

**Meeting of the STARCOMM Executive Board  
with Technical Committee  
January 9, 2019**

**STARCOMM Executive Board Members Present**

Rocky De Witt, Supervisor, Woodbury County Board of Supervisors  
Dave Drew, Sheriff, Woodbury County  
Tom Everett, Fire Chief, Sioux City  
Richard Headid, Police Chief, North Sioux City, South Dakota  
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff  
Bob Scott, Mayor, Sioux City

**Absent**

Sara Beatty, Communications Center Director, Union County  
Chris Kleinberg, Sheriff, Dakota County  
Dan Limoges, Sheriff, Union County  
Ed Mahon, Police Chief, South Sioux City, Nebraska  
Rex Mueller, Police Chief, Sioux City

**STARCOMM Technical Committee Members Present**

Gary Brown, Director, Woodbury County Disaster & Emergency Services  
Tony Carpenter, Calhoun Communications  
Wendi Hess, Communications Center Ops Supervisor, Woodbury County  
Scott Pack, Police Chief, Sergeant Bluff  
Glenn Sedivy, Director, Woodbury County Communications Center  
Eric Wieling, Calhoun Communications

**Absent**

Mark Aesoph, Fire Marshal, Sioux City Fire Rescue  
Doug Bock, Network Manager, WCICC-IT  
Stacy Geesaman, Electronic Engineering  
Don Groves, Jail, Woodbury County Sheriff's Department  
Paul Hansen, Electronic Engineering  
Greg Koinzan, Police Officer, South Sioux City Police Department  
Eric Larson, Electronic Engineering  
Scott Main, Electronic Engineering  
John Malloy, Information Services Director, WCICC-IT  
Terry McElroy, Electronic Engineering  
John Obermeyer, Communications Technician, Sioux City Police Department  
Andrew Pattison, Electronic Engineering  
Ray Roggow, Emergency Manager, Union County  
Greg Stallman, Deputy, Woodbury County Sheriff's Department

**Also Present**

Isaac Wodtke, Police Officer, North Sioux City Police Department

### Item 1 Meeting Called to Order

The January 9, 2019 STARComm Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Everett at 1000 hours.

### Item 2 Approve Minutes of October 10, 2018 Meeting

**Richard Headid made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting, seconded by Scott Pack. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### Item 3 Update on Radio Programming

Radio reprogramming has been completed. The reason for the reprogramming was Motorola and the State left out a county when the fleet map, containing talk group ID's, was built. A new fleet map had to be created to include the missing County.

### Migrating Radios

Some radios, typically Deputy's, are depicting "site trunking" which means they are hitting a bordering county tower. Motorola is troubleshooting, but believe it has more to do with the State of Iowa system. The tower sites bordering STARComm are not yet connected with the State core. Glenn sent Motorola a copy of the code plugs to rule out any issues concerning that.

### Coverage in Schools

Dave Drew inquired about the inability to communicate inside schools. The windows in new schools contain argon gas which block radio communications; a Perry Creek Elementary School study confirmed this. Glenn mentioned this also affects Fleet Farm and the rear of Lowe's. This could be resolved by installing building penetrator amplifying systems, however, the cost to install a system at Perry Creek would be \$50 to \$60,000. Some cities are requiring, via ordinance, new construction to include building penetrator amplifiers. Communication is possible when switching to a ground or direct channel. When in doubt, switch to a radio-to-radio direct channel.

### Sergeant Bluff Radio

Scott Pack mentioned Sergeant Bluff TAC 1 is being "walked-on." Glenn will review Sergeant Bluff's program but believes scanning may be the problem. Woodbury County ops must be programmed as a priority.

### Item 4 Proposed FY20 Operating Budget

Machinery and Equipment/Communications Equipment FY'20 proposed will be \$59,648 with the increase divided among user entities. The jumbo switch equipment original quote was about \$56,000. Tony Carpenter, Calhoun, quoted Glenn \$26,625.

A Jumbo switch, which provides the connection to the State's system from the Communications Center to the WIT tower, failed on December 20 due to a power supply failure. The AC power supplies for the jumbo switches are beginning to fail. The jumbo switch equipment's warranty expires July 2019.

#### Motion Item 4

**Tom Everett made a motion to reduce the Machinery and Equipment/Communications Equipment expense line from the originally proposed STARComm FY'20 budget from \$62,187 to \$59,648 to reflect the more accurate jumbo switch equipment expense, and to approve the FY'20 Proposed STARComm Budget with this change, seconded by Dave Drew. All voting aye; motion carried.**

Glenn will email the adjusted FY'20 STARComm budget to Board members.

#### Item 5 Open Items

##### Tower Site Repairs

Antennas and coax were replaced at weather damaged tower sites.

Motorola will schedule site preventative maintenance now that the new antennas and lines have been installed. It was not desired to bring the Danbury site live before lines and antennas had been installed. Within the next couple months, but not before receiving the FCC license, the Danbury site is expected to be operational.

##### STARComm 28E Governance Agreement Revision Status

Gary Brown asked about the status of the STARComm 28E Agreement since being submitted with revisions. City Legal currently has the agreement. Glenn will inquire.

##### State Patrol/Interoperability

Gary mentioned the State Patrol cannot monitor STARComm users without the handhelds which were provided to them. There appears to be a reluctance by State Patrol officials to be programmed to connect with the STARComm system.

Glenn suggested the Sheriff's Association reach out to the State Patrol; this will be a statewide problem. It was believed the State Patrol preferred one code plug to use Statewide and not customize it for the districts.

Wendi spoke with Jason Leonard, the municipal police department representative serving on the ISICS Board, who asked for a Sioux City contact to discuss forming a committee. Wendi made him aware of the resistance from State Patrol. Jason's stance was interoperability was the reason for the system. Interoperability eliminates the need for a dispatcher to relay communication back and forth, which creates a time delay and affects officer safety. For example, a trooper has to tell State Patrol where they are headed, State Patrol calls the Comm Center on the phone and then the dispatcher relays the communication to a deputy. In the case of a pursuit, responders should switch to the channel of the lead agency; lead car doesn't have time to switch channels or talk groups. Users hesitate to "jump" on another agency's channel, but that is necessary. Additional radio training is essential.

Gary mentioned a recent pursuit which migrated between Sioux City, North Sioux City and South Sioux City. Three dispatch centers were involved in the relay, misinformation occurred due to the time delay.

Gary stated that if the State Patrol elects to not include STARComm access, either the old handhelds will need to be programed to TDMI, or new walkies compatible with STARComm should be purchased.

Glenn felt the State Patrol should consider programing the first zone, a custom zone, to fit their needs; anything after the first zone should match every radio in the state.

The DNR has authorized Glenn to program DNR local radios.

Item 6 Adjourn

**Dave Drew made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scott Pack. All voting aye, meeting adjourned at 1027.**