



Legislation Text

File #: 2074-2014, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This ordinance authorizes the Mayor of the City of Columbus to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Franklin County to establish a committee called the P-25 Digital Communications Governing Board and to continue the Central Ohio Communications Advisory Committee (COCAC) as the technical subcommittee of both the City and County's respective P-25 radio systems. This governing board will provide technical expertise and ensure that parity is maintained between the City and County radio systems. The governing board will also review the fee structure and approve recommendations of the COCAC committee. The governing board will consist of four total members; two each from the City and County.

Both the City of Columbus and Franklin County are in the process of converting their 800 MHz radio communication systems from analog to P-25 digital systems. The 800 MHz radio is the main public safety radio systems used by Police and Fire as well as the Public Service and Public Utilities Departments. Also, there are several other city and local agencies that use the 800 MHz radio systems. All of these radios will undergo the digital conversion to maintain interoperability communications with partners who are also expected to upgrade to the P-25 Digital System. At the present time both the City and County maintain analog 800 MHz radio systems and function as a backup communications for one another. In addition, each support several dozen radio systems of local jurisdictions.

Emergency Designation: Emergency legislation is necessary in order to ensure that the governing structure starts work as soon as possible.

FISCAL IMPACT: The governing structure has recommended an initial fee of \$15.00/radio/month upon commencement of the digital conversion. These fees will be reviewed and revised annually. The City's share of the collected fees will be deposited in the General Fund as is the current practice for existing users.

This ordinance authorizes the Mayor of the City of Columbus to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County, to establish the P-25 Digital Communications Governing Board and to continue the Central Ohio Communications Advisory Committee (COCAC) as the technical subcommittee of both the City and County's respective P-25 radio systems; and to declare an emergency. (\$0.00)

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the City of Columbus will each operate a consolidated P-25 compliant 800 MHZ digital radio system; and,

WHEREAS, the County system will be the operational backup and support for the City system and the City system will be the operational backup and support for the County system; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the City of Columbus desire and agree to maintain the Central Ohio Communications Advisory Committee (COCAC) to serve as technical matter experts and to create a Governing Board to establish policy; and,

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the City of Columbus concur that parity must be maintained in the number of users per system and affiliated fees per radio and that all public safety and public service agencies will be granted access to join the system and as a participating agency will have equal representation on the Central Ohio Communications Advisory Committee (COCAC); and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the City of Columbus agree that the P-25 Digital Communications Governing Board shall maintain system oversight, recommend fee structure, provide annual usage and cost reports, ensure maintenance and integrity of the communication systems, and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual and daily operation of the Department of Public Safety, in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Mayor of the City of Columbus to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County, to maintain the Central Ohio Communications Advisory Committee and create a governing board as quickly as possible for the immediate preservation of the public property, peace, health, safety and welfare, now, therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor of the City of Columbus is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County to establish a P-25 Digital Communications Governing Board, a copy of which is attached hereto, executed between representatives of the City of Columbus and Franklin County.

SECTION 2. That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part thereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.