




MEMORANDUM

Date: December 23, 2003

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Regional Public Safety Communications System**

The County Bond Advisory Committee deferred any recommendation on this matter to the Board based on a number of factors, primarily a lack of adequate time to consider the proposal since it was initially proposed as two separate programs, one by the County and the other by the City of Tucson. The Committee did feel the proposal was very worthwhile if more detail could be provided and the proposal had support from public safety officials throughout Pima County.

The Sheriff has developed regional consensus on this matter and now has the endorsement of every police and fire chief within Pima County. This consensus is worthy of attention. Eight police agencies and fifteen fire agencies have concurred with the Sheriff in the concept of a regional public safety communications system, essentially every police and fire agency in Pima County. The current proposal, attached, is estimated to cost \$104.9 million. This would be a significant investment in public safety and one that should receive approval to present to the voters of Pima County.

If the Board agrees to place this item on a May bond election, I would recommend that the Bond Implementation Program contain a number of guiding principles. These are:

- A. A multi-jurisdiction police and fire management committee would be put in place to guide the bond investments to maximize effectiveness and hence public safety, with the Sheriff serving as chair of the management committee. Before bonds are sold for any purposes other than preliminary engineering and planning, the committee will develop a detailed report on: 1) system performance specifications that will provide assurances that the communications system will comply with all actual and pending national standards for such systems; 2) a detailed operation and maintenance plan that details how a single, unified, regional public safety communications system will be created and operated; and 3) all public safety agencies in Pima County, including tribal agencies, will execute intergovernmental agreements in which they commit to participate in the system as well as use communications equipment in a manner consistent with the technical specifications and management for a unified regional system, and to not operate any other communications systems that will deter from or otherwise impede the operation of the unified, regional system; and to not unilaterally withdraw from the unified, regional system without adequate written notice to all other parties to the agreement.

- B. The \$104.9 million of bonds authorized would be the maximum expenditure for the proposed regional public safety communications system. The participating public safety agencies will commit to an aggressive and continuing effort to obtain federal and state grants for this purpose. Any state or federal grant obtained would be subtracted from the amount of bonds sold and hence, local public debt necessary to accomplish this program.
- C. The systems and equipment purchased must have a physical service life of at least 20 years and will be compatible to the maximum extent practical with evolving technological innovations that can be reasonably foreseen.
- D. State and federal agencies, as well as surrounding southern Arizona counties, will also be invited to participate in development of a regional system such that the system can easily accommodate federal and state investments for this purpose.

With these principles, subject to concurrence by the Bond Advisory Committee, I would recommend that the Board include this matter on a May 2004 bond election. Including this question on the ballot would not have any adverse impact on the tax rate for debt service retirement since the Bond Advisory Committee has requested that the primary constraint be the tax rate not exceeding its present value of 82 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The length of bond sales would simply be extended for two years if this question were included in the program and all questions were passed by the voters. The bond sales would extend from seven years to nine years.

Bond counsel has advised that the bonds being sold and debt incurred by statute belong to Pima County as a political subdivision of the state, and hence the County must acquire all of the equipment or improvements being financed with bonds. This proposal includes a regional communications center, communications towers and all necessary right-of-way, modems, and handheld equipment. Pima County would retain title to the communications center and towers. However, title to the modems and handheld equipment could be passed on to the participating jurisdictions pursuant to their execution of the intergovernmental agreements discussed above. The operation of the communications center would also be determined by intergovernmental agreements between the County and all participating jurisdictions. Such intergovernmental agreements would also be discussed in detail in the Bond Implementation Plan should this program be included by the Board in the bond issue.

It should also be noted that approximately \$61.2 million of expenditure will directly benefit the City of Tucson, and the Mayor and Council have indicated that their top priority is a public safety communications system.

Providing a common public safety and emergency communications system establishes the opportunity for regional consolidated public safety, emergency dispatch and related services, hence opportunities to reduce taxpayer costs associated with the operation and maintenance of individual, stand-alone systems.

CHH/jj

Attachment

c: The Honorable Clarence Dupnik, Pima County Sheriff
Larry Hecker, Chair, and Members, Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Jim Barry, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator



Pima County Sheriff's Department

1750 E. Benson Highway • Tucson, AZ 85714-1758
Phone 520-741-4600 • Facsimile 520-741-4622
www.pimasheriff.org

Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff

Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865

December 18, 2003

Mr. Chuck Huckelberry
Pima County Administrator
130 W. Congress, 11th floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

Attached for your review is the revised proposal for regional public safety communications along with letters of support from police and fire agencies throughout Pima County. All public safety agencies who would utilize the system in the future have enthusiastically endorsed the proposal. To summarize:

1. The cost for this proposal is \$104,858,935 of which \$61,218,145 or 58% will be for the City of Tucson.
2. Under this proposal, the public safety communications needs for all agencies in Pima County will be met;
3. The City of Tucson has previously stated that public safety communications is its number one priority;
4. We have met extensively with the City of Tucson staff and they endorse this proposal;
5. The proposed system has an anticipated longevity of 20+ years.

We thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal to you and the Board of Supervisors. We are hopeful that the Board will agree that equipping all law enforcement and fire first responders with state of the art, digital, interoperable communications is a very high priority for the citizens of Pima County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence W. Dupnik", written over a horizontal line.

Clarence W. Dupnik
Pima County Sheriff

Proposed Regional Communications Network

Pima County/Tucson
December 2003

Presented to:

Chair Sharon Bronson
Supervisor Ann Day
Supervisor Ramon Valadez
Supervisor Ray Carroll
Supervisor Richard Elias

Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator

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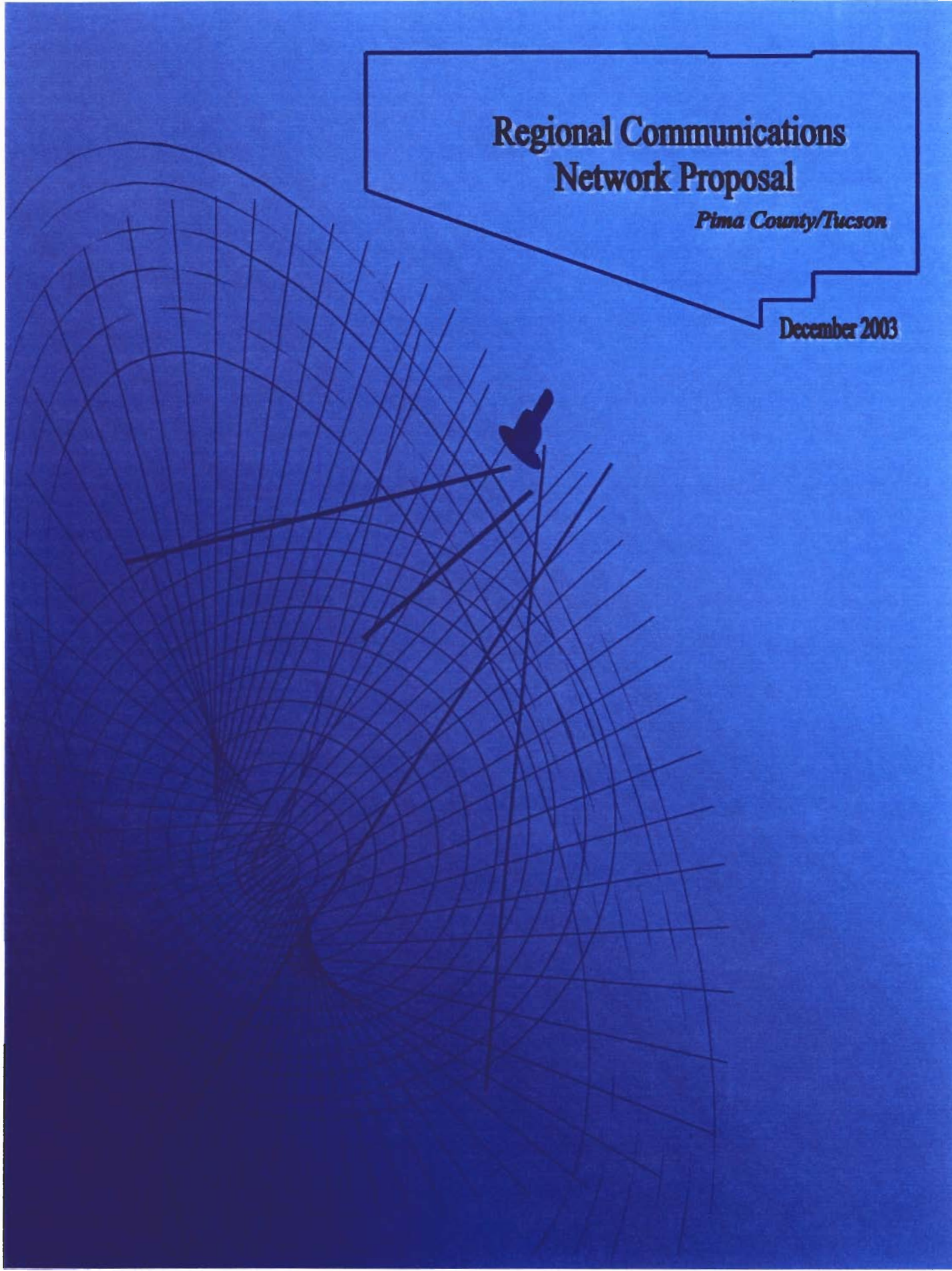
Police

Marana Police Dept.
Oro Valley Police Dept.
Pascua Yaqui Police Dept.
Pima College Police Dept.
Sahuarita Police Dept.
South Tucson Police Dept.
Tohono O’Odham Police Dept.
University of Arizona Police Dept.

Fire

Ajo/Gibson Volunteer Fire Dept.
Arivaca Volunteer Fire Dept.
Avra Valley Fire District
Corona De Tucson Fire District
Drexel Heights Fire District
Golder Ranch Fire District
Green Valley Fire District
Northwest Fire District
Mt. Lemmon Fire District
Pascua Pueblo Fire Dept.
Picture Rocks Fire District
Rincon Valley Fire District
Three Points Fire District
Tohono O’Odham Fire Dept.

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Regional Communications Network Proposal

Pima County/Tucson

December 2003

Putting Pima County and Tucson in a Better State of Communication

Pima County Regional Public Safety
Communications Network Proposal



Prepared for:

Pima County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Ann Day, Supervisor, District 1

The Honorable Ramón Valadez, Supervisor, District 2

The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair, District 3

The Honorable Ray Carroll, Supervisor, District 4

The Honorable Richard Elías, Supervisor, District 5

Mr. Chuck H. Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator

December 2003

PROPOSAL: PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Public safety first responders rely on many tools to provide quality policing and fire services. None is more important for their safety and ability to serve the public than to communicate in real time and on demand.

THE NEED: INTEROPERABILITY FOR COORDINATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The primary concern of public safety agencies is the safety and protection of the citizens of Pima County. The greater the crisis, the more public safety agencies need an efficient, coordinated response. The police respond with front-line resources, crowd and traffic control; the fire departments with rescue and damage control. Teamwork between agencies is essential to aid the public quickly and effectively. These responders need real-time communication with each other. Because such emergencies rarely respect geographic and political boundaries, public safety agencies of other communities – as well as other state and federal agencies - may also need to respond.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 serve to punctuate the need for interoperable, reliable communications for public safety workers. Analysis of the response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks revealed the value of a coordinated response using interoperable communications.



From numerous interviews gathered as part of a fire department inquiry into the events of the World Trade Center incident, it would appear that noninteroperability was at least partially responsible for the loss of 343 firefighters. So poor were communications that on one side of the trade center complex a city engineer warned officials that the towers were at risk of “imminent collapse.” Those he told could not reach the highest-ranking fire chief by radio. A messenger was sent across, dodging flaming debris and falling bodies, to deliver the message in person. He arrived with the news less than a minute before the first tower fell.



Meanwhile, at the Pentagon more than fifty public safety agencies responded and were guided by a preplanned mutual aid agreement that provisioned interoperable communications. Years of prior planning resulted in most area agencies using compatible 800 MHz trunking technologies. As a result, the majority of first responders to the Pentagon had Arlington County's radio frequencies programmed into their portable radio equipment. They were able to switch to the designated frequencies and communicate directly with the on-scene Incident Commander. During the initial response the majority of local public safety responders experienced no difficulty establishing interoperable communications at the scene.



While executing the interoperability protocols in the Pentagon tragedy may not have been flawless, they do offer a sharp contrast to those at play in the response to the World Trade Center disaster. The message in both incidents is that radio interoperability, is clearly essential in tactical situations, especially when lives are at risk according to the conclusions of the Public Safety Wireless Network in their research report, *Answering the Call: Communications Lessons Learned from the Pentagon Attack*, January 2002.

Although attacks like those on the east coast are not anticipated in Pima County we are none-the-less vulnerable to terrorist activities and other tragic events that pose similar risks. The international border with Mexico is largely unsecured and vulnerable to terrorist crossings. As we already know, some of the September 11 hijackers had connections to Tucson and Arizona. We should also reflect on events that have tested our public safety community in the past, including natural disasters, as a predictor of events we must be prepared to handle in the future.

Emergencies like these, as well as day-to-day and task force operations require cooperative efforts from local, state and federal public safety agencies. Effective interoperable radio communications is an essential component of these cooperative efforts. It is foreseeable that coordinated responses to future events of this sort will be necessary.



It is time for Pima County to improve public safety through deployment of a regional communications network.

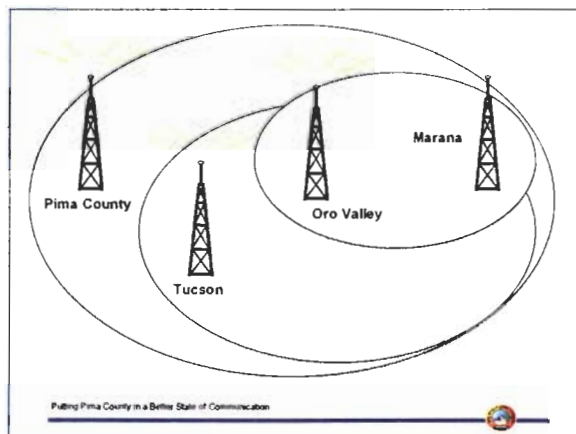


PIMA COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS: A STATUS REPORT

Pima County tax payers fund nineteen fire districts, nine police agencies and the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Collectively these entities are responsible for providing public safety and emergency management services to the Pima County populace, and most specifically to their individual jurisdictions.

Their independently developed communications systems hinder interagency communications and compromise public safety. Systems deployed to meet the needs of individual jurisdictions are overlaid by even larger systems providing overlapping coverage within the same geographic area.

The cities of Oro Valley, South Tucson, Tucson, Town of Marana, Pima County, and some of the fire districts operate their own communications systems. Other smaller jurisdictions have made arrangements to share a neighboring system to meet their needs. These individual systems utilize proprietary equipment and operate in disparate frequency bands making effective interoperability very difficult.



Fourteen local and state agencies have cooperatively deployed a radio gateway that rebroadcasts transmissions from one system to others on dissimilar frequencies from a radio site in the Tucson Mountains. This provides limited coverage, only one channel on which to interoperate, and communications delays. Because of its limitations, this system has rarely been put into service. We know however that when catastrophic events occur, multiple channels and widespread coverage are required to coordinate public safety activities. This level of resource is not available.



Currently, several jurisdictions are planning replacement systems. If standards based systems are not deployed and existing frequencies are re-used we will not improve our interoperability opportunities.

The City of Tucson has completed a needs assessment and conceptual design for a system to replace their 20-year old system. Cost estimates for replacing their radio communications system, microwave backbone, and communications center range from \$79 – 90 million. Their vision is...to provide in building voice radio coverage and on street data communications within their jurisdiction for all city workers requiring voice and data radio communications. The emphasis is on public safety communications as these workers have the most critical demands.

The Town of Marana has begun planning for replacement of their single site conventional radio system.

Northwest Fire Department has begun a planning process to replace their conventional radio system and to provide their own dispatch facilities.

Drexel Heights Fire Department has identified a need to improve their radio communications capabilities.

Pima County has a need to provide improved voice radio communications for the Sheriff's Department, replace commercial communications services for data, expand its radio communications coverage area, improve disaster preparedness, and to expand its communications facilities.

In 1997, a bond proposal to upgrade the County's then existing Ericsson 800 MHz radio system was not sent to the voters. In 1998, a need to upgrade the Ericsson system for Y2K compliance was identified. Following failed negotiations with Ericsson to upgrade the system the County was forced to quickly procure a replacement. \$2.8 million dollars was transferred from a jail construction bond project to fund the new purchase. A replacement system provided by EF Johnson was deployed in late 1999. Since that time most County departments have migrated to this system.

The EF Johnson 800 MHz communications system in use today adequately serves the needs of all County users except the Sheriff's Department. Law enforcement officers demand far greater system performance and reliability than other public works and administrative users. This system has failed to meet law enforcement's needs for rapid system access, reliability, coverage, emergency calling, encrypted communications and interoperability. In fact, it failed to meet our contract specifications. After two years of negotiations with EF Johnson and several system modifications it was determined that the engineering design of the system would not provide improved system performance to meet the law enforcement requirements. The County's only remaining option was to accept the system and its deficient performance in exchange for a reduced cost.



System performance tests conducted by EF Johnson revealed that on average the Sheriff's Department's three primary talk groups suffer 1,208 call session failures each week, or 62,816 calls per year that either do not, or do not completely reach each of the intended receivers. These talk groups are utilized to dispatch deputies and to communicate information between units about criminal activity and emergency incidents they are trying to manage. Although there are several key technical deficiencies that make up our justification for a replacement system for public safety, this single appalling fact is justification enough. It is unconscionable that 62,816 times per year our emergency responders experience ineffectual communications. It is for this reason that improving voice radio communications is the Sheriff's Department's number one priority.

PROPOSAL: PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

The Pima County Sheriff's Department proposes a regional communications network that would serve the needs of all locally funded public safety agencies while the County's EF Johnson system would continue to serve the needs of the other County Departments. The proposed system would be scalable to allow the addition of state and federal agencies with resources to further expand the project. Other governmental departments could also migrate to the system as need and resources permit.

This is not a new idea. Numerous other jurisdictions have successfully implemented regional systems to benefit public safety and the taxpayers who fund these services. We can leverage the lessons learned from others to provide a technically advanced, reliable voice and data communications network that will provide the interoperability necessary to facilitate coordinated response to local emergencies.

<h2 style="color: #4F81BD;">Pima County Regional Public Safety Communications Network</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ajo/Gibson Volunteer Fire Dept. Arivaca Volunteer Fire Dept. Avra Valley Fire District Corona de Tucson Fire District Drexel Heights Fire District Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Dept. Golder Ranch Fire District Green Valley Fire District Helmet Peak Fire District Mt. Lemmon Fire District Northwest Fire District Pascua Pueblo Fire Dept. Picture Rocks Fire District Rincon Valley Fire District South Tucson Fire Dept. Three Points Fire District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tohono O'Odham Fire Dept. Tucson Fire Department Why Fire District Marana Police Department Oro Valley Police Department Pascua Yaqui Police Department Pima College Dept. of Public Safety Pima County Sheriff's Department Sahuarita Police Department South Tucson Police Department Tohono O'Odham Tribal Police Tucson Police Department Pima County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

The proposal before the Board will provide all of the components of a standards based digital voice and data radio communications network to meet the needs of the entire local public safety community. The plan specifies reuse of existing infrastructure such as antenna and microwave facilities to minimize costs. Populated areas of the county will be provided on-street portable radio coverage. The City of Tucson with a population base of over

500,000 and with multi-story and complex structures will require enhanced in-building coverage. Other jurisdictions desiring enhanced in-building coverage would be able to add additional antenna sites to meet their needs.



The use of standards as the basis of a radio system has multiple advantages. A standards based system will ensure compatibility with other standards based systems in the State. It is conceivable that a network in Pima County could interface with the system currently being installed by the Cities of Phoenix and Mesa. This could create a communications corridor between the two most populous areas of the state so that public safety providers could share seamless communications for events occurring across County and other jurisdictional boundaries. A standards based system with open architecture encourages competition in the market place keeping the cost to taxpayers lower. Another significant factor is the availability of multiple equipment sources. Multiple vendors can provide competitive pricing and feature varieties to allow selection of the equipment best suited to individual agency requirements. A standards based system with software driven radios will also assure that we will be prepared to migrate to different spectrum as it is approved by the Federal Communications Commission.

This proposal will deploy a digital 800MHz trunked radio system operated throughout Pima County. This will allow us to reuse and split frequencies already licensed to Pima County, City of Tucson, and other partners to serve more needs. Use of a trunked system with a simulcast subset will assure the most efficient use of our spectrum resources.

The proposed system includes high performance data communications. Police and fire agencies utilize mobile data technology to provide their first responders with information that can help them to successfully manage incidents. Police officers require computer aided dispatch and intelligence information, while firefighters are aided by information about facilities, hazardous materials inventories and location maps.

Global positioning satellite (GPS) technology is also proposed. GPS transmitters in mobile radios will send the coordinates of vehicles to a mapping application so that agencies can immediately identify, locate and manage their personnel resources. This will improve both public and first responder safety.

Software driven, standards-based architecture, is easily upgraded to accommodate enhancements to the system. **With adequate support and maintenance, these standards based systems could serve Pima County for at least twenty years into the future.**



COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY REQUIREMENTS AND NEEDS

As described, a communications network is an important element of coordinated emergency response. When catastrophic events occur our first-responders are challenged to perform life saving tasks and to minimize property damage. The staff and facilities that support their needs are often overlooked. With over 90 percent of Pima County's service population being served by the City of Tucson and the Pima County Sheriff's Department, it is anticipated that co-location of dispatch centers would impact the citizens of the county in a very positive manner. The Pima County Sheriff's Department dispatch center, City of Tucson dispatch center and the County Emergency Operations Center play pivotal roles in the successful outcome of large scale emergencies. All current facilities are undersized and would benefit greatly from expansion projects to meet the increasing needs of the community. As we build new radio network infrastructure it will be necessary to construct a facility to house the switching and transmitter equipment. The County's radio room located in the Sheriff's headquarters building is not able to accommodate an additional system. As we construct a new facility for this purpose it is an opportune time to create additional space to expand the Sheriff's dispatch and County Emergency Operations Center facilities. Co-location with the City of Tucson would improve our disaster preparedness in that it would provide timely coordination and avoid duplication of construction related costs. The Sheriff's Administration Building houses 9-1-1, radio, telephone and information system switching equipment. An attack on this facility could cripple the Sheriff's ability to communicate and access information. The City of Tucson has similar concerns. Construction of a new facility would allow for the relocation of 9-1-1 and radio systems infrastructure and provide a back up communications center which is not a current luxury. As a result we would be better prepared to secure our homeland should the need arise. The costs associated with this expansion are included in the project costs.



Budget Narrative and Description A	Projected Per Item Estimate B	Cost Estimate (Totals Column B) C
<p>Design, procurement and deployment of a regional public safety voice and data communications network to serve 19 fire districts, 9 police agencies, and Pima County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security.</p> <p>The proposed system will provide widespread on- street coverage for the majority of Pima County and will be scalable so that additional users, features and capacity can be added to the system as needs and resources dictate.</p> <p>Antenna sites are to be determined. Reuse of existing sites in Marana, Pima County, Tucson and on the Tohono O’Odham Reservation are recommended with additional sites possible.</p> <p>Basic widespread on-street radio coverage for Pima County public safety agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio network infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 9 Existing radio transmitter sites requiring transmitters, microwave radio links, shelters, power, tower modifications and storage facilities. ▪ 3 Proposed radio transmitter sites requiring transmitter, microwave radio links, towers, structures, shelters, power, storage facilities, civil work and studies. These additional sites will be required to serve the growing population of Pima County. 		\$53,033,182
<p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$13,190,400 \$ 9,709,600</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High performance data infrastructure <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$ 1,296,000 \$ 954,000</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High performance mobile modems <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$ 2,418,836 \$ 1,478,764</p>	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscriber equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,476 Public Safety Mobile Radios ▪ 3,523 Public Safety Portable Radios ▪ 140 Console Control Stations <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$13,806,262 \$10,179,320</p>	
<p>Proposed Pima County Regional Communications Center and Homeland Security Emergency Operations Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 50,000 Sq. Ft. Facility ▪ Proposed location: 2499 East Ajo Way, Tucson, Arizona ▪ Co-located Pima County Sheriff's Department, Tucson Police Department and Tucson Fire Department dispatch functions. <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$ 7,747,500 \$10,000,000</p>	<p>\$17,747,500</p>
<p>9-1-1 Telecomm equipment</p> <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$ 1,500,000 \$ 1,900,000</p>	<p>\$ 3,400,000</p>
<p>Automatic vehicle location</p> <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$ 3,105,792 \$ 2,286,208</p>	<p>\$ 5,392,000</p>
<p>Engineering design</p> <p>Pima County City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$ 576,000 \$ 424,000</p>	<p>\$ 1,000,000</p>



Budget Narrative and Description A	Projected Per Item Estimate B	Cost Estimate (Totals Column B) C
<p>The City of Tucson with a service population of 500,000 and the existence of multi-story and complex structures requires that the on-street coverage be enhanced to the level that would accommodate basic in-building coverage.</p> <p>Antenna sites are to be determined. Reuse of existing sites in the City of Tucson and Pima County are recommended. On-street coverage will be enhanced by adding and supplementing existing sites in the City of Tucson service area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio network infrastructure • FNE new spares • Subscriber spares • Factory test • Field ATP • Vendor engineering • Vendor project management • Vendor technical services • Training <p>City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$18,825,194</p> <p>\$ 487,558</p> <p>\$ 598,913</p> <p>\$ 557,209</p> <p>\$ 557,209</p> <p>\$ 557,209</p> <p>\$ 1,904,213</p> <p>\$ 417,906</p> <p>\$ 380,842</p>	<p>\$24,286,253</p>
<p>Total Proposal – Pima County</p> <p>Total Proposal – City of Tucson</p>	<p>\$43,640,790</p> <p>\$61,218,145</p>	
<p>Percent of Total Proposal – Pima County</p> <p>Percent of Total Proposal – City of Tucson</p>	<p>41.6%</p> <p>58.4%</p>	
Total Proposal Request		\$104,858,935



IT IS TIME TO PUT PIMA COUNTY IN A BETTER STATE OF COMMUNICATION

It is time to put Pima County in a better state of communication because for the first time in our history we have a convergence of need at a time when technology is prepared to meet that need.

This will place Pima County in a better state of communication because for once the collective community understands that a regional approach will best serve Pima County. While we may not have yet come to agreement about governance and control of a regional system, the benefits cannot be denied. A regional radio system will create opportunity for agencies to work closely together for a common goal.

Placing Pima County in a better state of communication will provide effective interoperable voice communications to our public safety workers so that they may provide improved public safety services.

Moving Pima County into a better state of communication will prevent duplication of effort and increased costs to the taxpayer for build out of new independent radio systems.

It is time to put Pima County in a better state of communication to provide our public safety workers with a communications network that will improve their safety and access to resources.





**Endorsement from
Sheriff Dupnik, Chief Newburn
and Chief Miranda**

December 2003



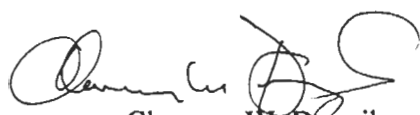
Putting Tucson & Pima County in a Better State of Communication

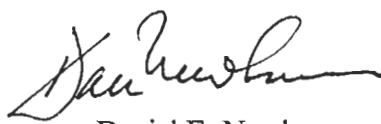
The Pima County Sheriff's Department, Tucson Police Department, and Tucson Fire Department fully endorse the proposal for a regional communications network. Public safety first responders rely on many tools to provide quality policing and fire services. None is more important for their safety and efficiency than their ability to communicate on demand, in real time with a reliable communications system. The primary concern of public safety agencies is the safety and protection of the citizens of Pima County. When catastrophic events occur, our first-responders are challenged to perform life saving tasks and to minimize property damage. The greater the crisis, the more public safety agencies need an efficient, coordinated response. To aid the public quickly and effectively by functioning as a team, these responders need real-time communications with each other. And because such emergencies rarely respect geographic and political boundaries, public safety agencies of other communities also regularly respond. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 serve to reinforce the need for interoperable, reliable communications for public safety workers. *Currently, the communications systems for our agencies are outdated, inadequate and do not allow for interoperability.*

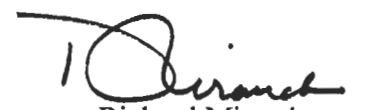
It is time to put Pima County in a better state of communication because -


- it is the first time in history we have a convergence of need at a time when technology is prepared to meet that need;*
- a regional communications system will create opportunity for agencies to work closely together for a common goal;*
- it will provide effective interoperable voice communications to our public safety workers so that they may provide improved services;*
- it will eliminate duplication of effort and eliminate increased costs to taxpayers for build-out of new independent radio systems;*
- it will provide all public safety workers with a communications network that will improve their safety and access to resources;*
- it will dramatically improve the safety of all citizens.*

The proposed regional communications network will meet the needs of all local public safety agencies in Pima County for the next 20 years. As the agency leaders responsible for the public safety of 92% of the citizens in Pima County, we feel that this opportunity cannot be lost.


Clarence W. Dupnik
Pima County Sheriff


Daniel E. Newburn
Tucson Fire Chief


Richard Miranda
Tucson Police Chief



**Endorsement from Fire and Police
Chiefs in Pima County**

December 2003



Putting Tucson & Pima County in a Better State of Communication

As a local public safety agency leader, I endorse the proposal for a regional communications network. Public safety first responders rely on many tools to provide quality policing and fire services. None is more important for their safety and efficiency than their ability to communicate on demand, in real time with a reliable communications system. The primary concern of public safety agencies is the safety and protection of the citizens of Pima County. When catastrophic events occur, our first-responders are challenged to perform life saving tasks and to minimize property damage. The greater the crisis, the more public safety agencies need an efficient, coordinated response. To aid the public quickly and effectively by functioning as a team, these responders need real-time communications with each other. And because such emergencies rarely respect geographic and political boundaries, public safety agencies of other communities also regularly respond. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 serve to reinforce the need for interoperable, reliable communications for public safety workers.

It is time to put Pima County in a better state of communication because -

-it is the first time in history we have a convergence of need at a time when technology is prepared to meet that need.

-a regional communications system will create opportunity for agencies to work closely together for a common goal.

--it will provide effective interoperable voice communications to our public safety workers so that they may provide improved services.

--it will eliminate duplication of effort and eliminate increased costs to taxpayers for build-out of new independent radio systems.

--it will provide all public safety workers with a communications network that will improve their safety and access to resources.

--it will dramatically improve the safety of all citizens.

The proposed regional communications network will meet the needs of all local public safety agencies in Pima County. As an agency leader responsible for the public safety of the citizens in my community, I feel that this opportunity cannot be lost.

Chief Richard Vidaurri
Marana Police Department



Putting Tucson & Pima County in a Better State of Communication

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-it is the first time in history we have a convergence of need at a time when technology is prepared to meet that need.

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--it will provide effective interoperable voice communications to our public safety workers so that they may provide improved services.

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The proposed regional communications network will meet the needs of all local public safety agencies in Pima County. As an agency leader responsible for the public safety of the citizens in my community, I feel that this opportunity cannot be lost.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Sharp', is written over a horizontal line.

Chief Daniel Sharp
Oro Valley Police Department



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Chief Larry Seligman
Pascua Yaqui Police Department



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Chief Collier Hill
Pima College Police Department



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Interim Chief Azbill
Sahuarita Police Department



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sixto O. Molina'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Chief Sixto Molina
South Tucson Police Department



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Tohono O'Odham Police Department

ASST CHIEF Joseph DeKardic



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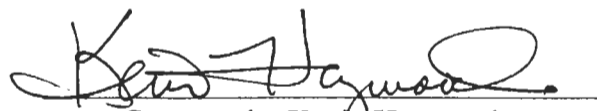
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Commander Kevin Haywood
University of Arizona Police Department



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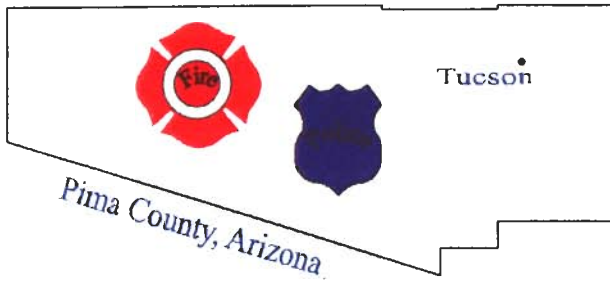
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Chief Jim Bush

Ajo/Gibson Volunteer Fire Department



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Arivaca Volunteer Fire Department



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St. Captain Tom Nix
Avra Valley Fire District



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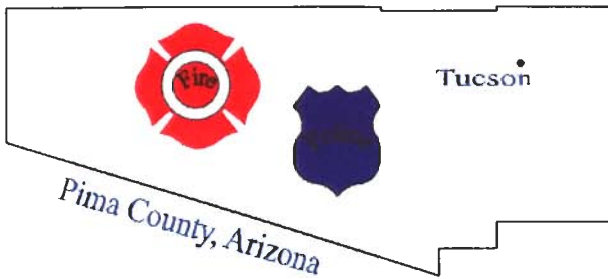
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Doug Roth *Asst Chief for*
Chief Bruce Whitehouse
Corona de Tucson Fire District



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Chief Doug Chappell
Drexel Heights Fire District



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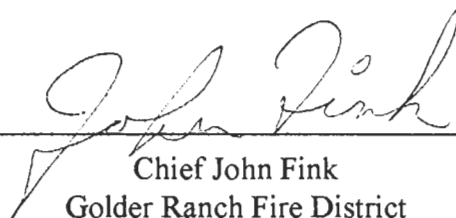
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Chief John Fink
Golder Ranch Fire District



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Green Valley Fire District



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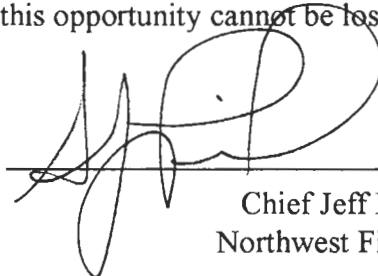
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Northwest Fire District



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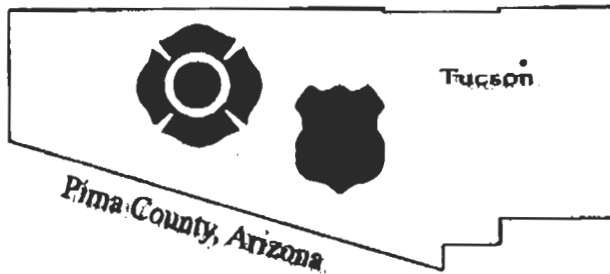
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--a regional communications system will create opportunity for agencies to work closely together for a common goal.

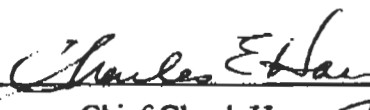
--it will provide effective interoperable voice communications to our public safety workers so that they may provide improved services.

--it will eliminate duplication of effort and eliminate increased costs to taxpayers for build-out of new independent radio systems.

--it will provide all public safety workers with a communications network that will improve their safety and access to resources.

--it will dramatically improve the safety of all citizens.

The proposed regional communications network will meet the needs of all local public safety agencies in Pima County. As an agency leader responsible for the public safety of the citizens in my community, I feel that this opportunity cannot be lost.



Chief Chuck Hay
Picture Rocks Fire District



Putting Tucson & Pima County in a Better State of Communication

As a local public safety agency leader, I endorse the proposal for a regional communications network. Public safety first responders rely on many tools to provide quality policing and fire services. None is more important for their safety and efficiency than their ability to communicate on demand, in real time with a reliable communications system. The primary concern of public safety agencies is the safety and protection of the citizens of Pima County. When catastrophic events occur, our first-responders are challenged to perform life saving tasks and to minimize property damage. The greater the crisis, the more public safety agencies need an efficient, coordinated response. To aid the public quickly and effectively by functioning as a team, these responders need real-time communications with each other. And because such emergencies rarely respect geographic and political boundaries, public safety agencies of other communities also regularly respond. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 serve to reinforce the need for interoperable, reliable communications for public safety workers.

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Chief Fred Peres
Three Points Fire District



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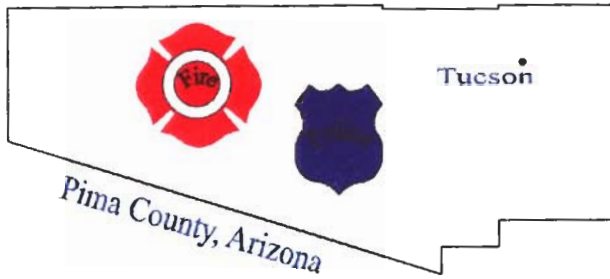
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Acting Chief Craig Encinas
Tohono O'Odham Fire Department



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Chief Karen Lundberg
Rincon Valley Fire District