

**Meeting of the Starcomm Executime Board  
with Technical Committee  
January 11, 2023**

Starcomm **Executive Board** Members Present

Dan Bittinger, Woodbury County Supervisor  
Richard Headid, Police Chief, North Sioux City, SD  
Ed Mahon, Police Chief, South Sioux City, NE  
Rex Mueller, Police Chief, Sioux City  
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff

Executive Board Absent

Sara Beatty, 911 Coordinator, Union County, SD  
Rocky DeWitt, Woodbury County Board of Supervisor  
Tom Everett, Fire Chief, Sioux City, Board Chair  
Chris Kleinberg, Sheriff, Dakota County, NE  
Dan Limoges, Sheriff, Union County, SD  
Bob Scott, Mayor, Sioux City  
Chad Sheehan, Sheriff, Woodbury County

STARComm **Technical Committee** Members Present

Tony Carpenter, Calhoun Communications  
Travis Cipperley, Communications Center Operations Supervisor  
Wendi Hess, Communications Center Manager, Woodbury County  
Terry McElroy, Electronic Engineering  
Scott Mitchell, Woodbury County Emergency and Disaster Services  
Mike Montino, Emergency Management Coordinator, Woodbury County

Tech Committee Absent

Mark Aesoph, Fire Marshal, Sioux City Fire Rescue  
Doug Bock, Network Manager, WCICC-IT  
Stacy Geesaman, Electronic Engineering  
Steve Heide, South Sioux City Police Department  
Greg Koinzan, Police Officer, South Sioux City Police Department  
Eric Larson, Electronic Engineering  
Scott Main, Electronic Engineering  
John Malloy, Information Services Director, WCICC-IT  
Bob Welte, Woodbury County Disaster Services  
Eric Wieling, Calhoun Communications

Item 1 Meeting Called to Order

The January 11, 2023, STARComm Executive Board meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson Rex Mueller at 1000 hours.

Item 2 Approve Minutes of October 12, 2022 Meeting

Scott Pack made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2022, meeting, seconded by Ed Mahon. All voting aye, motion carried.

Item 3 Proposed FY24 Operating Budget

Wendi reviewed the proposed FY24 operating budget which increased by roughly \$12,000 largely due to the West Tower plumb and tension maintenance project, year 7 of the Motorola radio maintenance contract, and insurance increases. User agency fees increased by roughly 3 percent.

STARComm covers 50% of the Communications Center Operations Supervisor's salary and benefits, the Comm Center budget covers the remainder.

## **Motion to Approve Proposed FY24 Budget**

**Ed Mahon made a motion to approve the Proposed FY24 Budget, seconded by Rex Mueller. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### STARComm Mobile

Wendi suggested eliminating the STARComm Mobile unit, which is a Winnebago Class A motorhome, with two slide outs, four computer positions, and rack mounted radio equipment in the rear. It has not been used for years and has been stored at the Sioux City Fire Rescue Training Center. The outdated 911 phone system provided by the State was returned years ago, however, the existing radio equipment has been maintained and is operational. The unit was not used during the last Ragbrai and is no longer part of the emergency plan. If necessary, the State has a radio resource vehicle available. Roughly \$11,100 is budgeted annually for fuel, generator preventative maintenance, insurance, and general upkeep. During a large-scale event, the dispatchers would remain in the Comm Center or evacuate to Climbing Hills to Emergency and Disaster Services where connectivity to the network exists.

Captain Mark Kirkpatrick expressed an interest in the unit as a potential replacement for PD's mobile command; Chief Mueller concurred. Funding for a replacement mobile command unit has been requested via CIP but has been delayed since the current mobile command remains in service as an only alternative. The unit is not suited or built for PD's intended purpose. If the STARComm group does not object and FEMA permits, Rex would like to examine options to acquire STARComm mobile to replace PD's current unit.

Wendi had reached out to the State 911 program coordinator to assist with facilitating a conversation with FEMA regarding options to relinquish the unit. She will report back.

### Item 4 Snow Removal Agreement between WC Secondary Roads and STARComm

The proposed agreement has been signed by STARComm Chair Tom Everett and County Engineer Mark Nahra. Travis, Comm Center Ops Supervisor and Scott Mitchell, Director, Emergency and Disaster Services, would be available to clear sites after hours if necessary.

Homer Tower snow removal is completed by Dakota County.

### Item 5 FY23 Budget Report

Wendi reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure report for Quarter 2 of FY23, October, November, December 2022. User agencies are billed quarterly prior to the beginning of the quarter so funds are available to pay expenses; tower and fiber leaser's pay monthly.

### Item 6 Open Items

#### Iowa State Patrol Assistance

Wendi and Travis met with an Iowa State Patrol Lieutenant who wanted to make certain public safety agencies were aware that state troopers in the area are willing to provide assistance. Wendi relayed that STARComm user agencies do not have an issue with the State Patrol moving to the Sioux City Ops channel without permission or not requesting the Comm Center relay information.

#### 28E Agreements

Rex suggested that 28E or interstate compact agreements be devised between the tri-state public safety agencies and urged agency heads to reach out to city attorneys and councils and ultimately attorney generals to draft and approve 28E agreements to ensure officer protection. Hold harmless agreements and MOU's are not adequate for a full-scale event where officers and specialized teams would be requested. A 28E is invaluable when resources are needed and can be provided considerably sooner across state lines than waiting for backup within.

### Item 7 Adjourn

**Scott Pack made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rich Headid; all voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1034 hours.**