



Administration

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MEMO

TO: County Commission

FROM: Robert W. Wilson

Date: November 17, 2022

Subject: ARMER Participation Plan Amendment Request

Cass County's Emergency Radio System was recently upgraded and is built on the Minnesota-based ARMER platform. Using the ARMOR platform allows us to access more current technology for the radio connectivity between RRRDC dispatch and first responders.

Utilizing the Minnesota-based system required RRRDC to apply for and be approved to utilize the ARMER system. When we, through RRRDC, applied to utilize the system we had to estimate how many end users (radio units) would ultimately utilize the system. Simply put, we underestimated the usage.

We originally applied for use of up to 1,800 radios and by full deployment that number had grown to 2,875. This is not a problem, but it does require RRRDC to update the participation plan we operate under on the ARMER platform. There is no cost to updating this participation plan and RRRDC representatives tell me there is no concern this request will be denied. Cass County will request a total of 3,200 radio ID's.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to increased usage. There was a lag time of almost a year between when all public safety agencies using the system first had to identify the number of units needed and when they were delivered. That accounted for part of the increase. There were also additional needs identified in that timeframe – such as radios for Red River Valley SWAT and obtaining an extra cache of radios in case of a major incident when additional resources might be needed and provided from other regions.

More recently, other users who have a public safety element to their service, such as rural Cass County school districts – school bus communications – have also purchased radios and are utilizing the platform.

Because of the increased use a Participation Plan Amendment is needed and will be presented on Monday, November 21st for Commission consideration. Brian Zastoupil from Red River Regional Dispatch will attend the meeting and be available for questions.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Authorize the Chairman to sign the request amendment to our ARMER participation plan for an additional 1,400 ARMER radio ID's.

Kaushagen, Taylor

From: Brian Zastoupil <BZastoupil@RRRDC.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Wilson, Robert
Cc: Mary Phillippi; Kaushagen, Taylor
Subject: Cass County ARMER Participation Plan Amendment
Attachments: Clay County Plan Amendment 12-19.pdf; Cass County Plan Amendment 11-2022 DRAFT.docx

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL

Robert

Per our meeting last week, I have attached a draft of plan amendment to submit through MN/ARMER Governance. I have also attached a sample of a previous plan amendment (Clay Co. For reference only) This plan amendment request will **not** impact any existing financial agreements with State of MN/MN DOT. This request is strictly for governance purposes only.

The submission template is pretty straight forward.

- Intro
- Background
- Current Status
- Request

If draft meets your approval, please finalize the document as follows.

- Copy language to doc with county letterhead
- Signature as needed
- Forward final version to Radio Systems Coordinator

With your approval, I will present on behalf Cass County at the required committee meetings. (IE Your attendance is not required). Based upon current meeting schedule, I anticipate approx. 3 months to fully navigate process. (The goal is to have request submitted for agenda/action beginning with December 14th NW MN Regional meeting)

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thanks in advance.

Brian Zastoupil
Radio Systems Coordinator
Red River Regional Dispatch Center
300 NP Avenue Suite 206
Fargo, ND 58102
701 451-7683



November 21, 2022

Board of County Commissioners

Chad M. Peterson
Fargo, North Dakota

Rick Steen
Fargo, North Dakota

Jim Kapitan
Fargo, North Dakota

Duane Breitling
West Fargo, North Dakota

Mary Scherling
Stanley Township,
North Dakota

ATTN: Northwest Regional Advisory Committee, Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Board, LMR Committee and State Emergency Communications Board

On behalf of Cass County, North Dakota, we are requesting to amend our ARMER participation plan for an additional 1400 ARMER radio ID's.

Cass County ARMER full participation plan was approved in 2017. The original plan requested (and subsequently was approved) for 1800 radio ID's and 82 talkgroups. These original projections included approximately 3 years of radio growth. As the project reached full implementation in 2021, Cass County has exceeded these original projections. The additional radios are due to the addition of the Cass schools onto system (Schools were included in participation plan, but radios were not included in project buildout), incorrect radio inventories, and rapid expansion of West Fargo and Fargo public safety agencies. (EX Valley Water Rescue). The existing/approved radio ID allowance has been exceeded.

Per November 2022 ARMER report, Cass County currently has 2875 radios identified in Provisioning Manager/ ARMER. (Exceeding current radio ID allowance by qty 1075)

Cass ND County is requesting approval for a total of 3200 radio ID's. (An increase from the currently approved quantity of 1800 radio ID's) This request addresses the current radio unit overage by Cass ND County, and adds ~ 10% of growth from current radio count.

Cass County is NOT requesting additional talkgroups at this time.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Rick Steen

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Cass County Commission Chairman
Cass County, North Dakota