

**Contact: Brad Berg**

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY – STORYCOMM 28E AGREEMENT UPDATE**

**Action Requested:** Receive an update on the StoryComm 28E Agreement from Iowa State University.

**Executive Summary:** The law enforcement and emergency services providers in Story County have shared the same privately owned and locally operated interoperable radio system since the early 1990's. While this system has served the needs of Story County Public Safety users well, it is far beyond its useful life, is not considered public safety grade by current standards, and will not provide interoperability with state and federal partners moving forward. The current system is owned and operated by a private supplier with support from the Story County 911 Board, Story County, the City of Ames and ISU.

In September of 2017, the Story County 911 Board entered into a contract with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) and a Working Group of individuals from Story County, City of Ames, and ISU was created to perform a needs analysis study of interoperable communication systems for all public agencies in Story County. The final report received in December of 2017 called for the replacement of the current interoperable communication system. The report identified the best option for replacement: A locally owned and operated system combined with an interoperable connection to one of the available regional radio systems within the State of Iowa.

In January of 2018, the Story County 911 Board, Story County, the City of Ames and ISU entered into a contract with MCP to develop a concept design and RFP specifications for a new public safety grade interoperable communications system. In January of 2019 the Story County 911 Board, Story County, the City of Ames and ISU entered into an intergovernmental 28E agreement to create a new legal entity now known as StoryComm.

A Board of Directors made up of one voting member each from Story County, the City of Ames and ISU governs StoryComm. The StoryComm voting members are Rick Sanders from Story County, Bob Kindred from the City of Ames and Pam Elliott Cain from Iowa State University. The StoryComm Board of Directors also includes three ex officio non-voting members (Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald from Story County, Chief Chuck Cychosz from the City of Ames Police Department and Chief Michael Newton from the ISU Police Department). StoryComm was developed based on the following general guiding principles:

- 1) ISU Procurement Services will act as procurement authority, utilizing Iowa Board of Regents procurement rules.
- 2) Costs for the infrastructure necessary to build the system will be shared equally by the three primary members.
- 3) On-going costs associated with the system will be paid from collected user fees.
- 4) To the extent possible, the 911 Board shall contribute toward the operating costs an amount at least equal to the allocated tower fees in the 911 Board's 2018-2019 budget.
- 5) If a party donates, or leases at no or reduced cost, land to support the infrastructure for the interoperable communications system, the value of the donated or leased land shall be offset against the amount for its share of the infrastructure costs and/or the amount it owes for user fees.

- 6) StoryComm shall establish an initial budget as soon as practical after the selection of a vendor and shall operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year.
- 7) StoryComm will appoint a fiscal agent to manage its day-to-day financial affairs.
- 8) StoryComm may apply for and utilize grant funding.
- 9) The parties recognize that commitment of staff to support StoryComm's mission is critical and agree to make every effort to distribute the duties of StoryComm equally and equitably with each party responsible for the costs of that party's staff allocated to the work of StoryComm.

In October 2018, ISU Procurement Services began working with MCP and representatives from the Working Group to finalize and issue an RFP for the new interoperable communications system.

Two proposals were scored on six broad categories of 1) the proposed solution, 2) project team & quality of workmanship, 3) compliance with specifications, 4) price, 5) warranty and maintenance support and 6) options available / feasible. The six broad scoring categories were further broken down into many sub-categories for detailed scoring. Weighted scoring and evaluation criteria were finalized prior to proposals being unsealed by ISU Procurement.

Proposals were received from Motorola Inc. and RACOM / Harris. The RACOM / Harris proposal met all RFP requirements, received the highest weighted score and provided the lowest total cost of ownership to StoryComm. The proposed RACOM / Harris solution will be serviced by RACOM, a local service provider located in Marshalltown. All of the RACOM / Harris solution's sites, capacity and coverage are located within Story County and dedicated to StoryComm users. Coverage requirements proposed for the ISU campus and the City of Ames downtown exceeded the coverage specifications requested in the RFP. In order to provide this superior coverage, RACOM / Harris proposed to place a simulcast tower site on Wallace Hall on the ISU Campus and proposed to install core equipment within the University's datacenter in the basement of Durham Center.

On March 4, 2019, ISU Procurement Services and the Working Group recommended to the StoryComm Board of Directors that the RFP be awarded to RACOM / Harris. The StoryComm Board of Directors evaluated the justifications for award and the information presented by the Working Group and voted to enter into contract negotiations with RACOM / Harris. The final contract with RACOM / Harris is being coordinated with representatives from StoryComm, MCP, ISU Procurement Services and the ISU Office of University Counsel. ISU's share of the estimated cost for implementation and equipment is approximately \$1.9 million.