contracts should be paid within the period of performance, but the benefit may extend beyond the September 30, 2010 end date. The grant recipient is responsible for any additional costs that occur outside of the pre-negotiated contract and beyond the period of performance. The State or Territory is responsible for the sustainability beyond the contract period. It is not allowable for the grant recipient to "hold" PSIC funds until a major disaster or emergency occurs.

Q32. *Should the State plan to use the STR on a daily basis or keep it pre-positioned in a safe place?*

A32. This will vary for each State and Territory. States and Territories are required to establish the STR to pre-position or secure interoperable communications in advance in an emergency or major disaster. The STR should be ready for deployment in an



emergency, but it is up to the State whether that solution is pre-positioned or used daily. In some cases, the State might decide to do a combination of both options and keep some of the STR pre-positioned and use some of it on a daily basis.

Q33. *How is the drawdown of funds for this grant program different than other Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) grants?*

A33. There are two important differences in the drawdown process for the PSIC Grant Program from HSGP. First, grantees will only be permitted to drawdown PSIC funds in proportion to demonstrated non-federal matching funds. Second, grantees may elect to drawdown funds up to 30 days prior to the expenditure/disbursement, which is different than the 120 days allowed in HSGP.

Q34. *Will PSIC have similar reporting requirements to HSGP?*

A34. The reporting requirements for the two programs are the same. Following the PSIC awards, a State or Territory and its sub-recipients will be responsible for providing updated obligation and expenditure information through the Biannual Strategy Implementation Reports (BSIR.) The BSIR is due 30 days after the end of the reporting period.

Q35. *The SF-269a is required to be submitted by the end of October. How should the total allocation and match be shown without knowing the acquisition and deployment Investment breakdown?*

A35. The SF-269a reporting form only requires the grant recipient to report the total outlays for both the recipient share and the federal share. For the quarter-ending September 30, 2007, only planning costs will be included in the SF-269a, which do not require a match. For the future reports in which a matching portion is required, the grant recipient should know the outlays as they align with the cost categories of planning, coordination, training, acquisition, deployment, and M&A. The Financial State Report (FSR) forms are available online through the DHS Payment and Reporting System.

Q36. *Can States and Territories submit National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for review simultaneously with their SCIP and IJ submissions?*

A36. Yes. Grantees can submit NEPA documents for simultaneous review with their SCIP and IJ. If the State or Territory does not have its NEPA documentation ready to submit at the December 3 deadline, the grantee can submit the NEPA documentation anytime thereafter for review. In order to help the grantee, NTIA is preparing a NEPA packet that will be posted to the NTIA web site soon.

From: "Jason Gosselin" <jgosseli@dps.state.vt.us>
To: <nlaavery@leg.state.vt.us>
Date: 8/8/2008 9:22 AM
Subject: JFO PSIC Questions

CC: "Chris Reinfurt" <creinfur@dps.state.vt.us>, "Michael Manning" <mmanning...>
Good Morning Nate,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me yesterday afternoon. I hope all of your questions have been answered. To recap:

1) The MOU in the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) application is a sample only. The Homeland Security Unit (HSU), according to grant guidance, has 45 days from acceptance of the award to obligate 80% of the funds to local first responders (local fire, EMS and law enforcement). Once approval is received from JFO to accept the award, the 45 day requirement will be accomplished by having the Memorandum of Understanding executed between local representatives (Association of Chief of Police, and Professional Firefighters of Vermont, for example) and VCOMM. VCOMM is the Vermont Interoperable Communications Board and is responsible for interoperable communications projects throughout Vermont. More information about VCOMM can be found on their web site - <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vcomm/>

2) Regarding the Milestones referenced in the application, please be advised that even though the dates referenced have passed, each Milestone remains in effect and we are working towards completion. Each Milestone remains unchanged, with the exception of Milestone No. 5 - Replacement of non-narrowband first responder mobile and portable radios unable to use the national calling and tactical channels. (No PSIC funds will be used for this aspect of the Lifeline System). Please be advised that in an effort to meet the grant match requirements, effective September 1, 2008, PSIC funds will be utilized to support the replacement of obsolete equipment to include the replacement of mobile and portable radios so that local first responders will have the equipment that can utilize the national calling and tactical channels. The Homeland Security Unit will pass along a portion of the match requirements to the local first responders.

I hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to contact either Lt. Manning (241-5095) or myself should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jason E. Gosselin

Grants Manager - Homeland Security Unit

Vermont Department of Public Safety

802-241-5445

jgosseli@dps.state.vt.us



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: August 13, 2008
Subject: Grant Request

Enclosed please find one (1) request which the Joint Fiscal Office recently received from the Administration:

JFO #2333 — \$4,476,761 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Public Safety. These grant funds will be used to achieve measurable improvements to the state of public safety communications interoperability through the full and efficient use of all telecommunications resources.
[JFO received 08/13/08]

The Joint Fiscal Office has reviewed this submission and determined that all appropriate forms bearing the necessary approvals are in order.

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at 802/828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us or Stephen Klein at 802/828-5769; sklein@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by August 27 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of this request.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner
Linda Morse, Administrative Assistant
Thomas Tremblay, Commissioner