

Excerpt from: *Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) 2007 Statewide Intergrated Public Safety Communications Strategic Plan, January 2007 Report to the Legislature as required by Government Code 8592.6*

Sustained Funding Options

The 2006 strategic plan identified the need to pursue a phased, renewable, and priority-based funding strategy for California’s public safety communications physical infrastructure and governance. Ultimately, the costs will likely require a combination of federal and state funds. It is the intent of the committee to support existing funding proposals in order to allow departments to address critical needs, while at the same time coordinating such initiatives through the PSRSPC to ensure consistency and collaboration. In addition, the PSRSPC took into consideration funding models that could potentially support public safety communications interoperability at the local and regional levels. To that end the PSRSPC considered a variety of funding options, as well as the funding methodologies of other states. Virtually every emergency response requires a multi-discipline, multi-agency response to be effective. It is critical that all levels of government be considered as California seeks a sustained funding mechanism to modernize and maintain its public safety communications infrastructure. The PSRSPC Fiscal Work Group interviewed other key state and local interoperability coordinators on challenges faced to fund their interoperability projects (see Attachment 2, “Summary of Interviews with Other State and Local Governments”).

Type	Pro	Con	Notes
Public Safety Communications Surcharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renewable** ➤ 911 Type fund (Utilities Model) ➤ Recent decrease in surcharges, i.e., federal tax rescinded ➤ Clear financial need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Perceived as a “tax” ➤ Regulatory issues, e.g., some phone services may not be included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential funding for the 58 Operational Areas (e.g., base + population) ➤ Utilities Model can be used for State and Local ➤ 911 fund has call volume as funding base
General Fund 1. Recurring fixed line item for entire state 2. Subscriber fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing funding source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Limited General Fund money ➤ Monies get redirected in Agencies budgets ➤ Inconsistent funding source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Would have to assess locals subscriber fees ➤ “Line item” may be best
Federal Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quick upfront money ➤ Good as “short-term” funding source, e.g., for one-time project expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No or little spending allowed for maintenance, personnel, installation, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Could be source of funds, but not primary source ➤ Not preferred as long-term strategy
Bond Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quick upfront money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bond measures hard to pass ➤ Typically one-time money 	

- **New York: E 911 tax, Minnesota: 911 fee**
- Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana: Increased fee on yearly license renewal**
- Arizona: Sales tax increase**
- New Jersey, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia: Bonds**
- Alaska, New Hampshire: Federal funding**
- Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania: General fund appropriations**

Excerpt from:

Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC) 2207 Statewide Integrated Public Safety Communications Strategic Plan, January 2007 Report to the Legislature as required by Government Code 8592.6

Attachment 2 - Summary of Interviews with Other States

Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia (VA) has established the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator (CIC) in the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office (CICO) which reports to the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness.

The Virginia project started with SAFECOM in 2004. There were six regional focus groups that conducted strategic planning sessions. There are now 14 entities representing local and state public safety associations and government on the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). In addition, the VA SIEC is involved with the review and recommendation of grant proposals. Since 2004 VA has spent \$11.243 million of which \$9.164 million goes to local government for voice and data interoperability.

VA recommends that a full time position dedicated as the Interoperability Coordinator is needed to effectively lead an interoperability project. VA's CIC position and one staff member are built into the Governor's budget. The CICO also has an intern and four consultants working fulltime on the project. The consultants' work focuses on implementation of initiatives identified by first responders. To date, their work has been paid for by grant funds and earmarks; however, the funding is needed on an annual basis.

In SAFECOM's report, *Lessons Learned from the Commonwealth of Virginia: One Year Later*, the following lesson, relating to the leadership governance structure, was recorded:

Lesson 4: Centralizing Coordination of the Effort

Establishing and naming a body to coordinate an effort of this magnitude is essential.

Practitioner committees offer guidance and expertise; however, due to already full schedules, they may not offer the coordination needed to ensure plan implementation. A designated, full-time coordinator or coordinating body is an investment that can significantly enhance project success. Recommendations – Establish centralized, non-practitioner coordination: Emphasize the need for a paid coordinator or coordinating body to centrally organize interoperability efforts.

Results: Virginia established the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office (CICO) to coordinate planning and implementation. This created a forum to continue state-wide collaboration and identified a person designated to plan implementation.

State of New York

The New York Statewide Wireless Network (SWN) is a mission-critical project for public safety which is moving the state from obsolete and failing architecture to a state-of-the-art digital trunked land mobile radio system. The Office for Technology is managing the procurement and overseeing the prime contractor's design, construction, and operation of SWN through a dedicated staff in the

SWN project office. Additional guidance for network development and operation is provided by the SWN Advisory Council which is chaired by the Chief Information Officer of the state.

The SWN will serve all state agencies and enhance local initiatives by fostering partnerships with local emergency first responders and service providers on a voluntary basis. The initial installation will accommodate up to 65,000 users and 25,000 separate “talk groups” at any give time, statewide, and it will support up to 250,000 individual pieces of user equipment. There are three basic levels of local government participation (partnerships) on the SWN with different costs to users listed below. Both local agencies and the state mutually benefit through sharing infrastructure and frequencies, thereby reducing costs for all.

- Level 1 - Sharing of infrastructure to reduce cost and environmental impact – No cost
- Level 2 – Includes Level 1 and provides interoperability with SWN through a network gateway to an existing local government radio system - Minimal associated costs for gateway installation
- Level 3 - Full SWN participation – Includes Level 1 and locals required to purchase subscriber radios to operate on SWN. Also allows for local enhancements to SWN for increased coverage.

Funding for the SWN comes primarily from the State Wireless Communications Service Surcharge. The 20-year price for the SWN Contract is a not-to-exceed price of \$2 billion. This total encompasses network development costs (e.g., design and construction of infrastructure, network equipment, financing, etc.) and all costs for network operations and maintenance over the 20 year term of the contract, including training.

State of Indiana

The Indiana SAFE-T (Safety Acting for Everyone - Together) Project is a statewide, interoperable, wireless public safety communications system for local, state, and federal first responders/public safety officials. The project is overseen by the Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) and its 10 staff. The IPSC is a statutory body with 12 members representing law enforcement, fire, city, and county government; private industry; and the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives.

Project SAFE-T began in 1997. The Indiana State Police had received funds from the legislature to upgrade their system. However, the State Police understood that other state agencies and local governments also needed new systems. The state hosted Governor’s summits to get input from their partners. Instead of connecting regional systems, the state’s goal was to build an interoperable system statewide.

Indiana’s SAFE-T operates on an 800 MHz trunked voice and data system. It supports both analog and digital radios, providing 95% mobile radio coverage statewide using 126 communications sites connected by T1 lines and microwave. All construction is scheduled to be completed by March 2007. Coverage testing and final system acceptance is scheduled to be completed in June 2007.

SAFE-T has approximately 38,000 potential system users. There will be a total of 135 to 140 communication sites—127 state-owned sites augmented by sites added by counties. With one exception, the state has been able to utilize existing government communication sites or to lease sites from the private sector. There are no subscriber fees for system users who buy their own portable/mobile radios and console equipment. The state negotiated discounts for radios and local government can use the negotiated agreement to purchase radios/consoles. The state opened a Network Operations Center last year to provide support to subscribers.

Indiana has a “not-to-exceed” \$90 million contract to build the system. As a sustainable funding source, the IPSC receives \$1.25 out of each service fee collected on certain Bureau of Motor Vehicles transactions. This funding source is designated through 2019. The IPSC anticipates using future funds for system upgrades.